

A Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

To say dental education is not what it once was is an astute observation of the obvious. In the early 1900's, when the Geis and Flexner reports changed the teaching of dentistry and medicine, until today, there has been a progressive evolution. However, the last 10 years have proven to be the most significant to date. Not only has the scientific database exploded with the identification of the human genome, but clinical sciences have been radically influenced by pursuing evidence rather than accepted tradition as the basis for decision making, the incorporation of human interaction and simulation before students deal directly with patients, and the ever broadening appreciation of the importance of professionalism and ethics. The day of "learning all one needs to know" in school is long gone, if it ever existed. Lifelong learning is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary, and the importance of synthesizing decisions based on available facts is essential. Consider not only the radical changes in the biomedical sciences, but the ever evolving new biomaterials, the field of engineering tissue for human integration, and information management. Today's teachers of dental medicine are scientists and clinicians who are "at the top of their game" not what may have been what was once considered a preretirement occupation. As this magazine will show, these changes are all part of the progress we are experiencing at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

Change represents a circle of going as well as coming. This magazine also highlights the career of one of our most influential faculty members who has impacted generations of dentists. My dear friend and heavily relied upon Senior Associate Dean, Dennis Ranalli, announced his retirement effective July 1, 2012. Dr. Ranalli is one who has demonstrated devotion to teaching and his deep and consistent commitment to the School of Dental Medicine, its faculty, staff, and students. He represents the ability to adapt and transform from "the way we did it" to "the way we will do it." It is hard to express my deep gratitude to Dennis for his leadership by simultaneously making dental education at the School of Dental Medicine contemporary, while maintaining a strong sense of history and tradition.

This edition of Pitt Dental Medicine will show how the school is continuing on its steep, upward trajectory in research, teaching, and service, and how this is being achieved. It will also reflect the circle of the progressive educational experience as it is embodied in one individual.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Braun, DMD '73, PhD '77
Professor and Dean



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Curriculum Innovations at the School of Dental Medicine

In 2009, Pitt Dental Medicine reported that the clinical curriculum was being “revamped.” Now, three years later, Pitt Dental Medicine is giving a follow-up report of those changes and how they have progressed. The pages that follow will provide an overview of what is being taught at the SDM, why it is important for the students, and the innovative ways it is being taught. The curriculum revisions were designed to make an impact not only on what students are learning, but also how they are learning and retaining information.

The SDM curriculum was restructured to reflect a “Themes and Threads Matrix,” which incorporates three “threads” which are theoretically woven into four themes, one for each year of dental school.

The four themes are:

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (1st year)
- Diagnosis and Treatment Planning (2nd year)
- Interdisciplinary Case Management (3rd year)
- General Practice Opportunities (4th year)

The three threads that are emphasized throughout the four themes are:

- Professionalism
- Lifelong learning
- Synthesis

Considerably the most significant revision to the curriculum was the incorporation of earlier clinical experiences for students. In order to implement earlier clinical experiences, the curriculum was restructured to have students begin seeing patients in the summer of their first year, whereas, prior to 2009, students did not begin seeing patients until their third year.

“We wanted students to be able to apply what they were learning in the classroom more closely to the time that they learned it,” said Jean O’Donnell, DMD, chair of the curriculum committee, associate dean, Office of Education and Curriculum. “With the revised curriculum there is no longer a gap between when students learn a skill and when they get to practice it.”

Dr. O’Donnell explained that by integrating the matrix into the curriculum, it ensures that the students have repetition of the content, because each year’s theme was designed to build properly on the previous year’s work.

“By working with the main disciplines and incorporating the three main threads, it helps to make sure that the students don’t learn a skill and then forget it the following year,” said Dr. O’Donnell. “It forces them to

Clinical Curriculum Being Revamped

A number of articles recently published in dental education journals have urged schools to re-evaluate their curricula to ensure that students are being prepared to address the rapid advances in science and technology as well as the increasingly complex medical and dental needs of patients. The School of Dental Medicine responded to that call, first by revamping its basic science educational program a few years ago.

Now that this updated basic science portion of its curriculum has been implemented, the SDM has turned its attention to overhauling the clinical component of its educational program.

“We’re getting guidance and input from a number of sources in this project,” said Assistant Professor and Vice Chair of Restorative Dentistry and Comprehensive Care Dr. Jean O’Donnell, who chairs the Curriculum Committee. “Our goals were shaped in part by the outcomes generated in the 2007 faculty retreat and from the dean’s vision for the school.”

The four goals are as follows:

- early clinic exposure
- community experience for all seniors
- implant experience for all students
- integration of clinical and basic sciences

“As the committee moved forward, we identified the importance of having support and input from all disciplines,” Dr. O’Donnell said.

Accordingly, the Curriculum Committee includes representation as designated by each chair from all departments. In addition, a curriculum development administrator, Ms. Young In Yoo, was hired to help facilitate the development and implementation of the curriculum revisions. Also, Dr. Joanne Nicoli, an instructional design expert from the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, was asked to sit on the committee as a consultant along with Mr. John Siegel, the SDM’s liaison to the Health Sciences Library System.

The information-gathering stage of curriculum development also included student surveys, which identified a desire for earlier and more active patient care experiences, and faculty interviews that indicated that application of knowledge from classroom to clinic was not to the desired level. Further exploration of the current curriculum found appropriate content but discrepancies with sequencing, timing, and redundancy.

Based on all of this information, the committee constructed a framework with themes, or goals, for each year:
Year 1: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
Year 2: Diagnosis and Treatment Planning
Year 3: Interdisciplinary Case Management
Year 4: General Practice Opportunities

In addition to the goals for each year, the committee identified concepts that should be emphasized throughout all four years, citing three particular threads that can be woven throughout the curriculum.



The first is “professionalism,” which will include everything from ethics to consideration of the social and behavioral factors that impact patient care.

The second thread is “lifelong learning.” This thread recognizes that students cannot possibly gain all the knowledge they will ever need in their four years of dental school alone, but the SDM can provide them with the tools to learn throughout their careers. This thread includes increasing students’ critical thinking skills and use of evidence-based dental medicine in the care of their patients.

The final thread is “synthesis,” the synthesis of clinical and basic science concepts. It emphasizes basic science concepts in the clinical care of patients throughout the clinical years.

“The framework that we’ve developed will be tremendously valuable in providing structure for the curricular changes and guidelines for evaluating the effectiveness of those changes,” said Curriculum Committee Co-Chair, Dr. Heiko Spallek, who is an assistant professor in Dental Public Health and Information Management.

After the revisions are complete, ongoing examination of the curriculum is essential, so the Curriculum Committee has developed methods to accomplish that goal as well. An intranet-based Curriculum Management Tool (CMT) will allow the curriculum to be viewed from different angles and drilled down as far as individual lectures. The CMT, which will be pilot-tested this semester, will enable more systematic curriculum management and allows instructors of courses that touch on or incorporate similar materials potentially to collaborate.

Additionally, a proposed three-pronged course evaluation process will achieve a comprehensive assessment of teaching effectiveness that draws on content review and instructional soundness as well as the student evaluations that provided the majority of course feedback in the past.

The finish line is near, at least for this phase of the curriculum refinement. The first year will be rolled out as the incoming class of 2013 begins its coursework this fall, with the consecutive years integrated as those students complete their predoctoral education.

Above: “Clinical Curriculum Being Revamped,” article from the Winter/Spring 2009 issue of Pitt Dental Medicine

comprehend and retain the information so they are able to readily apply it in their other courses.”

Dental school characteristically is very clinical, but during the revision process the curriculum committee looked not just at the clinical content, but also at the innovative teaching methods to most effectively teach the material.

“Information management is not necessarily about looking at the content, but analyzing the teaching method and how the students are learning,” explained Dr. Heiko Spallek, associate dean of the Office of Faculty Development and Information Management.

The SDM has incorporated technology and new methods of instruction into the curriculum to ensure that the dental students are learning and acquiring skills in the best, most efficient way.

SDM RANKS 6TH IN NIDCR GRANTS FUNDED TO U.S. DENTAL INSTITUTIONS

NIDCR Grants to U.S. Dental Institutions
University of Pittsburgh

Rank - 6										\$6,260,761
Rank - 12										\$4,694,478
Rank - 16									\$3,261,491	
Rank - 13									\$3,795,400	
Rank - 17									\$3,050,028	
Rank - 16									\$3,372,723	
Rank - 27									\$2,290,222	
Rank - 25									\$2,399,960	
Rank - 26									\$1,775,222	
Rank - 29									\$1,181,857	
	FY-02	FY-03	FY-04	FY-05	FY-06	FY-07	FY-08	FY-09	FY-10	FY-11
	Schools=48	Schools=50	Schools=46	Schools=47	Schools=44	Schools=46	Schools=45	Schools=47	Schools=48	Schools=49

The SDM has ranked 6th out of 62 accredited dental schools for FY2011 in National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Grants to U.S. Dental Institutions. This marks the first year that the dental school has ranked in the top ten. In 2002, the SDM was ranked 29th with NIDCR funding of \$1.18 million, and now the SDM is ranked 6th with NIDCR funding of \$6.26 million. The SDM's ongoing commitment to innovative research is reflected by the rise in ranking over the past 10 years.

The SDM is ranked among highly respected prestigious universities in the top ten. The order of rank is as follows: the University of Michigan (1), Forsyth Institute (2), University of California San Francisco (3), New York University (4), University of California Los Angeles (5), University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (7), University of Washington (8), University of Rochester (9), and University of Florida (10).

In addition to the SDM's significant ranking, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that the University of Pittsburgh now receives the third-largest amount of federal research money among public universities, and the fifth-largest amount among all schools. According to the National Science Foundation, in fiscal year 2010, which ended in October, Pitt attracted \$594.7 million in federal research money and totaled \$822.5 million in total research expenditures. The two public universities that pulled in more were the University of Washington, with \$829.9 million in federal research money, and the University of Michigan, with \$747.8 million. The private institutions that outranked Pitt were Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, which led all schools with \$1.7 billion in funding, and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, with \$642.2 million in federal research money.

In light of these recent rankings, two national research conferences have chosen the University of Pittsburgh as a venue for their fall 2012 meetings:

The Temporomandibular Joint Disorder (TMJ) Bioengineering Conference will be held September 20-23, 2012 at the University Club. This meeting will be a unique opportunity for bioengineers, clinicians, and scientists to discuss the challenges presented by temporomandibular joint disorders, and to devise strategies to address those challenges. For more information about the upcoming conference visit www.tmjconference.com or contact Alejandro J. Almarza, Ph.D., at aja19@pitt.edu.

