Unmasked Potential in New Orleans

Scott A. Wolpin, DMD
President, NNOHA Board of Directors

As I reflect upon this year’s Conference, the theme “Innovate, Integrate, and Celebrate” really remains at the forefront, as these terms have become the hallmark for NNOHA in developing the conference curriculum and experience for our members each year.

One of the first things I noticed about this year’s conference was the incredible energy… enthusiastic first-timers and faithful old-timers, donning their “NNOHA Tour” t-shirts, intermingled to create a terrific buzz.

A jam-packed agenda offered a broad range of tremendously exciting topics, addressing the opioid epidemic, scientific developments in cariology, and trauma-informed care. All of our plenaries and panels sessions were extremely well attended, and captivating high-profile speakers led the charge along with dozens of expert presenters.

Many, many great things stood out from the 2018 NNOHA Conference, without even mentioning the awesome culinary experiences we all enjoyed with New Orleans as our backdrop, but I will highlight three most important ones to me:

1. **Commitment:** The NNOHA Conference Planning Committee, On Par Productions, and NNOHA staff are truly committed to making the annual NNOHA Conference a world-class event! Many thanks to everyone who took the time to contribute to this year’s conference.

2. **Relevance and Innovative Approaches to Learning:** The popularity and interest of the keynote sessions were evidenced by each being a room full of 950 of us! Thanks to Hal Crossley, Brian Nový, and Allison Jackson — all fantastic plenary speakers who challenged us, inspired us, and gave us more actionable information than I could ever list here.

And thanks to the coordinated efforts of Scott Miller, Steve Alouf, LSU faculty, and the Daughters of Charity Health System, a small Mission of Mercy denture clinic at the LSU School of Dentistry offered hands-on learning of an innovative new way to replace teeth for participating health center dentists and 16 very thankful patients.

3. **Excellence:** Of course, I knew it already, but Conference reconfirmed the superb work being done by NNOHA as it continues to fulfill its mission. NNOHA’s mission

Continued on page 2
Conference Wrap-Up

Many Thanks to All Involved

Steve Geiermann, DDS
Chair, NNOHA Annual Conference Planning Committee

The NNOHA Board of Directors and the 2018 Conference Planning Committee are grateful that nearly 1,000 people joined us in New Orleans to unmask their potential through innovation, integration, and celebration.

Dr. Scott Wolpin, the current NNOHA president, continues to set a high expectation for diverse continuing education, ample networking opportunities, and adequate time to visit with the knowledgeable and friendly exhibitors who help make our practices more efficient, effective, and productive.

Thank you for taking time to learn and share your experience with your fellow attendees. It was clear that the fruits of networking were as valuable as the multiple continuing education credits earned, not to mention the culinary jewels around every corner. I hope you returned home refreshed and rejuvenated.

We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas on October 13-16, 2019. It's a safe bet that you will be a big winner!

Many Tha...
Conference Photo Gallery

With so many Conference attendees present, so many sessions offered, and so much going on, you can bet a lot of wonderful photographs were taken! A small sampling are shared with you here, which capture the essence of the Conference and showcase its various facets.

NNOHA Conference is NETWORKING
On Saturday, attendees participated in an 8-hour course: "Making the Case for One Day Dentures".

Tuesday afternoon's Stainless Steel Crowns hands-on sessions provided the opportunity to apply the techniques that were described in the Pediatric Restorations lecture earlier that day.

NNOHA Conference is HANDS ON

Many thanks to Hu-Friedy for their sponsorship of the stainless steel crowns sessions.

Special treat for Holly Kingsbury: Getting her personal copy of Teeth signed by author/journalist Mary Otto.

The Exhibit Hall provided opportunities for learning about vendor products and services.

16 endentulous patients were able to receive a new smile at the Saturday "One-Day Dentures" course. Special thanks to Henry Schein for helping make this happen.

Fancy fingers from the Eh La Bas (translation: "at the bottom") jazz ensemble filled the foyer with tunes at the Welcome Reception.

Hands-on learning can be a lot of fun!
Hal Crossley enlightened attendees with his plenary session on opioids and their impact on the oral health safety-net system.

