

### Filling the Access Gap: A Solution for IDD Oral Health

With the building and implementation of TouroCARES, we aim to remedy the longstanding access problem, mitigate emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and train more dentists capable of providing humane and specialized dental care to IDD individuals. Our goal is to improve oral health outcomes, enhance independence, and promote overall well-being within the IDD community.

*TouroCARES will fill a critical need that is well documented by the numbers of IDD-affected patients in need of specialized dental care, the paucity of resources that currently exist to treat them, and the longer-term solution in training greater numbers of office-based dentists with the skills required to treat this vulnerable population and avoid hospitalizations.*

To learn more about supporting TouroCARES, please contact:

#### **RONNIE MYERS, D.D.S.**

*Dean, Professor of Dental Medicine*

Touro College of Dental Medicine

**914.594.2624 | [Ronnie.Myers3@Touro.edu](mailto:Ronnie.Myers3@Touro.edu)**



*Scan to learn more*

#### **ABOUT THE TOURO UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

*Touro is a system of non-profit institutions of higher and professional education.*

*Touro University was chartered in 1970 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American and global community. Approximately 19,200 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions.*

For further information on Touro University, please go to: [www.touro.edu/news](http://www.touro.edu/news)

# TouroCARES: Exceptional Dental Care for IDD Individuals

The Touro

Center for **A**ccess, **R**espect, **E**mpathy, and **S**ocial Justice

TOURO COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# Gala

*Simple Beginnings. Infinite Opportunities.*  
*Funds Raised will Support Touro CARES, the Center for Special Needs Care*

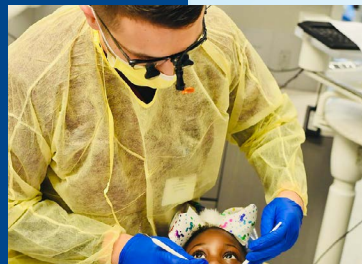
Sunday, March 3, 2024 The Rockleigh, New Jersey



**TOURO COLLEGE  
OF DENTAL MEDICINE**  
TOURO UNIVERSITY

## PROVIDING SPECIALIZED DENTAL SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENCE AND WELL-BEING

TouroCARES is dedicated to improving the lives of intellectually and developmentally disabled (IDD) individuals who often face a loss of independence due to painful dental conditions. Our mission is to provide specialized care and patient management for these individuals, utilizing advanced assistive technology to deliver crucial oral healthcare in a caring and supportive environment.



### The Critical Need

IDD-affected individuals often experience a range of medical, neurological, and cognitive challenges that have the potential to increase their risk of harmful dental conditions. These conditions not only impact social stigma but can also hinder their full participation in the community. Unfortunately, there is a severe lack of specialized dental resources and IDD-specific oral healthcare providers, in the lower Hudson Valley, New York State and nationwide. Without access to these vital services, basic oral health problems easily escalate into late-stage dental crises which strain emergency departments and lead to costly hospitalizations, family disruptions, and increased social stigma.

### A Model Center for Comprehensive Oral Health Care

TouroCARES will be housed within the Touro College of Dental Medicine and will establish a model center focused on providing oral health care for this vulnerable and marginalized population. The newly constructed specialty space will provide appropriate treatment areas for trained providers to actively intervene in preventing potentially stressful emergency encounters. **Through your support we will build the space and acquire state-of-the-art equipment, including anesthesia devices, specialized dental units, advanced instrumentation, and assistive technology such as wheelchair and hydraulic lifts for patient transfers.**

### Addressing the Access Problem

Absent or delayed dental care for IDD individuals leads to a host of adverse outcomes. Without timely treatment, teeth that would have required fillings can escalate to the point of extraction. Alarming, 11% of IDD individuals are already edentulous, posing severe nutritional risks compared to the general population. Additionally, extended wait times result in multiple infections, abscessed teeth, and the need for repeated courses of antibiotics and pain medications. The combination of intellectual disability, pain, and communication challenges often triggers aggressive behavior and self-abuse, necessitating strong sedation.

TouroCARES aims to bridge the access gap and address the oral health challenges faced by IDD individuals. By increasing the number of dentists with the necessary skills and compassion, we strive to provide quality dental care to the 127,000 IDD individuals in New York. This initiative is vital to prevent emergency visits, reduce hospitalizations, and offer sustainable solutions for comprehensive dental care.

TouroCARES seeks to address the longstanding access problem surrounding comprehensive dental care for IDD-affected individuals, many of whom require advanced interventions in an operating room (OR) setting. In New York State alone, approximately 15,000 out of 127,000 IDD individuals necessitate such advanced dental treatment each year. Unfortunately, existing capacity falls short, resulting in wait times exceeding two years for appointments.