The 5th AADR Fall Focused Symposium: Translational Genetics - Advancing Fronts for Craniofacial Health, will be held November 16-17, 2012 at Scaife Hall. Dr. Vieira will serve as a moderator for the first session which will cover "Rare and Common Single Gene Disorders." For more information and a preliminary schedule of events, please visit: <http://www.aadronline.org>.

EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY



Teaching students the skills to stay at the forefront of the dental profession

“*E*vidence is constantly changing,” said Dr. Robert Weyant, associate dean of the Office of Dental Public Health and Community Outreach, “If you are not keeping pace with the current best evidence, you may not be giving the best possible treatment to your patients.”

The SDM is committed to teaching students how to provide the best possible dental care to their patients in the clinic and in their future practices. In order to provide the highest level of care, dentists must always be aware of the best treatment programs and methods available. To teach students how to seek out this information and apply it, the SDM presents two courses in Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) and also integrates it into their clinical experiences to ensure practice, comprehension, and retention.

The SDM teaches EBD in two parts. Dental students take the first course, Evidence-Based Dentistry 1 (EBD1), in the first semester of their first year, and Evidence-Based Dentistry 2 (EBD2) in the second semester. EBD1 introduces concepts as a foundation for developing high-quality evidence-based treatment decisions. The course presents quantitative thinking concepts and helps develop skills related to EBD such as asking clinical questions, searching for relevant evidence, assessing quality of evidence, and using evidence to assist

in clinical decision making.

The first skill students learn is how to write a specific clinical question in order to find an answer. Clinical questions are not to be broad or general, but straight to the point. An example would be: “Is drug ‘A’ or drug ‘B’ more effective?” These types of questions are what students will encounter daily in the clinic, so the goal is to help them frame the question in a way that they can quickly search for information.

The second skill students learn, how to search for relevant and high-quality evidence, is taught with the help of a library liaison to show the students a few main databases to use when searching for information to support their decisions. Once they have learned how to gather their information efficiently, students analyze the secondary sources and select which methods are applicable to their patient. The students are taught to use a hierarchy of evidence by referencing secondary sources that already have been recognized by other clinicians as high-quality methods. The expectation is that it should take no longer than 15 minutes for students to access and analyze the current best evidence. Therefore, if a search takes longer than 15 minutes, the students are not using their resources most efficiently.

The next step, assessing quality of evidence, is a crucial part of the EBD process. Quality of evidence

applies both to how legitimate the evidence is, and how it applies to an individual patient. Students are taught that EBD is a combination of the current best evidence, a dentist's expertise, and the patient's preferences. Those elements combined ensure that a dentist is giving high-quality recommendations to provide optimal patient care.

Finally, students are to use the evidence they have deemed applicable when choosing treatment options. They are expected to be competent in identifying, performing, and interpreting appropriate diagnostic procedures leading to both differential and definitive diagnoses. The goal is for students to provide patient care that emphasizes prevention of oral disease and supports the management of systemic and oral health.

The second course goes further in-depth about how to present and discuss treatment options with a patient or a responsible party. EBD2 expands on the concepts introduced in the first course by applying the principles to establish an evidence-based understanding of health promotion and disease prevention; the theme chosen for the first year of dental school. Students are assigned case scenarios and are expected to act as if the given case was their own patient. The intent is that students will look at the literature, examine the evidence, apply it to their case scenario, and then present their findings to the class. These cases are in place to prepare the students for the summer directly following their first year when they begin seeing patients in the adolescent clinic.

The assigned case scenarios focus on adolescent patients to help get the students thinking in terms of what they will be experiencing in the clinic. An example of a case scenario students could be given in class is a 15-year-old adolescent who smokes. Students assigned this case would be expected to find what information is available about the best way to intervene with adolescents to help them quit smoking. Once the students find the best program options for their case, they are to interpret the literature and apply it. For purposes of the class, students complete a write-up explaining their findings, and explain why they would recommend program "X" and not program "Y." If this were a patient in the clinic, the expectation would be for students to present a few treatment options and allow the patient to decide what they think would be the best fit for them.

The goal is for students to be comfortable with two things: asking questions when they are uncertain about the optimal approach to treating a particular patient,

and being efficient in finding the current best evidence to answer that question. In an effort to keep the students actively thinking in terms of EBD after their initial two courses, the faculty has integrated EBD into the third- and fourth-year clinical program. While working in the modules, students have to complete EBD worksheets for their individual patients. These worksheets walk the students through the same process learned previously, but are applied to actual patients.

"Our hope is that as our students graduate and move on, it is a thinking tool they will continue using in their private practice," said Dr. Weyant.

To help dentists in private practice readily access information, a resource that Dr. Weyant shares with his students and colleagues is the ADA Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry web site (www.ebd.ada.org). The web site provides the following: a database of over 1200 systematic reviews; critical summaries of systematic reviews; clinical recommendations and guidelines; and links to many other useful resources. The site is a

quick way to find a review, read the abstract, and decide if it is useful for the current patient. By providing summaries of the thousands of systematic reviews, the ADA site is a fast, easy, and rewarding approach to EBD. The more often dentists review the literature, the more experienced and familiar they will become with the current best evidence, and eventually EBD will become second nature in their daily practices.

"Traditionally, the hardest part of EBD is the unwillingness to change," said Dr. Weyant. "It seems that people feel it is inappropriate to do things differently than they have been doing it for years, which is the opposite of how we want them to feel."

To spread the word about EBD, the ADA has an annual EBD Champions Conference to recruit and train selected dental professionals throughout the United States to learn what EBD is and how to apply EBD principles and tools in clinical decision-making and then disseminate information about EBD to their colleagues. The concept of EBD is evolutionary and it is slowly changing the culture of dentistry. The hope for programs like the EBD Champions Conference is that if dentists are discussing EBD with their colleagues, the implementation of current evidence will become more common.

"Anytime it is clear that there is a better way to move forward, it should be utilized," said Dr. Weyant.

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- Dr. Weyant**

Ethics & Professionalism

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR ALL ASPECTS OF DENTISTRY

*H*ands-on technical skills are of high importance when providing dental care, but it is equally important that students also learn and practice “soft skills.” In other words, in addition to being hands-on, dentists must be able to practice in a professional, ethical, and legal manner. The SDM recognizes the importance of the “soft skills” and designed a course accordingly. The course, “Ethics and Professionalism,” presents students with a broad range of situations and factors they may encounter in the clinic. In the course, students learn how to apply ethical and legal standards in the provision of dental care to patients, and how to communicate effectively with patients from diverse cultural backgrounds. Teaching professionalism is an integral part of ensuring that the SDM graduates excellent, well-rounded students who are competent in all aspects of dentistry.

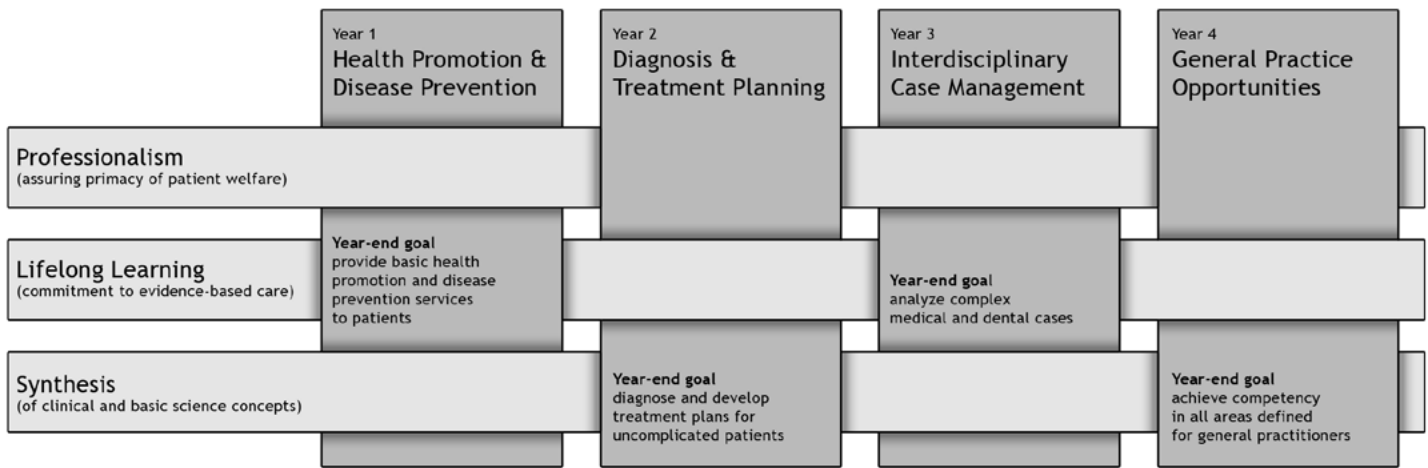
When the curriculum was revamped in 2009, the curriculum committee not only made professionalism its own course, but also assigned it as one of the three topics to be emphasized through all four years of dental school. The committee felt it was imperative to give students this foundational knowledge during the first-year of dental school because they begin to interact with patients early in their first semester. Starting the second week of school, first-year students spend a majority of their time observing and assisting upperclassmen in the clinic and then reflecting about their experiences in a journal. For this particular course, students are less focused on the actual treatment, but rather evaluating the patient-student interaction and noting if there were any ethical

or behavioral concerns. The journal allows students the time to reflect on the successful moments and consider if there is anything they would have done differently.

A large part of being able to effectively communicate with a patient is being aware of the potential cultural and socioeconomic factors that can vary from patient to patient. To gain an overall understanding, students learn about the prevalence of oral disease locally, nationally, and worldwide. They are taught what causes oral disease, and why it is more prevalent in areas that are more rural or underserved. In addition, students look at the many different factors that can impact a patient’s ability to access care. An example of a scenario students discuss is whether a mother can get to the dentist, and the possible access to care issues she might face, such as: lack of transportation; available times of public transportation; or access to childcare.

“We try to teach the students to be more sensitive to these situations,” said Jean O’Donnell, DMD, chair of the curriculum committee, associate dean, Office of Education and Curriculum. “Instead of being upset that a patient is late to their appointment, we ask the students to look at the bigger picture of what factors could have attributed to the patient being late for their appointment.”

In addition to cultural factors, students learn what the ethical standards are for a dentist, and how to apply them in a clinical situation. One of the first things students are asked to do in the course is to become familiar with the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (ADA Code) to acquire a comprehensive understanding of what



The above figure is the SDM’s “Themes and Threads Matrix” which reflects the structure of the curriculum. As shown above, professionalism is one of the designated three threads emphasized throughout all four years of dental school.

their responsibility is in different situations. One particular situation the course covers is the “impaired professional.” The instructors try to encourage the students to think about how they would respond in a situation if their superior came to work clearly impaired. Students discuss their thought process and what they would need to consider in making an ethical decision.

