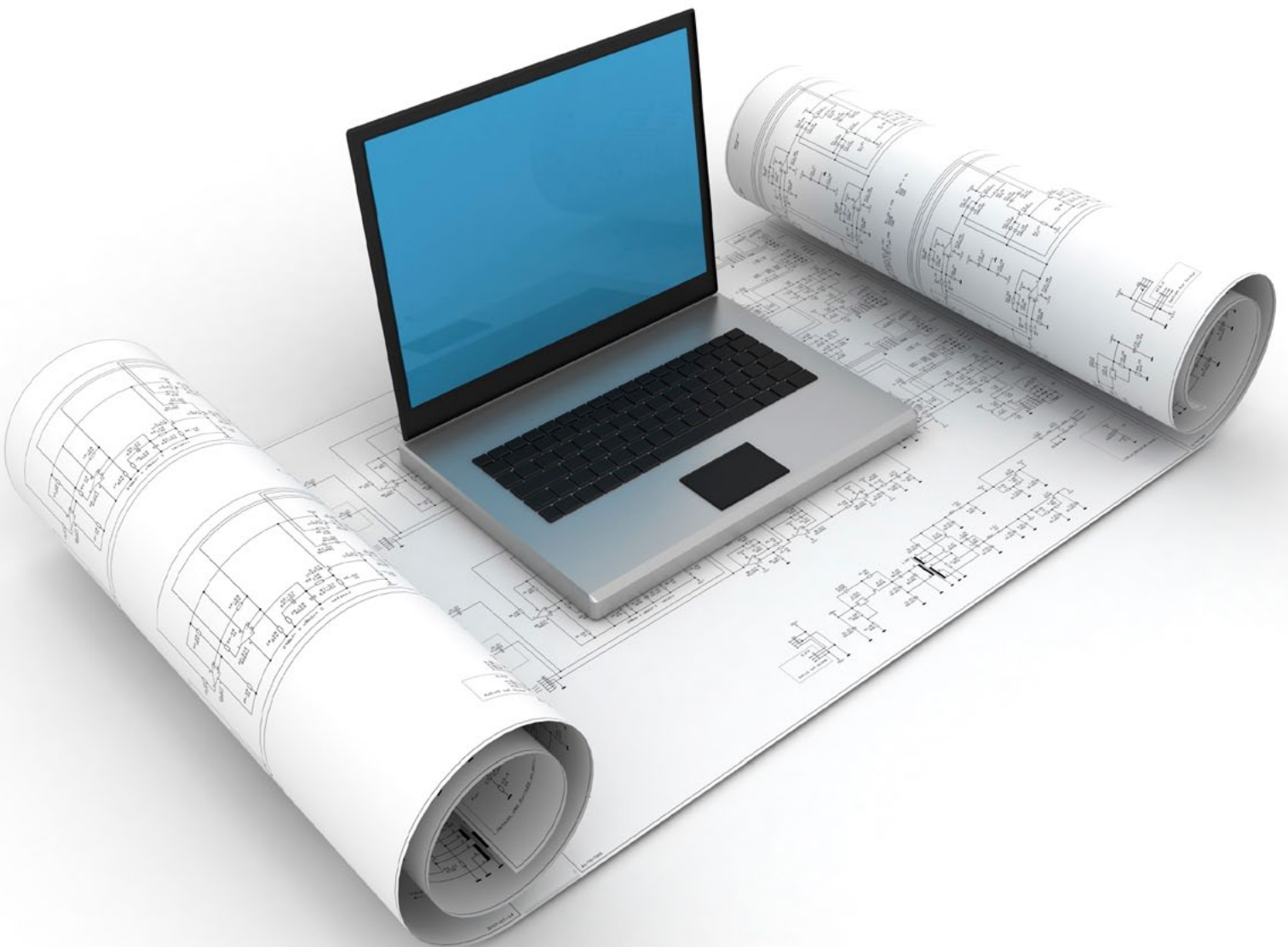


PITT DENTAL MEDICINE



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Blueprint for the Future *Plans for Research, Education & Clinical Practice*



Pitt Dental Medicine
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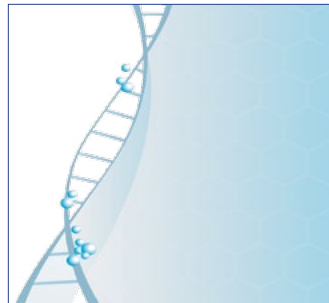
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Alumni and Friends:

As you have likely noticed if you follow the *Pitt Dental Medicine* magazine, the last several years have revealed various aspects of the plans and the progress the School of Dental Medicine has accomplished. It is important to recall the school is part of the larger health science complex consisting of six schools and the University of Pittsburgh. It is not now nor ever has been static. However, our current growth and continued

planning have brought attention to the progress which we have achieved. Virtually all aspects of the school have changed significantly especially in the last decade. External factors such as information technology, digital imaging, biologic advances, and service needs have influenced our planning. From a structural perspective, we have recently completed our new student lounge and locker facility; provided updated furnishings to the patient clinic lobby; initiated the pediatric special needs facility; and monitored the ongoing construction of our new research tower. All facets of our University-based mission are being met here. Our new research facilities will accommodate our efforts in tissue engineering and craniofacial regeneration tied in with our genetic research. Our educational methodology has changed significantly in what we teach and how we teach it with simulation and live-patient experiences increasing in value. The school with the other health science schools have embarked upon an effort at collaboration among all health sciences termed interprofessional education, which is recognized as a significant aspect of healthcare delivery in the future. Our students and residents are also meeting service needs to the local and regional community and certainly those individuals with special needs.

All of this requires a comprehensive ongoing planning process, which is dynamic and which literally changes from year to year. This issue of *Pitt Dental Medicine* will provide some insight into the research we are doing, the education we provide, and the service that we render as well as how important our overall mission is to the profession and society.

I encourage everyone to visit to the School of Dental Medicine whether it is during the homecoming activities this fall, when you come for the Dean's Scholarship Ball, or when you happen to be in town. We here are very proud of our school, our students, our staff, and our faculty, and are pleased to show what we have accomplished and what we have planned.

Sincerely,

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



Unraveling the Mysteries of an Orofacial Defect

It's taken more than 20 years, but now Dr. Mary Marazita is at the point where the two parallel threads of her research life—genetics and phenotypes of cleft lip and palate—are on the threshold of uniting. The prospects for clinical applications are even more boundless than she could ever have imagined from her early research days as a statistical geneticist.

Cleft lip and cleft palate are common orofacial anomalies affecting one in five hundred to one in two thousand babies. The conditions affect Asians and Native Americans in highest numbers, followed by Caucasians, with African populations least affected. Achieving meaningful research outcomes for these diverse populations by necessity requires a huge database of phenotypic measurements that has taken years to collect. And it requires collaboration with researchers around the world.

Scientists know that cleft lip and cleft palate may run in families, and they have identified many potentially causative genes. But the genes don't seem to be related.

“We don't know the function of these genes. That is why it is important undertake animal-model research now,” said Dr. Marazita, associate dean for research at the School of Dental Medicine and director of the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics.

Basic Research

That's where new assistant professor in the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration, Heather Szabo-Rogers, PhD, comes in. She describes herself as a “cut-and-paste”

embryologist with basic science expertise in mouse models. Her research focuses on two different areas. She studies osteogenesis of the skull to determine the fundamental ways that bones grow in the face. Those results will be used by others in the Center—such as Center director Dr. Charles Sfeir or oral/maxillofacial surgeon Dr. Bernard Costello—to find ways to regenerate facial tissues.

But it is the exciting work in basic genetics just begun by Dr. Szabo-Rogers that holds promise for gene-level insight into clefting. The project uses mutagenized BMP4 mice that are known clefting carriers. It's Dr. Szabo-Rogers' task to find which of the mutated genes are the ones that cause cleft lip and palate.

