GLOBAL
STUDENT
OUTREACH
PROGRAM

Improving Oral Health Through Service, Education, and Research
Henry Schein is privileged to build on our two-decade strategic relationship with NYU through this valuable oral health initiative.

The NYU College of Dentistry/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program improves access to oral health care for underserved communities around the world and enriches the professional experience of students and faculty—which reinforces Henry Schein’s mission to 'help health happen' and clearly demonstrates the exceptional power of public-private partnerships.

— Stanley M. Bergman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Henry Schein, Inc.

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In 2010, The Lancet released a report advocating for reform in the education of health professionals. In the report, the Commission called for three necessary components of health curricula: informative, formative, and transformative.

The informative component involves theoretical understanding, something most schools are very good at providing. The formative stage is where students learn to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learned and to perform clinical dentistry. The transformative component is the most difficult part of the curriculum to achieve within the structure of a dental school itself. This involves the evolution of a practitioner who sees the value of oral health care as part of total patient care and a part of a society’s needs, which is a philosophy that provides the foundation for the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs.

When students participate in outreach, whether to international sites like Ecuador, Grenada, Mexico, or Nicaragua, or to domestic locations like Maine, Alaska, and upstate New York, they are given the opportunity to experience the transformative part of health education. Treating patients in underserved communities enables students to realize the key role they play in access to care. It becomes quickly evident that if they do not provide care to the patients who are in such dire need, chances are the patients will never receive this type of healthcare. This results in a radical change in mindset; most students see that they have been given a gift through dentistry; they have specialized knowledge and skills that can be applied in very meaningful ways.

Doing right by the patient is a transformative experience; the students and the patients are both transformed. These transformations make it worth the risk, expense, anxiety, and hard work that accompany the planning and implementation of outreach programs.

The NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs attempt to make a fundamental change in the infrastructure of service delivery so that a sustainable impact can continue long after NYUCD’s presence fades in a community’s memory. This outreach model has evolved to be meaningful, sustainable, and transformative, which is a significant achievement. It’s time transformational thinking came into practice, and this model embodies that.

– Charles N. Bertolami
Herman Robert Fox Dean
New York College of Dentistry
We call it an outreach, when in fact it is an ‘in-reach.’ While we help others by providing dental care, we help students reach within themselves to identify duty and altruism, qualities that we believe they always had.

— Dr. Andrew Spielman
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Maine outreach faculty participant

For over 20 years, NYU College of Dentistry (NYUCD) has provided oral health outreach programs to underserved populations in the United States and around the world. These programs began as small volunteer efforts led by individual faculty members, where service was the goal and extractions were the primary treatment to relieve pain quickly and with limited resources. NYUCD’s outreach activities have since evolved into a model for providing effective, sustainable, and comprehensive oral health services in community-based settings by combining service, education and research.

NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs provide participants with a unique service-learning experience while fostering a passion for volunteerism and social responsibility. The outreach programs are inter-disciplinary to provide faculty, residents, and students of dentistry, dental hygiene, nursing, and public health with a well-rounded perspective on access-to-care issues and to challenge them to re-think their roles as healthcare providers. Clinical outreach programs provide free, comprehensive dental treatment to children and emergency care to adults in communities facing common barriers to oral healthcare, including a lack of dental providers, poverty or economic hardship, and inadequate health insurance coverage. Preventive programs focus on children to introduce good oral hygiene practices early in life, while educating parents, teachers, and caregivers about the importance of oral health and how it relates to systemic health. Local activities in New York City and the tri-state area include supporting local health fairs at schools and faith-based organizations with materials and student and faculty volunteers for dental screenings and health promotion.

Each program is unique, yet all share the goals of service, education, and research, while fostering local collaboration for sustainability, both in health outcomes and finances. Partnerships with local organizations and healthcare providers are cultivated to ensure the continuation of services in NYUCD’s absence. The communities served by the programs are empowered by NYUCD’s outreach model, as sustainable oral health services become a reality.
Thank you all for a wonderful dental service you provided for all of my kids. I greatly appreciate the effort and honest, compassionate, hard work you all put in to ensure that we and our kids have healthy teeth.

