

## **REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION**

Committee Chair: Dr. Cataldo Leone. Committee Members: Dr. Charles Berry, Mr. Drew Christianson, Mr. David Cushing, Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas, Dr. Thomas McConnell, Ms. Wilhemina Leeuw, and Dr. Linda Wells. Dr. Deborah Weisfuse-Lipner was unable to attend the meeting. Guests (Open Session Only): Dr. Sheila Brear, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association and Dr. JoAnn Gurenlian, director, Education and Research, American Dental Hygienists' Association attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Kelly Stapleton, manager, Predoctoral Dental Education, Mr. Nick Brattoli, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, and Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) was held on January 9-10, 2023 via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION**

**Report on Predoctoral Dental Education Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data and Curriculum Section (p. 100)**: At its Winter 2015 meeting, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section of the Annual Survey in years when this data is available. The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) considered the most recent aggregate data of the Curriculum Section of the Commission's Annual Survey, conducted in August 2021 (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 100**). The Committee noted that the Annual Survey Curriculum Section was delayed by one (1) year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Review Committee discussed the various ways in which dental education programs provide instruction and assess attainment of competence in the areas required by the Commission's Standards. The Committee noted that the self-reported data are published for general use by programs and others, and by site visitors via the Commission's Data Profile. These data are also used during consideration of proposed Standards revisions.

Additionally, the PREDOC Review Committee reviewed the draft Curriculum Section of its discipline-specific Annual Survey (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 100**), which will be conducted in August 2023. Following discussion, the PREDOC RC determined that no revisions are required at this time in the Curriculum Section.

**Recommendation**: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Annual Survey Curriculum Section for predoctoral dental education programs (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 100**) be retained as written for use in the August 2023 Survey of Dental Education.

**Report on Dental Therapy Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 101):**

The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) considered the Curriculum Section of the Commission’s Annual Survey for dental therapy education programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 101**). The PREDOC RC noted the next Curriculum Section will be conducted in August 2023. Additionally, it was noted that the survey for dental therapy education programs was recently implemented, since the Commission currently accredits two (2) dental therapy education programs. Following discussion, the PREDOC RC determined that no revisions are required at this time in the Curriculum Section.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Annual Survey Curriculum Section for dental therapy education programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 101**) be retained as written for use in the August 2023 Survey of Dental Therapy Education.

**Consideration of Proposed Revision to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs Related to Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders (p. 102):**

The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education considered the September 12, 2022 request from Dr. Mitchell Levine, president of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine (AADSM). The AADSM requested that the Commission consider a proposed revision to Standard 2-24 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 102**). The AADSM believes that Standard 2-24 of the Dental Education Standards should be revised to include a requirement that graduates be competent in “screening and risk assessment for sleep-related breathing disorders (SRBDs).”

The PREDOC RC discussed the request, noting that it may be difficult for programs to assure competence in managing or screening sleep disorders among the program’s patient population. The Committee noted that delivery of educational content and assessment of competence may also be difficult at the dental education level. The PREDOC RC believed that not all programs or facilities are equipped to manage patients with sleep disorders that may be identified, and that the scope of this training may be beyond entry-level dental education. Further, the availability of adequate patient experiences for all students may be difficult for programs to manage. The PREDOC RC believed that concepts related to sleep-related breathing disorders is currently taught under the topics of temporomandibular joint disorders and other orofacial pain disorders. Following discussion, the PREDOC RC determined there should be no revision to the Standards at this time related to sleep-related breathing disorders.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct there be no revision to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs at this time related to sleep-related breathing disorders.

**Consideration of Proposed Revision to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs Related to Diversity (p. 103):**

The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) considered the November 4, 2022, request from Dr. Lawrence F. Hill, president of the National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (NCDHE). The NCDHE requested that the Commission consider proposed revisions to Standards 1-3, 1-4 and 4-4 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 103**). Dr. Hill, on behalf of the NCDHE, believes that the current CODA predoctoral dental education standards do not appear to assure that academic dental institutions recruit a racially diverse student body or faculty, specifically referring to Black, Latinx, and American Indian/Alaska Native students and faculty.

The Review Committee first noted a disclosure by one of its committee members who had a relationship with the NCDHE but was not involved in the development of materials submitted to the Commission. The Review Committee reviewed and discussed the concerns brought forward by the NCDHE, particularly related to Standards 1-3, 1-4 and 4-4 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs.

Related to Standard 1-3, the PREDOC RC noted that the current standard requires that the program have a mission to a humanistic culture and learning environment; however, this Standard may require further review related to a program's process for managing identified deficiencies in its regular evaluation of this area. Related to the diversity of site visit teams, the PREDOC RC noted the NCDHE's comments on the make-up of teams and suggestions to encouraging diversity among CODA site visitors. Related to Standards 1-4 and 4-4, the PREDOC RC reviewed and discussed the NCDHE's comments related to recruitment of diverse students and faculty, and the admission process related to student diversity.

Following discussion, the PREDOC RC believed that this important topic will require extensive review and consideration by the Commission. Therefore, the PREDOC RC recommended that the request submitted by the National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (NCDHE) be forwarded to the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs for further consideration.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs to consider the proposed revisions to Standards 1-3, 1-4 and 4-4 submitted by the National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (NCDHE), with a future report to the Review Committee and Commission.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO  
MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF  
PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education considered site visitor appointments for 2023-2024. The Committee's recommendations on the appointments of individuals are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Cataldo Leone  
Chair, Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education