INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

701a (fall) / 701b (spring)

Course Description:

This is a one-hour weekly seminar in the fall semester that is categorized as a “multi-use” course within the graduate dental curriculum. While not a part of the “core courses” within the graduate school, this course is viewed as an enrichment opportunity to relate developing expertise to a comprehensive dental care setting. As such it is subscribed to by various advanced education training programs in dentistry as their curricula dictate. The course has been specifically designed to accommodate and promote evidence-based, multi-disciplinary interaction among advanced education students involved in clinical patient care.

Course Objectives:

- To provide a structured patient care conference that allows for discussion of diagnosis, treatment planning, progress and outcomes of patient care;
- To provide a multidisciplinary forum to share knowledge, expertise and perspective regarding the comprehensive care of patients with complex oral health care needs;
- To provide an opportunity for the young professional to make an organized, evidence-based patient care presentation to peers and faculty.

Course Format:

The course essentially involves patient presentations by students participating in the course. On a rotating basis, advanced education students from programs enrolled in the course make a formal case presentation of a patient under their care to their student colleagues. Faculty representatives from each program subscribed to the course are in attendance to stimulate discussion and serve as an educational resource. The presentation follows a defined format:

**Patient Presentations**

Patient presentations may be either (a) diagnosis and treatment planning cases or (b) completed cases. Students should work with their program director in the selection of a patient for presentation.

1. Presentations should follow the attached format. A two to three page handout should be prepared for distribution to the class that includes:
   - Demographics
   - Chief complaint
   - Medical history
   - Dental history
Clinical images of extra-oral and intra-oral findings should be presented as well as images of appropriate radiographs. Images of materials such as study casts, diagnostic wax-ups and any other supporting materials will enhance the presentation and are encouraged.

2. Presentations should be interdisciplinary and should not be limited to a discussion of discipline-specific issues.

3. Faculty representative of each participating program should be available as a resource in discussion of concerns. However, it is the intent of the course that students do as much of the discussion as possible. It will be the presenter’s responsibility to lead the discussion. He/she should be prepared to take this initiative by identifying key issues and preparing questions that stimulate discussion.

4. The initial presentation of the patient should be limited to 20 minutes to permit ample time for discussion of treatment alternatives, prognosis and planned care.

5. The presenter should prepare an appropriate treatment plan for the patient and be prepared to defend its rationale. The treatment plan should not be presented until group discussion has been completed.

Grades:

Grading for participation in the course is Pass/Fail. Each enrolled student is expected to attend a minimum of 12 of the presentations to receive credit for the course. This would allow each student two unexcused absences. Obviously attendance will be monitored at each session. Requests for excused absences due to academic conflicts should be made by email to the course director prior to the absence. Those individuals who do not satisfy the course requirements will receive an Incomplete for the course. Grades of Incomplete must be removed within one academic year. Since opportunities for make-up or remediation are limited, individuals receiving a grade of incomplete will be required to develop a paper entitled “The Value of an Interdisciplinary Approach to Treatment Planning.” This paper should be referenced and be of minimal length of five pages. The course director and appropriate discipline-specific faculty will review the paper for acceptance. Failure to remove a grade of incomplete within one academic year will lead to a recorded grade of Fail.

Course Director:
Rotates from semester to semester among program directors of participating programs.

Textbooks:
None