

The history of Pediatric Dentistry at Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ) - 50 years of School of Dentistry

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• Conflicts of interest: none declared.

ABSTRACT

The objective was to report the history of the discipline of Pediatric Dentistry from the School of Dentistry of the Rio de Janeiro State University (FOUERJ). A survey of the history of Pediatric Dentistry of FOUERJ was carried out with data referring to the period from 1971 to the present day. Professors and other professionals were contacted to retrieve the history of the course. The history of Pediatric Dentistry at the FOUERJ is intertwined with that of the School of Dentistry itself. The discipline of Pediatric Dentistry began in 1971 at FOUERJ. Pediatric Dentistry is one of the three disciplines within the Department of Community and Preventive Dentistry (PRECOM) of FOUERJ that is also composed by Orthodontics and Oral Public Health. Currently, there are eight active professors in the discipline. The Discipline of Pediatric Dentistry (DPP) of FOUERJ is dedicated to improve children's oral health through teaching, research and extension activities. The predoctoral program consists of the disciplines of Pediatric dentistry I and II and extension activities and the post-doctoral program consists of the Specialty, master of science and PhD programs. The research activities focus on the following areas of research: Epidemiology and control of dental diseases; Dental materials, substances and medicines used in Pediatric Dentistry; Interrelationship between general health, oral health and quality of life. Pediatric Dentistry is a discipline that has been actively involved in teaching, research and extension activities of the School of Dentistry since its inauguration. Thus, we can conclude that in the 47 years of existence, our discipline assumed the commitment of guaranteeing a high-quality public education. In this sense, the discipline has formed undergraduate and postgraduate students based on ethics and human values, encouraging them to perform an evidence-based clinical practice in order to promote oral health and positively impact the quality of life of the patients.

Keywords: Education; Pediatric Dentistry; School; Dental students.

Introduction

The history of Pediatric Dentistry at the School of Dentistry of the Rio de Janeiro State University (FOUERJ), former University of the State of Guanabara (UEG), is intertwined with that of the school of Dentistry itself. Prof. Hilton Souchois de Albuquerque Mello, who was the first professor and chair (1971-1996) of the Discipline of Pediatric Dentistry at FOUERJ, was also one of the founding professors of FOUERJ. Currently, Pediatric Dentistry is one of the three disciplines within the Department of Community and Preventive Dentistry (PRECOM) of FOUERJ. The other disciplines are: Orthodontics and Dental Public Health.¹

Prof. Hilton Souchois earned his DDS (1953) and PhD. (1964) degrees from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He was awarded with Certificates in the Specialty of Pediatric Dentistry from the University of Illinois (1959) and the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (1967) Prof. Hilton Souchois was one of the pioneers that led the groundwork for the development of Pediatric Dentistry as a dental specialty in Brazil. In sixties and seventies, when caries prevalence was very high among Brazilian children, he introduced in the country various technologies that would help to improve children's dental care. Some examples are the use of: stainless steel crowns for restoring severely damaged posterior

teeth, formocresol for performing pulpotomies in primary teeth and nitrous-oxide for conscious sedation to manage pain and anxiety at the dental office.¹

Methods

A survey of the history of Pediatric Dentistry of FOUERJ was carried out with data referring to the period from 1971 to the present day. Professors and other professionals were contacted to retrieve the history of the course.

Literature Review

Historical Content

Initially, the pediatric dentistry school members at FOUERJ were Profs. Hilton Souchois, Álvaro Cerchiaro, Harvey Generoso, and Roberval de Almeida Cruz. The latter served as interim chairman of the Pediatric Dentistry Discipline at FOUERJ while Prof. Souchois was abroad, serving as the Pediatric Dentistry Program Director at Temple University (Philadelphia, EUA). In 1975, Prof. Souchois was awarded the certification in Pain Management and Sedation from Temple University, being one of the pioneers in Brazil (Figure 1). Profs. Hilton and Roberval were promoted to full professor in 1995 and retired in 1996. In 2007, a new Specialty Dental Clinic was inaugurated at FOUERJ; it was named after Prof. Hilton Souchois.