Additional ethical situations covered include: insurance fraud; inappropriate dentistry; and suspected patient abuse. It is imperative for students to know the ADA Code so that they can protect themselves and their future patients. The SDM tries to make students aware of the potential issues health care providers face so they are not caught off guard when they begin work in a dental practice.

In conjunction with the discussion of ethical situations, students are taught the legal aspects of dentistry. During the course, students have the opportunity to participate in a panel with an FBI agent, a state dental board member, and a lawyer to talk about the potential legal issues in dental practice, and to discuss past scenarios where there has been legal action taken against a dentist. This panel is helpful for students to discuss real-world experiences so they can learn the laws, potential situations to be aware of, and the possible implications of their actions.

Learning all of this information in one course early in the curriculum is essential and effective, but the curriculum committee also wanted to ensure that students have reinforcement of these fundamental skills in the four years that follow. To keep students active in their application of ethical, legal, and professional skills, the faculty integrates professionalism into other courses as well. Students continually are graded on their ability to correctly apply and exercise the ADA Code in their course work and in actual patient interactions. During the first and second year students are given hypothetical situations with built-in ethical dilemmas as case studies, and in their third and fourth year they are assigned their own patients and are expected to apply the ADA Code to those individual situations. The culmination of their skills comes in the fourth

year when they have their capstone event: the senior case presentation. Seniors are graded on their treatment, professional manner, and if they correctly addressed any necessary ethical considerations or dilemmas with their patients.

“The study of professionalism is not new to the curriculum, it has always been there and it has always been important,” said Dr. O’Donnell. “However, now we are emphasizing it further and giving students additional opportunities to practice in a supervised environment before they are out on their own.”

“The study of professionalism is not new to the curriculum, it has always been there and it has always been important.”
-Dr. O’Donnell



The Standardized Patient Program

The School of Dental Medicine has adopted a method of teaching that is widely used by medical schools and now is proving to be effective in dental schools as well. The Standardized Patient Program, coordinated through the Advanced Clinical Education Center and managed by the University of Pittsburgh Office of Medical Education, is being used by the SDM to teach students how to interact with patients. A Standardized Patient (SP) is an actor who has been trained to portray, in a consistent, standardized manner, a patient in a medical or dental situation. SPs learn a case and are interviewed and examined by students as though they were a patient in the dental office or clinic.

“The students have a protected place [the simulation clinic] to learn their hand skills,” said Dr. Polk, SDM faculty member and clinical psychologist. “The SP sessions serve the same purpose, but for patient interaction.”

The SP session topics are chosen to reflect the theme for each year. The four themes of the curriculum are: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (1st year); Diagnosis and Treatment Planning (2nd year); Interdisciplinary Case Management (3rd year); and General Practice Opportunities (4th year). In the first

year, students have three SP sessions: health history interviewing, empathy, and motivational interviewing. In the second year, there is one SP session that focuses on treatment planning. Third-year SP sessions focus on interacting with angry patients and how to handle mistakes and giving apologies. Currently, there are no SP sessions for fourth-year students, but administrators are discussing the implementation of an SP experience that would be used for evaluation instead of teaching. It would test a student’s ability to communicate effectively.

Facilitators for the SP sessions are faculty and residents, and both clinical and non-clinical faculty can participate. In preparation for the SP sessions, facilitators receive standardized training. Facilitators receive two types of training: general training on how the SP program works and didactic training on the assigned topic for the session. To ensure consistency, facilitators receive the same preparation materials as the students. This is an important part of training for SP facilitators because by studying the same materials assigned to students, they can have appropriate expectations for their students’ performance.

An SP session generally consists of a group of four or five dental students, one facilitator, and one SP. The session begins with the students reviewing the

scenario and skills to be practiced. Students then take turns interacting with the SP and carry out the “appointment” as if the SP were a patient in the clinic. Each student gets a chance to complete an entire “appointment.” Although one might expect the students not to learn anything after observing the first student, in fact, the repetition reinforces and enhances the learning experience.

For example, in the first-year session focused on motivational interviewing (a collaborative, person-centered form of guiding to elicit and strengthen motivation for change) the patient comes in complaining of lower jaw pain, and the students see radiographs that show widespread decay on multiple teeth in the patient’s mandible. The student shares this information with the patient and helps the patient identify factors causing the decay. Through answering questions from the student, the patient figures out that excess consumption of soda is a main cause of the decay. The student then uses motivational interviewing skills and techniques to discuss with the patient what dietary behavior changes would work best for the patient to prevent future decay.

When the student feels he or she has discussed the situation with the patient to the best of his or her ability, he or she receives feedback from his or her classmates. Once the student receives feedback from his or her peers, the student then asks the SP for feedback about the interaction. In relation to the motivational interviewing scenario, students may ask a question such as: “Do you feel I was encouraging you to change your behavior, or did you feel you were being given an order?” SPs will then answer the question while remaining in character.

Possibly the most valuable part of the SP experience is that the students are able to request a “time out” whenever they have a question or feel stuck. They can use this time out to ask for help from their peers about how to proceed with the patient appointment. The value of the SP experience lies in the fact that it takes place in a safe environment where students are free to make mistakes or ask questions if necessary.

Over the past year, the SDM has started using “E-Learning Modules” as a teaching tool in conjunction with the SP sessions. These E-Learning Modules, which are in video format, were created by the Office of Faculty Development and Information Management (FDIM) to help students prepare for the SP sessions. The FDIM currently has videos developed for all of the first- and second-year learning experiences, and is working on subsequent sessions. The basic behavioral strategies the SDM strives to teach the students are controllability and predictability. Controllability teaches the students to give the patient control over how the interaction will go. Predictability is foreshadowing each step of the appointment or treatment session so the patient can

anticipate what is going to happen.

When the videos were first being created, the instructors piloted them as a blind experiment. Without telling facilitators, Dr. Polk assigned half of her class the standard textbook approach, and the other half of the class was given the augmented, online video approach.

After the SP session with the students, who unbeknownst to the facilitators were assigned the video modality, the facilitators were shocked.

“Facilitators came into the de-briefing after the session and said ‘wow’ the students this week did so much better than the students last week,” said Dr. Polk. “After that, we knew it was essential to work more with the videos.”

The videos are set up as active learning modalities that show faculty members demonstrating the SP experience so that students have an idea of how to communicate with the patient. In addition to the video content, the E-Learning Modules include interactive tools, such as quizzes, to further engage the students. The learning concept is that a student will master a skill better if they can see an example. Students also get the opportunity to practice what they learn from the videos and lectures in class in the weeks leading up to their SP session.

“That’s how dental students learn,” said Dr. Polk. “Their whole approach to learning is the apprenticeship model where they watch, imitate what they watched to the best of their ability, and then receive feedback.”

Prior to the implementation of the SP program, faculty would teach students about patient experiences by lecturing. Like any lecture, students were able to listen and mentally prepare, but when it came time to interact with a patient, it is a totally different experience.

“It’s hard to lecture about how to do an interaction,” said Dr. Polk. “By showing students a video example of how to do an interaction, it is a richer, easier way to fully comprehend the process.”

The SDM has raised a lot of interest among other schools about integrating a SP program into their dental programs. Multiple faculty members have been asked to give presentations at national conferences, most recently, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) conference in Orlando, Florida in March.

“The value of the SP program is unquestionable,” said Dr. Polk. “There has been an overwhelming response from students wanting more SP sessions because they felt better prepared going into it.”

Photos on opposite page, clockwise: Mr. Jay Keenan, standardized patient; Ms. Lya Sharpley, third-year dental student; and Dr. Jean O’Donnell, associate dean office of education and curriculum, demonstrate an SP experience.

Changes to the National Board of Dentistry Exam

Effective January 1, 2012, the National Board of Dentistry Examinations (Part I, Part II, and Dental Hygiene) are Pass/Fail, and three new item types were introduced.

The new item types are multiple correct answers, extended matching, and ordering. They will be scored objectively with a well-defined scoring rubric for each item type. Responses on these new item types must match the scoring rubric exactly in order to get a score of "1" for the item. If there is no exact match, the score for the item will be "0". There is no partial credit.

For example, for an item with multiple correct answers and four options: A, B, C, and D, if the correct answers are B and D, both B and D and no other options must be selected to get a score of "1". Otherwise, the score for this item will be "0." The goal of these new item types is to ensure that students aren't just learning information through memorization. The new question formats require a deeper understanding of concepts.

NEW NBDE ITEM EXAMPLES

Multiple Correct Answers:

From the following list, select the items associated with candidosis:

- a. Small blisters
- b. White patches in the throat
- c. Parasitic in nature
- d. Bacterial
- e. Tinea pedis
- f. Fungal in nature
- g. Burning mouth
- h. Dyspareunia
- i. Bruxism
- j. Malabsorption syndrome
- k. Dry mouth
- l. Bacterial in nature

Extended Matching:

For each symptom listed below, select the correct disorder from the list provided.

Symptom

1. White patches easily removed with light abrasion
2. Buccal lesion with errthymatosus surface
3. Doral tongue carcinoma
4. Paterson-Kelly Syndrome
5. Abdominal pain, diarrhea, weight loss, fever
6. Multiple bluish-purple macules or plaques on lower extremities
7. Hairy Tongue

Ordering:

Order the citric cycle as it occurs. Match each letter with its proper sequence number.

pyruvic acid from glycolysis to:

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1. | a. Malic acid |
| 2. | b. Succinyl-CoA |
| 3. | c. Acetyl CoA |
| 4. | d. Fumaric acid |
| 5. | e. Succinc acid |
| 6. | f. Isocitric Acid |
| 7. | g. Oxaloacetic acid |
| 8. | h. a-Ketoglutaric acid |
| 9. | i. Citric Acid |

Disorder

- a. Squamous cell carcinoma
- b. Candidosis
- e. Syphillis
- f. Iron deficiency
- g. Crohn's disease
- h. Sjögren's syndrome
- i. Kaposi sarcoma

Examples provided by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations

Student Research

Increased Research Involvement for Dental Students

To further advance the SDM's vision "to be a leader in high-quality dental education, scientific discovery, and oral health care," the SDM has increased the amount of research involvement for students. Beginning with the class of 2015, all first-professional DMD students at the SDM will be engaged in research at some level. The majority of dental students are already involved in various types of research, however, this increased participation will present new opportunities for the students. Student research opportunities will include, but not be limited to, biomedical, translational, educational, epidemiologic, and clinical research. This increased focus on research is reflective of the SDM currently ranking sixth in national grant funding, and the University of Pittsburgh ranking third in federal research funding.

