



Health Department News

by Judy Muschamp, Health Director



I'm excited to announce that Dr. Beverley Phillipson, our new medical officer, will report for duty on June 2. Dr. Phillipson most recently worked for GlaxoSmithKline (a huge pharmaceutical company) as its senior regional medical scientist.

She's a board-eligible internist, specializes in endocrinology, and will be a **huge** resource for our diabetic program and patients. She's eager to return to daily patient care.

Upon Dr. Phillipson's arrival, we'll say farewell to Dr. Maureen Bradley, who has graciously filled in at the clinic. We certainly appreciate her thoroughness, caring, and

expertise. It's nice to know we have short-term backup when needed.

I also must announce the resignation of Derris Hurley, pharmacist. Unfortunately, his sudden departure forced us to close our pharmacy for a couple of days. We quickly called upon our on-call crew and arranged for coverage during May.

The vacant pharmacist position has been advertised and I hope to have the position filled with a highly qualified individual soon, with minimal patient interruption. I want to thank our patients for their understanding when these types of unforeseen circumstances arise.

You may have recently heard or read in the media that patient rights to privacy have been strengthened under a new federal law called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The clinic has initiated changes in our policies and practices to comply with the new requirements.

If you're interested in reading our notice of privacy practices, please go to the tribe's Web site at <http://ctsi.nsn.us> and click on the clinic link. When you arrive at the clinic for your next visit, you'll be counseled about your rights and asked to sign a statement that you understand. We're also printing brochures and posters.

The clinic is committed to assuring the confidentiality of your medical information. If you have any questions, please contact Beverly Baumgardt, Medical Support supervisor. She's been designated as privacy officer and can be reached at 541-444-1030 or 1-800-648-0449.

Finally, there's been a change in our physical therapy services. Eugene Moe has closed his Siletz office and will work exclusively in Newport at the 1010 Professional Building (541-265-4252). We'll continue to refer our patients to Gene, who has established an excellent relationship in the Siletz community.

Tooth Talk

by Linda Kreutzer, RDH

OHSU Students Visit Clinic, Help with Sealant Project

The Dental Department at the Siletz Clinic recently hosted three dental hygiene students from Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland, Ore.

The students were required to go on a two-week dental rotation to rural dental clinics in Oregon. This rotation was sponsored by the Area Health Education Center (AHEC), a state organization that helps staff various health providers (including dental health providers) in rural areas.

AHEC provides housing for the students and schedules their placement. The students give dental health education presentations at schools, preschools, and nursing homes. They work with a local dental hygienist who serves as a mentor.

The students observe a normal work day in the life of a local dental hygienist, which gives them a profile of what each small town community is like. At the Siletz Clinic, the students helped with our annual Sealant Project.

The Siletz Clinic gave a free dental sealant day to all first- and second-graders at Siletz School in mid-April.

The students (with written parental permission) were shuttled by Lynn Whitlow from Siletz School to the clinic and back.

The dental hygiene students helped place sealants right alongside the clinic's dental staff. Sealants help prevent cavities, as the teeth are painted with a white plastic resin that keeps decay out.

Thirty-nine sealants were placed on the children, a total value of more than \$1,500. This reflects the value of free dental services given to the community, regardless of tribal affiliation. Even if a child couldn't get sealants (maybe the teeth were already decayed or filled), a dental screening "report card" went home to the parents, informing them if any dental problems were found.

The three students assigned to the central coast area were Amy Lovenguth, Vanessa Strahan, and Nghia Buy. Two local dental offices also were involved in hosting the students, those of Dr. Gregory Herkert and those of Dr. John E. Palmer, Dr. Heidi R. Romney, and Dr. Mark Builder.

These students will be the last dental hygiene students to graduate



Dental hygiene students Vanessa Strahan (l), Amy Lovenguth, and Nghia Buy

from OHSU because state budget problems have forced the School of Dental Hygiene to close this month. The Siletz Clinic has been honored to host

dental hygiene students from OHSU for eight years and is grateful to both AHEC and OHSU for sending us such fine dedicated young professionals.