

AUCD

Health & Disability Digest

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In This Issue

[AUCD-NCBDDD Fellows](#)

[2010 Disability and Health Partners Meeting](#)

[DVD: Oral Health Care of Children with Special Needs](#)

[Archived Webinars](#)

[Health Surveillance Meeting](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

AUCD News

[Disability Policy Seminar Registration Open](#)

[Disability and Health Partners Meeting Registration Open](#)

[Senior Management Position Available at AUCD](#)

AUCD-NCBDDD Fellows

Vijaya Kancherla and Cheryl Rhodes

Vijaya Kancherla, MS is the Pierre Decouflé Fellow in the Developmental Disabilities Branch of NCBDDD. Ms. Kancherla began her fellowship on January 4, 2010 and has already been involved in Medicaid linkage data analyses, literature reviews, and capture - recapture analyses. She has also represented CDC/NCBDDD at the Annual ADDM Collaborators Meeting and has attended Consolidated Statistical Platform Training. Ms. Kancherla brings with her over 10 years of experience in epidemiology and health care practice through her work at the University of Iowa, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and the Government Homeopathic Hospital, Hyderabad, AP. India. She has nearly completed her Doctoral Degree in Epidemiology at the University of Iowa.

Cheryl Rhodes, MS is the current Fellow working on communication, policy, and outreach aspects of the Learn the Signs. Act Early (LTSAE) Campaign. Ms. Rhodes areas of focus since beginning her fellowship on March 1, 2010 include analysis of state early identification systems; planning, assisting, and participating in summits; and assisting in building the strategy and plan for next steps. In particular, her efforts will help states implement plans and develop products for improving system collaboration, identify best practices and develop standards for state services map, and explore policy approaches to improving early

Quick Links

[State Disability & Health Grantees](#)

[Past NCBDDD RTOIs](#)

[Act Early Regional Summits](#)

[AUCD Employment Opportunities](#)

Digest Submissions

Would you like to share important updates or innovative practices from your program?

Health & Disability Digest invites you to submit notable information from your project including information about your staff, network wide requests, upcoming or past events, available positions, new research developments, and resources.

Articles can be submitted using the [online form](#) or emailed to [Danielle Edson](#).

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AUCD Network Members are now able to

identification and early intervention. Ms. Rhodes comes with extensive knowledge of early childhood development and early intervention, including Part C and 619, having worked for the past 12 years with Georgia's Part C program as Associate Director of Project SCEIs, conducting training and TA for early intervention personnel and families as well as serving on the Governance Board of the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

To learn more about the AUCD-NCBDDD Fellowship Opportunities please visit [AUCD-NCBDDD Fellowship Opportunities](#).

2010 Disability and Health Partners Meeting *Connecting to Reach our Full Potential*

May 18-20, 2010

Atlanta, GA

[**REGISTER NOW!**](#)

Join your colleagues from around the country who provide disability and health programs in public health, independent living, government, and resource center settings! Current topics on health care access and policy, surveillance, evaluation, developing your success story, and community partners, will be examined in concurrent breakout sessions, networking socials, and round table discussions. Plenary panels will feature engaging, interactive dialogue on critical issues which impact all partners at a national, regional, and state level, such as emergency preparedness, measuring success, and access to healthcare for people with disabilities. Please direct any questions you may have to: Danielle Edson, AUCD Project Specialist by email: dedson@aucd.org or phone at 301-588-8252.

DVD Promotes Oral Health Care of Children with Special Needs

By Dr. Fouad Salama

Individuals with special health care needs often experience difficulty in gaining access to dental care. "Studies have shown that most dental providers are unable to meet the oral health care needs of this group," said Fouad Salama, D.D.S., a professor with the UNMC

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College of Dentistry Pediatric Dental Residency program. "As a result, individuals with special needs have more dental disease than the rest of the population." "Thus, it is important that parents and caregivers are given access to educational resources that can prove to be an integral part of oral health care for their child with special health care needs," he said.

Through a grant from the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Dr. Salama made an educational DVD that provides oral health information for parents and caregivers as well as for health care professionals who work with of individuals with special needs.

The video was made with the help of Cherie Uchida, D.D.S., second-year UNMC pediatric dental resident; Brandi Roeber, D.D.S., recent graduate of the program; Paul Kawacz, video producer with UNMC ITS Video Services; the Munroe-Meyer Institute; and J.P. Lord School. The DVD is entitled A Caregiver's Guide to Oral Health Care for Persons with Special Needs. The video chapter shows various positions and oral hygiene techniques being used with individuals with special health care needs. The product demonstrations include a variety of oral hygiene products and instructions on their use, while the slide presentation chapter discusses common oral conditions, adaptive aids, and helpful tips. "We are very excited about the DVD and hope it provides parents and caregivers the necessary tools to meet the dental health needs of their children," Dr. Uchida said.

"As a pediatric dentist, many of our patients have special medical conditions and need alternative methods for ensuring good oral hygiene," Dr. Roeber stated. "We are trained in using such methods; however, other dentists may not be as familiar and comfortable in doing so. This DVD can be useful for the dental community, as well. We dedicated this training DVD to all special health care needs children and individuals who contributed to this project. To our knowledge, this is the first educational DVD for individuals with special health care needs, and we are all proud of this accomplishment; hopefully this will bring a positive change to oral health care for individuals with special needs," said Dr. Salama.

For more information about the DVD, contact Dr. Salama at (402) 559-2239.

Recent AUCD Webinar Archives:

Building and Updating Your Home for Accessibility

This topical call webinar was presented by Catherine Leigh Graham, a Rehabilitation Engineer with the University of South Carolina's Interagency Office of Disability and Health on March 4, 2010. Information to access the audio and visual presentations for this webinar can be viewed here: [Building and Updating Presentation](#)

Aging and End of Life Series

The sixth in this series of webinars, Advanced Directives for Health Care: Your Choices, Your Life - You've Got the Power! was presented March 17, 2010 by Tia Nelis and Stacy Yusim. This webinar focused on self-advocacy in health care decision making. Information to access the audio and visual presentations for this webinar can be viewed here:

[Advanced Directives Presentation](#)

CDC Health Surveillance Meeting

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities is convened a meeting on Wednesday, February 24th at the Bethesda Hyatt Hotel on the need, potential uses and possible methods for gathering population level information on the health of persons with intellectual disabilities in the United States. Materials presented at this meeting can viewed here: [Surveillance Meeting Materials](#)

Upcoming Events

AUCD Events

[Disability Policy Seminar](#)

April 12-14, 2010
Washington, DC

[End of Life Series: End of Life Through a Cultural Lens](#)

April 21, 2010

[2010 Disability and Health Partners Meeting](#)

May 18, 2010

Atlanta, GA

Other Events

[National Public Health Week](#)

April 5-11, 2010

[2010 Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities](#)

April 12-13, 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii

For questions or comments about the *AUCD Health & Disability Digest*, please contact:

Danielle Edson, Project Specialist - CDC Cooperative Agreement at dedson@aucd.org

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