



August 6, 2020

**NISONGER CENTER WELCOMES DR. STEPHEN BEETSTRA, DDS, MHSA**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO** - [The Ohio State University Nisonger Center](#) at [Wexner Medical Center](#) welcomes Dr. Stephen M. Beetstra, the new Program Director of [Nisonger Center Dental Services](#) and Assistant Professor-Clinical in the Division of Restorative and Prosthetic Dentistry in the [College of Dentistry](#). Dr. Beetstra received his DDS from Baylor College of Dentistry (now Texas A&M College of Dentistry) before earning a Master of Health Services Administration degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Dr. Beetstra began his career in Oregon as a Chief Dental Officer for the Indian Health Service. He went on to serve in Florida and North Carolina as a Chief Dental Officer and Director for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). From 1999 to 2005, Dr. Beetstra was an Assistant Professor and Chief of the Division of Dental Services at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. In 2006, he joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He held several teaching positions, and was Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric and Special Needs Dentistry. Dr. Beetstra has been the Chief of Dental Services at the Arkansas Children's Hospital Department of Dentistry since 2014. Dr. Beetstra is also a member of the American Dental Association, Special Care Dentistry Association, Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities, American Association of Hospital Dentists, Central District Dental Society, National Academies of Practice, and the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Beetstra's vision for the Nisonger Center Dental Services is to insure that individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Ohio have access to quality patient-centered state of the art dental care that will allow them to live and function in society at their highest level. To accomplish this, our goal is to create an oral health center of excellence that will: train the next generation of multidisciplinary providers, develop research and educational initiatives, and deliver quality oral health services in community, clinical, and hospital settings.

Dr. Beetstra has three main areas of expertise; (1) dental care for individuals of all ages who have complex medical needs and/or developmental disabilities, (2) development of dental education and clinical programs using financial and needs-based modeling, and (3) development of public policy initiatives based upon population-based health metrics. We look forward to Dr. Beetstra bringing his knowledge, experience and expertise to our dental program and helping to advance the mission of the Ohio State Nisonger Center. He will be joining the Nisonger Center and College of Dentistry faculty on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

*"We are most impressed by Dr. Beetstra's 20+ years of knowledge and clinical experience in providing dental care and oral surgery to children and adults with intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders." - Dr. Marc J. Tassé, Director, Nisonger Center-UCEDD*

*"Dr. Beetstra's professional and personal commitment to the care of special needs patients will benefit everyone associated with the Nisonger Dental Clinic – patients, students, and staff. In addition, his involvement with our College of Dentistry will substantially enhance the educational experiences of our General Practice Residents. We are all so pleased and excited to have him as a member of our college community."*  
- Dr. Patrick Lloyd, Dean of College of Dentistry.

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