COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

FINAL REPORT ON UNIVERSITY TEACHING DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Name: Sunyoung Ma

Department: Oral Rehabilitation

Title of Project (as on application)**:** New model of geriatric dental education

Date on letter notifying award of grant: 30 November 2011

General progress report (approximately 200 words)**:**
Please include here an indication of the degree to which the project is completed. If some outputs (such as research papers) are in progress, please give an indication of when they will become available.

The study was divided into three parts. A systematic review of undergraduate dental curricula analysing different ways of including gerodontology was carried out to compare this to the current Otago dental curricula. The project also included a survey of patients attending the undergraduate dental clinic at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Otago as well as a qualitative analysis of caregivers in Dunedin long-term care facilities.

The current level of understanding that Otago undergraduate dental students have in the area of ageing was analysed. The results showed that there was no statistical difference in the level of knowledge.

The results from the survey of dental school patients showed positive attitudes/experiences. The qualitative analysis of the Dunedin long-term care facilities emphasised an inadequate working relationship between the dental faculty and the Dunedin long-term care facilities.

The project was completed for the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery. The results of this study have been presented within the Faculty of Dentistry. Patient information pamphlets have been constructed and are expected to be in use from 2014.

Manuscripts are in preparation for submission and it is expected that they would be reviewed by the end of 2013.

Specific objectives achieved and any notable successes:
Two objectives of this project were

1. To compare the initiatives placed in the professional health sciences programmes and dental curriculum on the importance of educating the future health care providers in the care of older population
2. To develop more effective curriculum for shaping positive attitudes of dental students about treating older adult population by assessing the current attitude toward older patients that dental students bring to the educational process and ultimately to their work with older people

A systematic review was completed to summarise different gerodontology curricula in various dental degree programmes.
Since completing the survey of dental school patients and qualitative analysis of caregivers in Dunedin, additional lectures have been put in place this year to educate dental students in respect to importance of healthy ageing and oral health.

Specific objectives not achieved (plus a brief statement of the reasons):
All objectives for this study have been achieved.

Student groups directly involved in the project or whose learning might indirectly benefit from the project:
Bachelor of Dental Surgery students (Year 4 and 5)
Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology students

Details of publications arising from the research (e.g. papers submitted, in press and/or published)**:**
Reports, papers and related documentation will be made available to the University in HEDC's Resources Room **so it is important that they are forwarded to CALT**. In addition, all CALT grant recipients are strongly encouraged to further disseminate their results. They may write an article for Akoranga http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/resources/Akoranga.html and present a departmental seminar. In addition, recipients will be contacted by HEDC and supported to prepare a Case Study to annotate the University's Teaching and Learning Plan.

Currently, there are three publications being prepared looking at the following objectives

1. Perception of older patients being treated at the university teaching clinic by undergraduate students
2. Perception of caregivers in long-term care facilities
3. A systematic review of different dental curricula involving gerodontology

The completed manuscripts will be submitted to international dental journals.

Financial information:
Please attach a copy of the final statement for the Activity Centre set up for your Grant. The statement will be sufficient information for this section, provided that you explain any variation from the original conditions of your grant. If your project was supported by additional funding from other sources please describe.

A copy of the final financial statement is included with this report.

The project requested approximately $NZ700 for the purchase of geriatric educational materials published by the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada. However, after contacting the UBC, we were given a free access to their materials. Therefore, a request was made to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) to spend the fund for the purchase of other educational materials that are related to the oral health and ageing population.

Summary:

Please include here a synopsis of your project for the CALT web-site - no more than 200 words. Please include any evaluative reflections you have, and any hyperlinks to further information on the project.

As with any modification of behaviour or attitude, the development of a healthy philosophy regarding the elderly will not occur instantly but will be a process that starts as a dental student and continues over their professional career. Dental student attitude towards the elderly as opposed to knowledge about the elderly may be a crucial element in developing a positive approach to providing care for individuals in this rapidly ageing population.

In order to complement the assessment of dental students' knowledge on geriatric, the needs of older patients were assessed via questionnaires to identify the areas that were expected to be met by the dental professionals. The information gathered from this survey was used in the construction of new patient information pamphlets to be used during dental student-patient consultation. The qualitative data regarding the oral health needs of dependent older population in long-term care facilities emphasised the current barriers/difficulties to provide adequate oral health care. As a result, additional undergraduate lectures have been established to include these findings.

Outcomes from this study will implement future interventions that focus on improving the educational process to provide dental students with positive experiences in dealing with the biopsychosocial concerns of elderly patients and therefore initiate the development of positive attitudes in the dental profession regarding the population of elderly.

Signature: Sunyoung Ma

Date: 31 July 2013

Please return to Ruth Taylor by email and in paper form no later than 31 July 2013.