

The Jack T. Clark Foundation – History and Selected Accomplishments

A historic overview of what has become the Jack T. Clark Foundation reflects an ever-increasing scope and commitment to public health interests. Initiated in response to specific and narrow needs—scholarship funding for students from a particular locale attending a single institution—over the years, the Foundation’s purpose and mission have developed and grown large. While retaining a focus on strengthening the profession, concern for the oral health needs of Texans continues to build.

Late 1980s Approximately two years after the February 1987 death of Dr. Jack T. Clark of Fort Worth,ⁱ his contemporaries decided to honor his memory with scholarships for area students attending Baylor dental school, Dr. Clark’s *alma mater*. A co-founder of the Texas Academy of General Dentistry and one-time AGD President, Dr. Clark gave a lifetime of service to community and profession, advancing the principle of lifelong learning in order to provide the public with the best possible dental care. By all accounts, he was particularly gifted in working with new dentists to impress upon them the value of continuing education.

1990 Formal establishment of the *Jack T. Clark Award Foundation* by the Fort Worth AGD.

1998 After being approached by Dr. Charley Pugh on behalf of the Foundation, the Texas Academy of General Dentistry assumes administration of the Foundation to heighten visibility and activity.ⁱⁱ

1999 - 2000 After bylaws adoption,ⁱⁱⁱ the newly named *Jack T. Clark Foundation* is incorporated with funds from the predecessor Foundation and given the mission *to advance and promote the art and science of general dentistry through continuing education, recognition of excellence, and other appropriate means*, with a further purpose to honor the memory of Dr. Clark.

2003 After Board assessment and discussion, the mission is updated to reflect the board’s interest in providing for those with cancer: *Improving the Oral Health of cancer patients by educating the patient and the health care team.*^{iv}

With a grant from the AGD Foundation, The JTC Foundation participates in the Lance Armstrong Foundation’s Ride for the Roses and considers means of raising funds from Texas Academy of General Dentistry members and researching potential grant opportunities.

2004 The Foundation explores partnering with the Dental Oncology Education Program (DOEP) to provide speakers for purposes of Continuing Education.

The Board institutes a Silent Auction at the Lone Star Dental Conference for purposes of raising awareness as well as funds (ongoing).

2005 The Foundation participates in Oral Cancer Awareness Week. Application is made for a Academy of General Dentistry Foundation grant. A determination is made to expand the board.

Oral Cancer Screenings are again conducted at the Lance Armstrong Foundation event.

2006 After strategic planning and assessment, the Foundation Board identifies a series of outcome-focused goals and objectives, with an emphasis on Access to Care and developing funding resources; in keeping with this, it agrees to subcontract with the Dental Oncology Education Program on a Texas Cancer Council (TCC) grant request to further public oral cancer education in Texas.

2007 The grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT, formerly the TCC) Foundation is awarded for continuing education, design and distribution of oral cancer awareness brochures, oral cancer screenings and the requisite staffing.

Total funding with grant and additional In-kind support from Texas A&M Research Foundation and UT Health Science Center, San Antonio is \$97,794.

The Foundation hires a Program Coordinator to run the grant.

The Foundation expands upon its participation in the Lance Armstrong Event with provision of a speaker in addition to oral cancer screenings.

2008-2009 The CPRIT grant fulfillment is ongoing.

The Foundation collaborates with the Smiles on Wheels program of the Texas Dental Association Foundation, doing oral cancer screenings with Foundation volunteers.

The Foundation hosts a 4 hour hands-on Continuing Education course on biopsies at the Lonestar Dental Conference.

A variety of fundraising events and programs are undertaken.

2010 The Foundation hires an outside consultant, who delivers an organizational audit and a fundraising plan for 2011.

The CPRIT grant comes to a successful conclusion. Over a three year period, people educated via printed and online Foundation materials or conversations in the course of oral cancer screenings by Foundation volunteers numbered 654,263.

In that same period, the collaboration with DOEP resulted in 218,743 professionals trained through Continuing Education, articles and online materials. In 2010 alone, the Foundation distributed 250,000 oral cancer brochures and screened over 3,500 Texans for oral cancer.

ⁱ Texas GP, Winter 2002, p. 8.

ⁱⁱ Texas GP, Winter 2002, p. 8.

ⁱⁱⁱ Dr. Tom Karr of Amarillo notes the bylaws were official as of 1999.

^{iv} Minutes of October 24, 2003 Board Meeting.