

**Pacific Dental Services Foundation to Offer Training and Free CE Credits  
on Special Needs Care**

*Sirona-sponsored event to take place at Mountain West Dental Institute on Monday, April 25*

IRVINE, CA, April 20, 2016 – Treating patients with special needs can present unique challenges to dental care professionals and staff members. However, with the right training, planning and support, critical dental care can be delivered safely and compassionately.

The physical and mental challenges faced by special needs patients often extend to personal oral health. Depending on the severity of their condition, these unique circumstances, if not properly managed, can be detrimental to their overall health and comfort.

The Pacific Dental Services Foundation is offering the free training to all dentists and staff members in the Denver region. Attendees will receive four continuing education credits for participating in the four-hour training module. Presenters will include a panel of experts:

- Dr. Terry Katz, PhD, Psychologist in Developmental Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital
- Dr. Elizabeth Shick, Professor at the University of Colorado
- Dr. Jacob Dent, Multi-Office Owner, PDS Institute Faculty

Online registration is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/KMDMMTT](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KMDMMTT) - space is limited. The event will take place on Monday, April 25, 2016, from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Mountain West Dental Institute, 925 Lincoln Street, Unit B, Denver, CO 80203.

“Treating patients with special needs has taken me to the limits of my clinical skills,” notes Dr. Jacob Dent, a practicing dentist in the Houston area, and one of the presenters. “However, when I realize how impactful and life changing my efforts can be for the patients and their families, the reward outshines any struggles I may have faced.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17% of children under 18 have a developmental disability ranging from cerebral palsy and spinal/musculoskeletal conditions to hearing and vision impairments that can impact oral health. Proper and regular dental care beginning in childhood can significantly reduce the severity of dental disease that often plagues special needs adults.

A Curriculum Assessment of Needs Project study conducted in the state of Kansas found that just 2.7% of individuals with intellectual disabilities felt it was easy to find a dentist in their community to provide care. One of the event’s objectives is to help dentists and staff feel more comfortable with special needs care so patients have more options.

Accommodating and effectively treating these individuals includes everything from creating a barrier-free dental office environment to ensuring a safe experience while in the dental chair. Attendees will also learn how to more effectively communicate with patients and caregivers about procedures and preventive oral health practices.

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**About Pacific Dental Services Foundation**

The Pacific Dental Services Foundation serves communities by facilitating improvements to oral healthcare, including bringing dental care to challenged urban and rural communities in need via the Pacific Dental Services Mobile Dental Clinic, which is staffed by local PDS-supported dentists who volunteer their time. To learn more about the Pacific Dental Services Foundation, please visit [www.pdsfoundation.org](http://www.pdsfoundation.org).

**About Mountain West Dental Institute**

The Mountain West Dental Institute is a state-of-the-art training facility with spacious auditoriums, learning labs and operatory clinics located in the Beauvallon Building in Denver.

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