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Dr. Touger-Decker is Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences in the UMDNJ School of Health Related Professions (SHRP) and Professor and Director of the Nutrition Division in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences at the New Jersey Dental School (NJDS). She completed her BS in Clinical Dietetics and the Coordinated Dietetics Program at New York State University College at Buffalo and became a registered dietitian (RD) in 1978. She received her MA and PhD degrees in Clinical Nutrition from New York University.

Dr. Touger-Decker has been an innovative leader in dietetics education for over 25 years. Her accomplishments in dietetic education include the development in 2003 of a practice doctorate in dietetics, the first in the nation. This program has students from the U.S., Europe and Asia. She is also the director of the web-based MS in Clinical Nutrition program for R.D.s with students from 23 states in the U.S. and the Advanced Practice Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) at UMDNJ. In 1996 she developed the nationally recognized hands on physical assessment course for dietitians: Applied Physiology for Dietetic Professionals, an example of her innovative role in integrating 'upskilling' into dietetic education.

She is also a leader in nutrition and dental education. At NJDS she has developed the Division of Nutrition in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences overseeing clinical and didactic nutrition courses in the pre and post doctoral programs where she also provides medical nutrition therapy and oversees the nutrition screening and referral program in the Oral Medicine Clinic.

Her research interests include nutrition and oral diseases, oral manifestations of systemic disease, and nutrition education of dietetics and dental students and practitioners. She recently completed an American Heart Association funded grant focusing on a Diet and Physical Activity worksite wellness program here at UMDNJ. Her research experience includes educational technology grants focused on teaching physical assessment using technology and geriatrics, nutrition and oral diseases. Other research has included nutrition education of dental students, risk factors for nutrition in oral health, and nutrition and oral diseases with an emphasis on oral manifestations of systemic diseases. Dr Touger-Decker has supervised MS student thesis projects, doctoral dissertations and doctoral student outcomes research projects.

Dr. Touger-Decker has been involved in service activities on the University, state and national level. She was the founding acting director of the Institute for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and is the founding director of the Institute for Nutrition Interventions. She is currently a member of the Commission on Dietetic Registration and past president and current councilor of the IADR Nutrition Research group, has served as a delegate for the New Jersey Dietetic Association and has held several elected and appointed positions within the American Dietetic Association.

She is recognized as a speaker internationally, has published over 30 papers in peer reviewed journals, numerous book chapters, newsletter articles and is the primary author of the 2005 book: *Nutrition in Oral Medicine* published by Humana Press. She is on the editorial board of *Topics in Clinical Nutrition* and a section editor for *The Journal of the American Dental Association*. Dr. Touger-Decker has received several awards including the American Dietetics Association Medallion Award and excellence in education awards from the American Dietetic Association Foundation and the American Society for Clinical Nutrition.

Representative Publications

1. Winkler MF, Wetle T, Smith C, Maillet J, Touger-Decker R. An Exploration of Quality of Life and the Experience of Living with Home Parenteral Nutrition. . *J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. Accepted 2009, anticipated publication late 2009.
2. Touger-Decker R. Advanced dietetic practice commentary. *Topics in Clinical Nutrition* 2009; 24: 176-180.
3. Brody RA, Byham-Gray L, Touger-Decker R. A review of characteristics of graduates in the allied health and nursing professions. Entry level and advanced practice. *Topics in Clinical Nutrition* 2009; 24: 181-192.
4. Sack S, Rigassio Radler D, Mairella KK, Touger-Decker R, Khan H. Physical Therapists' Attitudes, Knowledge, and Practice Approaches Regarding People Who Are Obese. *Physical Therapy* 2009; 89: 804-815.
5. Matarese LE, Dvorchik I, Costa G, Bond GJ, Koritsky DA, Ferraris RP, Touger-Decker R, O'Sullivan-Maillet JK, Abu-Elmagd, KM. Pyridoxal-5'-phosphate deficiency after intestinal and multivisceral transplantation. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2009 89: 204-209.
6. Winkler MF, Wetle T, Smith C, Maillet J, Touger-Decker R. Relationships among home parenteral nutrition, food and eating, and quality of life. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2009;33:230-231.
7. Davidson TE, Touger-Decker R. Chemopreventive role of fruits and vegetables in oropharyngeal cancer. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice* 2009, 24 (2): 250-260.
8. Munoz N, Touger-Decker R, Byham Gray L, O'Sullivan Maillet J. Effect of an oral health assessment education program on nurses' knowledge and patient care practices in skilled nursing facilities. *Spec Care Dentist* 2009; 29:179-185.
9. Thelan B, Byham-Gray L, Touger-Decker R, O'Sullivan-Maillet J, Khan H. Survey of current job functions of renal dietitians. *Journal of Renal Nutrition* 2009. 19(6):450-461.
10. Tatum C, Touger-Decker R, Brody R, Byham-Gray L, O'Sullivan-Maillet J. Perceived needs for graduate level clinical nutrition education for registered dietitians. *Topics in Clinical Nutrition*. 2008; 23: 320-332.
11. Touger-Decker R, O'Sullivan-Maillet J, Byham-Gray L, Stoler F. Wellness in the Workplace: A 12-week wellness program in an academic health sciences center. *Topics in Clinical Nutrition*. 2008. 23(3):244-51.
12. Karpinski K, Touger-Decker R. Antioxidants and Asthma: A case report and review of the evidence. *Topics in Clinical Nutrition*. 2008. 23(3):259-67
13. Brody R, Touger-Decker R. An evidence-based approach to the nutritional management of head injury. *Topics in Clinical Nutrition*. 2008. 23(1):3-12.
14. Parker AR, Byham-Gray L, Touger-Decker R, O'Sullivan Maillet J, Rigassio-Radler D. Impact of evidence based practice modules on perceptions, attitudes and knowledge of evidence-based practice among members of the dietitians in nutrition support and renal dietitians dietetic practice groups. Renal Nutrition Forum. 2008; 27: 1-10.

