

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

Over the next few months, SDM's weekly Shout Out will be focusing on different student organizations within our school. Despite the on-going pandemic, these organizations continue to contribute to the health and well-being of the Western New York community. This week we focus on the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA). Michael Villa, '21, president of the HDA, provides a brief overview of the club, including its mission and goals.

SDM's Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)



Michael Villa, '21, President of SDM's Hispanic Dental Association



Hispanic Dental Association Buffalo Chapter by Michael Villa, '21

The Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) Buffalo Chapter was created in 2005 by a group of UB students, under the leadership of Dr. Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker, interim chair, UB's Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, with the goal to promote, improve and advocate for the oral health of the Hispanic community in the Western New York region.

According to literature, the Hispanic and Latino population makes up 16% of the United States and it is the fastest growing segment of the population. However, Hispanic and Latino providers are drastically underrepresented in the dental field, and those that are in practice shoulder a disproportionate share of dental care for minority and under-served communities.

With this in mind, HDA at Buffalo has worked tirelessly, over the years, to educate its members about the social and ethical obligations of the dental profession. Most importantly, HDA aims to address and bring light to the health care disparities seen today in the United States amongst marginalized populations.

For these reasons, HDA has made it a goal to train all of its members with the US Department of Health and Human Services training, titled "Think Cultural Health." By doing so, HDA hopes to initiate conversations with a focus on skills and knowledge that value diversity, understand and respond to cultural differences, and increase awareness of providers' and care organizations' cultural norms.

Additionally, HDA is currently holding a canned food drive for Hispanos Unidos food bank. These last few months have been hard on all of us, but it has been especially harder for populations that depend heavily on food banks for their daily meals. Food banks are running low on supplies, donations of canned food may be dropped off at the Oral Diagnostic Sciences department, located on the 3rd floor of Squire Hall, UB's South Campus.

"2020 taught us that the adversity we face and the resilience we respond with has the power to shape our lives. With each challenge, we are given the opportunity to persevere, learn and grow into stronger, more compassionate and more grateful clinicians and leaders," states Villa. "It should be all of our missions to advocate for the voiceless, regardless of our race, gender, or cultural background. Together we can break barriers and form stronger and healthier communities!"

SDM's Continuing Education Upcoming Events & Self Study Programs



Events

[2021/05/14 Prep Designs and Lab Communication](#)

[2021/06/11 What am I Missing? The Science of Occlusal Medicine](#)

Self Study Online

[\(Pub.\) 05/20/20 Little Mouths are a Big Deal](#)

[\(Pub.\) 05/27/20 Talk to Your Patients About TMD](#)

[\(Pub.\) 04/29/20 Silver Diamine Fluoride](#)

[\(Pub.\) 06/10/20 Prescribing Controlled Substances \(NYS Mandated\)](#)

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[\(Pub.\) 06/17/2020 From Risk to Results: Perio Instrumentation](#)

[*New Self-study! Vaccine and Vaccination: A Primer With A Focus On COVID-19](#)

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If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Kelli at natale@buffalo.edu.

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