Twelfth Annual Spring Research Symposium

On May 15, the Twelfth Annual Spring Research Symposium took place at Scaife Hall. Students who recently participated in the Dean's Summer Research program presented their findings. Ms. Pei Ting Chao presented "Identifying and Appropriate Scaffold System with Fibrochondrocytes for Temporomandibular Joint Tissue Engineering," Mr. Marc Clayton presented, "Evaluation of Electronic Prescribing in Clinical Dentistry," and Ms. Hong Yuan Hsin presented "Genetic Susceptibility to Common Dental Traits."

The keynote speaker, Dr. John Timothy Wright, chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, UNC School of Dentistry, presented "Genes and Teeth: Diagnosis to Treatment." Faculty presentations included: "Wnt Inhibitors Limit Osteogenesis in the Embryonic Frontal Bone," by Heather Szabo-Rogers, PhD; "Genetic Environmental Factors in Oral Health Disparities," by Robert J. Weyant, DMD; and Deborah Polk, PhD, "So Many Interventions, How Do I Choose?"

Student Research Awards

Dr. Fayth Johnston was awarded the Thomas W. Braun Scholarship for Excellence in Master's Research.

Fourth-year dental student, Ms. Courtney Walter, was presented with the ADA Caulk/Dentsply Student Clinician Award. Ms. Walter will travel to the ADA Caulk/Dentsply Student Clinician Program at the ADA 162nd Annual Session in San Francisco in October to present her project, "Corpus Caliosum Shape in Cleft Palate: A Geometric Morphometric Analysis."

Mr. Shahryar Khaliq will compete in the Hinman Student Research Symposium.

Ms. Hong Yuan Hsin was awarded with the AADR Pittsburgh Chapter Student Research Award.



Second-year dental student, Ms. Barbara Graham, won third place in the basic science research category at the 52nd Annual ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Award Program and Reception on October 10, 2011. The awards program took place in Las Vegas, NV, during the 2011 ADA Annual Session.

Did you know?

The SDM has had nine students win the ADA Dentsply Student Clinician Award in the past 20 years, which is the most out of all other dental schools in the country.

School of Dental Medicine News



Fourth-year dental students Tyler Johansen (left) and Casey Bartosh pose for a picture during Feb. 3 GKAS events.

Tenth Annual Give Kids a Smile Day a Success

On Friday, February 3, 2012, the Student Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), pediatric dental residents, dental students, and dental hygiene students joined together to provide a wide range of dental services to underserved children in the Pittsburgh area. A total of 68 patients were able to have their teeth examined, cleaned, and radiographed if necessary. Patients requiring additional treatment returned on Friday, March 16 for a second GKAS day. The PDA Foundation awarded

\$1,000 to the Student Chapter of the AAPD to help fund GKAS day.

The *ADA News* quoted third-year dental student, and AAPD president, Ms. Courtney Walter's comments about the event: "[my student colleagues and I are] proud to host this great event that has such a positive impact on the community, and we look forward to many more GKAS days in the future." To read the entire article in the *ADA News*, visit: <http://www.ada.org/news/6794.aspx>.

Congressman Tim Murphy Visits the SDM

Congressman Tim Murphy visited the SDM on Tuesday, January 10, 2011 to speak to the students during a lunch seminar. Congressman Murphy has worked as a psychologist for thirty years and uses his experience to advocate for healthcare reform.

Third-year Dental Student Selected to 2012 House of Delegates for ADA Annual Session

On April 3, the school received notification that Mr. Martin Smallidge, second-year dental student, had been selected as an alternate delegate to the 2012 House of Delegates during the American Dental Association's Annual Session in San Francisco, Calif. October 17-23. Mr. Smallidge was chosen from a competitive field of extremely qualified national candidates and will be one of five dental students representing the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) on the ADA House floor.

Executive Director of ASDA, Ms. Nancy R. Honeycutt, wrote: "This is a prestigious appointment that carries with it great responsibility. As a member of ASDA's delegation to the ADA, Mr. Smallidge is charged with understanding, representing and advocating the needs of their fellow dental students to the ADA House of Delegates."

SDM Students Participate in National Student Lobby Day - Washington, D.C.

On April 16-17 the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and American Dental Education Association (ADEA) held their annual National Student Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. The SDM was represented by five dental students, Dr. Mike Lueck (DMD' 12), and second-year students Mr. Mark Shaw, Ms. Kathleen Labadie, Mr. Greg Feider, and Mr. Martin Smallidge. Each year ASDA and ADEA agree on several bills which students discuss with Congressman at the capital in Washington D.C. This year the students lobbied for two bills: H.R. 1666 Breaking Barriers to Oral Health Act of 2011 and H.R. 4170 Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012. The students contacted and met with the staffs of four Pennsylvania U.S. Representatives.

School of Dental Medicine News



PDA Past-President Dr. Charlton, PDA President Dr. Bernie Dishler, Dr. Thomas W. Braun, and PDA President-elect Dr. R. Donald Hoffman at the Dental Alumni Association reception at the PDA Annual Meeting.

SDM Alumni Reception Held at PDA Annual Session

An alumni reception was held during the Pennsylvania Dental Association Annual Session at The Hotel Hershey. Over 100 alumni and guests attended the reception. During the Annual Session, the PDA installed Dr. Bernie Dishler of Elkins Park as its new president. Dr. Dishler replaces Dr. Dennis J. Charlton (DMD '81) of Sandy Lake for the one-year position as president

Dean Braun Awarded PDA Recognition Award

Dean Thomas W. Braun was selected as the recipient of the 2012 Pennsylvania Dental Association Recognition Award. Dr. R. Donald Hoffman, faculty member and PDA treasurer, nominated Dean Braun for this award in recognition of his commitment to the underserved and establishment of the Center for Patients with Special Needs, at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Dean Braun was honored with this award on Saturday, April 28, 2012, during the House of Delegates meeting at the Hotel Hershey.

SDM Center for Special Needs Video

To help celebrate the University's 225th anniversary, the chancellor's office recently filmed a series of one-minute

videos to showcase Pitt's tradition of building better lives through knowledge, discovery, and service. The video about the SDM was focused on the Center for Patients with Special Needs. To view the video visit <http://www.youtube.com/pittweb> and scroll down to "In a Pitt Minute: Dental School Special Needs Dental Clinic."

Chair, Department of Surgery Mercer Medical School Speaks at SDM

As a part of the "Diversity in Practice" - Brown Bag Speaker Series, Don Nakayama, MD, spoke about "Health Care in the World War II Japanese American Concentration Camps, 1942-1945," at the SDM on Thursday, May 3, 2011. Dr. Nakayama is the Chair and Milford B. Hatcher Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Mercer University School of Medicine Macon, Ga. Dr. Nakayama has a past affiliation with the University of Pittsburgh as both an associate and assistant professor of surgery from 1986-1993, and served as the director, Benedum Trauma Program at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh from 1986-1989. The session was well attended with more than 20 faculty members in attendance from both the School of Dental Medicine and the School of Medicine.

Third-year Dental Student Presented with the Pierre Fauchard Academy Foundation Award

Third-year dental student, Ms. Alexandra Jensen, recently was selected by SDM faculty as the recipient of the 2012 Foundation Dental Student Scholarship Award funded by the Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to dental students who have demonstrated the greatest potential for development into outstanding leaders in the dental profession. Congratulations to Ms. Jensen on receiving this award.

North Catholic Students Participate in the GENA Project, Visit SDM

Nineteen North Catholic high school juniors recently

School of Dental Medicine News

participated in a two-phase workshop at the Bridgeside Point location and at the SDM. The workshop is part of the Geneticist-Educator Network of Alliances (GENA) project, and was coordinated by SDM faculty member and researcher, Dr. Manika Govil, and Ms. Pamela Connolly, a biology teacher at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh. During their visit to Bridgeside Point students heard a lecture on genetics from Dr. Marazita and participated in a few hands-on activities. While at the SDM, students learned to place a dental sealant with help from members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), student chapter, and heard a lecture from Dr. Ranalli on “Clinical Considerations for Children with Clefts.” The goal for the GENA project is to provide a base of knowledge about science and genetics for high school students with the hope that it will encourage them to pursue a related field after high school.

“With the SDM ranked 6th in the U.S. as a research institution we can’t think of a better place for our students to come and learn firsthand the opportunities available for a career in the sciences,” said Ms. Connolly.

Fourth-year Dental Students Use Moderate Sedation to Treat Anxious Patients

Fourth-year dental students recently have been given the opportunity to treat anxious dental patients through Intravenous Moderate Sedation. Students set appointments for these extremely anxious patients on the last Wednesday of every month. Intravenous Moderate Sedation keeps the patient in a safely administered “twilight” state for the duration of their dental treatment. Most recently on April 25, fourth-year dental students Mr. Albert Lin, Ms. Nicole Breboeck, and Mr. Mitesh Gandhi treated a patient with this form of sedation under the supervision of Dr. Giovannitti. Students are grateful for this learning experience because they are permitted to provide a majority of both the dentistry and anesthesia care during these sessions.

Update on the Graduate Program in Oral Biology

As reported in the last issue of *Pitt Dental Medicine*, the Department of Oral Biology established a new graduate program in oral biology for post-baccalaureate students, predoctoral DMD students, and dental residents with an interest in research and pursuing academic careers. Since the establishment of the program earlier this year, the DOB has selected 2 PhD and 4 MS applicants. The

six applicants are evenly spread with three interested in craniofacial genetics and three interested in craniofacial regeneration. Admitted students are being matriculated this summer and will begin their course work in the fall term 2012.

Faculty Member Presented with the IADR Distinguished Scientist Award

Faculty member and chair of the Department of Oral Biology at the SDM, Dr. Mark Mooney, was selected as the 2012 recipient of the IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Craniofacial Biology Research. Dr. Mooney presented with this award at the Opening Ceremonies of the 90th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR on June 21, 2012. Congratulations to Dr. Mooney.

University of Pittsburgh Selected as a Designated Center of Excellence in Pain Education

The University of Pittsburgh has been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Pain Education by the National Institutes of Health Pain Consortium, one of only 11 schools chosen nationally for the designation.

The center will act as a hub for the development, evaluation and distribution of pain management curriculum resources for schools of the health sciences to improve how health care professionals are taught about pain and its treatment.