Figure 1. Prof. Souchois receiving the certification of pioneer in the technique of sedation with nitrous oxide and oxygen in Brazil

In 1977, FOUERJ hired Ms. Marisa Santos de Oliveira to work as the pediatric dental clinic receptionist. By the end of the 1980s, she became a Dental Hygienist and in the early 1990s she began to provide services to our pediatric patients under the professors' supervision. Marisa worked at the pediatric dental clinic until 2018.¹ From the late-1970s to the early-1980s, other professors joined the Pediatric Dentistry Discipline: Álvaro de Moraes Mendes, Hélio Cardoso Coelho Filho, Hilda Maria Sant'anna, Luiz Sant'anna, Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno, Magali Pereira Kather, Marco Antônio de Oliveira Almeida, Marialice Barroso Pentagna, Ronald Seaman Penido, Sônia Lúcia Macedo Marçal, Vera Lúcia Campos Santos and Teresa Sadaya (Figure 2). Profs. Marco Antônio and Álvaro later transferred to the Discipline of Orthodontics. Profs. Hilda, Luiz, Magali and Teresa were members of the discipline team for a short period of time during the 1970s. Prof. Penido resigned and left the discipline in 1992. Profs. Hélio, Marialice and Luiz Flávio remained in the discipline until their retirement in 1996, 2013 and 2018, respectively (Figure 3). Prof. Luiz Flávio served as chair of the Pediatric Dentistry Discipline from 1997 to 2018. Prof. Sônia Marçal was a pediatric dental school member at FOUERJ until December 2016, when she passed away (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Pediatric Dentistry Team in 90's. From left to right: Prof. Mirian de Marsillac (as postgraduate student), Profs. Vera Campos, Hilton Souchois, Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno, Sônia Marçal e Hélio Cardoso Coelho Filho



Figure 3. Tribute to Marialice Barroso Pentagna due to her retirement. From left to right: Profs. Fernanda Barja Fidalgo, Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno, Sonia Marçal, Marialice Pentagna, Sandra de Paula (UNIFOA), Ana Paula Pires dos Santos, Mirian Marsillac and Branca Heloisa Oliveira

In the 1990s new permanent full-time school professors were incorporated into the Pediatric Dentistry Discipline: Branca Heloísa de Oliveira Martins Vieira, who had been a substitute professor at the discipline from 1986 to 1988, Mirian de Waele Souchois de Marsillac and Vera Ligia Vieira Mendes Soviero.

In 2000, Mr. Luiz Claudio de Lima Pinto became a pediatric dental clinic receptionist and began to work closely with Ms. Marisa Santos and the others pediatric dental school members.

In the years 2010s, there were new additions to the School team of the discipline: Ana Paula Pires dos Santos in 2012, Fernanda Barja Fidalgo Silva de Andrade in 2014, Tatiana Kelly da Silva Fidalgo in 2016 and Adilis Kalina Alexandria de França in 2018 (Figure 4). Before securing their permanent positions at FOUERJ, Profs. Ana Paula, Fernanda and Tatiana had been substitute professors from 2003 to 2006, 2005 to 2014 and 2013 to 2014, respectively.



Figure 4. Pediatric dentistry lecture cycle at FOUERJ. From left to right: Profs. Ana Paula Pires dos Santos, Fernanda Barja Fidalgo, Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno, Tatiana Kelly da Silva Fidalgo and Branca Heloisa Oliveira

Importantly, many of the former and present professors at the Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontic Disciplines of FOUERJ were students at our Specialty Pediatric Dentistry Postgraduate Certificate Program or Master of Science (MS) in Pediatric Dentistry Program:

- Álvaro de Moraes Mendes - Specialty Program
- Ana Paula Pires dos Santos – Specialty and MS Program
- Branca Heloisa de Oliveira Martins Vieira – Specialty Program
- Fernanda Barja Fidalgo Silva de Andrade – Specialty and MS Program
- José Augusto Mendes Miguel – MS Program
- Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno – MS Program
- Marco Antonio de Oliveira Almeida – Specialty Program
- Marialice Barroso Pentagna – Specialty and MS Program
- Mirian de Waele Souchois de Marsillac – Specialty and MS Program
- Ronald Seaman Penido – MS Program
- Sonia Lucia Macedo Marçal – Specialty and MS Program
- Vera Lucia Campos Santos – Specialty Program

Internal Structure

Activities Developed at the Pediatric Dentistry Discipline of FOUERJ

The Discipline of Pediatric Dentistry (DPD) of FOUERJ is dedicated to the improvement children's oral health through teaching, research and extension activities.

• Teaching Activities

The DPD provides pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training in comprehensive oral health care for pediatric patients.

