The UF College of Dentistry is the only publicly funded dental school in Florida and a national leader in dental education, research and clinical care. About 90 new dentists and 56 dental specialists graduate each year, with most choosing to practice in Florida. The college offers residency training programs in endodontics, aesthetic dentistry, general dentistry, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics and prosthodontics.

Through the UF Statewide Network for Community Oral Health, which includes college-owned clinics and partnership clinics throughout the state, the college treats patients from all 67 Florida counties.

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In a year of challenges related to patient care, UFCD completed 121,114 patient visits, a 9.9-percent increase over the previous year. UFCD also bridged access to oral care gaps for Floridians by launching a TeleDentistry platform and accepting emergency patients when other dental offices were unable to stay open.

Teledentistry linked faculty to patients with oral health emergencies, allowing faculty to care for patients instead of sending them to emergency departments. After piloting the service with existing UFCD patients, the college opened TeleDentistry to all Floridians. Faculty members included students enrolled in online program, giving students the experience of providing safe oral care during a public health crisis.

Community Service

When COVID-19 descended on Florida, UFCD faculty and dental students went door-to-door in underserved neighborhoods, educating residents about practices to prevent COVID-19 transmission, answering questions and registering people for vaccinations.

The UFCD School-Based Dental Sealant Program provided preventive dental services to 555 children at 10 Title 1 elementary and middle schools in Alachua County. The program delivered over $84,000 worth of preventive care at no cost to patients and included dental exams, oral hygiene education, placement of dental sealants, and fluoride varnish application.

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Faculty Hiring

UFCD hired 16 faculty members: two in community dentistry and behavioral science; one in endodontics; five in restorative dental sciences; one in orthodontics; one in oral and maxillofacial diagnostic sciences; two in oral and maxillofacial surgery; one in pediatric dentistry. Searches are in progress for eight positions expected to be filled before the end of the 2022 fiscal year.

Economic & Societal Impact

A 2020 report by Tripp Umbach illustrated UFCD’s economic, employment and government impact in Florida and the communities it serves. UFCD supports 2,065 jobs, provides $9.3 million in government revenue, serves. UFCD supports 2,065 jobs, provides $9.3 million in government revenue, serves 2,065 jobs, and accepting emergency patients when other dental offices were unable to stay open.

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