More than 20 faculty within Pitt’s schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dental Medicine and Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will work to develop curricula for pre-professional students to advance the assessment, diagnosis and safe treatment of a wide variety of pain conditions.

The Dental Alumni Association is on Facebook

The SDM Dental Alumni Association has joined Facebook. The Facebook page is meant to serve as a tool for alumni to share information about the school, learn about alumni events, view photos of events, and connect with classmates. Visit the page at www.facebook.com/pittdentalalumni and “Like” our page to stay up-to-date on all alumni news.



School of Dental Medicine News

Students Attend ASDA Summer Picnic

The ASDA summer picnic was held Thursday, June 7 at the Vietnam Veterans Pavillion at Schenley Park. Incoming first-year dental students had the opportunity to meet and socialize with other dental students, residents, faculty, and staff.



Department of Dental Anesthesiology to Hold Alumni Day

Dental Anesthesia Alumni Day honoring Dr. Felix Mabunay will be held on Friday, November 9, 2012. For more information, please contact Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910 or poen@pitt.edu.

Faculty and Alumni Attend American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session

SDM alumni from the dental program and the pediatric dental residency gathered in San Diego on May 26th for an alumni reception following the AAPD's annual session. Forty Pitt alumni and friends attended the event at the Marriott Marina Hotel. Drs. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich (DMD '80 and CERT '83) and Adriana Modesto Vieira

Dental Class of 2016

(DMD '09) hosted the event. The next annual session and another alumni reception will be held May 25th, 2013 in Orlando.

Student Mentoring Event to be Held at the University Club

A student mentoring event will be held Wednesday, July 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the University Club. The focus of the mentoring event will be "Successful Practices in Rural and Underserved Areas of Pennsylvania."

Dental Alumni Association Reception at the ADA Annual Session

The 2012 ADA Annual Session will be held in San Francisco from October 18-21. The Dental Alumni Association will hold an alumni reception on:

October 20, 2012 at the San Francisco Marriot Marquis from **5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP by September 21 to Nancy Poe at poen@pitt.edu.

We hope to see you in San Francisco!



San Francisco

American Dental Association

ANNUAL SESSION

OCTOBER 18 - 21, 2012

Alumni Updates

Dr. Charles Carpenter (DMD '73) was recently featured in an article by the Academy of Laser Dentistry.

Dr. MaryAnn R. Davis (DMD '78) was honored at the 7th Annual Celebrate & Share "Women of Achievement Awards" on March 7, 2012.

Dr. George W. Ford (DMD '80) is a clinical investigator with the University of Florida Practice Based Research Network (PBRN). Dr. Ford also presented at the most recent general session of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) in San Diego, Ca.

Dr. William L. Hoch (DMD '81) recently lectured at the Midwest Implant Institute about "Introducing Dental Implants into the General Dental Office."

Dr. William L. Hoon (DMD '80) recently completed his eleventh degree. Dr. Hoon's degrees range from bachelor to doctoral levels.

Michael E. Hyduk (DMD '11) purchased the general dentistry practice of Patrick Adams, DDS, in Bethlehem, PA, in February of 2012.

Dr. Richard A. Kidman (DDS '43) is a clinical associate professor at the New York University College of Dentistry. Dr. Kidman recently celebrated his 93rd birthday.

Dr. Elizabeth (Gordon) Meyers (DMD '11) began a periodontics residency in July 2011 at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. Miller M. Milroy (DDS '37) celebrated his 98th birthday in January. He is the oldest active volunteer with the area's Rotary International Chapter.

Dr. Arthur J. Nowak (DDS '61) was honored at a dinner on Friday, May 25 during the 65th Annual Session of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Nowak was feted for his dedicated service to the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry over the past ten years.

Dr. Jack Penhall (DMD '73) received the Alan J. Davis-SCADA Achievement Award presented by the International Association of Student Clinicians-American

Dental Association for "significant contributions to dental research." Dr. Penhall was presented with his award at the ADA Annual Session October 13, 2011 in Las Vegas.

Dr. Stanley L. Pollock (DMD '50) authored and contributed a chapter in the Business Valuation Resource's Guide to Valuing Dental Practices, in October 2011. In December 2011, Dr. Pollock lectured to the Ocean-Monmouth Counties Dental Society in Aruba on "Employees and the Health Profession," and to the Beaver Valley Dental Society on "Planning a Successful Exit."

Dr. Keith D. Schulhof (DMD '08) has purchased AC Dentistry and relocated from Millenium Park to Lincoln Park in Chicago.

Dr. Jay Wells (DDS '65) has been on the American Dental Association Political Action Committee (ADPAC) for the past three years. In April 2012, Dr. Wells was elected Delegate to the Republican National Convention at the primary election.

DENTAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 1981 REUNION SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2012

If you have not been contacted for a current e-mail address please contact: Dr. Robert Marchi, 724-224-3778, rmarchi@marchi.comcastbiz.net, or Dr. Leigh Buzzatto, 412-221-9020, lab134@hotmail.com.

Erratum: In our previous issue Dr. Raden's award was inadvertently omitted. **Dr. Allan A. Raden (DMD '83)** was inducted into the American College of Dentists at the ADA Annual Session October 13, 2011 in Las Vegas.

ALUMNI UPDATE FORM

Please send or e-mail us information about your further education, career advancements, papers presented, honors received, and appointments. We will include your news in future issues of Pitt Dental Medicine as space permits. Please indicate names, dates, and location. Photos are welcome. Also note changes of address, phone, or e-mail.

**You may also register at the alumni section of www.dental.pitt.edu to make sure the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Dental Medicine have your most current contact information.*

Name: _____

Degree(s) and year(s) of graduation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred e-mail: _____

Position(s): _____

News: _____

Please complete and return to: School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs & Development, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, Attn: Nancy Poe. E-mail: poen@pitt.edu.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GUIDELINES

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Distinguished Alumni Awards may be presented in each of the following categories: Distinguished Alumnus-Dental Medicine; Distinguished Alumnus-Dental Hygiene; and Distinguished Alumnus-Advanced Education Program, to individuals who have excelled in one or more of the following areas:

1. One whose contribution of time and effort to the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has been exceptionally significant, beyond that which would normally have been expected.
2. One whose significant attainments and high professional standards have been of such character as to have materially aided and advanced the art and science of dentistry.
3. One whose public life and activities have been of such a nature as to reflect great credit upon the profession and the School of Dental Medicine.
4. One who has contributed to original research in the dental profession.

A one-page biographical sketch of each candidate must accompany the nomination and should be sent to the DAA Awards Committee, 3501 Terrace Street, Suite 440, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.

Deadline for nominations is November 1st

Alumni Spotlight



Dr. and Mrs. Korch at the Twelfth Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball on March 31, 2012 at Phipps Conservatory.

Dr. Michael Korch is a 2004 graduate from the SDM and a 2000 University of Pittsburgh alumni. After graduation from the SDM he completed a general practice residency at the Baltimore Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Maryland.

During his time at the SDM, Dr. Korch valued his experience participating in the mentoring program with Dr. Chris Luccy (DDS '73). Dr. Korch observed Dr. Luccy at his Greensburg office during his second-, third-, and fourth-year of dental school.

"It was great to see how a dental practice was managed," said Dr. Korch. "I had the opportunity to gain knowledge in multiple areas, including insurance information and patient interactions."

Dr. Korch thought so highly of his time spent observing his mentor Dr. Luccy that he became involved in the mentoring sessions offered through the Dental Alumni Association, where he has served on the Board of Directors since 2011. Dr. Korch said he decided to reengage with the SDM as a young alumnus because he had such a great experience at Pitt and wanted to ensure that current students have an equally satisfactory experience that will make them proud SDM alumni.

"I believe mentoring is important because it provides guidance and insight to students as they prepare to start their careers," said Dr. Korch. "This will not only help the individual, but also the profession of dentistry as a whole, which will bring better care to the patients we serve."

Dr. Korch is currently in private practice in Hampton Township. In addition to his private practice, he continues to work as an associate with a fellow Pitt graduate, Dr. Richard Dukovich (DMD '87), in Bethel Park. When Dr. Korch isn't practicing dentistry, he enjoys skiing, running, yoga, and mountain biking.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGES



Dr. Margaret Gurtner

Hello dental alumni,

First, I would like to congratulate the Class of 2012 and welcome them on behalf of the SDM Dental Alumni Association. I encourage recent graduates to become active members of the DAA and participate in the events we offer throughout the year.

This is my second year of presidency and I would like to broaden our mentoring program. As discussed at our Annual Business Meeting on April 21, 2012, the DAA will focus attention on practicing in rural Pennsylvania, continuing the “speed-dating” format for first-year student mentoring sessions, and establishing a potential student/dentist mentoring match program.. The next mentoring event will be held:

July 18 at the University Club from 5-7 p.m.

“Successful Practices in Rural and Underserved Areas of Pennsylvania”

Additionally, the mentoring event for first-year students will be held in Salk Hall Room 457 on September 17 at 6:30 p.m. From these two programs, the DAA Board hopes to grow a student/dentist mentoring match program for the coming school year. If you are interested in volunteering for a mentoring session, or need more information about other alumni events, please contact Ms. Nancy poe at poen@pitt.edu or 412-648-8910.

Also, don't forget to “Like” Pitt Dental Alumni Association Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/pittdentalalumni to stay informed about alumni news and events.

Dr. Margaret Gurtner (DMD '90)
President, Dental Medicine

The July 18 mentoring event is supported in part by a grant from Eastern Dentists Insurance Company (EDIC)

Greetings dental hygiene alumni!

Thank you to all who attended the Dental Hygiene Alumni Luncheon after the T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture in April. Graduates from the classes of 1965-2011 were in attendance at the event, with representation from every decade. Current dental hygiene students also attended the luncheon at the University Club, providing alumni with first-hand accounts of the changes the program has undergone in recent years. We also established a Dental Hygiene Alumni Committee at the luncheon that will focus on planning a celebration of the Dental Hygiene Program's upcoming 50th anniversary.



Dental Hygiene Luncheon

If you would like to participate on the committee, please contact me (Susan Ban) at sub26@pitt.edu. The next alumni event will take place on **Tuesday, July 31st, in Salk Hall from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.** (exact location TBA). We will once again be offering two free CE credits through the Pennsylvania Academy of Dental Hygiene Studies for viewing the presentations. This is a great opportunity to visit the school and learn about the latest topics and trends affecting oral health care. Graduates of schools other than Pitt are welcome to attend for a nominal fee.