— Parent from Machias, Maine

Clinical outreach programs generally operate for one week, during which over 1,000 patients may be treated. Temporary clinics are often created in or near schools, in order to provide comprehensive care to children while minimizing interruptions to their daily routines and removing the usual barriers to accessing care.

The NYUCD team transports approximately 1,500 pounds of supplies and equipment to create fully functioning dental clinics in the most unlikely places: auditoriums, classrooms, gymnasiums, and conference rooms. Patients often wait in line for hours to be treated, a testament to their dire need and desire for oral health services.

In an effort to achieve sustainable health outcomes within each community served, providers from NYUCD train local partners to continue preventive efforts in between NYUCD visits. The NYUCD team will continue to visit the same locations for several years to initiate meaningful and lasting changes in health.

These oral health outreach services occur within the local community as well as abroad. The NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs support approximately 100 requests from the local NYC community each year. Student volunteers provide thousands of uninsured and underinsured New Yorkers with free dental screenings under the supervision of licensed faculty. As a result, nearly 10,000 people receive oral health education, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss to support good oral hygiene practices.
Education is the cornerstone of every NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program, and it is demonstrated in several ways.

**Student education**
NYUCD is committed to providing its students with an exemplary educational experience, both within and outside of the classroom. Dental, dental hygiene, and post-graduate students receive unparalleled clinical experience during each outreach program through one-on-one clinical instruction from supervising faculty.

My clinical skills have increased multiple times over. I’ve gotten quicker, I’ve gotten more confident, I feel like I’ve learned so much clinically here in Ecuador that it has been incredible.

— Caroline Gordy
DDS Class of 2013

The NYUCD outreach model goes beyond clinical learning and offers participants an intensive community-based public health experience. The issues surrounding access to dental care become a reality, while the social responsibility of healthcare professionals is a pervasive theme. Participants are challenged to think outside the operatory and to examine their roles as future practitioners in reducing the barriers that underserved and vulnerable populations face when seeking health care. The experience is enriched by unavoidable challenges in cultural competency, patient interaction, and communication due to language barriers and other cultural norms that students may never experience in traditional dental education settings.

In some instances, multidisciplinary teams are assembled to address the greater health needs of a community. Students of nursing, public health, nutrition and health promotion have worked to design and implement assessments and interventions that work in conjunction with the dental outreach model.

Over 300 NYUCD students participate in these programs each year, with an additional 100 faculty and administrators. Post-outreach evaluations have consistently shown a transformational effect on participants, and past participants have noted these programs as a highlight in their student experience.

**Classroom-based education**
Establishing positive, healthy behaviors along with a regimen of quarterly fluoride varnish applications begins during childhood. Schools are an ideal location for the NYUCD outreach model because they allow the dental team to reach a large number of children with information and instruction that ultimately instill healthy habits.

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I really think this outreach is a life-changing experience, as a dentist and as a human being, because not only am I learning so much, I am also helping so much. The look in the patients’ eyes when they are thanking me... it’s just priceless.

– Mohamed A. Hakim
DDS Class of 2013

RESEARCH

Research has become an essential component of the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach model, in order to determine the impact that the programs have on the health of individuals and communities.

Several studies examining oral health outcomes have been conducted and are currently in progress to assess the efficacy of the outreach model. These include retrospective reviews of patient records, as well as prospective and qualitative studies designed to assess and conduct interventions to mitigate socio-behavioral risk factors for caries.

Data collection has been streamlined through the development of an electronic record-keeping system designed specifically for use in the field. Using tablet PCs and a web-based form for charting patient diagnoses, treatment, and progress, NYUCD has increased the program’s capacity to track individual patient outcomes in locations where outreach has become a regular occurrence.

“Smile Grenada” (featured on p.16) is one example of a major undertaking that assessed the oral health needs of the children of a nation and designed an intervention to address those needs.