“The really interesting thing about these mice is they have multiple mutations,” said Dr. Szabo-Rogers. “I'll do exome sequencing (looking at all genes in the individual mouse) and identify those genes that are different from the normal and then determine which ones are most likely to be causing the clefting.”

Since Dr. Marazita's research has shown that clefting is a multi-genic disorder, the hope is that Dr. Szabo-Rogers' studies bring into focus precisely which genes work together to cause cleft lip and palate. This

statement oversimplifies a very complex situation that is compounded by other genetic glitches.

“This doesn’t follow an obvious Mendelian pattern,” said Dr. Marazita. “The hypothesis is that it is reduced penetrance of the gene; it is not expressing the birth defect.”

Fortunately, unraveling the puzzle doesn’t only have to happen at the genetic level.

Rich Phenotype Approach

“There are other things we can measure that reflect carrying the risk genes,” added Dr. Marazita. “We’ve developed a unique protocol that we’ve shown to be a potentially fruitful approach.”

She describes it as a rich phenotype approach based on the hypothesis that there are physical features that can be measured in unaffected relatives, which reflect carrying the cleft-risk genes. To date, Dr. Marazita’s group has applied this approach to more than 6,000 individuals from cleft families and 1,500 controls.

For example, in a family with identical twins where clefting has occurred in only one twin, ultrasound images of the upper lip musculature have shown minor defects at much higher rates than in control subjects, and even in the apparently visually unaffected twin.

“We also take 3D photos of the face and from those digital photos get very precise measurements,” said Dr. Marazita.

Facial width is a telling measurement. Clefting

occurs when facial tissue fails to unite and fuse during the first six to eight weeks of fetal development. Anthropologist Dr. Seth Weinberg, who is assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology and conducts research in Dr. Marazita’s research center, has found that the parents of individuals with cleft lip tend to have wider faces than the population as a whole. Other subtle measurements of the mid face could be predictors of future offspring with the anomaly.

Another diagnostic phenotype approach utilizes dermatoglyphics. Although usually thought of only in terms of fingerprints and iris prints, the body has an array of hidden clues that are unique to an individual. Studying the dermatoglyphics of the lips have shown that there is a particular whorl pattern on the lower lip associated with clefting. Other major areas that show promise as predictors of cleft lip and palate are speech patterns relating to velopharyngeal insufficiency, and disorganization and non-uniform fiber formation of the orbicularis oris muscle as well as dental characteristics and handedness.

Translational Medicine

The study of genetics has conclusively shown that changes to several regions of the genome are associated with cleft lip and palate defects. When phenotype measurements are added into the research mix, Dr. Marazita and other scientists can use the data from families identified with a specific clefting gene for clinical and translational applications. An example of such an application is found by studying gene IRF6.

“This doesn’t follow an obvious Mendelian pattern... The hypothesis is that it is reduced penetrance of the gene; it is not expressing the birth defect.”

“We don’t know how it works to cause clefting, but it also plays a role in wound healing,” she said of IRF6. “And a small study by a collaborator has shown that these people have poorer surgical outcomes.”

So far, research has drilled down only as far as the population level. Studies have not yet sifted through the mutations to be accurate at the individual level. But when this knowledge arrives, its use will be significant.

For example, if doctors know that a family has a genetic risk factor for clefting due to IRF6, they will also know that this gene causes other non-clefting health issues related to wound healing. This, in turn, may affect behavior and health care decisions from treating skinned knees to undertaking in-utero surgery on their baby (since wound healing is more rapid in-utero) if some other condition is identified prior to birth.

Research has also shown that people with cleft lip and palate may have a higher incidence of cancer. Perhaps even more important, this incidence of cancer may also be higher in the unaffected relatives of people with cleft lip and palate.

The bottom line is that even when Dr. Marazita, Dr. Weinberg, Dr. Szabo-Rogers and others are still investigating the underlying genetic factors, there are simple phenotypic tests that offer clues to hidden risks of cleft lip and cleft palate.

Translating that vital piece of health care information into the clinical practice of physicians, dentists, and other health care providers will deliver personalized health care to families prone to clefting.

SDM Research at a Glance

6
NIDCR ranking nationwide (2011)

\$10.6m
Total funding from all sources

71
Total number of grants
31,000 sq. ft.
Total research space at Salk Hall and Bridgeside

5,000 sq. ft.
New research space under construction

Opportunities for Research

Clinical & Translational Research Center
Dental Registry & DNA Repository
Clinical Research Mentoring Program
Resident Program
Center for Dental Informatics
Center for Craniofacial Regeneration
Center for Craniofacial & Dental Genetics

SDM Hosted

AADR Translational Genetics Symposium

When the American Association for Dental Research held its Fall Focused Symposium at the University of Pittsburgh, November 16-17, 2012, it marked the return of the event to a university setting. The initiator for the change of venue was Dr. Alexandre Vieira, associate professor at the School of Dental Medicine, and director of both Clinical Research and Student Research.

The two-day symposium, entitled Translational Genetics—Advancing Fronts for Craniofacial Health, drew craniofacial genetics experts from as far afield as Oxford University and Germany's Christian-Albrechts University as well as NIDCR leaders and scientists from SDM and other Pitt departments. Dean Thomas W. Braun welcomed participants, while senior vice chancellor for the Health Sciences and dean, School of Medicine, Arthur S.



Levine, MD, presented the keynote address.

Dr. Arthur S. Levine
The Push for Translational Sciences

Following on the heels of three speakers who delved into the depths of genetic research, Dr. Levine gave what he described as a “30,000-foot-view” of the

world of genetics. He challenged the audience to think about what lies ahead for advancing this fast-moving field of scientific and technical innovations into the realm of personalized medicine. Recognizing that genetic sequencing is only as good as the phenotyping that accompanies it, Dr. Levine also stated that scientists must “unleash good science and smart technology” to bring order to the increasingly vast amount of data generated by the field.

Dr. Levine advocated for translational medicine initiatives that improve health care. He left the audience with a clear goal ahead: to translate their basic science findings into optimizing patient care and preventive medicine.



Dr. Alexandre Vieira
Caries: From Genes to Clinical Applications

During the afternoon session, entitled “Dealing with the Complexity of Complex Traits,” Dr. Vieira began his presentation with an assessment of the current state of dental caries in the U.S. He noted that data from the 2000 Surgeon General's Report on America's Oral Health showed the incidence of caries in our children

is a staggering 58.6 percent. The next highest childhood health issue is asthma at a mere 11.1 percent. Perhaps most alarming is the potential for untreated caries lesions to lead to major sequelae and, in rare instances, even death.

In order to begin caries research, Dr. Vieira identified two key problems: isolating the specific genes at work and, second, the requirement for a large, controlled sample set. A number of genes influence this caries susceptibility, including genes involved in enamel development, saliva function and immune responses. Genetic studies identified the genes MMP2 and MMP3 as the major contributors. For example, MMP3 (also known as stromelysin) is involved in the breakdown of the extra-cellular matrix in normal physiological processes such as embryonic development, reproduction, and tissue remodeling, as well as in disease processes. Genetic variation in these genes was associated with developing a periapical lesion.

Dr. Vieira was quick to acknowledge that the leap from knowing the role of a gene in the lab to effecting change in the level of caries incidence is a massive stride. Yet from these initial steps come bigger strides than leaps to forecasting caries susceptibility and predicting the healing response.



Dr. Mary Marazita
Cleft Lip and Palate: From SNPs to Diagnostic Testing?

Dr. Marazita, associate dean for research at the School of Dental Medicine and director for the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, presented her cleft lip and cleft palate research during the session entitled, “From Genome-wide Analyses to Clinical Practice.” Single-nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs, are DNA sequence variations that occur when one nucleotide—an A, T, C, or G—in the genome differs between paired chromosomes. Dr. Marazita uses SNPs in her work to pinpoint regions of the genome that are likely to harbor genetic risk variants for cleft lip or cleft palate.

