



By

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from Group *to* TEAM

Meet NYU Dentistry's Group Practice Academic Coordinators

Several years ago, a committee composed of faculty in the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care made the decision to expand the existing group practice structure by adding additional academic coordinators to each of the four group practices.

The group practice academic coordinators are responsible for monitoring students' academic performance and compliance with clinic protocol in each group practice, with a focus on the overall long-term care of their patients. The group practice academic coordinators, or as we like to

be known, the "A Team," are integral to the effective functioning of the predoctoral group practices. Each of us knows that everything we do and say contributes to making us a team, rather than merely a group of individuals. Most recently, our team has assumed the added role of peer facilitators, helping to acclimate first-year students to the clinical environment. Each of us is assigned a group of 12 to 14 first-year students, whom we counsel throughout their four years at the College.

Each of our seven academic coordinators collaborates with two faculty

group practice directors, three clinic managers, up to seven staff members, and anywhere from 97 to 120 dental and dental hygiene students on a daily basis. More important is the time and effort each of us puts into making sure that our students are following correct protocol when it comes to clinical education experiences (CEE) and supporting students in meeting their minimum disciplinary requirements (MDR) — the specific procedures each student needs to complete as part of their clinical experiences in order to graduate. All this is accomplished within their assigned group practices.



From left: Marion Asafu-Adjaye, Dayake Bubb, and Queen Walker

All of the academic coordinators were selected based on their ability to perform cross-functional management in a high-paced environment, as well as on their prior professional achievements, capabilities, and willingness to help students become successful while maintaining the highest integrity, professionalism, quality assurance, and compliance standards. Our group consists of two associate certified coaches (ACC), a dental assistant, a former program director, an adjunct professor of English, a Toastmaster Public Speaker, several former private practice managers, a former social worker, and one former NYU Dentistry frontline staff member. The “A Team” includes:

Ms. Barbara Smith, 2nd Floor A&B:
Group Practices of Dr. Studley and Dr. Brandolin

Ms. Maureen Jones, 3rd Floor A: *Group Practices of Dr. Podell and Dr. Gendler*

Mr. Dayake Bubb, 3rd Floor B:
Group Practices of Dr. Raymond and Dr. Rochlen

Ms. Queen Walker, 4th Floor A:
Group Practices of Dr. Resnick and Dr. DePaola Cefola

Ms. Judith St. Louis, 4th Floor B: *Group Practices of Dr. Peltz and Dr. Soeprono*

Mr. Christopher Wilson, 5th Floor A:
Group Practices of Dr. Berkowitz and Dr. Congiusta

Mrs. Marion Asafu-Adjaye, 5th Floor B: *Group practices of Dr. De Bartolo and Dr. Penugonda*

We are all committed to the idea that a team combines each individual's dedication and commitment to their students' success and is reflected in their students' clinical progress. The academic group practice coordinators all have a “can do” attitude that derives from the professional knowledge and skills they bring to their assignments, and all model excellent communication techniques and key leadership principles that contribute to a strong team environment and the best possible student experiences.

It's safe to say that if you have a problem, you can always rely on the “A Team” to help solve it. ■