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From: Oral Health Kansas [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 3:25 PM  
To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org  
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS  
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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## Delta Dental Grant Contest

Oral Health Kansas is excited to announce our participation in

## Dental Care for People with Autism

April is National Autism Month. As noted by Autism Speaks - [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) - the number of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder is growing. Today, at least one child in 110 has autism; in boys, the statistics are 1 in 70.

Dental professionals and specialist in the autism field are teaming up to find new techniques and products that nurture and support compliance and safety with dental care for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). People with autism can have very different symptoms and degrees of these symptoms. The diagnosis is still called "autism," so professionals now discuss a "spectrum" of disorders. What this means for dental care is "individualization" of techniques, person by person.

There are three main conditions that hamper dental care in the home, school or dental office: a limited ability to communicate, difficulty with social interactions, and repetitive behaviors. People with ASD can be bothered by noise, smells, bright lights, touch, invasive procedures, and oral commands they can't understand. All of these are common experiences for patients in a dental office. These reactions also challenge families when providing daily dental hygiene care.

As a result, children with autism can suffer from pain and

The Champions Project - a mini-grant contest presented by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation. We have been 'championed' by a team of DDKS employees who are promoting our cause, but we need your help too! In early May, the DDKS Foundation will award four \$2,500 grants to the organizations that receive the most votes. You can help us win one of these grants by [CLICKING HERE](#) where you can find out what we will do with the grant dollars if we win and vote for Oral Health Kansas!

Remember, you can vote as many times as you like! Last day to vote is April 29th, voting closes at 5pm!



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infection from untreated tooth decay because they resist care that will prevent oral disease. Because of their aversion to the sights and sounds in a dental office, many are treated under general anesthesia. The good news is that more techniques, products and training materials are being developed each year.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#) or [HERE](#)



## 2011 Conference Topics

Oral Health Kansas would like to hear from you, our supporters as to which topics you would be interested in seeing and attending at this year's joint conference with KAMU. Below are some topics that our conference planning committee has suggested, **please look over the list and simply reply to this email stating which of the topics below interest you and why.**

1. Local coalition activity
2. Promoting oral health in the community
3. Oral health for people who are aging
4. Oral health for people with autism
5. Oral health for people with disabilities
6. Link between periodontal disease and overall health
7. Dental outreach services
8. How to write/apply for a grant
9. State Health Exchange (Affordable Care Act)

- 10. Advocacy and lobbying
- 11. Dental workforce

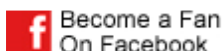
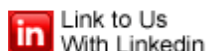
**If there is a topic you are interested in that is not on this list, please let us know.**

Oral Health Kansas  
&  
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved



**Working Together for Overall Health  
2011 Conference**

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



[Forward email](#)



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