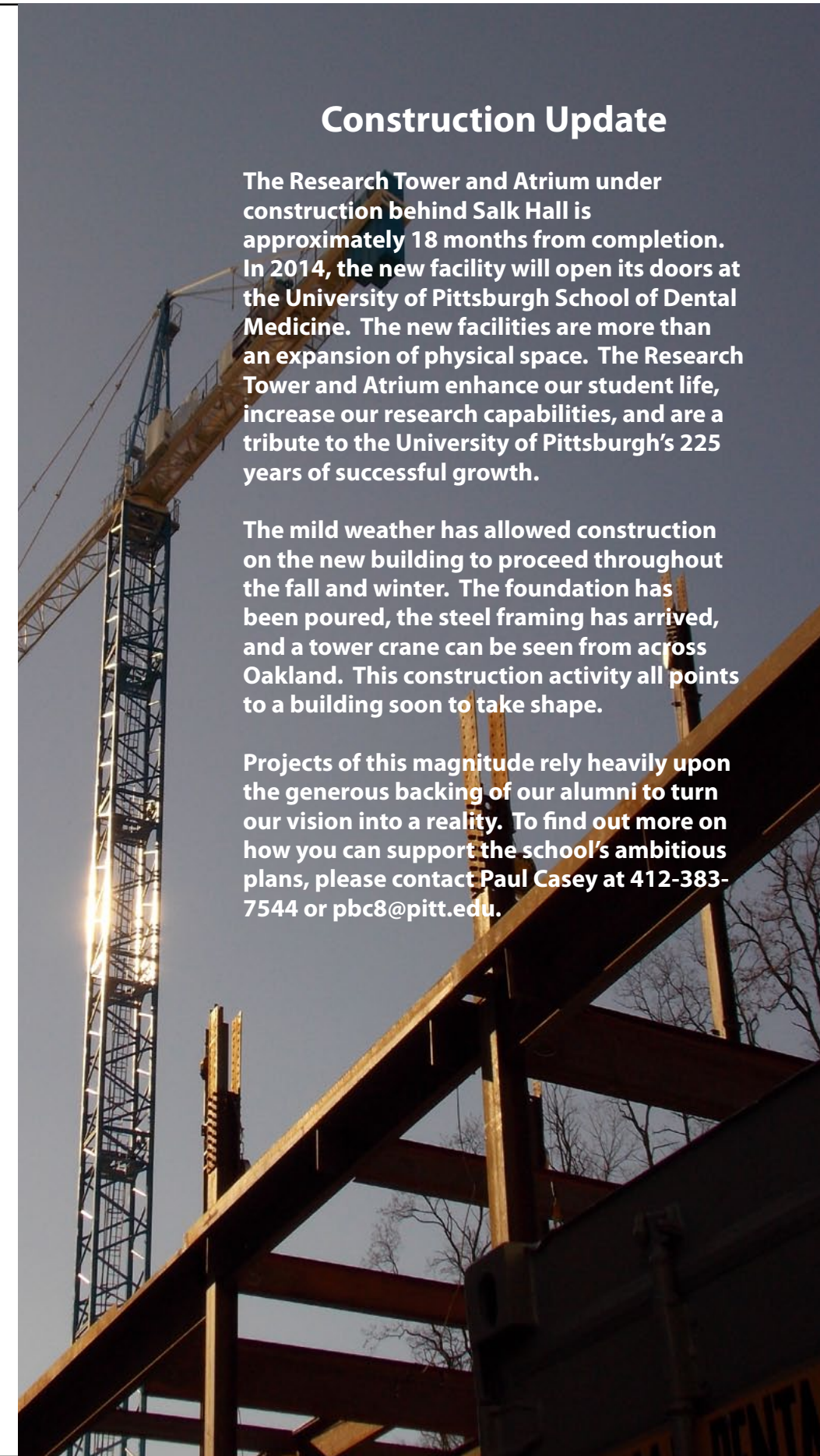
In concert with the genetics approaches, Dr. Marazita also works at the phenotype level of observable (although not necessarily to the naked eye) traits and characteristics. The big question she seeks to answer is: why don't some family members with a cleft lip or palate genetic risk factor develop birth defects? She admitted that the answer is yet to be determined, and so, too, is the prospect for translating her work into clinical practice. For the immediate future, she is focusing her research efforts on rich phenotyping, gene sequencing and functional studies. (See companion story on page 6 for more detail on Dr. Marazita's work.)

Construction Update

The Research Tower and Atrium under construction behind Salk Hall is approximately 18 months from completion. In 2014, the new facility will open its doors at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. The new facilities are more than an expansion of physical space. The Research Tower and Atrium enhance our student life, increase our research capabilities, and are a tribute to the University of Pittsburgh's 225 years of successful growth.

The mild weather has allowed construction on the new building to proceed throughout the fall and winter. The foundation has been poured, the steel framing has arrived, and a tower crane can be seen from across Oakland. This construction activity all points to a building soon to take shape.

Projects of this magnitude rely heavily upon the generous backing of our alumni to turn our vision into a reality. To find out more on how you can support the school's ambitious plans, please contact Paul Casey at 412-383-7544 or pbc8@pitt.edu.



Efficient and Effective

A new patient-centered approach will bring a facelift to the School of Dental Medicine's clinical environment and emphasize patients as the top priority in a state-of-the-art practice.

The summer of 2011 marked the time of a targeted effort to expunge the lingering patient paper charts from the school's in-house storage. Despite moving to an electronic health record (EHR) in 2008, paper still existed.

The goal was for our patient support structure to become more efficient and patient-centered, and to project the state-of-the-art dentistry that we practice at the school," said Dr. Oakley, associate dean for Clinical Affairs.

Efficient

The changes marking this shift have been in action during the past 18 months, as Dr. Oakley and her team left no stone unturned. Already, patients are experiencing improvements across several areas including patient registration, payments and billing, insurance liaison activity, and patient financial counseling as well as enhancements to the physical structure of the supportive areas, now known as the Office of Clinical Affairs. One recent example allows patients to conveniently make payments with the registration staff, as well as the newly relocated financial information specialists.

The central focus of the reorganization is targeted to improving the patient experience at the 'front of the house' where our patients interact with representatives of the school. The emphasis is on creating a friendly, trouble-free, efficient, and professional experience for all patients. Efforts have encompassed the overriding need for patients to maximize their time with their clinical care providers and not be administratively delayed.

Job descriptions and titles have been rewritten and some functions merged, all with an eye on efficiencies. Understandably, organizational change can be a challenge for an employee who is faced with adapting

to new ground rules for how they do their job, or even retraining for a completely new job in a new location.

Thanks to the help of some wonderfully loyal and dedicated staff, a more patient-centered and supportive office dedicated to the needs of our patients has been created. Roberta Walk and Donna George, managers in the Office of Clinical Affairs, worked alongside other assigned staff to proactively communicate the motivation behind these changes.

The goal of the transformation was to tap into the wealth of staff experience and establish an environment that valued input and suggestions. This team approach also set the stage for greater job satisfaction.

Dr. Oakley notes, "I can't say enough about the caliber of staff we have here at the school. They worked through a tremendous amount of change and are still here smiling and coming up with new ideas."

Effective

By late 2012, the roll out for the administrative framework phase of the reorganization had reached the critical point of efficiency. Implementation of the next phase is now underway with a determined effort to reach out to patients.

"I see us communicating more with our patients to best understand their needs," Dr. Oakley states.

This phase of the initiative includes activities ranging from:

- Scheduling patient educational

sessions about implants

- Instituting patient web access to EHRs
- Completing pre-appointment information, thus reducing chair-side time appropriated by this activity
- Implementing state-of-the-art software to educate patients about their care through personalized videos
- Rolling out more efficient processes that streamline patients to specialty clinics after referral by outside dental professionals.

The school's patient data indicates that more local dentists are using the school as a referral source for specialty care. It is important to the school that these patients are efficiently networked into the specialty program that provides their care. Once care is complete, professional and clear communication back to the referring dentist is the expected standard-of-care.