• Pre-doctoral Program

Pediatric Dentistry is taught at FOUERJ since its first dental curriculum was developed. Until 2000 it was taught only in the 7th semester of an 8th semester degree course. In 2001, Pediatric Dentistry (PD) was split into PD I, taught in the 7th semester and PD II, taught in the 8th semester. There are no pre-clinical activities and during both PD I and II the students perform clinical procedures on children. PD I was coordinated, at different time periods, by professors Sônia Marçal, Vera Soviero, Mirian de Marsillac and Vera Campos. PD II was coordinated by Prof. Branca Heloísa Oliveira from 2001 to 2008, by Prof. Marialice Pentagna from by prof. Marialice Pentagna in 2019 and 2013; by Prof. Mirian de Marsillac from 2010 to 2012; by Prof. Ana Paula Pires dos Santos from 2014 to 2015 and by Prof. Fernanda Barja Fidalgo from 2016 to 2018. In 2018, with the curriculum changes, the PD activities were included in “Core of Integrated Pro-

cedures for Children and Youth” (7th semester) and “Integrated Procedures for Children and Youth” (8th semester). The aim of the undergraduate PD program is to train general dental practitioners to become capable of promoting the oral health of children through prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral problems. At the 8th semester the emphasis is on dental care provided by the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS). The clinical activities are developed extramurally, at Piquet Carneiro Polyclinic.

During the last 50 years, almost 3,000 undergraduate students took the disciplines of Pediatric Dentistry at FOUERJ.

It is worth noting that the Pediatric Dentistry Discipline itself and many of the pediatric dental school members, individually, were the recipients of awards during graduation ceremonies of different classes in recognition to their outstanding contribution to the undergraduate education at FOUERJ (Profs. Luiz Flávio Moliterno, Sonia Marçal, Vera Campos and Tatiana Kelly da Silva Fidalgo).

• Post-doctoral Program

- Specialty Pediatric Dentistry Postgraduate Certificate Program

This specialty postgraduate program began in 1974 with the aim of providing scientific knowledge and clinical pediatric dentistry developing skills necessary for dentists, to provide proper dental care for infants, children, and adolescents. The program also encourages graduates to become involved in dental research and to pursue more advanced training in PD in order to start an academic career. During the last 44 years, more than 100 dentists obtained a certificate in Pediatric Dentistry through our program.

Prof. Roberval de Almeida Cruz was the Program Director from 1974 to 1978. From 1979 to 1989, the Program Directors were Prof. Hilton Souchois and Prof. Ronald Penido. From 1990 to 2014, the Program Director was Prof. Luiz Flávio Moliterno. From 2016 onwards the position was filled by Prof. Mirian de Waele Souchois de Marsillac. Many clinical instructors participated in our Specialty Program during its 44 years of existence, among them: Constance Mitchell, Daniel Passeado Branco Ribeiro, Daniela Britto, Diego Junior da Silva Santos, Fernando Machado Moliterno, Gisele Caldas Alexandre, Gisele Moraes Abrahão, Livia Kelly Ferraz Nunes, Maria Angelina Amorim de Oliveira, Maria Cristina Pereira Quelhas and Rosana de Almeida Cardoso.

- Master of Science (MS) and PhD in Pediatric Dentistry Programs

FOUERJ has a Postgraduate dental program in the following concentration areas: Dental Surgery, Endodontics, Operative Dentistry, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, and Prosthodontics.

The Master of Science (MS) in Pediatric Dentistry Program began in 1982, and four students were accepted: Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno, Ronald Seaman Penido, Carlos Alberto dos Santos Pego and Helio Jorge dos Santos. All of them were FOUERJ professors. The program does not aim to improve students' clinical skills. Its objective is to provide advanced knowledge in the Pediatric Dentistry area, solid teaching skills and research opportunities.

The former MS Pediatric Dentistry Program Directors were: Prof. Hilton Souchois de Albuquerque Mello (1982-1996), Prof. Ricardo Fischer (1997-2001), Prof. Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno (2002-2013) and Prof. Branca Heloisa de Oliveira (2014-2018). Presently, Prof. Ana Paula Pires dos Santos is the MS Pediatric Dentistry Program Director.

