



Florida Health Grand Rounds Presenter Bio

**Assessing the Oral Health Status of Three
Indigenous Communities in Ecuador
February 12, 2019 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST.
Presented by Denice Curtis DDS, DHSc, MPH**



Dr. Denice Curtis is originally from Quito, Ecuador where she earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Central University in 1981. In 1994, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and obtained a masters' degree in Public Health with honors at the University of Kansas, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. In 2010 she earned a doctor degree in Health Sciences at Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale-Davie, Florida, with an emphasis on Global Health.

Dr. Curtis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at the University of West Florida (UWF) where she teaches Biostatistics, Global Health and Internship I and II.

Previously she worked for seven years as the Chief Quality Officer for the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU)

where she was responsible for managing and implementing several clinical quality programs, and providing direction and guidance to the clinical area.

She worked for six years as an epidemiologist both for chronic and infectious diseases for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She coordinated and provided 18 training sessions in epidemiology and public health surveillance to the public health and medical community in Kansas.

While in Ecuador Dr. Curtis worked 10 years for UNICEF-Ecuador as a program officer, where she was responsible for writing and monitoring grants provided by donors. She also conducted community health assessments in rural communities and organized a lay health volunteer network for a bi-national project between Ecuador and Peru.

Dr. Curtis is interested in conducting research in the dental and health policy fields. She was a contributor for the Quality Chapter of the Operations Manual for Health Center Oral Health Programs published by the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) and through an agreement with UWF and the [University of San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador](#), conducted an assessment of the status of oral health in three Ecuadorean communities. She uses Bloom's taxonomy to promote active learning and is applying Quality Matters (QM) standards to her classes to ensure her students enjoy the learning experience.