In tandem with personnel training and patient communications initiatives, the esthetics of the physical space in which patients wait and move through, and where the school's employees work, will also undergo a contemporary upgrade. This includes a facelift to the physical 'front of the house' on the first floor of Salk Annex. New waiting-area seating is already in place. Plans are underway for new private patient registration booths located a few strides from the reception desk. In fact, Dr. Oakley hopes the old-fashioned notion of a reception desk will also be a thing of the past, just like paper charts.

These plans include a concierge model where patients receive individual attention and will be personally directed to where they need to go. This concierge service is something patients have come to expect from large medical centers so it is only fitting that the school of Dental Medicine replicate that same level of quality service.

Perpetuating quality

Underpinning this reorganization is a belief, deeply ingrained in the school, which subscribes to producing quality clinicians.

"Pitt has always

been known as a top-quality clinical school producing students with great clinical skills," said Steven Levine, DMD, assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and director of the Emergency Care Clinic. "I'd like to see that reputation perpetuated."

As the coordinator of the QMI subcommittee, Dr. Levine has a major role in ensuring the tradition continues. The Quality Measurement and Improvement (QMI) initiatives are also in the throes of close scrutiny. The more the clinical protocols are refined and critiqued, the more adept and skillful will be our graduates.

The data that the QMI subcommittee collects and analyzes relates directly to how well the school meets the outlined standards of care. Patient satisfaction, proper documentation, and overall clinical success are but a few of the areas of focus for committee discussions.

Measuring improvement

Many aspects of clinical care are accompanied by digital paperwork that students complete. This digital paper trail is reviewed and approved at various levels throughout the departmental chain: starting with supervising faculty and ending with administrators who are in a position to effect necessary change. Over time, this wealth of data is generated into reports that measure the quality of work performed. These reports are invaluable for the QMI subcommittees. Ultimately, it is this close attention to detail that leads to future improvements in quality of care and helps our students, in turn, be the best clinicians possible.

On paper, the schema of subcommittees and the focus groups of those subcommittees seem like an impenetrable maze, yet there is astute soundness to the visual jumble. It is the function of the QMI subcommittee to continuously assess the validity of the measurements taken and the long-term necessity of the benchmarks used to determine quality. The QMI subcommittee then makes recommendations related to new measurement tools and benchmarks.

Dr. Oakley describes this activity as a fluid process that keeps a keen eye on a constantly moving target. It is today's reality for the way the School of Dental Medicine does business. And it serves as a powerful tool for ensuring improvement to the clinical excellence of the school's graduates.



America's health care system has been under close scrutiny off and on since the days of the Clinton administration. Unfortunately, meaningful discussions at the national level rarely touch on the dental health of America's citizens, nor do they address disparities in access to dental care or the situation within the institutions that produce dentists.

- In the past 18 months, four new dental schools opened, one is slated for 2013, and several more are planned. Yet this expansion occurs in a climate where existing schools struggle to fill faculty positions.

On the surface, creating new dental schools would seem to produce more dentists. Unfortunately, that neglects to address the crisis facing America's academic dental institutions: a narrow pipeline of future dental academicians.

COL Hamilton elaborated that the formal mentoring process well established in the Army Officer School helps create dental leaders. She believes the next stage is to further tap the resources of the American College of Dentists and American Dental Education Association to aid formalizing the development and education of the army's dental program directors, some of whom may rise to become the next generation of dental educators.

Speaking of his mentors during is time as a Pitt

Horvath, director of faculty development in the Office of Faculty Development and Information Technology, is in the midst of developing components for the program. It is planned as a rigorous program with high standards for admission and courses designed to provide concentrated training and knowledge.

"I was particularly motivated to do this because of my involvement with a few students who were interested in academic careers," said Dr. Horvath.

Educating EDUCATORS

How one small educational program may become the source of tomorrow's academic leaders.

The numbers presented by everyone from federal and state legislators to organized dentistry and advocates for underserved populations are compelling, even daunting.

- Under the Affordable Care Act, by 2014 there will be 5.3 million more children entitled to dental benefits from Medicare and the Children's Health Insurance Program. This change will occur at a time when dental disease is already the number one chronic childhood disease, and also at a time when dentists do not universally accept Medicaid.

- There are 48.7 million Americans who live in areas with dental-care shortages, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration. Most of those people reside in rural or remote parts of the country.

- Nationally, there are many qualified applicants for every one dental student position, according to the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). At Pitt, the numbers are consistently more extreme: for 80 positions, over 2,250 applicants applied for the class of 2016. Although national dental student enrollment is the highest it has been in 10 years at 5,100 students, it is still lower than the 1978 enrollment that exceeded 6,300.

The question to be answered is how to address the critical shortage of academic dentists?

Mentoring pathway

The crisis is not restricted to private and public dental schools. The military is in the same quandary. Although compared to civilian schools, the military is a unique breeding ground for leaders. Leadership is a core value instilled into recruits and the notion of taking on additional responsibility is integral to army training.

Three years ago the army formalized its dental school status by aligning its postgraduate dental program with the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. COL Robert Manga (DMD '81) became the school's first dean in 2010. In July 2012, he handed the deanship over to another University of Pittsburgh graduate, COL Priscilla Hamilton (DMD '82).

"Army dental residents are trained one-on-one," said COL Manga of the army's dental education system. "On graduation, residents go on to teach in a one-year program, so they experience the educational side as a mentor. That's how we grow educators."

student, COL Manga said, "In my freshman year, Dr. Hinkleman he was someone who influenced me and made me ask 'Do I want to be an educator?' That's not unique to Pitt. It's unique to people who light a fire under you."

Developing an academic career pathway

Mentoring and other programs are crucial to growing academic dental clinicians. A few dental schools provide some kind of training for an academic career, but rarely as a formal program. Clearly, given the shortage of academic dentists, informal training programs will only take an academic institution so far in terms of piquing a student's interest in academic dentistry, and in terms of educating future educators.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine is taking a proactive approach to addressing the shortage of academic dentists. While still in the development phase, the Academic Career Track program is designed to expose students to academia as a viable career path and ultimately generate the school's own academically oriented clinicians.

The program is the result of collaboration among a number of the school's academic areas. Dr. Zsuzsa

The planned two-year Academic Career Track program, she explained, will introduce third- and fourth-year dental students to all aspects of an academic profession: clinical and didactic teaching theory and practice, scholarship and academic leadership as well as reinforce research opportunities.

Dr. Horvath says the best way to facilitate dental students remaining in academia, or returning to it some years after graduation, is "to equip them with the necessary skills and basic knowledge so they can make an informed decision about their future livelihood."

For students who are unsure about their career path, each course in the Academic Career Track may be taken as an elective course. This small 'taste' of academia may be enough to prod an academic fence-sitter into a career in clinical teaching or research.

Benefits of academia

Understandably, many new dental graduates have their eyes on a private practice position that enables them to more rapidly pay down educational debt. That's not surprising when today's typical graduate shoulders a debt load of over \$180,000, and where one

Continued on page 18

Educating Educators *continued from page 17*

in five owes more than \$250,000, according to ADEA.

However, academia offers many rewarding benefits and can offset the financial benefits of private practice.

Dr. Jennifer Zavoral (DMD '08) is someone who has experienced both sides of the dental career path and, for now, is happily established in an academic role at the School of Dental Medicine.

"I love academia and always wanted to be involved in some way, but it was not my plan to be full-time in academics. I sort of fell into it," said Dr. Zavoral, who did both a residency in periodontics and masters in public health at Pitt.

Timing was everything for Dr. Zavoral. Her disillusionment with private practice coincided with an opening in the periodontics department. She touts numerous benefits to working as a full-time faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh.

"I get to stay very current on what's going on in dentistry and keep up my dental skills by working in the faculty dental practice here," added Dr. Zavoral.

It is Dr. Horvath's job at the school to assist in developing faculty. She sees the Academic Career Track program as integral to achieving that function. She is also quick to acknowledge that this is a long-term initiative, which will take many years to bear fruit.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Nineteenth Annual

T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture

Howard S. Glazer, DDS

Presents

"What's Hot and What's Getting Hotter!"

