Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Donates $166,440 to The University of Iowa College of Dentistry

Johnston, IA (January 08, 2015) – The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has donated $166,440 to The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics to support oral health research for aging Iowans. The project focuses on the implementation and evaluation of preventive oral health care treatments provided in a nursing facility.

“There is increasing evidence that oral health plays an important role in nursing facility residents’ nutrition, general health and life satisfaction,” said Dr. David Johnsen, dean of The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics. “Further understanding of the complex tooth decay process and opportunity to develop a feasible, easy-to-deliver treatment in the nursing facility setting will help improve oral health and overall health of aging Iowans.”

“The Foundation recognizes the growing need for preventive treatment among aging Iowans in nursing facilities,” said Jeff Russell, president of the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. “Alongside The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, funding for this research initiative demonstrates the Foundation’s long-term investment in the oral health of aging Iowans.”

The funding also reflects the Foundation’s 2020 goal and commitment to ensure access to oral health care for every Iowa nursing home resident and homebound elderly person. The results of this research will provide important information to dental and health professionals in the nursing facility setting on the most effective oral health treatment.

For more information on the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation grant programs, go to deltagent.com and select Foundation.

For more than 125 years, the College of Dentistry has been an integral part of The
University of Iowa and a resource to the state of Iowa. Our research collaborations involve almost every college at The University of Iowa, other institutions in this country and abroad, and major oral health care companies. This scholarly environment nurtures the largest dental student research program in the nation, and supports a number of federally funded interdisciplinary research centers involving faculty from departments across the campus. Remaining current in a world of increasingly complex cases and constantly evolving technology will present a continuing challenge for future practitioners. By linking education with clinical care and research, the College of Dentistry is anticipating these needs, and is preparing dentistry for the future.

Delta Dental of Iowa is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. As a not-for-profit, Delta Dental of Iowa invests in oral health projects through the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation that focus on access to care, prevention, education and research. The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation’s mission is to support and improve the oral health of Iowans. In 2013, $1.7 million was provided in oral health support and improvement projects in Iowa.

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