

# College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia

# UNISON

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Issue 2

Winter 2011



## Mission Statement

*The College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia,  
in the best interest of the public, regulates members, promotes excellence  
in care and advances the profession.*



### Dates To Note

Mark Your Calendars!

February 10, 2012

Dalhousie Table Clinics

March 23, 24, 2012

CDHNS Council Meeting

April 14, 2012

CDHNS CE Day

April is Oral Health Month

April 8-14, 2012

is National Dental Hygienists Week

May 26, 2012

CDHNS Meet 'n Greet Lunch

12:00 - 1:00

CDHNS AGM

Business meeting 1:15-2:30

Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry

Centennial Celebration

May 23-26, 2012

## *From the Desk of the Registrar*

### **Self Initiation**

In May of 2009 when the CDHNS was proclaimed there were 563 practicing members. Each of these 563 members needed to complete the Self Initiation Course and be authorized to self initiate by November 1, 2011.



We are pleased to report no member was refused a licence on November 1, 2011 for failure to complete the self initiation course! It truly demonstrates the professionalism of our members. It serves as measure under our legislative mandate in protecting the public through setting standards for the profession. This is an accomplishment of which we can all be proud! A toast to you all! Of the original members 507 have completed and 12 are on the non practicing list. The remainder are no longer in the province, or have retired.

### **AGM 2012**

Save the date Saturday, May 26 for the CDHNS Annual General meeting. The AGM has been planned to coincide with the Centennial Celebration of the Faculty of Dentistry which gives members a chance to attend the anniversary events and the AGM on the same weekend. The AGM will be preceded by a light lunch where members can catch up with their classmates and friends who are in town attending the Centennial Celebrations. See the notice from Jon Bruhm of Dentistry's Alumni Affairs in this newsletter.

### **Orientation for new Council Members**

Prior to the Council meeting in October the CDHNS held an Orientation Workshop for new Council members elected in June. *continued on page 2*

### **Inside This Issue**

|                                  | Page(s)       |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| From the Desk of the Registrar   | ... 1, 2 & 10 |
| Loving Care Books                | ... 3         |
| CDHNS Nomination Information     | ... 4 & 5     |
| Dalhousie Centennial Celebration | ... 6         |
| CDHNS Nomination Form            | ... 7 & 8     |
| Membership Stats                 | ... 9         |
| CDHNS April 14 CE                | ... 10        |
| Members News                     | ... 10        |
| Why Immunize?                    | ... 11        |

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Mallory Pettigrew RDH invites you to join her Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada Team.

To learn more about this disease and Mallory's team go to : <http://tinyurl.com/MalloryTNT>

Catherine MacLean and Greg Glynn who have submitted their resumes to become public representatives on Council also attended the orientation session. We await formal approval by Governor in Council of these appointments.

### **Highlights of Council Meeting**

The CDHNS Council met on October 21 and 22. The Council Governance Coach Susan Rogers assisted Council with a number of activities to enhance their knowledge of the Policy Governance® process. Policies were reviewed, monitoring reports approved, an Ownership Linkage Committee was formed, and an exercise was conducted to review and take action on the membership feedback from the 2011 AGM. The influences under PRESTO (political, regulatory, economic, social, technology, other) were reviewed and Council agreed they would like to explore the influences of economics and social and are planning to have a speaker on these influences at their next meeting. The ends (objectives) were prioritized and ideas were generated as indicators to measure how we are reaching the ends. Call for nominations to Council appears in this newsletter. Next scheduled meeting of Council March 23-24, 2012.

### **Scope of Practice Issues**

At the October meeting Council reviewed background information prepared by the CDHNS on the use of lasers and whitening products by dental hygienists. Two members of Council Dawna Ernst Henry and Jackie White prepared a statement and recommendation for Council. After discussion, Council concluded that the use of lasers for certain purposes and whitening products were within the scope of practice of dental hygienists and that statements would be prepared to qualify their use by dental hygienists in practice.

A position statement on whitening in "mall clinics" will be prepared for the March meeting of Council by Jackie White and Dawna Ernst Henry. This statement will be placed in the Unison and on the website. This statement can be used by our members as a guide when they are asked about whitening in mall clinics by clients or members of the public.