In the last 36 years, approximately 60 dentists were awarded a Master's degree by our MS Pediatric Dentistry Program. Many of them now hold permanent positions at Brazilian universities, among them: Ana Paula Pires dos Santos (UERJ - Rio de Janeiro), Elizangela Lins Cavalcanti Pimentel (Unesa - Rio de Janeiro), Fernanda Barja Fidalgo Silva de Andrade (UERJ - Rio de Janeiro), Gabriela Caldeira Americano (FASE - Petrópolis), José Augusto Mendes Miguel (UERJ - Rio de Janeiro), Marcia Rejane Thomas Canabarro de Andrade (UFF - Nova Friburgo), Mirian de Waele Souchois de Marsillac (UERJ - Rio de Janeiro), Marlus Roberto Cajazeiras (UFF - Nova Friburgo), Michele Mikhael Ammari (UFF - Nova Friburgo), Roberta Jorge (FASE - Petrópolis), Gabriela Americano (FASE - Petrópolis) and Sileno Correa Brum (FO - Vassouras).

Our current MS students are: Laís Rueda Cruz, Isabel Monteiro D'Hyppolito and Patricia Papoula Gorni dos Reis.

Our PhD in Pediatric Dentistry Program was recently

created; it began in 2017 and the Program director is Prof. Vera Ligia Vieira Mendes Soviero. Our current PhD students are: Débora Medina, Gabriela Americano, Glaucia Athayde, Barbara Grisólia, Roberta Jorge, Hiorran Matos e Daniela Soares.

• Research Activities

The main research interests of the pediatric dental school professors at FOUERJ are in the areas of: Epidemiology and control of dental diseases; Dental materials, substances and medicines used in Pediatric Dentistry; Interrelationship between general health, oral health and quality of life. Ongoing researches focus on Dental Trauma, Dental Anxiety, Fluoride Varnishes and Toothpastes for Dental Caries Control, Molar Incisor Hypomineralization and Oral Effects of Congenital Zika Syndrome.

Our school members have many scientific articles published in high-impact indexed journals (i.e., links to their CVs are provided in Table 1) and have been awarded grants from UERJ and from Brazilian research funding agencies: Profa. Ana Paula Pires dos Santos FAPERJ INST E-26/112.045/2013, FAPERJ APQ5 E-26/112.000/2013, FAPERJ IC 2013/02 E-26/100.824/2014; Profa. Branca Heloisa de Oliveira: FAPERJ/APQ5-E-26/110.056/2009; FAPERJ/APQ1-E-26/111.315/2014; FAPERJ Birmingham and/or Nottingham-E-26/010.002669/2014; FAPERJ IC 2015-02- E-26/200.824/2016; Profa. Vera Ligia Mendes Soviero: FAPERJ/APQ1-E-26/ 110.273/2012, FAPERJ IC E-26/100.674/2013; Profa. Fernanda Barja Fidalgo Silva de Andrade: FAPERJ INST E-26/211.288/2016, FAPERJ IC E-26/201.099/2016; Profa. Tatiana Kelly da Silva Fidalgo: FAPERJ/JCNE-E-03/2017, FAPERJ APQ5 2004.2, FAPERJ-

Table 1. Pediatric dentist professors at FOUERJ (active in December, 2018) and links to their CV on the Lattes Database

Name	Link to CV on Lattes Database
Adilis Kalina Alexandria de França	http://lattes.cnpq.br/8813744643679880
Ana Paula Pires dos Santos	http://lattes.cnpq.br/8258756998579769
Branca Heloisa de Oliveira Martins Vieira	http://lattes.cnpq.br/2733765551807694
Fernanda Barja Fidalgo Silva de Andrade	http://lattes.cnpq.br/0960854816665570
Luiz Flavio Martins Moliterno	http://lattes.cnpq.br/2475621282525155
Mirian de Waele Souchois de Marsillac	http://lattes.cnpq.br/7357614344794408
Vera Campos	http://lattes.cnpq.br/4933374110817924
Vera Ligia Vieira Mendes Soviero	http://lattes.cnpq.br/8085785912172362
Tatiana Kelly da Silva Fidalgo	http://lattes.cnpq.br/7877241939491498

INST-2015/1, FAPERJ IC 2018-1, PIBIC/UERJ IC 2018-2.

