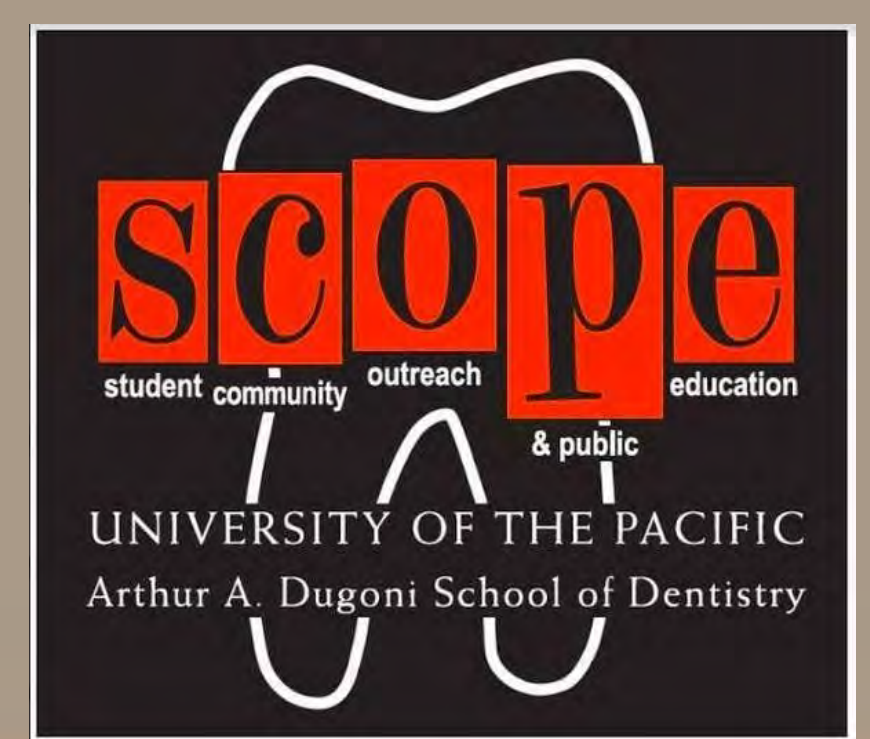


Student Community Outreach for Public Education (SCOPE): Senior Smiles and Wellness Events 2022-23

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INTRODUCTION

Senior Smiles Health & Wellness Fair is a community oral health outreach event sponsored by SCOPE (Student Community Outreach for Public Education) that serves San Francisco's senior citizen population with limited access to health care. SCOPE, a student-led organization at Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, works to improve health equity through community health outreach and education events. Scope sponsored the 27th Senior Smiles fair, after a hiatus due to Covid, on May 14, 2022 and will host the 28th annual event on May 6, 2023. The event is modeled as a hybrid interprofessional education (IPE) event, with representatives from the school of Pharmacy, Audiology, UC Berkeley Optometry, UOP School of Dentistry, School of Physical Therapy, UOP Master's of Social Work, and the SF Department of Disability and Aging. Each group present provided various levels of screening, education, and services to the clients that attended the event. This event presented a great opportunity for various health education programs to learn from each other and promote future collaborations among healthcare providers. The ultimate goal is to promote health equity, increase interprofessional education, provide a variety of health screening assessments and referrals for elders age 55+, and facilitate interprofessional coordination of care for each patient.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the help, generosity, and support received from Professor Christine Miller, Carol Weinstein, Dan Soine, Karl Pfeifer, Dr. Brady, Dr. Benton, Dr. Gallagher, Dr. Booth and Dean Nader Nadershahi, as well as all other students, faculty and staff who continue to volunteer with SCOPE.

Educational pamphlet about treatment plan options for partial edentulism, created for clients at Senior Smiles

METHODS

Pre-event: Planning began 2.5 months prior to tentative event date, delayed start due to uncertainty of ability to host in person event because of pandemic. Student representatives from Dugoni School of Dentistry connected with other healthcare professions to orchestrate hybrid IPE activities aimed to address barriers to access among elderly population. To promote IPE prior the morning of the event, all volunteers attended a breakfast in which each participating group gave a speech introducing their profession, its implication on health equity, and recommended interventions.

Day of event: Prior to opening the doors to the public, representatives from each health professional school presented to all volunteers with information regarding care for the geriatric populations relevant to their field of healthcare. Following the IPE event, every health professional school curated an area for clients to receive screenings, education, and advice.

Services provided: blood pressure/blood glucose testing, dental health screenings, diabetes screenings/risk assessments, physical therapy tests (balance, flexibility, and core strength), vision/hearing exams, oral cancer and denture screenings, nutrition counseling, medical and dental care community resources

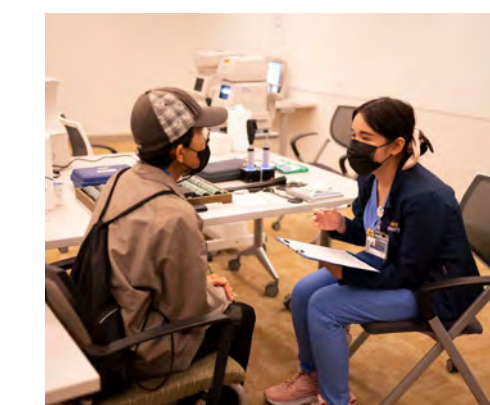
Post event: Data collected during the event was organized to identify members of the public served, services provided, and perceived impact. A comprehensive event guide was created to guide subsequent leaders, outlining step-by-step directions and recommendations for future Senior Smiles Health & Wellness fairs.

Medi-Cal Insurance Sign-up

Educational pamphlet about Medi-Cal enrollment, created for clients at Senior Smiles

RESULTS

After only 2.5 months of planning, over 95 volunteers consisting of dental, dental hygiene, and students from various health professional schools came together and successfully served over 70 members of the community. The oral systemic connection and correlation between periodontal disease and diabetes was highlighted to the senior citizen population, as over 25% of people aged 65-74 have severe periodontal disease and adults age 60+ comprise two-thirds of the diabetic population.^{1,2} Comprehensive risk assessments through blood glucose testing and blood pressure screening helped screen our clients for risk of diabetes & hypertension and educate them about the diseases and systemic implications.



Optometry student administering a vision exam



Dental Student administering dental screening exam



Counseling attendee on proper oral hygiene practices

CONCLUSION & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

With over 70 clients served and the collaboration of over 95 volunteers, Senior Smiles was successful in its aim to both promote interprofessional collaboration and improve access to care for the elderly population. SCOPE facilitated the collaboration of 7 health professional schools and the Department of Disability and Aging Services in one event. A comprehensive event guide was created after critical analysis of the 2022 event to help guide future event leaders.

At our upcoming Senior Smiles event on May 6, 2023, not only will the same services provided in 2022 be available, but assistance with enrolling in Medi-Cal insurance will be provided. Furthermore, educational resources to improve knowledge of infant and children's oral health, anticipatory guidance for new parents/grandparents, and various treatment plan options for partial edentulism (bridges vs. partial dentures vs. implants) will be provided. Through the provision of the aforementioned resources, Senior Smiles events will continue bridging the gap in access to healthcare for the elderly.

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