### **Local Anaesthetic**

The CDHNS has developed requirements and verification document for approving local anaesthesia programs/course for dental hygienists. Members applying for recognition of their local anaesthetic credentials will need to have taken an approved course recognised by the CDHNS. We have received a few inquiries regarding the Dalhousie University Continuing Dental Education course advertised in their fall brochure scheduled for May 2012. This course has not received approval at this time. The CDHNS has been communicating with the course director and the Continuing Dental Education Committee to revise the program to meet the CDHNS requirements. The CDHNS will post any updates on this item on our website at [www.cdhns.ca](http://www.cdhns.ca) or call CDHNS at (902) 444-7241.

*continued on page 10*

## **The Unison is the Official Newsletter of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia.**

Editor-In-Chief Rosemary Bourque RDH

### CDHNS Council

Chair: Rosemary Bourque New Glasgow

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Sara Harding South Shore

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For previous and current issues  
Left Tab Members, Publications  
and click on Issue.

### AD RATES

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1/4 pg. \$50.00

1/2 pg. \$95.00

Full pg. \$145.00

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Publication of an ad does  
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the CDHNS agrees or  
supports the claims therein.

We welcome your ideas,  
articles and letters.  
Submit to the  
Editor at  
[unisonnews.cdhns.ca](mailto:unisonnews.cdhns.ca)

NEXT DEADLINE  
FOR SUBMISSIONS  
MARCH 1, 2012

## ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF THE LOVING CARE: 1 TO 3 YEARS BOOK!

Last in four-part series written for diverse learning needs of all families.  
By Jen MacDonald, Educator with the Department of Health and Wellness  
This article reprinted with permission from the November issue of *doctorNS*, Volume 11, Number 5

**T**he final book in a four-part series on parent health education was released this fall.

The books comprise the *Loving Care* series, developed by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, Public Health Services, Department of Community Services, Reproductive Care Program, and the IWK Extra Support for Parents Program, with support from Child Safety Link and several Family Resource Centres.

Part of the development process included ongoing consultations with families and content experts.

*Loving Care* consists of three age-paced books that focus on child development and attachment and an accompanying book, *Parents and Families*, that focuses on family and parent self-care.

The series was designed and written to meet the diverse learning needs of all families.

*Loving Care* offers easy-to-understand early parenting information. In all the books parents are positioned as teachers and experts in knowing their own child.

Since 2008, *Loving Care: Birth to 6 months* and *Parents and Families* have been offered to families, either prenatally or at birth. The *6 to 12 Months* book was released in 2009. The *1 to 3 Years* book, which completes the series, has just been released.

English and French versions of the *Loving Care* books are distributed to families through Public Health Services. The books, in PDF version, are **online** at [www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/LovingCare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/LovingCare).

The main themes found in the last of the series, *Loving Care: 1 to 3 Years*, cover the following:

- **Attachment** Self esteem, progressive independence, building confidence, individuality and respect; temperament plays a role.
- **Sexual development** Parents can teach children about their bodies and sexuality as they grow; children begin to learn what it means to be a boy or a girl; children are curious about their own and other's bodies.
- **Physical development** Readiness to do things; includes charts by age using skills learned progressively; a section called 'when to wonder' offers parents a chance to think about when to look for help related to their child's development.
- **Screen time** Time spent with TV, videos, and games affect brain development; interactive activities with parents or caregivers help baby's brain develop.
- **Play** Parents are encouraged to play with their children and follow child's cues; language, social, physical skills are developing through play; importance of outdoor play; age appropriate games are

included.

- **Behaviour** Fun, exciting and frustrating at times; patience, understanding and love are essential; strategies for dealing with common concerns like aggression, fears, whining, and clinging.
- **Discipline** Called "loving guidance;" learning empathy, re-directing behaviour, problem solving; temperament and life changes affect children's behavior.
- **Toilet learning** Ready to start around two years of age; look for signs.
- **Food** Toddlers know how much they want to eat; eating together as a family is important; continue breastfeeding up to two years and beyond.
- **Sleep** Cues for sleep at bedtimes and naps; routines are important.
- **Health** Hand washing, immunizations, **dental care**, reducing exposure to second and third-hand smoke.
- **Safety** Indoor and outdoor; summer and winter; helmets and car seats.

For more information about *Loving Care*, contact a Public Health Services office. Telephone numbers and civic addresses are online at [www.gov.ns.ca/DHW/about/phs-offices.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/DHW/about/phs-offices.asp)

**Parenting Information You Can Trust.**  
[www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/LovingCare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/LovingCare)  
NOVA SCOTIA  
Public Health Services

“

Loving Care offers easy-to-understand early parenting information. In all the books parents are positioned as teachers and experts in knowing their own child.