Saturday, May 4, 2013

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Scaife Hall, lecture rooms 5 and 6
University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Glazer presents a fast-paced program that touches on the latest hot topics in dentistry. You will leave able to make judicious assessments of product materials and claims, from composites for esthetic fillings to biodentine and thermoplastics. He will help you assess new techniques for adoption in your practice, such as lasers or tissue retraction. And you will be able to better provide counsel on oral cancer.

Dentistry Today named Dr. Glazer one of the leading clinicians in continuing education. He writes a monthly column for *AGD IMPACT* entitled "What's Hot and What's Getting Hotter!" and travels the world lecturing on cosmetic dentistry, forensic dentistry and patient management issues. Dr. Glazer maintains a private practice in Fort Lee, NJ, is an attending dentist at New Jersey's Englewood Hospital, and is the deputy chief forensic dental consultant at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for New York City.

For more information about the T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture, please visit www.dental.pitt.edu/ce.



Thirteenth Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball

Please join Dean Thomas W. Braun and the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine for an evening of dancing and entertainment.

The annual black-tie ball supports dental medicine scholarships for students and celebrates the accomplishments of distinguished alumni.

Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Phipps Conservatory

Tickets are \$200 per person.

The 2013 Honorees include:

COL Robert K. Manga (DMD '81)—Distinguished Alumnus Dental Medicine
Dr. Louis B. Jannetto (DDS '61, MDS '67)—Distinguished Alumnus Advanced Education Programs
Ms. Judith E. Gallagher (DH '75, MEd '75)—Distinguished Alumna Dental Hygiene

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

Growth of Pediatric Dentistry

FISA Foundation grant brings new facilities to Center for Patients with Special Needs

In the latter part of 2012, the faculty in the Center for Patients with Special Needs and the Department of Pediatric Dentistry had reason to celebrate. The positive news came in the form of a \$250,000 grant from the FISA Foundation to expand the Center for Patients with Special Needs by creating a dedicated unit for children and young adolescents.

“This is only the second time in our history that we have awarded a grant of this size,” said Ms. Kristy Trautmann, executive director of the FISA Foundation, which has been an advocate for the Center since its inception. “We and the School of Dental Medicine are aligned in our desire to build a culture of respect for the quality of life and health care for this often underserved population. FISA’s support for the expansion of the Center for Patients with Special Needs is a ringing endorsement of the school’s ongoing commitment to the dental care of people with disabilities.”

The FISA Foundation continues to build a culture of respect and improves the quality of life for three populations in southwestern Pennsylvania: women, girls and people with disabilities. The Foundation has the mission and commitment to make a significant impact on dental care for special needs children.

In the four years since the Center for Patients with Special Needs was dedicated, patient volume has increased from approximately 560 to over 1,800 annually, including 300 children and adolescents. The Center found itself with an accelerating demand for its highly specialized dental services that far exceeded its capacity.

As a parent of a special needs child, Judy Cohen knows the value of individualized dental care for children with special needs. Her 22-year-old son, Josh, has a complex array of health issues that make dental care impractical in a private practice setting. Ms. Cohen was delighted to find the Center for Patients with Special Needs; a place that not only meets Josh’s dental needs, but is easily accessible for a patient who arrives in a wheelchair.

“This is a gem and a very positive thing,” said Ms. Cohen about the Center for Patients with Special Needs. “They are very sensitive to Josh’s needs. They accommodate and understand us. It is very comforting and wonderful for families to know” that comprehensive dental care is available for their special needs child or adult.

Since Josh is too old to receive dental care through the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, his care occurs at the Center’s unit that accommodates adults and adolescents who are older than 14 years of age.

Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, explained that the complex health care needs of these patients often result in an increased risk for oral disease, plus their overall systemic wellbeing may be adversely affected by a lack of dental care. The key to treating this population in a safe and efficient manner is to have the option to use all forms of sedation.

“FISA’s grant was the best possible news for our pediatric patients who have physical and developmental disabilities and need specialized dental care,” said Dr. Studen-Pavlovich.

Once operational, the new facility will permit children and young adolescents with special needs to be treated efficiently and effectively within the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. The FISA grant, coupled with significant support from the Highmark Foundation, Massey Charitable Trust, alumni, friends and, the University, will enable an additional 1,000 sq. ft. of dedicated treatment space to be housed within the Department. The project, slated for completion in mid 2013, includes two treatment suites capable of providing multi-level sedation and general anesthesia, equipment designed for children with disabilities, and a recovery room.

With the expansion of the Center’s new facility, the goal is to treat an additional 100 new pediatric dental patients per year. The Center for Patients with Special Needs uses an interdisciplinary treatment approach capitalizing on University experts in general and pediatric dentistry, anesthesia, oral and maxillofacial surgery, periodontics, endodontics, and medicine.

Complementing the special needs infrastructure, the school has established a dental education program that goes well beyond the accreditation mandates of the American Dental Association. It is one of the few programs in the country that requires all dental and dental hygiene students as well as residents training in pediatric dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery to provide dental care for patients with disabilities. The goal is to expand a growing pool of community-based dentists skilled in best practices for treatment and care of an increasing population of special-needs patients.

The costs and challenges of providing care and treatment for this population, as well as the education of future dental care providers, are significant. To make a gift or to find out more about this initiative, please contact Paul Casey, director of development, at 412-383-7544 or pbc8@pitt.edu. We hope you will be able to tour this state-of-the-art facility later in the year.



Legacy Laureate

Learning and education have always been a part of life for Dr. Ronald Johnson (DDS '61). His accomplishments spanning more than 30 years as a dental educator, were recognized on October 12, 2012 when he was inducted as a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate.

The Legacy Laureate program celebrates the achievements of alumni who reach the pinnacle in professional and civic leadership. Dr. Johnson was in the esteemed company of 12 other laureates, whose time at Pitt lead to careers ranging from mechanical engineering and cell biology to law, library science and, of course, education. These are alumni who have excelled both professionally and personally and exemplify the best in leadership qualities and commitment to the greater good for their professions, communities, and the world at large.

Much of Dr. Johnson's career has been spent directing health science, craniofacial biology and educational research. He has mentored and supervised over 100 residents, students, faculty and visiting scholars. Three of his former students went on to become dental leaders in their own right as deans of pediatric dentistry, and one became university president at two institutions.

Following graduation from the School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Johnson undertook postgraduate training in pediatric dentistry at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. His career has taken him to some of the country's premier universities, including, the

University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, the University of Southern California School of Dentistry, and most recently at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. At Texas, he was the first African American appointed dean of the school's Dental Branch, a position

he held for six years. Dr. Johnson currently serves as the university's chief academic diversity officer and director of the Office of Cultural and Institutional Diversity.

Through dental research and education, Dr. Johnson has spent his academic career "...looking at what can we do to solve the problem of helping students reach their potential and maximizing their efforts," he explained.



Legacy Laureate Dr. Ronald Johnson flanked by Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh Mark A. Nordenberg, senior vice chancellor for the Health Sciences and dean, School of Medicine, Dr. Arthur S. Levine, and chair of Pediatric Dentistry Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovic.

His research focused on programs and assessment tools targeting underrepresented minority students. Beginning with the Personal Background and Preparation Survey (PBPS) and its related database for the Student Success Program, he developed this early alert, intervention, and mentoring program for undergraduate and health science professions students.

As a first-of-its kind diagnostic and prescriptive instrument, it has since been used to assess progress and intervention strategies for students in a variety of health education programs. The success of PBPS resulted in a flow of collaborations and research projects addressing minority student retention and workforce diversity.

While in Oakland for the Legacy Laureate and Homecoming celebrations, Dr. Johnson discussed diversity in dental education with Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale, assistant professor and vice chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care and chair of the Predoctoral Admissions Committee. Dr. Wankiiri-Hale explained that a goal of the committee is to establish a diverse student body that is representative of the University.

FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Ronald DeAngelis has been appointed as a clinical instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Adam Feuer has been appointed as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Michael Grimes has been appointed as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Zsuzsa Horvath has been appointed as an instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health.

Dr. Paul King has been appointed as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Mark P. Mooney has been awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award in Craniofacial Biology Research International Association of Dental Research. Also, he has been elected president of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association.

Dr. Marnie Oakley has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Jean O'Donnell has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Hongjiao Ouyang has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Petr Pancuska has been appointed as a visiting research associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

Dr. Joseph Petrone has been appointed assistant dean for Residency Education, a position with responsibilities for the graduate programs.

Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli has been awarded the title professor emeritus and senior associate dean emeritus.

Dr. Karen Schmidt has been appointed as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department Dental Public Health.

Dr. Yen Shuo Shen has been appointed as an instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Timothy Snyder has been appointed as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

Dr. Heiko Spallek has been inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Dentists. He has also been recognized by the NIH Pain Consortium for the important role he will play in the creation of pain management curriculum resources.

Dr. Erin Taylor has been appointed as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Adriana Modesto Vieira has been nominated to Omicron Kappa Upsilon Faculty Membership.

Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale has been appointed assistant dean for Student Services and Admissions. She will continue as chair of the Predoctoral Admissions Committee while extending the school's efforts in diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Katelyn Weaver has been appointed as an instructor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry—Dental Hygiene Program.

Dr. Jennifer Zavoral has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry.

New Students Welcomed at White Coat Ceremony

The School of Dental Medicine welcomed its incoming students during the time-honored White Coat Ceremony, held in conjunction with the annual General Assembly on August 27, 2012. Dean Thomas W. Braun welcomed the 80 members of the predoctoral dental class of 2016 and 36 members of the dental hygiene class of 2014. In the audience were more than 350 family, friends, and alumni. For the third year in a row, live video streaming was provided so that people unable to attend in person could witness the ceremony.

Welcoming all students as his “future colleagues” keynote speaker, Dr. Bernard Dishler, president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association, challenged students to take advantage of every opportunity to learn. Dr. Dishler also espoused the benefit of membership in the dental association as a means to help shape the future of the profession.

The Annual White Coat Ceremony is supported by generous donations from alumni, faculty, staff, students, and the *Drs. Harry Zohn and Cecile Feldman Endowment Fund*. Dr. Harry K. Zohn (DMD '84) and Dr. Cecile A. Feldman, Dean of UMDNJ, established the fund in 2009 to provide sustained support for this important event.

Student Scholarships and Awards

Three SDM dental students, from 216 applicants, received the 2013 American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Bloc Travel Grant of \$1000 to attend the AADR General Session, March 20-23 in Seattle. The students—Kyle Howell, working under Dr. Pourn Famili, professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry, and Shahryar Khaliq and Serena Hsin working under Dr. Alexandre Vieira, director of Clinical Research and Student Research—will each present a research abstract at the conference. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research funded the AADR



Dental Class of 2016



Dental Hygiene Class of 2014

Bloc Travel Grants. In addition, six other SDM students will present their abstracts at the conference.

Dental Hygiene student Alyssa Stiles won the Dr. Ester Wilkins Scholarship awarded by the American Dental Hygienists' Association Institute for Dental Health. The scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing a career in dental hygiene education.

Steel City Dental Expo

The student leadership coordinated and hosted the 5th Annual Steel City Dental Expo on October 25, 2012. Considered a compulsory class, it offered the opportunity to take in an entertaining keynote presentation on the modern restorative practice by Dr. Michael DiTolla, DDS, FAGD. The vendor fair followed in the afternoon with 29 dental industry representatives in attendance.

Inaugural Dental Anesthesiology Symposium and Reception Honoring Dr. Felix D. Mabunay

The culmination of a five-year fundraising initiative for the Felix D. Mabunay Dental Anesthesia Fund was celebrated November 9, 2012 with the inaugural *Pitt Dental Anesthesiology Symposium and Reception in Honor of Dr. Felix D. Mabunay*. Spearheaded by Dr. C. Richard Bennett, former chair of Dental Anesthesiology and faculty emeritus, and with major support from Mrs. Guin Mabunay and the Mabunay family, the fund was established to benefit the educational programs in the Department of Dental Anesthesiology. The symposium featured a continuing education program with four speakers—Dr. Paul A. Moore, Dr. Joseph Giovannitti, Dr. Michael Cuddy, and Dr. Matthew Cooke. At the reception following, a plaque honoring Dr. Mabunay and premier donors to the fund was unveiled.



Dr. Trish Parsons awarded ACPA grant.



Sara Galko's table clinic placed second.

Gies Award for Biological Research Article

The IADR/AADR awarded Dr. Mary Marazita and her co-authors the prestigious William J. Gies Award for Biological Research for their paper “Genome-wide association scan for childhood caries implicates novel genes” in the *Journal of Dental Research*. SDM faculty co-authors include Drs. Alexandre Vieira, Robert Weyant, Steven Wendell, Karen Cuenco, and Xiaojing Wang. Other Pitt co-authors are Drs. John R. Shaffer and Eleanor Feingold from the Department of Human Genetics, and from West Virginia School of Dentistry Dr. Richard Crout (DDS '78) and Dr. Daniel McNeil. The award will be presented during the IADR/AADR conferences in March.

Grant from the American Cleft Palate Association

Dr. Trish Parsons, postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, received a \$5,000 research grant from the American Cleft Palate Association. Dr. Parson's work involves experimentally testing for gene/environment interactions in a mouse model of cleft lip and palate. Her hypothesis is that more severe cases of cleft lip and palate and a greater number of them will occur when a fetal environment lower in oxygen than normal (hypoxia) is combined with a specific genotypic background.

Dental Hygiene Table Clinic Success

Five Dental Hygiene students were selected to present their table clinics at the Pennsylvania Dental Association's November meeting in Lancaster, Penn. Sara Galko received second place for “Perioscopy— Illuminating the Oral Pathway” and Be-Ut Li received an honorable mention for “Get Connected: Your Smart Phone and Oral Health.” Ms. Li and another second-year student, Alyssa Stiles, both attended the four-day conference as delegates.

Junior Faculty to Attend Pitt Leadership Workshop

Four faculty members have been selected for the University of Pittsburgh's 2013 Course in Scientific Management and Leadership to be held during April. Drs. Deborah Polk, Sean Noonan, Elizabeth Bilodeau, and Kelly Williams will attend the interactive workshop designed for junior faculty and postdoctoral and clinical fellows intent on an academic research career. The course, organized by the Office of Academic Career Development, provides participants with leadership and team building insight as well as skills for managing a scientific lab or research program, for productivity improvement, and establishing an environment that fosters creativity and innovation.

As an Oral and Maxillofacial pathology assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences, Dr. Elizabeth Bilodeau has revitalized the Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Biopsy Service. She is spearheading the marketing of this service throughout Western Pennsylvania, and was instrumental in developing a computerized mock board exam for dental hygiene students.

Assistant professor Dr. Sean Noonan is team leader for 20 senior and 20 junior students in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care. He is also director for five courses in clinical restorative dentistry for all third- and fourth-year students.

Dr. Kelly Williams is an assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry. She is co-investigator on a project on oral microbiome and digestive diseases. She also supervises periodontics and prosthodontics residents, and teaches students.

Assistant professor of Dental Public Health, Dr. Deborah Polk studies the relationship between broad social factors and individual behavior, such as smoking or oral hygiene, and indicators of health. She developed and runs the Standardized Patient program, is a course director, and serves on the Admissions Committee.

American Association of Women Dentists

The American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) once again has a chapter home at SDM. The association's membership includes students as well as dentists, educators, researchers, and women in corporate, federal and public services positions. The chapter is lead by Alys Murdoch, president; Elly Steel, vice president; Allison King, secretary; Jennifer Alvarez, treasurer; and Jessica Liao, first-year representative. SDM advisors are Dr. Kelly Williams and Dr. Jennifer Zavoral. AAWD's mission is to be the recognized resource for connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists.