Moreover, UERJ and Carlos Chagas Filho Research Support Foundation (FAPERJ) have individually rewarded some of them for their excellence in research. Profs. Branca Heloisa de Oliveira Martins Vieira (2006-2018) and Ana Paula Pires dos Santos (2017-present) participate in the UERJ Incentive Program for Scientific, Technical and Artistic Production – PROCIÊNCIA – that awards scholarships to UERJ professors based on the evaluation of their academic performance. Profs. Branca Heloisa de Oliveira Martins Vieira (2009-2012) and Tatiana Kelly da Silva Fidalgo (2017-current) were awarded “Young Scientist of Our State” scholarships from Carlos Chagas Filho Research Support Foundation (FAPERJ).

Additionally, the school members of the discipline of PD have been involved in writing book chapters and editing books. Three books on themes related to the field of Pediatric Dentistry were organized and edited by our school: “Diagnosis and treatment of anomalies in odontogenesis”, authored by Profs. Vera Campos, Roberval Cruz and Hilton Souchois; “First Aid for Your Children. Dental trauma: Practical handbook for parents, teachers, technicians and parents, authored by Eliane Cross and Prof. Vera Campos; and “Control of Pain, Fear and Anxiety in Pediatric Dentistry” edited by Prof. Mirian Souchois.

• Extension Activities

The pediatric dentistry school members at FOUERJ usually get involved in extension projects that aim to provide dental services or oral health-related information to the public. There are currently four extension projects being developed under the guidance of our professors.

“Crescer Sorrindo” Project

The *Crescer Sorrindo* project has three main goals: to provide oral health care for children (0 to 12 years old), to offer training opportunities for dentists interested in providing dental care for preschool-aged children, and to perform pediatric dentistry-related research.

The project is held at Piquet Carneiro Polyclinic. Undergraduate and graduate students, under the supervision of pediatric dentistry professors, carry out the clinical activities. The students also develop an oral-health education program at the dental clinic with the children and their parents. This program is designed to promote the increase in dental health awareness, the increase in the home use of fluoride toothpaste and the decrease in sugary snacking. During the last 17 years, 950 undergraduate and 177 postgraduate students took part in the project; additionally, more than 633 preschoolers and 1,234 schoolchildren benefited from it.

Moreover, many researches relevant to the subjects of Pediatric Dentistry and Public Health were conducted.²⁻⁶

These research findings allowed the development and implementation of clinical guidelines at the Dental Clinic of the Piquet Carneiro Polyclinic based on sound scientific evidence.

The *Crescer Sorrindo* project is a successful experience of teaching-research-public service integration. The following professors are or were part of its team members: Branca Heloisa de Oliveira Martins Vieira (Coordinator 2001-2011, present member), Ana Paula Pires dos Santos (Coordinator 2012-2017, present member), Fernanda Barja-Fidalgo (Coordinator 2018-present); Marialice Pentagna (Member 2001-2013), Mirian de Marsillac (Member 2007-2016), Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno (Member 2016-2017), Tatiana Fidalgo (Member in 2017).

“Traumatismo Dentário” Project

This project began in 2006 and is coordinated by Prof. Vera Campos. During its 12 years of existence, the project has been dedicated to the treatment and follow-up of children with dental trauma. It has also developed educational material regarding the prevention of dental injuries and first-aid measures for dental trauma patients. The project has had 55 participants; 16 of them were undergraduate students. The following professors are or were part of its team members: Vera Campos (Coordinator 2006-present); Fernanda Barja-Fidalgo (Member in 2014), Sonia Marçal (Member 2006-2016), Mirian de Marsillac (Member 2006-present), Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno (Member 2006-2016).

“Crescer Sorrindo UERJ na Web” Project

In July 2012, a funpage was created on Facebook® social network with the aim of disseminating the results of a scientific research carried out by members of the *Crescer Sorrindo* extension project. In view of the initial success of this Facebook funpage, the project’s team felt motivated to expand its scope and created the *Crescer Sorrindo UERJ na Web* extension project. The primary objectives of this project are to publish online information regarding dental events, courses and publications and to report online findings from scientific research related to children’s oral health.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students prepare the contents to be published online after reading and discussing scientific articles under the guidance of pediatric dentistry professors.

In October 2017, an account on Instagram® social network (@crescersorrindo_uerj) was created in order to increase the audience of the project. On December 2018 *Crescer Sorrindo UERJ na Web* had 7,315 followers on Facebook® and 1,608 followers on Instagram®.

From July 1, 2017 to July 26, 2018, 202 publications were made on the Facebook® funpage, reaching more than 15,800 people. From October 2017 to July 2018, 60 publications

were made on the Instagram® feed and 27 on the Instagram® stories. During the week of July 14 to July 28, 1,048 profiles were reached with 8,395 impressions.

