



Pitt Dental Medicine Update

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High School Students Take a Glimpse Into Dental School

Nearly 20 eleventh grade high school students recently visited the School of Dental Medicine during the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Healthcare. On July 13th, the students listened to Dr. Wilbert Milligan speak about careers in dentistry. The lecture was cut short due to a power outage which later shut down the school. Dr. Milligan said a number of the students were disappointed because they wanted to learn more about dentistry and the school. Students who expressed an interest in dentistry have been invited to return on July 25th for a presentation and pizza party.

On July 20th, nearly 50 9th and 10th grade high school students attended the Summer Health Career Academy (SCHA) organized by Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The group listened to a presentation on careers in dentistry by Dr. Deb



SCHA student in Simulation Clinic.

Studen-Pavlovich and first professional students and residents taught them how to place sealants on typodont teeth in the Pediatric Dentistry Clinic. The purpose of the annual academy is to prepare students for health careers in rural and urban underserved communities.

First-Ever Dental DNA Registry to Open Soon

Dr. Alexandre Vieira is making final preparations for the opening of the School of Dental Medicine DNA Registry which is anticipated for August 1st. The DNA Registry will combine clinical data and DNA samples of willing patients at the SDM clinic. According to Dr. Vieira, the registry will be the first of its kind world-wide. Patients of the clinic will be presented with the opportunity to participate in research at the school by providing a sample to the DNA Registry. Saliva samples will be collected and stored in specially designed containers to later be transferred to freezers located on the sixth floor.

The School of Dental Medicine is in the process of hiring a manager to maintain the registry's database, biological cells and DNA samples. The registry will be located in the lower level in rooms B21 A and B.

Upcoming Events



Dental Dash 5 K

**October 7, 2006
Frick Park**

Sponsored by Crest



**Dental Alumni
Association
Homecoming Event**

**October 20, 2006
Dave & Buster's at the
Waterfront**

**Dental Alumni
Association Annual
Business Meeting and
Continuing Dental
Education Course**

**October 21, 2006
Edward J. Forrest
Continuing Education
Center**

Reminder:

**Sponsors needed
for the
White Coat Ceremony**

([click here](#) to request
a sponsorship form)

Sponsorship forms must be
received by August 1, 2006.

Dean's Summer Scholarship Program

The recipients of the 2006 Dean's Summer Scholarship Program at the School of Dental Medicine are incoming students Mr. Nicholas Callahan, Mr. Pieter Heemstra and Mr. Matthew Karski. Each student is paired with a mentor: Mr. Callahan is involved with genetics research under Dr. Alexandre Vieira's guidance, Mr. Heemstra and Mr. Karski are working in tissue engineering research under Dr. Charles Sfeir and Dr. Mark Mooney respectively.

Nine incoming first professional students applied to the program which supports students' research during the summer months prior to their first year in dental school. At the completion of their first year, the students will present their findings during the Annual Spring Research Symposium.

Mr. Callahan hails from Wilkes Barre, Pa and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Mr. Callahan will be conducting research in tooth agenesis based on findings from Dr. Vieira's paper titled "MSX1, PAX9, and TGFA Contribute to Tooth Agenesis in Humans" which received the William J. Gies Award for Clinical Research in March.

Mr. Heemstra is a native of Naselle, WA and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Heemstra will be contributing to Dr. Charles Sfeir's ongoing experiments in pursuit of biologically regenerating dentin. More specifically, Mr. Heemstra will be trying to isolate and characterize stem cells from the tooth.

Mr. Karski comes from New Castle, Pa and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Karski will be working on a project titled, "Postmastectomy seroma prevention using TissueGlue." The project will test an alternative approach to prevent seroma formation.



Mr. Nicholas Callahan



Mr. Pieter Heemstra



Mr. Matthew Karski

Reception Honoring Retiring Faculty



Top from left: Dr. Teh-Hsing Chiu, Dr. Kenneth Mitro, Dr. C. Richard Bennett; **Bottom from left:** Dr. Edward Braun, Dr. Joseph Brungo, Dr. Angelo Cipullo; **Not pictured:** Dr. Marc Samuels

On June 28th, faculty and staff bid farewell to six faculty members who retired in June, and one who will retire in August, at a reception held in room 402. Over 60 guests attended and reminisced as fond memories were shared. Refreshments were served and guests lingered to congratulate the retirees following the presentation.

To print Pitt Dental Medicine Update, open the Adobe PDF attachment. For questions, comments or suggestions, e-mail Kate Beard, Communications Specialist, at keb70@dental.pitt.edu.