Dental Caries Prevalence

These figures represent the prevalence of tooth decay among children upon our first visit to each respective location.
Sustainability is one of the most difficult elements to achieve for most service-based outreach activities. For many people, dentistry is often viewed as a luxury health service and prioritized well below other health necessities. Many well-meaning medical and dental missions often unintentionally create a culture of dependency, or they visit a place one time to provide services but never return. The success of the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program is attributable to a model that empowers individuals and groups to take ownership of their health, while fostering long-term and meaningful partnerships with community leaders.

"Each year, local partners in our outreach locations apply over 80,000 unit doses of fluoride varnish for schoolchildren. This helps sustain preventive efforts in between NYUCD’s visits.

– Rachel Hill
Director of Global Outreach & International Initiatives"

Sustainable prevention and education
The NYUCD outreach model is not about charity, but about transforming the way individuals perceive oral health and its importance in overall health and well-being. In addition to the education that occurs within schools, chair-side with parents, and at presentations with local providers, local partners are identified in each location to carry on preventive measures like quarterly fluoride and sealant applications for children.

Through these outreach programs, NYUCD intends to create replicable models that will improve oral health around the world. By changing the way individuals perceive their own and their children’s oral health, and by transforming the role of dentists in society, sustainability can truly be achieved.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th># children seen at baseline NYU visit</th>
<th>% returning children at second NYU visit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>70%</td>
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Tens of thousands of people in over 13 locations have been served by the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs. New locations are considered each year.
FEATURED PROGRAM: Grenada
“Smile Grenada” – Improving the oral health of a generation

Grenada is a tri-island nation in the Caribbean and home to approximately 100,000 people. In 2010, at the request of the Ministry of Health of Grenada, NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs performed a national oral health survey following the World Health Organization’s pathfinder methodology. The results were astonishing: more than 83% of Grenada’s children suffer from untreated tooth decay. With less than a dozen dentists working in the public health service, clinical intervention was not feasible.

To address this incredibly high burden of disease, NYUCD partnered with Grenada’s Ministries of Health and Education to design Smile Grenada: a national school-based oral health program that incorporated prevention strategies including daily classroom tooth-brushing routines, education, fluoride varnish and sealants.

Support from Colgate-Palmolive and GC America enabled a two-and-a-half year implementation that reached 26,000 children in all of Grenada’s schools. NYUCD worked alongside Grenadian public health dentists, dental hygienists, and auxiliaries to train and build capacity among the school and public health systems to prevent oral disease in a sustainable manner.

In May 2013, the national oral health survey was repeated. These efforts had resulted in a 90% decrease in new tooth decay. A mixed-methods impact evaluation was performed to capture the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of parents and teachers relating to oral health and the Smile Grenada program.

Before Grenada, I had a narrow view of what was possible. I thought my ability to help would be limited to individual patients and procedures. As part of the outreach team, I learned that I could affect not only one person or one community, but a whole population and, in our case, a nation. Knowing that is possible has changed my life. I returned from outreach with a strengthened sense of responsibility to the global community. I felt more empowered to help, and I knew I wanted to continue this throughout my career.

– Rebekah Browder, DDS Class of 2014
FEATURED PROGRAM: Hudson, NY

Columbia County Oral Health Intervention: Demonstrating a school-based dental center in Hudson, New York. In 2008, the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program turned its attention within New York State, acknowledging the overwhelming lack of access to oral health services. NYUCD began working in the town of Hudson, just over two hours north of New York City in Columbia County, to fill a need for oral health care for children in the local Head Start program.

With no pediatric dentist in Hudson and no fluoridated public water supply, many children in the area were beginning kindergarten with a mouth filled with caries. NYUCD designed school-based dental health centers at two public schools according to the guidelines of the New York State Department of Health. The Bureau of Dental Health approved a three-year demonstration project that would ultimately reduce new caries and improve the children’s oral health to a level that could be easily maintained through preventive measures.