## **Call for Nominations**

### **Notice: CDHNS Nominations and Election Information**

Four positions on the CDHNS Council will become vacant on May 26, 2012.

This is a call for nominations to elect members to those fill the vacant positions on the College Council.

#### **General Information**

The Council consists of 9 elected members of the CDHNS and three public representatives appointed by Governor in Council. The Council elects annually from amongst its members an executive committee. The Council meets a minimum of three times per year to conduct business and other conference calls and special meetings as needed. Council deliberations are guided by Vision and Mission statements. (all available on our website under Members Tab).

The College has adopted Policy Governance® as their governance model. Policy governance is meant to enhance role clarity, operational transparency and guard the right of an organization to be faithfully served according the organization's goals or end statements.

#### **Orientation, ongoing education and reimbursement:**

The CDHNS is committed to ongoing education of Council members and an orientation will be provided for all new members of council.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses for meetings and are provided honorariums according to the CDHNS expense policy.

Creating a positive future for the profession is rewarding work. If you or someone you know would like to contribute through an elected position on the Council, please submit a nomination.

#### **Under Policy Governance® the roles of Council include:**

Specific job outputs of the council are those that ensure appropriate organizational performance.

Accordingly, the council has direct responsibility to create and sustain;

1. The link between the ownership and the operational organization.
2. Written governing policies which address the broadest levels of all organizational decisions and situations.
  - A. Ends: Organizational products, impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients, and their relative worth (what good for which recipients at what relative cost or relative worth).
  - B. Executive Limitations: Constraints on executive authority which establish the prudence and ethics boundaries within which all executive activity and decisions must take place.
  - C. Governance Process: Specification of how the council conceives carries out and monitors its own task.
  - D. Council-Management Relationship: How power is delegated and its proper use monitored; the Registrar role, authority and accountability.

*continued on next page*

3. Assurance of successful organizational performance on Ends and Executive Limitations.
4. Scope of practice decisions and related policy position statements that are in the best interests of protecting the public.
5. Decisions that are in the best interests of protecting the public relative to eligibility of dental hygiene programs.
6. Appointment of Credentials Committee as required by the Act. The council may specify its terms but this committee is not accountable to council. Council may hear appeals by members on licensing issues as determined by the legislation.
7. Appointment of the Hearing and Investigation committees as per the Act. These committees are accountable to council.
8. Appeals from persons denied by the Hearing committee (as per Section #63 of the Act).
9. Other products required by the Bylaws, Act and Regulations including:
  - a. Regular Bylaw review
  - b. Annual General Meeting

Members should consider those who have

- An interest in serving the professional regulatory body
- Integrity and good personal judgment
- The ability to put the public interest first and only subject to that the interest of the profession
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills
- A willingness to share opinions and ask questions
- The ability to listen to all perspectives without bias
- The willingness to commit time and energy

### **Election Process**

- Following receipt of the nominations a Nomination Slate will be sent with the March 2012, Unison.
- Election of the CDHNS Council nominees will take place at the CDHNS AGM on May 26th, 2012 in the Royal Bank Theatre, Faculty of Arts and Science (FASS) Building, Dalhousie University in Halifax NS. Commencing at 1:15 pm.
- Members will be provided with a voting card.

**Please remember to bring your membership (wallet) card or personal identification with you.**

- **Mail ballot:** If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to vote on the nominees you may **request** a ballot by mail from the College at info@cdhns.ca or calling 902 444-7241.
- Mail ballot envelopes will be numbered and must be received by the College by a date to be specified on the form.
- Mail ballots will be counted prior to the AGM and the results sealed until the day of the election.



# Dalhousie Dentistry Centennial Celebrations: Celebrate Our Past, Embrace The Future!

By Jon Bruhm Alumni Officer Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry

In May of 1912, the first four students graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie University. Since then, more than 3,400 dentists, dental hygienists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, periodontists, prosthodontists, and graduates of the pediatric dentistry residency program have joined this special group of Dalhousie alumni.

In recognition of that first graduating class, and all of the students, faculty, staff and friends who have come along since then, the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie University will be celebrating its Centennial from May 23-26, 2012.

The festivities will include a special Convocation Ceremony, a spectacular Celebratory Dinner, a Meet & Greet event, a golf tournament, tours of the building, class reunions, and a wide selection of Continuing Education and Personal Development courses – many of them taught by current and former faculty and alumni.