Ms. Susan Ban (RDH '80)
Vice President, Dental Hygiene

Eighteenth Annual T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture

On Saturday, April 21, 2012 over 400 alumni, faculty, and friends of the School of Dental Medicine gathered for the Eighteenth Annual T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture at Scaife Hall. Guest lecturer, Timothy Donley, DDS, MSD, presented “The New Perio Medicine Hygiene Protocol.”

Dr. Donley’s presentation discussed: the latest information concerning risk factors for periodontal disease; the latest information concerning links between oral and overall health; how to use risk information to determine level of treatment aggressiveness; and how to develop a diagnostic protocol based on risk assesment.

Dr. Donley is currently in private practice of periodontic implantology in Bowling Green, KY. He is the former editor of the *Journal of the Kentucky Dental Association* and is an adjunct professor of periodontics at Western Kentucky University. He is a lecturer with the ADA Seminar Series. Dentistry Today recently listed him among its Leaders in Continuing Education.

The T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture Series was established in 1995 by Dr. Ellsworth T. Bowser to honor his father, Theodore Bowser. It has hosted notable speakers on a variety of topics and continues to be the Center for Continuing Education’s most well-attended lecture.



Dr. W. H. Milligan, director of the Center for Continuing Education, and guest speaker, Dr. Timothy Donley at the 18th Annual T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture April 21.

Faculty updates

Dr. Frank Beck has been appointed as an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health.

Dr. Michael Clopp has been appointed as a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Ms. Victoria Green has been appointed as an Instructor in the Department of Periodontics/ Preventive Dentistry - Dental Hygiene Program.

Dr. Manjari Kulkarni has been appointed as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

Dr. Andrew Nigra has been appointed as an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health.

Dr. Heiko Spallek was elected as member to the Consortium for Oral Health Research and Informatics (COHRI) Board of Directors. COHRI is a dental informatics consortium of U.S. dental

schools interested in using a comprehensive clinic management software to manage electronic health information and share data to facilitate clinical research. The SDM has been member of COHRI since 2011.

Dr. Fay Stricklin has been appointed as a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Rachael Wilt has been appointed as an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health.

Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli has been granted emeritus faculty status following his June 30 retirement.

Dr. Heather Szabo Roger has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Biology.



12th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball

School of Dental Medicine faculty, students, alumni, and friends gathered for an evening of entertainment at the Twelfth Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball on March 31 at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Mr. Andrew Masich, President and CEO of the Senator John Heinz History Center, served as the master of ceremonies at the black-tie event. The annual event supports predoctoral scholarships and honors exceptional alumni with the Distinguished Alumni awards. The School of Dental Medicine extends its gratitude to the following Dean's Scholarship Ball premium sponsors for their generous support:

**UPMC
United Concordia
Eastern Dentists Insurance Company EDIC
PNC**

The 2012 Dean's Scholarship recipients are Ms. Gayle Kim (pictured above, center) and Mr. John Full (pictured above, right). Ms. Gayle Kim graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in Spring 2012 with a B.S. in biological sciences, a minor in chemistry, and a certificate in Asian studies. Her experience volunteering at the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh helping children with physical and mental disabilities, ignited her interest in the correlation between disabilities and certain dental phenotypes. Ms. Kim has fostered her interest in dentistry by shadowing a pediatric dentist, general dentist, and periodontist.

Mr. John Full graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in Spring 2012 with a B.S. in neuroscience and a minor in chemistry. In Spring 2011 Mr. Full spent his spring break participating in a dental missionary trip to Nicaragua where he assisted native practitioners in cleaning, extracting, and filling cavities for impoverished residents of the community. Mr. Full has shadowed two dental surgeons, a general dentist, an orthodontist, and worked as a dental surgery assistant during summer 2011. Congratulations to Ms. Kim and Mr. Full on their past and future accomplishments.



Dr. Buckenheimer speaking after accepting his award at the 12th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball. March 31.

Terry L. Buckenheimer (DMD '80) - Distinguished Alumnus Dental Medicine

Dr. Terry L. Buckenheimer is dedicated to organized dentistry on the local, state, and national levels, and has held numerous leadership positions with the American Dental Association. Additionally, Dr. Buckenheimer has been actively involved in the Florida Dental Association (FDA) for over 25 years, and will serve as president of the FDA in 2013.

“It was truly an honor for me to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award,” said Dr. Buckenheimer. “Considering the prominent individuals who were eligible and those that have been recognized before, I feel fortunate to have my name mentioned among them.”

Richard J. Crout (DMD '73, PhD '78) - Distinguished Alumnus Advanced Education Programs

After teaching at the SDM for two years and serving as director of the clinical dental program at Montefiore Hospital, Dr. Richard J. Crout continued his academic career at West Virginia University. He has been teaching at WVU for over 25 years at both the school of medicine and the school of dentistry. Dr. Crout currently holds faculty positions at both schools and is associate dean for research at the school of dentistry.

“I am extremely grateful to have received this Distinguished Alumni Award. It is an honor to even have been considered yet alone provided this recognition.” said Dr. Crout. The outstanding education that I received at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has been a rich framework for every aspect of my academic and professional life.”



Dr. Crout speaking after accepting his award at the 12th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball March 31.



Dr. Deuben with Dean Braun after accepting her award at the 12th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball March 31.

Caroll Johnston Deuben (DH '65) - Distinguished Alumna Dental Hygiene

After completion of the Dental Hygiene Program, Dr. Caroll Johnston Deuben went on to receive a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh, followed by a PhD in Administration and Organizational Studies from Wayne State University. Dr. Deuben has served as director of the Health Care Education Program in the College of Health Professions at the University of Detroit Mercy for 11 years, and as a consultant in the Leadership Development Program at St. Joseph Mercy Macomb Hospital for 12 years.

“It was an honor to receive this award. Any success that I have achieved is based upon the educational skills and values I received at the Pitt School of Dental Medicine,” said Ms. Deuben. “Thanks to the SDM I am able to give back to the community and the health professions. I was pleased to be able to be part of an event that honored the student recipients of the Dean's Scholarship Awards. They will be the leaders of tomorrow.”

White Coat Ceremony 2012

Be a Part of the Tradition



By sending a donation of \$50, your support of the School of Dental Medicine White Coat Ceremony will bring a warm welcome to incoming predoctoral and dental hygiene students. The White Coat Ceremony is held during the General Assembly at the beginning of the academic year. It is a tradition in which students receive their first white coats signifying the beginning of their careers in dental medicine and dental hygiene.

In addition to supporting the 2012 White Coat Ceremony, you may wish to write a predoctoral or dental hygiene student some words of encouragement as they embark on a time of intense study and personal growth. Family members, friends, faculty, and alumni are encouraged to attend this meaningful ceremony. The 2012 White Coat Ceremony is scheduled for **August 27 at 3 p.m.** in Scaife Hall, rooms 5 and 6. The White Coat Ceremony receives support in part from the Harry K. Zohn (DMD '84) and Cecile A. Feldman, DMD White Coat Endowment Fund as well as contributions from our alumni and friends.



Mr. Henry Evey, Mrs. Karen Pfeffer, J. Richard Pfeffer Jr. (DMD '76), Ms. Paige Pfeffer (Class of 2015), and Mrs. Rebecca Evey



Dennis P. Clayton, DMD '81 and Marc G. Clayton, Class of 2015

Thank you for your support!

White Coat Ceremony Donation Form

Donations received by August 10, 2012 will be acknowledged in the White Coat Ceremony Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to the University of Pittsburgh. Please mail forms and donations to Ms. Nancy Poe, Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, School of Dental Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. For more information, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910 or poen@pitt.edu.

____ I would be interested in attending student mentoring events at the School of Dental Medicine.



Homecoming Weekend 2012 - October 12-13

Friday, Oct. 12: Homecoming CE Course

Barry Glassman, DMD, presents "Practice Occlusion, TMD, and Sleep Apnea for the Dental Health Care Professional," sponsored in part by an educational grant from the T. F. Bowser Continuing Education Fund

Edward J. Forrest Continuing Education Center, Salk Hall

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., 6 credit hours

See www.dental.pitt.edu/ce for more information.

SDM Homecoming Dinner:

6:00 PM Cocktails, hosted by SDM - 6:30 PM Dinner - "Taste of Tuscany" buffet, dessert, and beverages. Price is \$45 per person. Cash bar available during dinner.

University Club, 123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

The University Club Rooftop Terrace will be open after dinner for guests to view the fireworks and laser display.

All Alums Welcome! - Contact the following alumni about class reunion information:

Golden Alumni (Class of 1961 and earlier): Nancy Poe, poen@pitt.edu or 412-648-8910

50th - Class of 1962: Dr. Edward Narcisi, sdmclassof1962@gmail.com

45th - Class of 1967: Dr. M. Barry Moskowitz at 610-687-5206

40th - Class of 1972: Dr. Kent Galey, galey109@aol.com

30th - Class of 1982: Dr. James Tauberg, taubergdmd@aol.com

25th - Class of 1987: Dr. Gretchen Perkins Vollmer, drgrpr@zoominternet.net

20th - Class of 1992: Dr. Tracey Turner, drtracey@verizon.net

10th - Class of 2002: Dr. Joseph Schuchert, pittedental02@gmail.com

Saturday, October 13: Pitt vs. Louisville (Time TBD)

Single-game home tickets will go on sale to the general public on September 2, 2012. Call 1-800-643-PITT.

Hotel Information at <http://www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming/hotels.php>

For additional information, please contact Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910 or poen@pitt.edu.

HOMEcoming DINNER RSVP

Please complete and return by **September 24** to: School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs & Development, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, Attn: Nancy Poe. Dinner is \$45 per person. Check should be made payable to: "University of Pittsburgh."

Name(s): _____

Class: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

2012 School of Dental Medicine Student Awardees



SDM inductees into the Beta Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the National Honor Dental Society

Academy of Osseointegration Award

Dr. Joseph Westover

American Academy of Craniofacial Pain Award

Dr. Ronald Walker

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award

Dr. Hsiao-Ling Shen

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

Dr. Adam Nelson

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Award

Dr. Jasleen Kaur

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Award

Dr. Michael Chambers

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award

Dr. Melissa Fogel

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award

Dr. Nicole Breboeck

American Academy of Periodontology Award

Dr. Rashee Goyal

American Association of Endodontists Award

Dr. Hsiao-Ling Shen

American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Dental Implant Award

Dr. Robert Shumate

American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Dental Student Award

Dr. Samir Singh

American Association of Oral Biologists Award

Dr. Gaurav Shah

American College of Dentists

Dr. Lucas Mcguire

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Horace Wells Senior Student Award

Dr. Mitesh Gandhi

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Student Essay Contest Winner

Dr. Mitesh Gandhi

American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence

Dr. Maria Ferraro

Delta Dental Student Leadership

Dr. Maria Ferraro, Dr. Lance Grant, Dr. Michael Lueck, and Dr. Matthew Silverstein

Elliot Brodie Award

Dr. Melissa Fogel, Dr. Maria Ferraro

Dentsply International Merit Award

Dr. Jacqueline Scott

Gerald Orner Award

Dr. Melissa Fogel

Gilbert N. Robin Continuing Education Scholarship

Dr. Elizabeth Klanderma, Dr. Corrine Treinkman, Dr. Mitesh Gandhi

International College of Dentists

Dr. Janel Marcelino

International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award

Dr. Joseph Liu

Lathe Bowen Award

Dr. Christopher C. Morrow

Northeastern Society of Periodontists, Inc.

