

Chapter 7

Study Plans and Programs Supporting Geriatric Dentistry Teaching in Cuba: An Update

Dachel Martínez Asanza

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1830-7137>

*National School of Public Health, Cuba & University of Medical Sciences of
Havana, Cuba*

Isis Anastasia Rojas Herrera

Havana Dental School, University of Medical Sciences of Havana, Cuba

Anuli Njoku

Southern Connecticut State University, USA

Ana Clara Reyes Puig

Havana Dental School, University of Medical Sciences of Havana, Cuba

Farida Mouloudj

University of Medea, Algeria

Indira Gómez Capote

Havana Dental School, University of Medical Sciences of Havana, Cuba

Gerardo Maupome

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3590-0864>

Fairbanks School of Public Health, Indiana University, USA

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-0260-6.ch007

ABSTRACT

The aging population in the world constitutes one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century across social sectors; dental education is no exception. This review explored the status of geriatric dentistry teaching in Cuba and contrasted it with examples from international curricula and programs. Google Scholar, PubMed, Wiley, and Scielo databases were used to search for articles that address geriatric dentistry topics, focusing on undergraduate curricular issues and the management of postgraduate specialization. The findings highlight the need to update curricula and programs for dentistry studies in Cuba to improve the quality of dental care for the aging population. The evolution of training future Cuban graduates aims to meet the healthcare needs of older adults while preserving their quality of life. Additionally, the incorporation of new information and communication technologies has been observed during this process.

INTRODUCTION

The aging population in the world constitutes one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century across social sectors; dental education is no exception. Chávez–Reátegui et al. (2014) defined geriatric dentistry as dental care provided to individuals over the age of 60 as well as adults of any age whose overall health condition is significantly influenced by degenerative processes, diseases and certain health conditions that are usually associated with older adults.

Many countries, Kossioni et al. (2017), Marchini et al. (2018), Xavier et al. (2020) and Shigli et al. (2020) have added geriatric dentistry to dental education programs. Fernández et al. (2019) indicated that this branch of dentistry arose in the United States in the 1960s, promoted by dentists focused on oral health care from a geriatric approach.

In most countries, however, geriatric dentistry is recognized as a form of postgraduate education, master's degree or a diploma, but not as a specialty. According to Tahani et al. (2019) and Jiang et al. (2021), Brazil was the first country to recognize geriatric dentistry as a dental specialty in 2001. Martínez-Asanza et al. (2020a) pointed out that in Cuba geriatric dentistry is not considered a dental specialty but rather a master's degree. The area is included within the dental education plan as a subtheme in the fourth-year program of the *Comprehensive Family Care* subject (Dirección Nacional de Estomatología, 2020).

According to the Cuba Health Statistic Yearbook in its 2023 edition, at the end of 2022, 22.3% of the Cuban population was 60 years older (Cuba, Ministerio de

16 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/study-plans-and-programs-supporting-geriatric-dentistry-teaching-in-cuba/335315

Related Content

Digital Image Enhancement Techniques for Dental Radiographs: A Support to Clinicians

E. Priya (2019). *Computational Techniques for Dental Image Analysis* (pp. 1-39). www.irma-international.org/chapter/digital-image-enhancement-techniques-for-dental-radiographs/216041

Salutogenic Marketing in the Elderly: Leveraging Digital Transformation in Geriatric Dentistry - Creating Positive and Meaningful Experiences for Older Adults

S M Nazmuz Sakib (2024). *Geriatric Dentistry in the Age of Digital Technology* (pp. 117-143). www.irma-international.org/chapter/salutogenic-marketing-in-the-elderly/335313

Temporomandibular Joint Imaging

Mark Piper, DMD MD (2020). *Handbook of Research on Clinical Applications of Computerized Occlusal Analysis in Dental Medicine* (pp. 582-697). www.irma-international.org/chapter/temporomandibular-joint-imaging/233657

The Evolution of the T-Scan I System From 1984 to the Present Day T-Scan 10 System

Robert B. Kerstein, DMD (2020). *Handbook of Research on Clinical Applications of Computerized Occlusal Analysis in Dental Medicine* (pp. 1-54). www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-evolution-of-the-t-scan-i-system-from-1984-to-the-present-day-t-scan-10-system/233647

Thresholding Techniques for Dental Radiographic Images: A Comparative Study

Arockia Sukanyaand Kamalanand Krishnamurthy (2019). *Computational Techniques for Dental Image Analysis* (pp. 40-61). www.irma-international.org/chapter/thresholding-techniques-for-dental-radiographic-images/216042