The Faculty of Dentistry is pleased to partner with The College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia, who will be holding its Annual General Meeting during the Centennial on Saturday, May 26. Specific details concerning the meeting will be announced in the coming months, and we welcome all CDHNS members to be a part of this special celebration. Join us as we celebrate our past and embrace the future of Dentistry at Dalhousie, in Nova Scotia, and around the World!

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA | CANADA | +1.902.494.1674 | DENTISTRY.DAL.CA

*Celebrate Our Past*

100

DALHOUSIE  
DENTISTRY

*Embrace The Future*

May 23-26, 2012

**Join us for our Centennial!**

- 100th Convocation Ceremony
- Celebratory Dinner
- Continuing Education Courses
- Class Reunions
- Golf Tournament
- and much, much more!

*We are pleased to partner with the Nova Scotia Dental Association, who will be hosting their Annual Business Meeting and Honours & Awards Luncheon in conjunction with the Centennial schedule.*



[www.daldentistry100.ca](http://www.daldentistry100.ca)

# **CDHNS Nomination Form**

## **Part I**

### **For Members of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia Council**

- While it is not mandated in so far as possible the slate should represent diversity with respect to geography, practice setting, and experience.
- All nominees must be registered and licensed members of CDHNS in good standing.
- Nominations must be endorsed by two CDHNS members along with the consent of the nominee.
- Nominees must submit a biography form. (included)
- **Deadline** for completed nominations to be received at the CDHNS office is midnight **February 28, 2012**. Nominations may remain open following this date if insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacant Council positions.

We, being members of CDHNS in good standing, nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT NAME)

For the position of:

- CDHNS Councilor: Two Year Term (starts May 2012 – Ends May/June 2014)

Nominated By \_\_\_\_\_ RDH Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Nominated By \_\_\_\_\_ RDH Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

### **CONSENT:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ accept this nomination. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name) (Signature)

This form available for reprint on the CDHNS website under Members Tab.

Go to [www.cdhns.ca](http://www.cdhns.ca)

Nominations to be announced

in the March/April issue of Unison and posted on our website.

Return this completed form to:

CDHNS 26 – 2625 Joseph Howe Dr., Halifax NS B3L 4G4

*Complete Part II on the other side  
of this page*

**Biography of Nominee**  
**for CDHNS Council Positions**

Part II CDHNS Nomination Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:**      **Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Education:**

Dental Hygiene Program/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Relevant Post-Secondary:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Dental Hygiene Professional Experience(s):**

Please include practice settings and areas of responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer and/or Professional Activities:**

Please include past or present volunteer experiences on Board(s), Council(s), or Committee(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Intent:** Please write a brief statement on why you are standing for election to the Council you could include why you are interested in serving and what you hope to accomplish.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



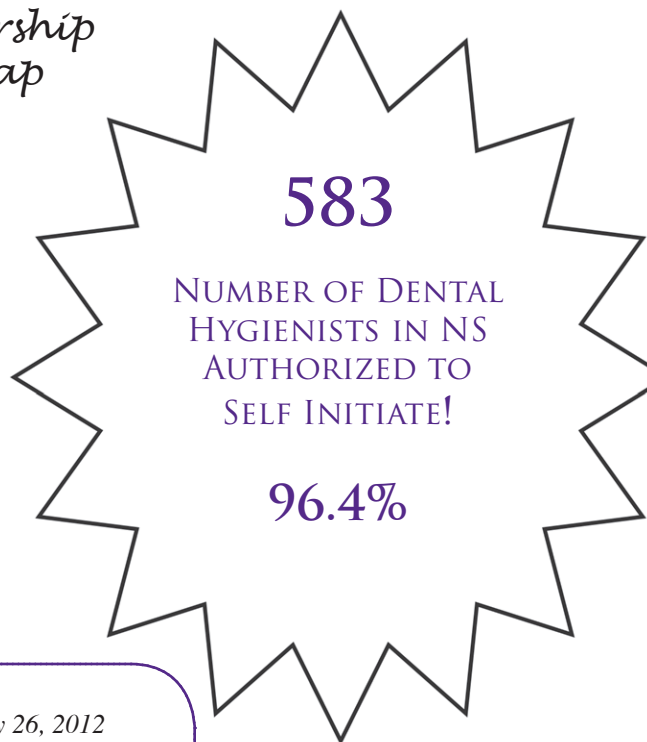
## Membership on Tap

### Licence Renewals (as of November 1, 2011)

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Practicing Members     | 605      |
| Non-Practicing Members | 48       |
| Non-Status Members     | 1        |
| Life Members           | 2        |
| Honorary Member        | <u>1</u> |
| Total                  | 657      |

