

Medical & Dental Section



2016-2017 Medical/Dental Section Officers:

- **Chair:** Jorge Bernal
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- **Secretary:** Joe Alderman
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What is the Medical/Dental Section?

The Section was created for the purpose of promoting the public and personal health of the citizen of Georgia. The Section will provide scientific and educational opportunities for members and the public, and will furnish feedback to the Association on major issues affecting the Section.

The Georgia Public Health Association is a non-profit corporation organized to promote the professional status of public health workers in the state of Georgia. Membership in the association is inclusive to those who work in a public health setting at the community, state, and federal levels. The goals of GPHA are to:

- Advocate for the development of policies that positively impact the health of our communities.
- Promote excellence in public health practices that are based on national public health standards and science-based evidence.
- Strengthen, advance and support the activities and infrastructures of the organization.
- Provide membership benefits, services and opportunities that enhance core competencies and celebrate achievements.

Chair's Message

Dear Members of the Medical/Dental Section:

Welcome to the first edition of the Medical/Dental section newsletter! This newsletter will be published regularly to keep all members of the Medical/Dental section up to date on our priorities and progress. Updates on your local activities, personal stories from new Section members, opportunities to educate and inform on the latest of our communities.

You are all encourage to submit content—it is our Medical/Dental section newsletter and our goal is to keep us all engage and informed as a very special community.

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer in Georgia.

Oral Health Matters for Success in Learning!

Tooth decay is an infectious disease. It affects children more than any other in the US. Nineteen percent of children, ages 2 to 19 years old, have untreated tooth decay. More than 51 million school hours are lost each year in the US, and it is mostly preventable if healthy dental habits are practiced daily! If left untreated, dental caries (cavities) can have destructive consequences affecting a child's quality of life. These consequences include inability to pay attention in school and learn, issues with cognitive and social development, growth patterns, poor overall health, and low self esteem.

Starting good oral health habits early in life helps increase the likelihood they will be continued throughout adulthood. Eating healthy, brushing, flossing, using fluoride toothpastes and rinses, and keeping yearly dental check ups help assure a happier student and a healthy smile for life.

Education makes healthy choices easier, beginning early in life

While people may not realize it, the seeds of motivation to bike to work instead of drive, or eat a salad instead of a burger, are planted early on. And the more education a person has, the more likely those seeds grow into lifelong healthy habits.

Early childhood program instruction, such as the federally funded Head Start program, can plant those seeds. Head Start focuses on several do-

mains of school readiness, one of which focuses on approaches to learning, said Blanca Enriquez, PhD, director of the Office of Head Start. This includes emotional, behavioral and cognitive self-regulation.

“Supporting children’s skills in this domain helps children acquire knowledge, learn new skills and set and achieve goals, all of which have an impact on a person’s health at any age,” Enriquez told *The Nation’s Health*. “A person with strong approaches to learning will be curious about healthy practices, take initiative for making healthy choices and have better self-regulation in resisting things like smoking or doughnuts.”

People with more education are also more likely to be able to afford living in communities that promote better health, particularly ones with recreational opportunities, such as parks, and stores with healthy, affordable foods, according to a 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America issue brief exploring social determinants of health.

In addition, research shows the amount of education someone has is linked to how empowered they feel in their lives, said APHA member Paula Braveman, MD, MPH, a research director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Commission to Build a Healthier America and director of the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California-San Francisco. The more people are able to feel in control of their lives, the more able they are to adopt healthy behaviors, maintain healthy behaviors and stop harmful ones, she said.

“If you don’t have a sense that you’re in control...that’s a huge risk factor for having unhealthy behaviors,” Braveman told *The Nation’s Health*. Get more insights into education as a social determinant of health in our new podcast with Braveman, online now at www.thenationshealth.org/sdoh.

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Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Modules Now on You Tube

The University of California, San Francisco has launched its You Tube channel on interprofessional education and collaborative practice. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsbTqos6SDEpL9Oi_28xZQ. *Collaboration and Communication in Healthcare: Principles of Interprofessional Practice* consists of five modules. The series was originally released in 2014 via Coursera as the first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on interprofessional education. The five modules are available to be used consecutively or as stand-alone content.

SAVE-THE-DATE

April 11-12, 2017

GPHA 2017

Annual Meeting and Conference

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How do I join GPHA?

Join online at: <http://gapha.site-ym.com/?page=JoinGPHA>

Applications may be mailed to:
Georgia Public Health Association
P.O. Box 1599 Atlanta, GA 30301

Or fax to: 706-484-2764

This membership type automatically enrolls you in the Medical/Dental Section.

Membership Benefits:

- Access to a network of more than 1,000 public health professionals.
- Continuing education programs featuring nationally recognized lecturers and speakers at the Annual Meeting & Conference and other seminars.
- Discounted registration for the Annual Meeting & Conference.
- Legislative representation that promotes the advancement of policies that positively impact the health of our communities.
- Opportunities for networking among peers through discipline-oriented Section membership groups.
- Eligibility for awards and recognition for outstanding and innovative work in Public Health.
- Scholarship opportunities for students in advanced degree programs.

APHA Annual Meeting – Oct. 29-Nov. 2

The American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting & Exposition will be held October 29-November 2 in Denver.

Registration is now open!