Dr. Matthew Silverstein

Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Dr. Michael Chambers, Dr. Maria Ferraro, Dr. Melissa Fogel, Dr. Rashee Goyal, Dr. David Kennedy, Dr. Rajeev Mahajan, Dr. Lucas McGuire, Dr. Katelyn Woods, Dr. Jessica Zugai

Pierre Fauchard Academy Certificate of Merit Award

Dr. Maria Ferraro

Quintessence Award for Clinical Academic Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

Dr. Jacqueline Scott

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics

Dr. Meredith Lacey

Quintessence Award for Research Activity

Dr. Melissa Fogel

Robert Rapp Award of Distinction in Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Melissa Fogel

W. Arthur George Prosthodontic Award

Dr. Troy Eans, Richard Bradshaw

Whip Mix Corporation - West Hanau Best of the Best Prosthodontic Award

Dr. Hsiao-Ling Shen

Hygiene Awards

Each year graduating dental hygiene students are recognized for outstanding achievements through the presentation of the following awards:

Western Pennsylvania Dental Hygiene Association Outstanding Student Award

Ms. Norah D. Hoban

Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award

Ms. Keri L. Bowser

Dr. Clark J. Hollister Award for Dental Health Education

Ms. Sarah E. Ehrman

Elliott (Steve) Brodie, (Class of 1926) Award for Clinical Competence

Ms. Heather G. Vandevender

Sigma Phi Alpha

Ms. Norah D. Hoban & Ms. Sarah C. Liu

S.T.A.R. Award (Student Total Achievement Recognition)

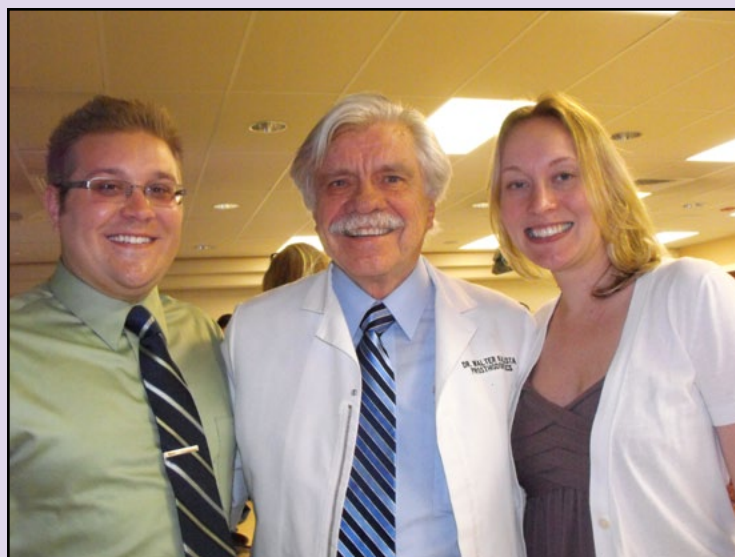
Ms. Julia M. Klein

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry Community Dentistry and Dental Public Health Award

Ms. Jessica L. McElhaney

Pechan Award

Ms. Erika L. Andrews



Dr. Lucas McGuire (DMD '12), Dr. Walter Kalista (DMD '70), and Dr. Jessica Zugai (DMD '12) at the Senior Awards ceremony.



Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli, Senior Associate Dean

Throughout his many years at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Dennis Ranalli has nurtured countless friendships with students, graduates, colleagues, families, and friends of the University. It is without a doubt that his leadership will continue to significantly influence the SDM for years to come. As a tribute to Dr. Ranalli, it only seemed appropriate to let those he has impacted over the years share their gratitude for his dedication to numerous areas of the Pitt community. Dr. Ranalli's passions were evident in his work; he demonstrated an unfaltering pride and dedication to the School of Dental Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh.

Senior Associate Dean, Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli, Retires

“For decades, Dr. Ranalli has been a leader and pioneer in both clinical and research activity at the University of Pittsburgh. His passion, leadership, and acumen will be sorely missed, but we wish him the best with his retirement. I consider Dr. Ranalli to be a scientific and thought leader for this University and wish him the very best.”

**-Micky Collins, PhD
Program Director, UPMC Sports Medicine
Concussion Program**

“Dr. Ranalli is such a champion for people with disabilities! For thirty years he has volunteered and provided services to people who often experience many challenges in getting good oral health care. His vision has been integral to the dental school's commitment to expand services to adults and children with complex health needs and to systematically integrating disability medicine throughout the curriculum. Today the school and Center for Patients with Special Needs serves as a national model for what is possible. FISA Foundation is so proud to have been a partner in these efforts. We sincerely wish Dr. Ranalli the best in his retirement. He has much to be proud of!”

**Ms. Kristy Trautmann
Executive Director, FISA Foundation**

“Dr. Ranalli has been an integral part of the Sports Medicine team at Pitt. He has allowed us to provide another high level of care for our student-athletes that many schools can't offer. The pride he takes in the work that he does with the athletes is unmatched. We will miss his enthusiasm and guidance.”

**Mr. Robert Blanc
University of Pittsburgh Head Football Athletic Trainer**

“The Office of Health Sciences Diversity will truly feel Dr. Ranalli's absence. He has been a part of the fabric of this effort since its inception, and in fact, was a part of the body (the Health Sciences Sullivan Commission) which recognized the need for the office. Dr. Ranalli has been a staunch advocate and, as anyone who knows him will attest, will go the extra mile and beyond for that which is right, just and in the best interest of students and the school. He will be sorely missed.”

**Ms. Paula K. Davis, M.A.
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Diversity
University of Pittsburgh**

“When Special Olympics Pennsylvania requested we start a Special Smiles program in the Pittsburgh area, I immediately knew who my “go to guy” would be. Dennis Ranalli’s reputation as a leading pediatric dentist, expert on sports dentistry and champion for dental care for people with disabilities and special health care needs made my choice very easy. Dennis’ commitment to Special Smiles has been exemplary; he is always ready and willing to help improve access and care for the underserved. His leadership along with a faculty and administration at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine have succeeded in making the Special Care Clinic a “center of excellence” and a safety net for families and care givers in the state for those children and adults with Special Health Care Needs. Academician, clinician, teacher and mentor, Dennis has been a role model for those of us in the profession and his compassion and caring, professional demeanor has made an impact on all those whose life he touches. I know he has influenced mine.”

Steven P. Perlman D.D.S, M.Sc.D, D.H.L. (hon)
Senior Global Clinical Advisor and Founder
Special Olympics Special Smiles
Professor of Pediatric Dentistry
Boston University School of Dental Medicine



Dr. Ranalli poses with the 2010 Pitt Women’s basketball team at the SDM’s “Pink the Pete” event

“Dr. Ranalli is a visionary. He took the blinders off when he saw the need to create mouth guards for the women’s basketball team. Through his research, he approached me about studies on WBB leading the nation in concussions and a mouth guard could reduce the rate of occurrence. After several meetings, he convinced me, and every year he made custom mouth guards for our student athletes. To show his compassion for the ladies, he made pink mouth guards with initials of loved ones affected by cancer! Dr. Ranalli is a leader, an educator and a teacher of life. I will always value his wisdom!”

-Coach Berenato, Pitt Women’s Basketball

“I have known Dennis for more than 35 years as a student, resident, mentor, colleague, and friend. My first recollection of him was in my first year of dental school as my pediatric dental pre-clinic instructor. From the beginning, it was evident that he was created to teach and was a leader who could inspire students to achieve and become more competent in their craft. In addition, he was the advisor and creator of the Student Chapter of the current American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Through their activities, my interest in pediatric dentistry developed more. As a resident, he motivated all of us to learn as much about the specialty, to sharpen our clinical skills to become proficient, and become advocates for children.

As a colleague at the School of Dental Medicine, Dennis was a consummate leader whose service to the faculty, staff, residents, and students was limitless. His support and expertise to so many areas – alumni, continuing education, the organizations, and to the Dean – were unsurpassed. He is one faculty member who fulfilled all of the dental school’s mission statement, goals, and objectives during his illustrious career. Dennis, I wish you much happiness, longevity, and fulfillment in your retirement. ”

Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich (DMD ‘80)
Chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry

Congratulations

On Sunday, May 20 the School of Dental Medicine held its annual Diploma Ceremony at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. The First Professional Program graduated 78 dentists, the Dental Hygiene Program graduated 31 dental hygienists, and 27 residents graduated with various specialties. Dr. Louis Jannetto (DDS '61) led the ceremony as grand marshal with Dean Thomas W. Braun presiding. A reception followed in the courtyard on a beautiful sunny day. Over 500 alumni, family, and friends were in attendance to support the class of 2012.

Photo credit: Mr. Christopher Rivera



Dr. Jacqueline Scott (DMD '12) and her father Dr. Robert Scott (DMD '79)



Dean Thomas W. Braun



Dr. Bernard J. Costello, faculty member



Dental Hygiene Class of 2012



Dr. Margaret Gurtner (DMD '90), president, SDM Dental Alumni Association

Class of 2012



Ms. Norah Dee Hoban, valedictorian, Dental Hygiene Class of 2012



Dr. Maria Ferraro (DMD '12), valedictorian, Dental Medicine Class of 2012



Dr. Matthew Silverstein (DMD '12), President Dental Class of 2012



Arthur S. Levine, MD, Professor and Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences





The Dental Company

Gift by Sirona Dental Systems Gears the SDM toward Digitalized Dentistry

Sirona Dental Systems, LLC recently gifted six CEREC (CEramic REConstruction) machines to the School of Dental Medicine. The CEREC system, a unique Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) system for designing and milling individual all-ceramic restorations, is a significant addition to the SDM as dentistry moves toward integrating more technology into practice.