The New York State Health Foundation generously awarded start-up funding, and NYUCD designed a model that would be financially sustainable over several years.

The school-based dental centers became many children’s dental homes for the three-year duration of the project. A total of 688 children received comprehensive dental care at these two schools in three years, with many children receiving up to four dental visits per year.

The initial prevalence of untreated caries at NYUCD’s first visit was 23%, which decreased to 14% by NYUCD’s final visit.

The school-based nature of the dental clinics eliminated many common barriers that children otherwise face in accessing care, such as a parent’s inability to take time off from work for a child’s dental appointment or difficulty in finding Medicaid-accepting providers. The familiar environment of the school lent itself to a fun atmosphere for the children, many of whom looked forward to their quarterly dental check-ups.

After three years, the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs transitioned the children’s dental care to the local Columbia Memorial Hospital mobile dental van.
PARTNERSHIPS

The NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs cultivate partnerships to support ongoing efforts at home and around the globe.

Colgate-Palmolive, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of oral health care products, is an invaluable contributor to NYUCD’s outreach activities. Colgate provides toothbrushes, toothpaste, and fluoride varnish for all global and local outreach programs.

Grants from Dyson Foundation, the New York State Health Foundation, Northeast Delta Dental, and the Tibet Fund support specific health interventions and research activities in the organizations’ respective areas of interest. Many global outreach alumni, parents of students, and friends of the College support these efforts by making annual gifts.

In each outreach location, various partners express a vested interest in the continuity of these programs by offsetting in-country expenses such as ground transportation, accommodations, and meals for the NYUCD team. This includes businesses, organizations, and individuals. To become a partner or supporter of the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Programs, please contact the Department of Global Outreach.

Please contact the Department of Global Outreach at 212-998-9781

“ I believe that this outreach has changed me more than I anticipated. Although I had a vision of what this week would be like, I did not really know what to expect. In addition to learning dentistry and how to do certain procedures, I feel that I learned from the people and the community the most. Living with families was an amazing experience and I witnessed true compassion and open heartedness of the people.

– Alma Correia
DDS Class of 2013
HENRY SCHEIN CARES

Vision for the future

In just five years, the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program has evolved immensely, helping to define best practices for a dental school’s approach to addressing public health issues in dentistry and improving the health of tens of thousands of individuals worldwide.

Over the next five years, this partnership will design, implement, and evaluate innovative ways to reduce the burden of oral disease and improve oral health-related quality of life around the world. This will involve developing models that increase access to care, defined as:

- An appreciation of the importance of oral health and its relationship to overall health and well-being;
- The availability of “oral health homes;”
- The allocation of adequate resources to improve health;
- Public health policy that adequately frames oral health within systemic health.

NYU College of Dentistry and Henry Schein, Inc., the world’s largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental, medical and animal health practitioners, partnered in 2009 to expand the scope of oral health services offered in underserved and at-risk communities around the world. Thanks to sponsorship by Henry Schein Cares, the global social responsibility program of Henry Schein, Inc., the NYUCD/Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program was created to address public health issues in dentistry and oral health while upholding the same high standards of care that exist at NYUCD’s treatment facilities in New York City.

Henry Schein Cares, Henry Schein’s global corporate social responsibility program, stands on four pillars: engaging Team Schein Members to reach their potential, ensuring accountability by extending ethical business practices to all levels within Henry Schein, promoting environmental sustainability, and expanding access to health care for underserved and at-risk communities around the world. Health care activities supported by Henry Schein Cares focus on three main areas: advancing wellness, building capacity in the delivery of health care services, and assisting in emergency preparedness and relief.

Firmly rooted in a deep commitment to social responsibility and the concept of enlightened self-interest championed by Benjamin Franklin, the philosophy behind Henry Schein Cares is a vision of “doing well by doing good.” Through the work of Henry Schein Cares to enhance access to care for those in need, the Company believes that it is furthering its long-term success.
Give the gift of a smile at: https://www.nyu.edu/giving/give-now/