The Next Generation of Professional Leaders

In early November, an elite cohort of students from across the country met in Chicago for the American Student Dental Association's (ASDA) first National Leadership Conference. The School of Dental Medicine was represented by seven students—Anthony Miller, Alys Murdoch, Martin Smallidge,

Aaron Schmick, Paul Weibel, Julie Tran, Anthony Colangelo, and Tamar Shrikian—all of whom were intent on expanding their dental "life skills" and then passing those skills onto their Pitt peers. The weekend-long program drew together more than 375 next-generation professional leaders. Topics focused on career and business planning, organized dentistry, chapter management, and advocacy, politics and professional issues. ASDA will hold the second National Leadership Conference November 15-17, 2013.

New Chapter: Tau Sigma Military Dental Club

During early December, Dr. Robert Engelmeier, Dr. John Ference, and 21 military-sponsored students, officially formed Tau Sigma Military Dental Club. The purpose of the club is to instill students with a sense of pride for the commitment they have made to serve their country, and to help them become familiar with aspects of their future military life.



Health Care for Homeless Veterans Benefits from School of Dental Medicine Generosity

SDM advocates for the homeless veterans—Dr. Robert Engelmeier, professor and chair, and Dr. John Ference, assistant professor, in the Department of Prosthodontics collected approximately \$1,300 from alumni, faculty and staff during November 2013. Dr. Engelmeier used the donations to purchase gift cards that were distributed through Health Care for Homeless Veterans, a Veterans Affairs program that provides health care outreach services.

ADA Student Ambassador Program

In conjunction with the ADA annual Session in October, second-year dental student Braxton Henderson attended the ADA Student Ambassador Program. This student-driven program encourages students to take the lead in organizing and conducting introduction to dentistry programs with an emphasis on recruiting underrepresented students.

Administrative Title Changes

To permit greater consistency across the University, three administrative offices received new titles. The Office of Clinical Affairs replaces the Office of Patient Clinical Services. The Office of Academic Affairs replaces the Office of Education and Curriculum. The Office of Faculty Affairs replaces the Office of Faculty Development/Information Management.

ADMISSIONS FACTS AND FIGURES

The school is aware that many alumni are concerned about the number of Pennsylvania residents admitted into dental school. As a means of better understanding the application process, the following information may be helpful.

For the Class of 2016, the School of Dental Medicine received 2,265 applications for our class of 80 students. Nationwide, applications were 11,780. Of these Pitt applications, 200 (8 percent) were from Pennsylvania residents. We conducted 298 applicant interviews, of which 59 (20 percent) were state residents. The data for those interviewed are:

FOR THE CLASS OF 2016

Interviewed Applicants:	In state	59
	Out-of-state	239
Mean GPA value:	Science GPA	3.52
	Total GPA	3.65
Mean DAT score:	DAT Academic	20.78
	DAT PAT	21.28
	DAT Total Science	20.76

If you are aware of a qualified individual interested in applying to dental school, please have him or her contact the Office of Student Services at 412-648-8437 or DentalAdmissions@dental.pitt.edu.

Homecoming 2012

The 225th Anniversary celebration at the University of Pittsburgh helped to make the 2012 Homecoming weekend extraordinary. The week-long recognition at the University began with a national community service event and ended with Pitt schools and colleges hosting homecoming and reunion events.



Drs. Dobos and Spallek with Dr. Charles Hapcook, EDIC

The School of Dental Medicine Homecoming events began with a well-attended continuing education course presented by Dr. Barry Glassman (DMD '73) and sponsored in part by the Theodore F. Bowser Education Fund.

Mentoring sessions were offered for residents and first professional students. Eastern Dentists Insurance Company (EDIC) provided an educational grant to support homecoming mentoring.

Dental Medicine Homecoming festivities also



'62

included a 50-year reunion celebration for the Class of '62 and reunion dinners for the classes of '72, '77, '82, '87, '92 and '02, in addition to our Golden Alumni who graduated before 1962. The Pitt Alumni Association (PAA) provided a grant to invite Alumni Association Life Members, who are also mentors at the School of Dental Medicine, along with student leaders to the University Club dinner. The evening ended with a rooftop viewing of the spectacular fireworks and laser display spotlighting the Cathedral of Learning.

The following names were added to the Donors of Distinction Wall to recognize lifetime giving to the School of Dental Medicine of \$10,000 or greater:

- Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Ciarallo
- Dr. Barry L. Green and Mrs. Margaret Lappan Green
- Dr. and Mrs. Paul F. Hess
- Dr. L. Michael Menapace
- Dr. James F. Petraglia
- Dr. Bonnie Ann Uehara



PAA Mentors & Students



'92



'82



Golden Alumni



'87



Golden Alumni



'77



'72



'02

Alumni Updates

Dr. David Anderson (MDS '84) was honored as Champion for Gateway Medical Society during the 2012 Physician of the Year Scholarship Gala held October 27, 2012 in Pittsburgh.

Dr. John F. Buzzatto, (DMD '78, MDS '81) was elected the 2012-2013 president of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), the world's oldest and largest dental specialty organization. Dr. Buzzatto will host

the AAO's 113th Annual Session in Philadelphia in May 2013.

Dr. Myron L Caplan (DMD '67) received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in August 2012. The award recognizes 50 years of continual dedication to aviation safety. During dental school, Dr. Caplan was known as "Sky My" because of his work as a flight instructor at Allegheny County Airport. He practiced

pediatric dentistry in Las Vegas and, with his wife Brenda Caplan (EDU '66), created Air Nevada, a regional Las Vegas-based airline. In 1998, they moved the airline to Maui, Hawaii.

Dr. Diane Damratoski Romaine (DMD '95) was appointed by Joshua Sharfstein, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to serve at the Institute for the Healthiest Maryland. Dr. Romaine is the 2012 President of the Maryland State Dental Association.

Dr. Richard Gradisek (DMD '81) played the "Longest Day of Golf" benefit for the American Cancer Society in June 2012. His group set an event record by completing 261 holes in just short of 16 hours at the Club at Shadow Lakes in Hopewell, Pennsylvania. Dr. Gradisek has played the Longest Day of Golf for the past 23 years.

Dr. Bernard J. Grubler (DDS '60) was honored with the 2011 West Virginia University School of Dentistry Alumni Association Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to organized dentistry, dental education testing, and his numerous accomplishments improving the dental profession throughout West Virginia.

Dr. John J. Liang (DMD '80) was elected vice president of the New York State Dental Association and will serve as the association's president in 2014. In 2002, he served as president of the Fifth District Dental Society.

2012 American College of Dentists Inductees
 Dr. Kolman P. Apt (DMD '82)
 Dr. Eros S. Chaves (DMD '99)
 Dr. Gregory J. Conte (DMD '90)
 Dr. John F. Robison (DMD '78)
 Dr. David M. Shipper (DMD '76)

2012 International College of Dentistry Inductees
 Dr. Diane Damratoski Romaine (DMD '95)
 COL Peter H. Guevara (DMD '92, GPR '93)
 Dr. David A. Schimmel (DMD '85)

2012 Pennsylvania Academy of General Dentistry Honorees
 Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition:
 Dr. Richard DeForno (DMD '76)
 Dr. David A. Schimmel (DMD '85)

Membership Awards:
 Dr. William D. Morosky (DMD '82)
 Dr. Cuong B. Tran (DMD '96)
 Fellowship Awards:

Dr. John P. Coolican (DMD '92)
 Dr. Robert A. Doyle (DMD '01)
 Dr. Paul D Kruth (DMD '95)

Correction: *Pitt Dental Medicine* apologizes to Dr. Richard A. Kiman (DDS '43) for misspelling his name in the last issue. Dr. Kiman, who celebrated his 93rd birthday in early 2012, is a clinical associate professor at the New York University College of Dentistry.