### 2011 Licence Renewals

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Cancelled:            | 16 |
| Retired:              | 3  |
| Struck from Register: | 4  |



#### AGM 2012

*The 2012 CDHNS AGM will be held during the afternoon May 26, 2012 at the Scotiabank Room in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Building during the Dalhousie Centennial Celebration. An optional lunch will be provided before the start of the AGM for a small fee. More information and registration will be in the Spring Unison.*

All practicing licences and non-practicing membership cards with receipts were mailed out by November 2, 2011. If you have not received your documents, please inform the CDHNS at [info@cdhns.ca](mailto:info@cdhns.ca) or 902-444-7241. Beginning February 1, 2012, there will be a \$5.00 charge for any requests for additional licences and/or receipts.

### E-Mail Money Transfers

Well over 10% of the membership used the e-mail money transfer option to pay their licence renewal fee in the 2011/2012 renewal period. Most members had positive reviews on using this method including, ease of use,

10% +  
The percentage of  
members who used the  
e-mail money transfer  
option.

convenience, and not having to worry about mailing cheques. With this great response, the CDHNS will continue to use this method of payment in the future.

### Changes for Next Year (2012)

#### CPR renewals and cards

By November 20, 2011, ninety practicing dental hygienists (14.7%) had not submitted their CPR certificates for the last membership renewal period. Next year ALL documentation required will need to be submitted, including CPR certificates, by the deadline. Without complete documentation, your licence cannot be issued. Please ensure that the CPR course that you take will allow you to receive your permanent CPR card in time to forward to us by October 15, 2012 so licenses can be processed on time.

#### 2012 Licence Renewal Fee

When the CDHNS began in 2009 we committed to no fee increases for three years, this commitment ended with the 2011 licence renewal. During this time the CDHA portion of the fee has increased from \$156 to \$162.00 and for the coming year they plan an increase of possibly 2% which would be another \$3.00. Therefore the CDHNS is sending a higher portion of the fee to CDHA and has less income to meet operating expenses and move the CDHNS forward. In order to meet the goal of maintaining a balanced budget Council has approved a modest fee increase for 2012. The licence renewal fee for November 1, 2012 will be \$615.00.

### Continuing Competency Cycle Audit

Work on the Continuing Competency cycle audit of members whose Continuing Competency cycle ends on December 31, 2011 has begun. An external auditor has made the random selection and those members selected will be notified in early December to submit their completed Continuing Competency Record form and all supporting documentation to the CDHNS in January. The Continuing Competency Committee will meet in February to review the forms and documents and complete the audit process.

On behalf of the CDHNS and myself I extend holiday greetings to all and sincere wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



*Patricia Grant*

Patricia Grant, Registrar

The Halifax Dental Hygiene Society “Walkers for Knockers” and “Trimac Dental Center” teams merged to have a small but worthy group for the rainy RUN FOR THE CURE on Oct 2nd 2011. HDHS donated \$250 and individual donations put the “Walkers for Knockers” team total to \$720.



HDHS member Susan Doucette is a survivor. Having her walk with us made the event even more meaningful. A big Thank You to those who participated and congratulations on a successful “RUN”. Hope to see you all next year!

Halifax Society Chair –  
Renee Hunter



### CDHNS Community Education Resource Centre



We are currently in the process of restocking our Resource Centre for Oral Health Month and National Dental Hygienists Week in April. There are still plenty of items ready for our members who wish to make presentations within their community.

The Resource Center has a wide assortment of literature on health issues including Alzheimer's, AIDS, Smoking, and Muscular Dystrophy. If there is a health issue that you would like to receive more information, contact the CDHNS, and we would be happy to lend materials or send copies.

To order any materials contact the CDHNS at 902-444-7241 or email [info@cdhns.ca](mailto:info@cdhns.ca)

As an added note recently at the Halifax Component Society meeting, two public health dental hygienists Shannon O'Neill and Paulette Hawkesworth, presented on their work in public health. Shannon has been working with the Loving Care Committee who produced a series of books on childhood development through the various ages starting with from 0 to 6 months. Each book contains information on oral health for that age group.

You can access these books at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/lovingcare/>

For more on this series, see page 3 of this newsletter.

### Dental Hygienists Week CDHNS CE Presentation: Empowering Yourself in the Workplace

To celebrate Dental Hygienists Week, on April 14, 2012, the CDHNS is holding a Continuing Education session “Empowering Yourself in the Work Place”. Topics will include: Employment Standards, Disability Insurance, and Contract Negotiation.

