

# Department of Dental Medicine Highlights

November 21, 2024  
Legislative Health and Human Services Committee

Henry Chu, DDS  
Christine Nathe RDH, MS



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES

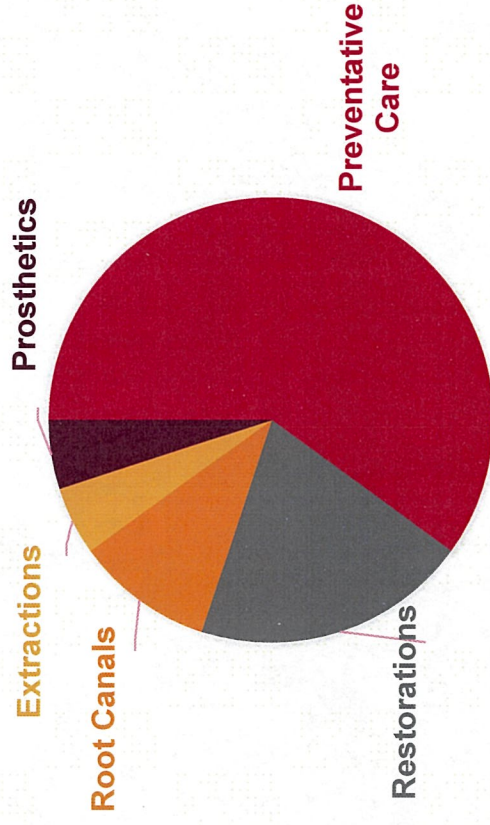


# Oral Health Impacts – Lifetime Health

Maintaining good oral health is vital for the physical, emotional, and social well-being for all patients.

1. Prevention of Systemic Diseases
2. Nutrition
3. Speech and Communication
4. Self-Esteem and Social Interaction
5. Pain Management
6. Behavioral and Cognitive Health

## Oral Health Care





# Dental Hygiene

- Successful accreditation site visit November 7-8, 2024, and Outstanding board passing rates
- Three academic programs with over 2,000 graduates!

| Graduate Year | No Degree to Bachelors of Science | Associate Degree to Bachelors of Science | Masters of Science |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 2021          | 21                                | 14                                       | 3                  |
| 2022          | 19                                | 16                                       | 1                  |
| 2023          | 28                                | 13                                       | 4                  |
| 2024          | 21                                | 19                                       | 20                 |

# Dental Hygiene

## Dental Hygiene Faculty



**Christine Nathe, RDH, MS**  
Director



**Angela Cook, RDH, MS**



**Robin Gatlin, RDH, MS**



**Nicole Gonzales, RDH, MS**



**Justine Ponce, RDH, MS**



**Special Needs  
Hygiene Vacancy**



# Public Health Emphasis and Community Engagement

- School based dental clinics and UNMH Pediatric Initiative with Delta Dental of New Mexico
- Alumni have started numerous dental hygiene initiatives focused on the medical dental integration
- UNM teaches Nation's faculty → Dental Public Health for the Dental Hygienist



# Special Care Dental Services

## Special Needs Team



Henry Chu, DDS - Director



Ting Wang, DDS



Ryan Scarlett



Luis Vasquez Porras

## Ongoing Projects

- Special Care Dental Clinic located at Novitski
- Resident Special Care Dental Training
- UNMH OR time

## Vacancies

- Second Special Care Dentist
- Two Dental Assistants



# Current Work and Community



- TEASC (Transdisciplinary Evaluation & Support Clinic) provides consultative services for adults with intellectual and/ or developmental disabilities (I/ DD) presenting with complex medical, behavioral, or system's needs.
- DOH is creating efficient ways to refer and see patients efficiently.
- Community Providers are training to strengthen their ability to serve patients effectively and sustainably across the state.

# Special Care Dental Access

## Special Needs Faculty



Henry Chu, DDS - Director



Ting Wang, DDS .5 Special Care Dentist 1

## Dental Fellow Workforce Growth



PGY-2



PGY-2

## Special Care Dental Patients

|          | Clinic                    | OR                          |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Patients | 4 per day<br>24-32 per wk | 3-4 per day<br>10-15 per wk |



# Residency Program – Class of 2025



*Left to Right:* Eric Chen, DMD, Melanye Bender, DMD, Anh Nguyen, DDS, Alejandra De La Cruz, DDS, Pegah Khamooshi, DMD, Brian Ho, DMD, Nabil Momin, DDS, Saido Ozawa, DDS



# Contact Information



Henry Chu, DDS  
Special Needs Director



Christine Nathe, RDH, MS  
Dental Hygiene Director

Email: [HSC-DentalMedDept@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-DentalMedDept@salud.unm.edu)