The UCONN School of Dental Medicine (SDM) Biodontics Educational Program is pleased to announce the launch of its Product Evaluation and Research Laboratory program (PERL). The PERL program, one of the first facilities of its kind at any dental school in the world, was developed by American Biodontics Society Certified Fellows Jason Tubo and David Sherberg in conjunction with UCONN SDM’s Dr. Steve Lepowsky, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and Dr. Edward F. Rossomando, Director of the Biodontics Educational Program Director and PERL Faculty Advisor.

The products and technologies used in the PERL program are loaned to the program by the dental industry. The goal of the program is two fold: dental students will have the opportunity to use dental products and technologies in the market but not in the dental school and dental industries get their products and technologies tested by students – their next generation customers. If successful, the PERL program will encourage the flow of new products and technologies into dental practice.

If your company is interested in having new products, technologies and equipment tested at PERL and evaluated by UCONN’s dental students, please contact Dr. Edward Rossomando at erossom@nso2.uchc.edu.

OPENING OF 10 NEW DENTAL SCHOOLS ANNOUNCED

Dr. Richard Valechovic, Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association, announced at a meeting in September 2006 that 10 new dental schools were to be opened and are now in various stages of planning. For more information on these 10 schools, including their location contact Dr. Rossomando at erossoma@nso2.uchc.edu.
Rear Admiral Christopher Halliday, the US Dental Chief Officer, Director of Indian Health Service and member of the ADA House of Delegate was the guest speaker at the first annual Industry Advisory Council Forum hosted by the Center for Research and Education in Technology Evaluation’s (CRETE). The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) meeting was held at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 16, 2006. In what it expects to be an annual event, Mildred Goldstein, President of Henry J. Bosworth Co, introduced the Forum speaker.

RADM Halliday was invited to share his views on the progress of oral health care since the 2000 Surgeon General’s Report “Oral Health Care in America”. RADM Halliday explained that access to oral health care remains a major problem in America, especially among Alaskan natives, Indian populations across the country and in inner-city and rural areas. Meeting with concerned groups, such as CRETE’s IAC, have allowed for progress to be made in key areas of oral health care he noted.

The IAC, dismayed by the lack of access to dental care, expressed a strong desire to work with RADM Halliday to help improve the quality of oral health care for those in underserved areas. Ms. Goldstein, speaking for the IAC members, expressed strong support for developing a plan to encourage an interactive partnership between government and industry in dentistry to enhance access.