With these turbulent working and economic conditions,

Dental Hygienists will learn how to protect themselves at work and throughout their practice.

More information regarding this event will be sent to the membership

through email in the New Year. Please save the date and plan to attend.

## Pertussis and Flu. What to do about Immunizing?

*The original article titled "Flu season begs the question: To vaccinate or not?"  
By Erin Archer, R.N., contributing writer, can be viewed online at [www.Dr.Bicuspid.com](http://www.Dr.Bicuspid.com)*

November 22, 2011 -- In 2008, a Swiss tourist visited a hospital in Tucson, AZ, and subsequently became the source of 14 cases of healthcare-associated measles (*Journal of Infectious Diseases*, June 1, 2011, Vol. 203:11, pp. 1517-1525).

Half of those affected were older than 18 years of age, four were hospitalized, seven contracted measles in healthcare settings, and none had evidence of measles vaccination. The costs of testing, contact tracing, immunization of healthcare workers, and 15,120 contact hours lost in healthcare worker furloughs related to this highly contagious - and vaccine-preventable disease - ultimately resulted in nearly \$800,000 in total healthcare costs.

Imagine a patient coming into your dental practice with a runny nose and mild cough who thinks it is only allergies, only to discover later that it was pertussis -- another highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease. To abide with established infection control guidelines, any of your staff with significant contact with that patient and a runny nose must be tested, treated, and furloughed until pertussis can be ruled out.

Healthcare providers are at high risk for becoming infected with and transmitting infectious diseases to others, but research has shown that awareness of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases is lacking (*American Journal of Infection Control*, December 2009, Vol. 37:10, pp. 858-860).

A more recent study illustrated that awareness among dentists on the importance of vaccinations remains low (*Vaccine*, October 19, 2011, Vol. 29:45, pp. 8108-8112). The study researchers surveyed 443 dentists with at least 15 years of activity at an important Italian national dental congress in 2009; 379 dentists completed the questionnaire.

The Italian study also assessed the impact of flu shots and found that while occupational influenza risk among dentists is high, dentists who receive a flu vaccine have half the absenteeism rates of nonvaccinated dentists for influenza-like illness and lower rates of recurrence.

In the U.S., 10% to 20% of the population becomes infected with the flu each year. Transmission of influenza is possible for 24 hours or more before the sick person shows any symptoms.

"Other than hepatitis B, it's all about droplets," J. Michael Hitt, MD, an occupational medicine physician at the University of Arizona, told staff. "Dental staff are bathed in droplets on a daily basis. Face shields, masks, and gloves are a big help, but innate immunity (by vaccination) will seal the deal."

### **Pertussis endemic**

**Pertussis** is another infectious disease that dental care professionals should be prepared for. Based on studies that look at reporting rates, pertussis is estimated to affect 600,000 U.S. adults ages 20-64 annually, and epidemics occur in the U.S. every three to five years, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2010, cases of pertussis in California reached the highest reported rate since 1947, and reported cases also rose significantly in Michigan and Ohio, according to the CDC.

The first week's symptoms of pertussis are often just a runny nose, with the signature "whooping cough" showing itself in older children and adults in the second contagious week or after. If the chain of infection reaches an infant younger than 1 year old, the chances are more than 50% that the infant will need to be hospitalized, with apnea often being the primary symptom.

Pertussis immunity has been shown to wane among previously immunized adolescents and adults, but many adults have not been vaccinated, leaving them vulnerable to infection and infecting others (*Human Vaccines*, February 2011, Vol. 7:2, pp. 197-201).

"Healthcare workers find themselves caught in a pertussis trap," Dr. Hitt said. "Not only is our pertussis immunity waning as we age, but our risk of exposure is much higher than the general population. When we become infected, we are in perfect position to disseminate it among our unsuspecting patients and family members -- often without ever knowing that we were carrying anything."

An adult pertussis vaccine was not available until June 2005. *The Nova Scotia Public Health campaign advocates that those born before 1989 should renew the Tetanus vaccine (Tdap), which since approximately 2008 contains the Pertussis immunization.*

"Because of their contact with patients or infective material from patients, healthcare personnel, including dental professionals, are at risk for exposure to and possible transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases," said Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH, medical officer with the CDC. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends all healthcare personnel, regardless of age, receive a single dose of the Tdap vaccine as soon as feasible if they have not previously received the vaccine, and regardless of the time since their last Td dose, he added.



