

MEET DR. LEONARD BRENNAN, DMD



Dr. Leonard Brennan, DMD, serves as the Geriatric Training Lead at the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders. He is Co-Director of Harvard School of Dental Medicine's Geriatric Fellowship Program and is a part-time lecturer in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology.

We asked Dr. Brennan where his inspiration comes from and why he is so committed to providing exceptional care to older adults.

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Growing up, my grandparents were the storytellers, the wise elders and holders of history. I learned about the immigration of our family from Europe, their struggles and fights for freedom, and their life successes and failures.

The tales read like a Rudyard Kipling Novel. When my grandfather was 99, he encouraged me to live a life that collects memories, seeks education and serves others.

In February of 1963, when I was only 10 years old, I clearly remember the words of President John F. Kennedy on healthy aging: “It is not enough for a great nation merely to have added new years to life. Our objective must also be to add new life to those years.”

This statement made a deep impression on me. My career in healthcare has been paved through the wisdom of my family and the words from President Kennedy. This winding path includes 40-plus years of family dental practice, teaching, research, home visits, and hospice care.

Listening to the wisdom of seniors is still my greatest source of learning and entertainment.

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Dr. Leonard Brennan has practiced general dentistry in Portland, Maine for more than thirty years. He is the Director of MOTIVATE (Maine Oral Team-Based Initiative: Vital Access to Education) and a member of the team collaborating on the Nurse Practitioner-Dentist initiative with Northeastern University.