Allison Jackson gave a powerful plenary address on the relevance of trauma to providers working with abuse victims.

Prosthodontist Pamela Maragliano-Muniz shared her expertise on complex direct restorations.

NNOHA Conference is EXPERTISE.

Hearing from longtime safety-net practitioners like Dr. Mark Koday is always a treat.

The NNOHA Practice Management Committee "stacks it up" on the historic grand staircase at The Palace Café.

Dr. Ernest Meshack-Hart was among the many presenters at the always popular "Fundamentals of Leading a Health Center Oral Health Program" half-day session on Sunday.

Brian Nový is always a captivating plenary speaker.

Brian Quinlan was one of the voices leading the conversation about incorporating a variety of types of care providers on your dental team.
Each day started out with a plenary session and a packed house.

The Poster Sessions allowed presenters to share cutting-edge research.

New board member Clifton Bush introduces himself to his new colleagues.

NNOHA Conference is INTENSIVE LEARNING.

Q&A sessions offer a chance for attendees to ask the experts.

Focused attention and hands-on exercises help new ideas take root.

Listen, learn, and then discuss: A proven approach.

Ideas and inspiration abound.

Something to think about.
NNOHA Conference is EXCELLENCE

Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska in Kenai AK was honored by Safety Net Solutions as a John Rossetti Center of Excellence

Dr. Mark Doherty introduces this year’s John Rossetti Awards presentation

NNOHA staff sports the collectible 2018 “NNOHA in NOLA” t-shirts

Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics in Santa Barbara CA were honored by Safety Net Solutions as a John Rossetti Center of Excellence

The C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics in West Palm Beach FL were honored by Safety Net Solutions as a John Rossetti Center of Excellence

Award winners Dayna Brinckman and Sheela Tummala enjoy a top-notch meal with NNOHA President Elect Tina Sopiwnik

All four NNOHA award winners show off their commemorative plaques. See story on page 10.
What’s better: The bag of beignets or the painted fingernail with the NNOHA logo?

Dr. Domenic Calouri and Dr. Tina Sopiwnik

Smiles and hugs from grateful patients at the “One-Day Dentures” course at the LSU School of Dentistry

Mary Otto was honored to receive the NNOHA President’s Award

Learning is always something to smile about!

A toast to NNOHA!

NNOHA Conference is EXPERIENCES

Colorful costumes, jazzy tunes, and bluesy lyrics from New Orleans band Eh La Bas

Reecia Lovett is a happy Passport to Prizes prize winner
NNOHA Conference is OLD FRIENDS & NEW
The annual NNOHA Outstanding Contribution Awards were presented during the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, November 13. NNOHA extends hearty congratulations to each of these award winners and applauds their contributions to oral health care.

**Oral Health Champion**

*In recognition of efforts in supporting oral health programs, commitment to patients and providers in the safety-net community, and continuing promotion of oral health as essential to overall good health for everyone*

Claudia Cavazos, DDS, MPH  
Chief Dental Officer  
Gateway Community Health Center  
Laredo TX

In the mid-1990s, dental student Claudia Cavazos was the first clinician to rotate through the Gateway Community Health Center’s dental program; this past October, she celebrated 19 years as the Chief Dental Officer of that same clinic. Among many other responsibilities, Dr. Cavazos currently leads the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry's collaborative that offers rotations for dental students in primary care and community-based dentistry.

**Outstanding Clinician**

*In recognition of outstanding commitment to patients, profession, and community*

Sheela Tummala, DDS, MPH  
Chief Dental Officer  
Community Health Center Inc  
Meriden CT

Dr. Sheela Tummala receives high praise for outstanding clinical expertise, patient satisfaction, productivity, and relationships with support staff. She brings a public health perspective to her clinical practice.

Tummala doesn’t just assess progress, she also provides clinical services so she can fully engage in the realities faced by her dental team.