The CEREC system is capable of milling single-unit, posterior, all-ceramic restorations and is composed of three parts: the CEREC Bluecam, an acquisition center, and a milling unit. Dentists use the system to take a chairside instantaneous three-dimensional measurement of tooth preparations with an oral camera (CEREC Bluecam). Once the image of the tooth has been taken, the image is scanned to a data acquisition machine where the restoration is designed. This design is then digitally sent to the milling unit where the final restoration is fabricated.

One of the significant advantages of the CEREC system is that it enables a dentist to complete and seat one, or multiple, ceramic restorations chairside in a single appointment. The CEREC system not only eliminates the shipping cost but also the turnaround time by allowing dentists to digitally send the image files to a milling unit in their lab. In addition to those benefits, the quick and convenient process often puts patients at ease knowing they won't have to return for another visit.

"Sirona Dental Systems, LLC appreciates the opportunity to assist the University of Pittsburgh with the donation of CEREC equipment," said Ms. Betsy Ashworth, government and institutional representative, Sirona Dental Systems, LLC. "Digital dentistry is clearly becoming the way of the future and students need to be able to develop skills using these technologies as they will be using these methods in practice once they graduate and beyond."

This fall, the graduate prosthodontic residents will be taking a 15-week course designed specifically for CEREC technology use. In the future, the Department of Prosthodontics hopes to introduce the CEREC system to the second-year students in the pre-clinic fixed prosthodontic



Faculty members receive training on the CEREC systems by a Sirona representative

lecture series and additionally, to offer a selective course for fourth-year students about the CEREC system.

"Given the financial challenges of the universities here in the U.S. our company determined that we needed to do our part in providing these experiences," said Ms. Ashworth. "With the CEREC Gifting Program we are able to support the dental schools in their efforts to more fully provide this type of educational experience which also assists with enhanced treatment options for patients."

To help integrate the CEREC technology into practice at the SDM, Sirona Dental Systems sent a representative to the school on two separate occasions to provide training for faculty. During the training sessions, faculty had the opportunity to practice using the CEREC system and ask questions as needed. These training sessions enabled the faculty to become familiar with this advanced technology.

"The Department of Prosthodontics is very excited to introduce the CEREC technology to the SDM residents and dental students," said Dr. Thomas Kunkel (DMD '85), faculty member, Department of Prosthodontics. "We are thankful to Sirona Dental Systems for their generous gift and ongoing support."



FISA Foundation Holds Board Meeting at SDM

The FISA Foundation, an advocate and supporter of the Center for Patients with Special Needs (CPSN), held its annual board meeting at the SDM on Wednesday, April 11, 2012. The FISA Foundation's mission is to build a culture of respect and improve the quality of life for three populations in southwestern Pennsylvania: women, girls, and people with disabilities.

FISA had 25 board members in attendance and listened to Dr. Ranalli speak about the history of the CPSN, which was established in 2008, centralizing and increasing the capacity for treatment of patients who were previously treated throughout clinics in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program, and the Dental Hygiene Program. After learning the history of the CPSN, board members had the opportunity to tour the CPSN and hear how the center has advanced in recent years, and the potential innovations being planned for the future.

SDM representatives in attendance aside from Dr. Ranalli, included: Dr. Joseph Giovannitti (DMD '77), faculty member, dental anesthesiology; Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich (DMD '80, CERT '83), chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry; and Dr. Lynne Taiclet (DMD '85), director, Center for Patients with Special Needs. In addition to the SDM faculty, Ms. Mary Hartley, manager, disability healthcare initiative, at ACHIEVA was in attendance as a panel member.

After the initial overview of the CPSN, Dr. Ranalli, Dr. Giovannitti, Dr. Studen-Pavlovich, and Dr. Taiclet, answered questions from the board about the SDM and the treatment of patients with disabilities. Toward the end of the meeting Ms. Hartley provided additional information on legislative issues facing individuals with behavioral, health, and intellectual disabilities.

"Our board members were deeply impacted by the tour of the SDM and panel discussion," said Ms. Kristy Trautmann, FISA executive director. "They have continued to reference the experience and mission of the SDM Center for Patients with Special Needs at every subsequent meeting since."



Ms. Mary Hartley, Dr. Dennis Ranalli, Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, Dr. Giovannitti, Dr. Taiclet, and Ms. Kristy Trautmann address questions from the FISA Foundation Board of Directors.

This meeting was meant to raise awareness of the CPSN and inform FISA board members that the SDM was among the pioneers in education of special needs dentistry, and remains an active presence in the advocacy for that patient population today. Therefore, the school is an excellent resource for care of persons with disabilities.

"We have two overall goals," said Dr. Lynne Taiclet, director, Center for Patients with Special Needs. "Our goals are to expand the pool of trained dental providers as well as to make special needs dental care more widely available."

The CPSN has been an effort in the making since 2001, and continues to grow and expand. The center has over 1800 patients of record, and treats about 30-40 adult patients per week, with additional pediatric patients being treated in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. The SDM requirement for students to complete rotations in the CPSN is in place to make the students comfortable and able to provide care for patients with disabilities when they graduate and move on to private practice. The FISA Foundation has previously donated funds for the purchase of equipment dedicated to the treatment of patients with disabilities and the education of students and residents in this endeavor.

Dean

Thomas W. Braun

Senior Associate Dean

Dennis N. Ranalli

Editor

Lauren Borys

Dental Alumni Association

President

Margaret Gurtner

Vice President, Dental Affairs

Jean O'Donnell

Vice President, Dental Hygiene

Susan Ban

Secretary

Christine Wankiiri-Hale

Alumni Affairs Coordinator

Nancy A. Poe

Send correspondence to:

School of Dental Medicine
Office of Alumni Affairs &
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3501 Terrace Street
440 Salk Hall Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Pitt Dental Medicine is published semiannually by the Office of Dental Alumni Affairs and Development as a service to alumni, students, and friends. Its purpose is to facilitate communication among alumni, students, and friends. This publication holds itself not responsible for opinions, theories, and criticisms therein contained.

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A Letter from the Editor

This issue of *Pitt Dental Medicine* focused on the inner workings of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Ironically, as I was researching and conducting interviews with the intent of informing you about what the students are learning, I was in the midst of a great learning experience myself. Learning about the SDM curriculum and students brought the mission of the SDM full-circle for me. Over the past year I have seen how the SDM is training students to reflect the mission of the school, which is “to improve oral health through teaching, research, and service,” and I have also seen how our alumni continue to reflect the mission after graduation, and go on to become distinguished professionals in their field.

Since the last issue, I am happy to report that we have established a Pitt Dental Alumni Facebook page. I encourage you to visit www.facebook.com/pittdentalalumni and “like” our page. One way the Facebook page currently is being used as a resource is for reunion classes to reconnect and discuss plans for this year’s Homecoming Weekend, October 12-14, 2012. The page should serve as an easy, efficient way to share alumni events and news. Please feel free to contact me at lab162@pitt.edu if you have any ideas for the page.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to address is the retirement of the SDM’s Senior Associate Dean, and my supervisor, Dr. Ranalli. The speed with which I received the person testimonials (featured on page 26) from those who have been impacted by Dr. Ranalli and his work, was a testimonial in itself. It took some contributors only a matter of minutes to send a fond memory, a kind word, or a well wish for Dr. Ranalli. These personal notes speak volumes for the kind of leader, employee, colleague, alumnus, and friend Dr. Ranalli has been to the SDM and the University of Pittsburgh. His daily presence, wit, and integrity will be greatly missed at the SDM.

Sincerely,

Lauren Borys
Editor, *Pitt Dental Medicine*
Communications Specialist, SDM



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Courtney Bischoff (DDS '45) 1/18/12

*Mr. John Close 5/23/12

*Dr. Joseph W. Cole (DDS '51) 6/10/12

Julie Jayne Gibson (DH '94) 1/28/12

Donald E. Gigler (DDS '62) 5/12/12

Dr. Percy Z. Goldstein (DDS '44) 1/4/12

Dr. Marvin M. Goodman (DDS '46) 1/20/12

Dr. Gary D. Jesionowski (DMD '80) 3/4/12

Dr. Peter S. Maropis (DMD '81) 4/14/12

*Dr. H. David Mock (DDS '59) 12/15/11

Dr. George Allen "Dutch" Short (DDS '60) 2/9/12

Dr. Rodger F. Sisca (DDS '62) 12/22/11

Dr. Howard R. Tolchinsky (DMD '73) 4/5/12

Dr. David F. Walker (DDS '65) 4/19/12

Dr. Barry J. Zeichner (DDS '60) 1/25/12

**Denotes former SDM faculty members*



Mr. John Close

Mr. John Close was an associate professor in the Department of Dental Public Health, and had been a part of the School of Dental Medicine for 38 years. Mr. Close had assisted students, residents, graduate students, and faculty with his knowledge of research design and biostatistics. Before enrolling at Pitt as an undergraduate, Mr. Close served two tours of duty in the U.S. Army 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse Regiment) as a scout observer and personnel specialist during the Vietnam War from 1966-69. This past year, Mr. Close helped coordinate an effort at the SDM to donate buckets filled with household necessities to the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program for returning veterans.



Dr. Joseph W. Cole

Dr. Joseph W. Cole (DDS '51) taught Orthodontics as an Associate Faculty member at the graduate level in the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Dental Medicine, inspiring orthodontic residents to practice at the highest level of their specialty.

Dr. H. David Mock (DDS '59) practiced dentistry in Springdale for 50 years and was an associate professor of dentistry at the SDM.

School of Dental Medicine
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ALUMNI CALENDAR 2012

- July 18** **Mentoring session for 3rd and 4th-year students, July 18, 5 - 7 p.m., University Club**
- August 27** **General Assembly and White Coat Ceremony, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Scaife Hall, rooms 5 and 6**
- September 17** **Dental Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Scaife Hall room 430**
September 17 **Dental Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, 6:00 p.m., Salk Hall room 457**
September 17 **Mentoring session for 1st-year students, 6:30 p.m. room 457**
- October 12** **Homecoming CE course, 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.**
October 12 **SDM reunion dinners 6:00 p.m., University Club**
October 13 **Homecoming football game Pitt vs. Louisville, time TBD**
October 20 **SDM Alumni reception at the ADA Annual Session, 5-7 p.m. - San Francisco Marriott Marquis**
- November 1** **Deadline for submission of Distinguished Alumni nominations**
November 9 **Department of Dental Anesthesiology Alumni Day honoring Dr. Felix Mabunay**

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Admissions/Student Services 412-648-9806
Dental Alumni Affairs 412-648-8910
Office of the Dean 412-648-8880
Transcripts 412-624-7620