The following professors are part of the project team members: Branca Heloísa de Oliveira Martins Vieira (Coordinator 2012-2017, present member), Ana Paula Pires dos Santos (Coordinator 2018-present, member since 2012) and Fernanda Barja-Fidalgo (member since 2012).

“Hipomineralização de Molares e Incisivos” (HMI) Project

The interest of Prof. Vera Soviero in the subject of Molar incisor hypomineralization (MIH) was raised by a research in collaboration with Profs. Sven Poulsen and Dorte Haubek from the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Aarhus Denmark in 2008. As a result of this collaboration, a paper on the prevalence of the condition in Brazilian schoolchildren was published having as co-authors two FOUERJ undergraduate students: Carolina Trindade and Thais da Matta. In 2012, after a two-year postdoctoral fellowship period, Prof. Vera Soviero began the extension project entitled Molar Incisor Hypomineralization (HMI): the challenge of identifying and treating children with this type of tooth defect. The project provides clinical care for patients with HMI and also develops teaching and research activities related to this dental enamel defect. To date, three Master's degree dissertations related to this project were concluded. Currently, three PhD theses and one Master's dissertation are under development. Moreover, the findings from this project were reported in scientific articles that were published in high-impact international dental journals: *Clinical Oral Investigations*, *Pediatric Dentistry* and *The International Journal of Pediatric Dentistry*. Undergraduate students participate in the project as Extension and Scientific Initiation Fellows.

• Other Extension Activities

Two free continue education courses in Pediatric Dentistry: Oral health care during early childhood (started in 2003), and Evidence-Based Pediatric Dentistry (started in 2015) are offered to the dental community by pediatric dental school members at FOUERJ (Profs. Ana Paula Pires dos Santos, Branca Heloísa de Oliveira and Fernanda Barja Fidalgo). The first is a clinical course that focuses on the development of competences that are needed for the dental care of preschoolers. The second is a theoretical course that focuses on the development of skills for the critical appraisal of the dental literature.

From 2013 to 2018 Prof. Vera Lúcia Mendes Soviero coordinated the group PET Odonto UERJ (Figure 5). Among the various activities that were carried out by the PET group during this period, we highlight the FOUERJ Human Teeth BioBank.



Figure 5. Professor Vera Soviero and Professor Maria Eliza Ramos with group PET Odonto UERJ

Administrative Activities

Besides developing teaching, research and extension activities related to the field of Pediatric Dentistry, some of FOUERJ's pediatric dental school members have also served as Head and Deputy Head of the Department of Community and Preventive Dentistry (PRECOM) of FOUERJ. These professors were:

- Branca Heloísa de Oliveira Martins Vieira (Head and Deputy Head)
- Fernanda Barja Fidalgo Silva de Andrade (Deputy Head)
- Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno (Head and Deputy Head)
- Marialice Barroso Pentagna (Head and Deputy Head)
- Sonia Lucia Macedo Marçal (Deputy Head)

Other administrative roles developed by FOUERJ's pediatric dental school members included:

- Hilton Souchois de Albuquerque Melo – School Director and Counselor at the UERJ University Council
- Roberval de Almeida Cruz - School Director
- Luiz Flávio Martins Moliterno – Counselor at UERJ Higher Council for Education and Research
- Branca Heloísa de Oliveira Martins Vieira – Coordinator of Extension Programs and Projects at the Extension Department of UERJ Vice-Chancellery of Extension and Culture (SR3) and Adjunct Research Coordinator - FOUERJ
- Fernanda Barja-Fidalgo - Coordinator of the Extension Core - FOUERJ

Conclusion

Pediatric Dentistry is a discipline that has been actively involved in teaching, research and extension activities of the School of Dentistry since its inauguration. In the 47 years of

existence, our discipline assumed the commitment of guarantee a quality public education. In this sense, the discipline has formed undergraduate and postgraduate students based on ethics and human values, encouraging them to perform a clinical practice evidence-based to promote oral health and positively impact the quality of life of the patients.

Acknowledgement

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challenged, trusted and helped us, thus contributing to our successful history, including UERJ academic and administrative staff, cleaning team, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and our young patients and their parents. We would also like to acknowledge that financial support from Federal and State Grant Funding Agencies (CAPES, FAPERJ and CNPq) as well as from UERJ was of utmost importance for the successful development of our teaching and research activities.

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