

Putting Our Hands Together
Special Care & Oral Health Symposium
21st September 2007
Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia

The Australian Society of Special Care in Dentistry joined forces with the Dental Therapists Association of NSW to present a day of lectures in the beautiful Hunter Valley. The scientific session covered a wide range of topics including psychology of patient management, public health and multidisciplinary approaches, alternative therapies and train-the-trainer programs, making it a diverse and practical information filled day. Our speakers included:

Dr. Meg Hyam, psychologist, who presented on the psychology and management of the special needs patient.

- Dr Sally Hibbert, Paediatric dentist, who detailed common oral health problems, particularly saliva-related, in people the special needs patient. knowledge in both areas.
- Associate Professor and Director of the Bachelor of Oral Health (Sydney) program, Peter Dennison presented 'Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) as part of the dental team' and the Community Clinical Interface.
- Rachel Hampshire, senior speech pathologist at Westmead Centre for Oral Health, explained the nature of the tongue tie clinic and the oral motor function therapy clinic.
- Sarah McKay, dietitian at Westmead Centre for Oral Health discussed her role in oral motor function therapy, and as part of the oral health team.

Innovative models of care were presented in the afternoon session.

- Meredith Kay, Director of Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, outlined new programs in this region.
- Elizabeth Hillman and Siva Premkumar, oral health educators, presented two train-the-trainer programs,
 - *Smiles for Life*
 - *Residential Oral Care*
- Sharyn James gave an update on models of care in the Newcastle region.
- Dr Peter King presented a systematic approach to changing oral health behaviour, examined in light of the special needs of carers.

- Leanne Dole shared her personal experience as the mother of a child with special needs. She also provided us with a useful insight into the Son-Rise program which is a part of the Autism Treatment Centre of America.

Over dinner Dr Manish K Bhutada, the youngest author on the subject of Yoga, with a book titled “Yoga for Health” and who has a PhD in facial pain, gave a delightful talk about the benefits of complimentary medicine and oral health.

The 5 table exhibition created a lot of interest about specialised products for this patient group. Thank you to our exhibitors Colgate, Henry Schein Halas, Oral B, Inline systems hand held digital radiography equipment and Auspharm Biotene for a great day.

It was a fantastic day, but don’t take our word for it! Our evaluation form says it all!

Overall impression:

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory
Venue	48	8	3	0	0
Audiovisual	26	26	4	4	1
Refreshments	50	9	0	0	0

Overall the conference was well appreciated and the committee are striving towards making this event truly “special”