15. Rigassio Radler D, Touger-Decker R. The bits and bytes to advanced graduate degree programs. Nutrition in Clinical Practice. 2007; 22(6):647-652.
16. Langevin D, Kwiatkowski C, McKay MG, O'Sullivan-Maillet J, Touger-Decker R, Smith J, Perlman A. Evaluation of diet quality and weight status of children from a low socioeconomic urban environment supports "at risk" classification. Journal of the American Dietetic Association.2007; 107(11):1973-1977.
17. Touger-Decker R, Mobley C. Position of the American Dietetic Association: Oral health and nutrition. Journal of the American Dietetic Association. 2007; 107(8):1418-1428.
18. Buckley L, O'Sullivan-Maillet J, Touger-Decker R, Von Hagen S. Empowerment of Registered Dietitians who work in clinical positions. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 2007; 22(1):9-19.
19. Touger-Decker R. Physical assessment skills for dietetics practice: The past, the present and recommendations for the future. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 2006; 21(3):190-198.
20. Touger-Decker R. Obesity: It's everybody's crisis. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 2006; 21(2):95-100.
21. Rigassio Radler D, Touger-Decker R. Nutrition screening in oral health. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 2005; 20(3):181-188.
22. Touger-Decker R. Nutrition and oral health in older adults. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 2005; 20(3):211-218.
23. Green DM, Maillet JO, Touger-Decker R, Byham-Gray L, Matheson P. Functions Performed by Level of Practice of Registered Dietitian Members of the Diabetes Care and Education Dietetic Practice Group. Journal of The American Dietetic Association. 2005; 105(8):1280-1284.
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25. Touger-Decker R. Advanced practice degree options: Practice doctorates in dietetics. Journal of The American Dietetic Association. 2004; 104(9):1456-1458.
26. Huhmann M, Touger-Decker R, Byham-Gray L, O'Sullivan-Maillet J, Von Hagen S. Comparison of dysphagia screening by a registered dietitian in acute stroke patients to speech language pathologist's evaluation. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 2004;19(3):239-249.
27. Touger-Decker R. Dannon Institute Award Lecture: Nutrition in dental and medical education: Innovation through curriculum integration. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2004; 79(2): 198-203.
28. Mackle T, Touger-Decker R, O'Sullivan Maillet J, Holland, B. Registered Dietitians' use of physical assessment parameters in practice. . Journal of The American Dietetic Association. 2003; 103(12):1632-8.
29. Touger-Decker R, van Loveren C. Sugars and oral health. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2003; 78 (suppl):881S-92S.

30. Touger-Decker R. Clinical and laboratory assessment of nutrition status. Dental Clinics of North America. 47(2):259-278, 2003.
31. Touger-Decker R. Developing a continuum for lifelong learning. Topics in Clinical Nutrition. 17(3): (June) 1-9, 2002.
32. Raphael K, Marbach J, Touger-Decker R. Dietary Fiber Intake in Patients with Myofascial Face Pain. Journal of Pain, 16(1):39-47, 2002.
33. Touger-Decker R, Barracato J, O'Sullivan-Maillet J. (2001). Nutrition education in health professions programs: A survey of dental, physician assistant, nurse practitioner and nurse-midwifery programs. Journal of The American Dietetic Association, 101(1):63-69.
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35. Touger-Decker R. (1998). Oral Manifestations of Nutrient Deficiencies. Mt. Sinai J Med, 65 (5,6): 355-361.