

Accelerating dentistry

Leonard B. Kobren,
DDS
ACPEF Chair

Spring invigorates the soul. Feelings of rejuvenation, freedom, and anticipation abound. So too is it with this spring's highly anticipated launch of the ACP/ACPEF Digital Dentistry Curriculum. It is an extraordinary accomplishment that encompasses all that is unique to the College and Foundation.

It is emblematic of the strength of the ACP/ACPEF as the unified voice and advocate for every member of the College and the future of our specialty.

The success of this project is nothing short of remarkable. In less than three years, it has gone from concept to creation, though prosthodontists are never quite finished.

The Digital Dentistry Curriculum Task Force was conceived in response to the urgent need for institutions to address the education of undergraduate and advanced prosthodontic students to transition into the digital reality.

The Task Force, led by Drs. Stephen Campbell, Lyndon Cooper, Lily Garcia, and Carol Lefebvre, was supported by the Curriculum Development Team that included 50 volunteers from 33 institutions. It was funded by an unrestricted grant from Henry Schein and its partner corporations. A portion of this grant contributed to the ACPEF endowment.

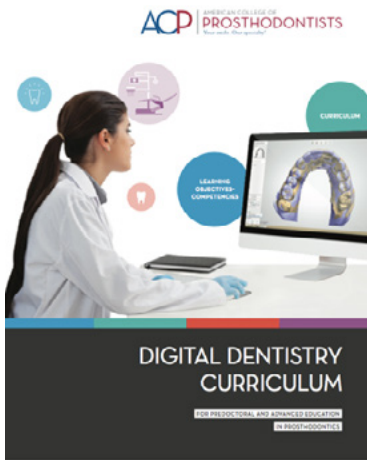
The selection process sought to include contributions from every segment of the prosthodontic community. It relied upon the intellectual wealth and drive of these highly motivated volunteers. Their collaboration highlights our extraordinary diversity and our innovative, intellectual, and administrative abilities.

The fall and winter of 2015 and 2016 were spent creating an outline for the proposed curriculum, followed by a final draft with supporting content and implementation tactics. As part of this massive undertaking, core educational content was painstakingly created and collected from those in our community willing to share. PowerPoint presentations, a foundational textbook, videos, and other resources were gathered.

The next phase included the recruitment of five dental schools to pilot the curriculum beginning in the fall of 2017. Each school was paired with a knowledgeable ACP volunteer-mentor who helped implement the program and provided the feedback necessary to refine the process for final adaptation and launch.

The finalized curriculum was presented at the ACP Spring Educators Conference. The ultimate goal is to disseminate this program to every dental school and advanced prosthodontics program in the United States. Eventually, it is hoped that institutions globally will utilize this curriculum to create a unified platform for a fluid exchange of thought and understanding.

Going forward, we seek to generate new concept-driven relationships with old friends and new alliances. We are certain that the values implicit in the ACP/ACPEF's vision will continue to resonate and be seen by the leadership of these forward-thinking organizations as synergistic with theirs.



The Digital Dental Curriculum collaboration is indicative of the confidence expressed in the ACP/ACPEF by Henry Schein.

“As part of our commitment to help the dentists of tomorrow succeed, we are excited that our support of ACPEF’s new curriculum will help ensure dental students are fully educated on the practice and patient benefits of digital dentistry,” said Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Henry Schein. “Future leaders in dentistry can rely on us to help make a direct impact on the industry at large and the communities they will serve. Congratulations to ACPEF for launching this exciting program that will help accelerate dentistry to a new level of digitization.”

Other concept-driven collaborations with Colgate, Dentsply Sirona, Zest Dental Solutions, Brasseler, and Procter and Gamble speak to this same sense on mutuality and trust. These corporate relationships thrive because the College and our members have been identified as the innovators, educators, and standard bearers of the level of patient care aligned with their own corporate values.

There are numerous ACP initiatives and programs supported by the ACPEF that assure the viability of our specialty. The creation of the Digital Curriculum is emblematic of this. It underscores the incredible potential of prosthodontists, as realized in the College, to be the specialty to conceptualize, accomplish, and direct the future of dentistry and patient care.

I urge you to join the celebration of this historic achievement. Share your thoughts with the individuals who were involved. Consider a donation to the Annual Appeal and the endowment to support more of this work and keep the momentum growing. As prosthodontists, the future is ours and the potential is limitless. ■