Dentistry Beyond the Drill: A Changing Profession for a Changing Need

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Objectives

- Explain the qualities needed for success in the emerging healthcare system.

- Describe the importance of mobile technology as a means to improve access and health literacy for the underserved.

- Understand the value of social entrepreneurship and the impact it has on improving health.

- Recognize what qualities an effective leader must have to create positive change in the community.
Dr. Jack Geiger father of Community Health Centers, once said:

“The poor get sicker, and the sick get poorer.”
Some Oral Health Facts

- 60-90% of school children and nearly 100% of adults have dental cavities
- About 30% of people aged 65-74 have no natural teeth
- Severe periodontal disease is found in 15-20% of adults 35-44 years
Triple Aim

- Improve the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction)
- Improve the health of populations
- Reduce the per capita cost of health care
Possible Fourth Aim

• Improving the work life of health care clinicians and staff

• High suicide rate among U.S. physicians and medical students
A little history!

“Public Tooth-drawer”, 1523, woodcut, by Lucas van Leyden; earliest known engraving of a tooth-drawer at work. Note that assistant has hand in patient’s pocket.

According to Otto*, public perception may not have changed after 500 years.

Current Health Delivery Models

- Medical Home
- Dental Home
- Behavioral Home

Future = Health Home = New Oral Health Provider
Dental Health Therapists = concept that needs resolution
• Oral Health Literacy
• Better Prepared Workforce
  • Including Leadership and “Soft” Skills
• Integration into Primary Care
• Special Needs - Medically Complex
• Aging Population
• Innovative preventive intervention
Teledentistry Can Improve Access to Care

- **Develop a Program that Will**
  - Bring oral health to patients
  - Focus on prevention
  - Work with underserved populations

- **Barriers Broken Down**
  - Cost
  - Time
  - Distance

- **Goal**
  - Bring prevention to the patient and decrease the need for surgical interventions
In 2011, A.T. Still University (ATSU) devised a series of text message programs designed to reach, educate, and remind current patients about preventive and ongoing initiatives of health and wellness.

Examples of Effective Social Media
Text2Floss: An Innovative Option to Improve Oral Health
Leadership is establishing a clear vision and sharing that vision with others so that they will follow willingly. A leader steps up in times of crises, and is able to think and act creatively in difficult situations.
Jack’s Suggestions for Good Leadership

1. Work at something you enjoy and is worthy of your time and talent.

2. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.

3. Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know.
Jack’s Suggestions for Good Leadership

4. Be forgiving of yourself and others.

5. Be generous.

6. Have a grateful heart.
Jack’s Suggestions for Good Leadership

8. Be loyal.


10. Be bold & courageous.

When you look back on your life, you’ll regret the things you didn’t do more than the ones you did.
Recommended Reading

![The Four Agreements](image1)

![John W. Gardner on Leadership](image2)