**John McFarland Leadership Award**

*With sincere appreciation for exemplary leadership in improving the oral health of underserved populations in the community*

Dayna Brinckman, DDS, CHCEF  
Chief Dental Officer  
Health Partnership Clinic  
Olathe KS

Dr. Dayna Brinckman demonstrates an ability to effectively select the right leadership style in all situations. She exemplifies servant leadership with active listening, empathy, stewardship, and developing others’ potential, consistently serving the needs of her team. In one example, Dr. Brinckman spearheaded a visionary innovation effort that unified pediatric medical and dental services to provide a truly integrated pediatric department. The result improved not only access for children but also improved patient outcomes, which served as a model for team unity that inspired the adult medicine department as well.

**NNOHA President’s Award**

*In recognition of the inspiration provided to the NNOHA membership through outstanding presentations, visionary research, and personal commitment to the underserved*

Mary Otto  
Journalist, Author, Health Topic Leader  
Association of Health Care Journalists  
Washington DC

The tragic death of 12-year-old Deamonte Driver in 2007 from complications of an untreated dental infection was shared with the world by then-*Washington Post* writer
Mary Otto. Her reporting inspired legislators and state officials in Maryland to address inadequate access to oral health for lower income people.

Over the past 11 years, Ms. Otto has addressed numerous oral health coalitions and advocacy groups and has been interviewed on dozens of podcasts, radio shows and news broadcasts. She received ADEA’s Gies Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2010 for her reporting on oral health issues.

In 2017 she published Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America. This book, which brings together history, policy, and painful personal realities about our nation’s highly preventable epidemic of oral disease, was selected by National Public Radio as a top book of 2017.
Letter from the Executive Director

So Many Stories, So Little Time

Phillip Thompson, NNOHA Executive Director

When the NNOHA Annual Conference began on Monday morning, November 12, NNOHA president Scott Wolpin informed us there would be many stories shared throughout the meeting. Then he shared his moving story of how he became a community health center dentist and why he remains after 30 years.

During the two and a half days that followed, I hope you heard many helpful or uplifting stories. The NNOHA Conference is not just about honing skills, collecting continuing education credits, and enjoying the host city — although these are important and NNOHA works hard to provide these opportunities — it is also about making new connections and strengthening old ones.

If we did our job, you now have new contacts with other safety-net oral health professionals, information from vendors of goods and services, and you know how to reach presenters whose stories piqued your interest. These stories informed us on the opioid crisis, adverse childhood experiences, dental homes for low income seniors, initiatives for maternal and infant oral health, integrating oral health with the other professions in your health center, and so much more.

The annual conference is also the time of year the NNOHA Board of Directors experiences the sadness of expiring terms for some longtime members and the excitement of welcoming new faces and expertise to our roster of volunteer leaders. We welcome to the Board Dr. Domenic Calouri and Mr. Clifton Bush. At the same time, the Board also reluctantly said farewell to longtime members Dr. Steven Geiermann and Dr. Huong Le. President Wolpin has asked Dr. Geiermann to lend his expertise to the conference planning committee for another year, and we thank him for his willingness to do so.

I would like to end my remarks with a personal thank you to Dr. Le, who was NNOHA president when I was hired as executive director in 2014. I already knew something about community health centers, but not a lot about oral health. Dr. Le became a mentor as well as a boss. She introduced me to people I needed to know, and she shared stories from NNOHA’s past that made its present understandable. Along the way I learned something about her own story — the harrowing childhood escape from a collapsing Vietnam, the diligent pursuit of higher education in a new land, the building of a family where it seems like everyone is a healthcare professional, and how she became dental director at Asian Health Services in Oakland, where, last I checked, 12 different languages are spoken by providers.

So thank you Huong Le for what you have done for me, and all you have accomplished for NNOHA, as board member, president, conference planner, representative to the Dental Quality Alliance, and ambassador for oral health access.

It’s not goodbye, it’s just the next chapter of the story!

Phillip Thompson
NOHLI Celebrates and Advances

National Oral Health Learning Institute (NOHLI) graduated its 6th cohort of scholars in New Orleans at the 2018 NNOHA Annual Conference. A special reception for NOHLI scholars past and present, along with NOHLI faculty and sponsors, was hosted by NNOHA at the Bourbon House restaurant in New Orleans. Congratulations to Cohort 6, pictured below with NOHLI faculty.