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University of  
Pittsburgh

School of Dental Medicine

**ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**  
September 2020



**Pitt Dental Medicine is Leading the Way to Develop  
Cutting-Edge Therapies**



Congratulations to University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Associate Dean, Dr. Charles Sfeir, and the outstanding advanced team at the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration for being leaders of the Michigan-Pittsburgh-Wyss Regenerative Medicine (MPWRM) Resource Center. The MPWRM Resource Center received more than \$31

million in federal funding to transform dental, oral, and craniofacial research into regenerative therapies.

"Our innovation has resulted in new and unique technologies developed by the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration members."—Charles Sfeir, DDS, PhD, Pitt Dental Medicine Associate Dean for Research, Chair of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry.

[Read more.](#)

## Dean's Town Hall

**Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020**  
**7 – 8 p.m. EDT via Zoom Meeting**

### **Prosthodontics at Pitt Dental Medicine featuring Dr. Thomas Kunkel**

Hosted by Dean Costello

Hear about what's new with the undergraduate curriculum at the school, including digital dentistry, along with some insight about the graduate residency including a short presentation by one of our third year residents Dr. Paul Kukunas.

To register, please email Teresa Cumpston at [tec39@pitt.edu](mailto:tec39@pitt.edu).

## 26th Annual T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020**  
**8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT (4CE hours)**

Being held by Live Webinar this year:

"The New Wellness Approach to Dentistry: Everything You Need to Change the Way You Educate, Motivate, and Care for Your Patients"

**Tuition:** Dentist \$75/Auxiliary \$50

[Go to course calendar to register](#) for this lecture.

## Alumni Feature: Where Are They Now?

### **Dr. Shirwa Hassan** **DMD 2013, Endodontics resident 2021**

I love endodontics. I did as a student, I did for the past few years as practicing dentist, and I still do as a current resident in the Department of Endodontics. I attended Pitt Dental Medicine for my DMD and residency education because Pitt is a school that inspires me. I was inspired by how much interest and effort they show when the faculty select candidates. I was energized by how involved all members of the faculty, staff, and students were in making us feel welcome – what we all call the Pitt Dental



Medicine Family. I am excited to be part of an institution with great academic history. Pitt was what I hoped a dental school to be – a mix of rigor, warmth, and solid footing in academia and clinical development. When I completed my DMD education, I felt as well prepared for a career as I could be. No matter what dental school you attend, there will be a significant post-graduation learning curve as you face the reality of a dental professional. Ultimately, Pitt Dental Medicine gave me all of the tools I would need—every opportunity to excel and learn from faculty of all levels of expertise are at a student’s disposal —my own drive to excel drove me into clinical and didactic excellence. I was in private practice for 6 years before returning to Pitt for my residency, and I know that I will be continually learning and immersing myself in the dental profession. Hands down and without question, my greatest accomplishment since earning my DMD was convincing my better half to foolishly spend her life with me. Additionally, along with my supportive and loving wife, we are the parents of two young children and nothing else compares.

## Plan to Join Pitt’s “Stay at Home(coming)”

Homecoming 2020 is approaching, and the weekend of **Oct. 23 - 24** will be filled with virtual activities that will entertain and enlighten. Plan to join us from a distance to connect with Pitt Dental alumni and fellow classmates. Enjoy a continuing education lecture, virtual class reunions, and special programming from the comfort and safety of your home.

### Continuing Education Course

**Friday, Oct. 23, 2020**  
**1 – 4 p.m. EDT**

3-CE hour live webinar:

**“Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders in Your Dental Practice: Are you Screening your Patients per the ADA Policy Statement?”**

John H. Tucker, DMD, DABDSM, DICOI (DMD '82)  
Private Practice - Erie, PA  
Diplomate of The American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine

**Tuition:** Dentist \$95/Auxiliary \$50

**Pitt SDM Alumni Discount Tuition:** Dentist \$45/Auxiliary \$35

For more information on this course, as well as all of our webinars and self-study online courses, and to register.

[Visit our course calendar here.](#)

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## Exercises for Dental Professionals

**Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020**  
**10 – 10:30 a.m. EDT**

Dental professionals are prone to neck, shoulder, and back pain due to the nature of their work. Join members from Be Fit Pitt, powered by the Healthy Lifestyle Institute, for a 30 minute webinar that introduces exercises and stretches to target your muscles that might experience career-related pain and injury.

[Register here.](#)

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## Additional Stay at Home(coming) Information

### Dental Medicine Events

A full list of events and information for the **School of Dental Medicine** will be posted to [dental.pitt.edu/alumniweekend](http://dental.pitt.edu/alumniweekend) soon.

### Zoom Class Reunions

Interested in a Zoom Class Reunion or have questions for the Alumni and Development Office? Contact Teresa Cumpston at [tec39@pitt.edu](mailto:tec39@pitt.edu) or Matt Iannazzo at [miannazzo@pitt.edu](mailto:miannazzo@pitt.edu).

### Pitt Alumni Association Events

[Check the Pitt Alumni Association website](#) for campus-wide Stay at Home(coming) events.

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