

## **Harvest in the City**

### **School of Dentistry – Ethics Elective Case**

Faculty: Beemsterboer, OHSU, Oregon

You are a new dentist in an established clinic in a large urban area that has patients from many different immigrant groups. To accommodate these patients and facilitate treatment, the practice employs several interpreters and dental assistants from this community. One day, the interpreter for a new family comes to you concerned about the three children who she is interviewing for your next three appointments that afternoon. The family was referred from a local church which has been helping a number of Polish immigrant families in the community. The children seem healthy, well-adjusted and pleasant but have obvious serious dental problems. The oldest child, nine year old Agnieszka has anterior decay across all her maxillary teeth and the youngest, three year old Sophie has only black stubs for teeth.

The mother is also pleasant and very caring for her children. She invites you to their church for the Dozynki Festival, a feast and a dance to celebrate the end of the harvest and talks about what she would like to cook for you and the nice people in the office. The interpreter tells you that you should inform child protective services because of this high level of neglect. After your examination of the three children, you too are very concerned about the level of dental disease you have observed as they fit the definition of dental neglect in your state.