

Americans with disabilities total about 57 million, 10% of whom have severe disabilities. Understandably, many of these suffer from financial and social restrictions. These disabilities usually begin at birth, thus a large number of severely disabled are children.

Southern California doesn't have adequate facilities to provide quality dental care to disabled persons. Currently, UCLA Special Care Clinic (SPCC) is the primary referral center for the entire region. Unfortunately, the reimbursement rate for this service is set at only 15-25% of the cost of service. Thus, only non-profit centers will serve this need.

Because of the nature of the disabilities, IV sedation and operating rooms are needed with frequency. Frequent conditions include:

**Autism:** About 1.5% of children in the United States (one in 68) are diagnosed with ASD as of 2016.

**Neurological disorders:** Cerebral Palsy, Seizure disorder, Dementia, Parkinson's disease

**Down syndrome:** It is one of the most common chromosome abnormalities in humans. It occurs in about one per 1000 babies born each year. These patients also have other medical conditions including intellectual disabilities, congenital heart disease (40+%)...

**Intellectual disability (ID),** aka general learning disability, is a generalized neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impaired intellectual and adaptive functioning.

**Genetic disorders:** Cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, muscular dystrophy, Hemophilia

In order to reduce the wait time for these patients (now 8 months for screening, and 2 years for operating room care), and to expand the number of dentists trained to serve these needs, a large expansion in capacity is needed. A \$25 million endowment for the UCLA Center for Special Patient Care will create:

- Superb patient care with dedicated staff and faculty with expertise in this population.
  - No person should have to wait 2 years to address their oral care and dental pain.
  - Truly multidisciplinary (psychology, speech therapy, social workers, industry)
  - Surgical center (Significant access to anesthesia)
  - Advanced digital flow (scanners, 3D printers, 5-axis CNC milling machines, CBCT, software)
- Premier training center to increase qualified workforce and prepare future leaders
  - Residents, local dentists, dental students, International dentists, fellowships
  - Directly address the national workforce shortage
- Community-Focused Clinical Research Center to validate preventive and treatment protocols
  - Create new national protocols for prevention and treatment modalities
  - Prepare future leaders through rigorous scholarship

**Impact:** The UCLA Special Patient Care Center will transform the lives of generations of children and adults with special needs.