Alumni Update Form

Please send us information about your career advancements, papers presented, honors received, appointment and further education. We will include your news in future issues of *Pitt Dental Medicine* as space permits. Please indicate names, dates, and location as well as changes of address, phone or

e-mail. Photos are welcome.

Name: _____

Position(s): _____

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

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____

Business phone: _____

Business address: _____

E-mail: _____

News: _____

Please complete and return to: University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs & Development, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, Attn: Nancy Poe

*Don't forget to register at the alumni section of our website, www.dental.pitt.edu, to make sure the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Dental Medicine have your current contact information.

OKU Update Form

If you are a Beta Chapter OKU member but have not yet opted in to receive OKU information, please complete and send us this form. If you prefer, you may notify Dr. Michael Dobos by email at mad32@pitt.edu.

Name: _____

Degree(s) and year(s): _____

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please mail this form to: Dr. Michael Dobos, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs & Development, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh PA 15261

Messages from Alumni Associations

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I have enjoyed my tenure as president of the Dental Alumni Association Board and have been honored to serve with an outstanding group. The focus of my tenure was to engage our alumni, to support the school, and to continue our successful mentoring program. I am pleased to say we have expanded the scope of the mentoring program to increase awareness of practice opportunities throughout the state including underserved areas.

In addition to our annual mentoring event for first-year students, we held a mentoring event in July entitled “Successful Practices in Rural and Underserved Areas of Pennsylvania.” Thank you to our mentors who gathered at the University Club to give the third- and fourth-year students a real sense of dentistry throughout Pennsylvania. Dr. Jean O’Donnell, Associate Dean for the Office of Academic Affairs, facilitated the event and Eastern Dentists Insurance Company provided support through an educational grant.

I encourage all alumni to become actively involved with the Dental Alumni Association as we support our school and future colleagues. The benefits of mentoring are mutually beneficial. Not only will you impart your wisdom, but you will gain insight into current teaching practices and curriculum as well as a fascinating link to issues important to the younger generation.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all who have contributed to the Dean’s Scholarship Fund. Please consider joining us at the 13th Annual Dean’s Scholarship Ball on May 11, 2013 at Phipps Conservatory.

For more information about alumni events, please contact our alumni coordinator, Nancy Poe, at poen@pitt.edu or 412-648-8910. Thank you for your support.

Dr. Margaret Gurtner (DMD ‘90)
President

July Mentoring Event...Details to follow shortly.



Greetings Dental Hygiene Alumni

There is so much for dental hygienists to be excited about both within our Pitt community as well as across the nation. The year 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of dental hygiene as a profession. On the heels of that milestone, in 2014, comes the 50th anniversary of the Dental Hygiene Program here at the School of Dental Medicine.

We are in the early planning stages for an event to celebrate our profession at Pitt and honor the women who became our inaugural class, the Class of ‘64. Already, we have a group of enthusiastic volunteers as the nucleus of the anniversary planning committee. However, it’s not too late to add your event planning skills and ideas to the committee. Let me know via email (sub26@pitt.edu) if you would like to help plan the celebration. The committee will meet during February 2013. If you have some great ideas but can’t participate at the committee level, please let me know about those too, via email.

In news from the program, five second-year hygiene students presented table clinics at the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists’ Association state meeting in Lancaster this past November. Second-year students received the second place award for “Perioscopy: Illuminating the Oral Pathway” and an honorable mention for “Get Connected: Smart Phones and Oral Health.” I would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended our student Table Clinic and Poster Session at the School of Dental Medicine on July 31, 2012. More than 20 dental hygiene alumnae took advantage of the two, free continuing education credits granted for viewing the student presentations.

I end my message on a very happy note. I am delighted to announce that Ms. Judy Gallagher (DH ‘72, MEd ‘75), long-time faculty member who retired a little over a year ago, was chosen as Distinguished Alumna Dental Hygiene and will be recognized at the Dean’s Scholarship Ball on May 11, 2013. I hope many of you join me at the Dean’s Ball to congratulate and celebrate with Judy.

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

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
- Distinguished Alumnus—Advanced Education Programs

The Awards are given 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 be 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 1, 2013.

One of the most significant construction projects on behalf of our students is taking place at the School of Dental Medicine. In order to create a more relaxing space for students to use outside the classroom, the school is renovating the dental and dental hygiene student lounge and locker rooms.

A LASTING LEGACY

A new locker room and student lounge

Over the past several years, the School of Dental Medicine has embarked on an ambitious building campaign, including the construction of the Dental Implant Center, the Center for Patients with Special Needs, the renovations of the W. Harry Archer Oral Surgery Clinic, and the Department of Dental Anesthesiology clinic and conference room. The school is also undertaking the largest construction project in over 40 years: the new Research Tower and Atrium, which will include a meeting area for students, faculty, and friends featuring a coffee shop.

The lounge and locker construction project is devoted to enhancing student life. A new larger student lounge offers a place for students to congregate between classes; outlets for laptops and iPods to keep connected; and a new

kitchen with tables offers a place for our students to snack, study, or just relax.

The school has also added 340 new lockers for dental students and 35 lockers for dental hygiene students on the second floor of Salk Hall. An additional 35 lockers for dental hygiene students remains in Salk Annex.

With the completion of the project, now is the perfect time to assist our students and keep your legacy alive. In support of the the Student Lounge and Locker Room initiative or for naming opportunities, please contact Paul Casey at 412-383-7544 or pbc8@pitt.edu.

Thank you for your support of the School of Dental Medicine.



Third-year dental student Alys Murdoch

IN MEMORIAM

'40s

- Dr. Mervin L. Binstock (DDS '45)
on June 20, 2012
- Dr. Joseph L. Farina (DDS '45)
on May 18, 2012
- Dr. David D. Grossbard (DDS '43)
on March 16, 2012
- Dr. William J. Hughes (DDS '45)
on July 20, 2012
- Dr. Edward G. Hutton (DDS '45)
on June 29, 2012
- Dr. William M. Kampel (DDS '44)
on September 12, 2012
- Dr. Lawrence M. (Larry) Kuhn (DDS '45)
on July 10, 2012
- Dr. Richard J. Lowell (DMD '47)
on January 28, 2011

'50s

- Dr. Stanley J. Bielobocky (DDS '55)
on August 4, 2012
- Dr. Angelo A. Cipullo (DDS '51)
on September 13, 2012
- Dr. Cornelius Conley, Jr. (DDS '50)
on November 7, 2012
- Dr. John L. Dazio (DDS '55)
on May 19, 2012
- Dr. Walter F. "Fritz" Dorer (DDS '58)
on June 19, 2012
- Dr. Robert E. Fulton (DDS '55)
on November 24, 2012
- Dr. Howard T. Gilchrist (DDS '55)
on August 3, 2012
- Dr. Paul T. Haus (DDS '58)
on June 22, 2012
- Dr. Nestor Kohut (DDS '59)
on October 12, 2012
- Dr. Billy J. Martin (DMD '56)
on November 16, 2010
- Dr. William D. McClelland (DDS '53)
on September 6, 2012
- Dr. Jerry Mihaychuk (DDS '56)
on December 6, 2011
- Dr. Joseph P. Mohny (DDS '50)
on November 13, 2012

- Dr. William H. O'Shurak (DDS '50)
on September 12, 2012
- Dr. W. Joseph Porter (DDS '57)
on April 29, 2012
- Dr. William D. Shellenberger (DDS '56)
on January 11, 2012
- Dr. Merton Stearns Jr. (DMD '52)
on July 29, 2012
- Dr. Adolph W. Styer (DDS '54)
on April 23, 2012

'60s

- Dr. Robert A. Bernard (DMD '66)
on July 24, 2011
- Dr. Carlos V. Concepcion (DMD '67)
on May 22, 2010
- Dr. Harry J. Hosfield, Jr. (DMD '67)
on July 10, 2012
- Dr. John Megela, Jr. (DMD '66)
on January 22, 2013
- Dr. George S. Pascoe (DDS '60)
on November 25, 2012
- Dr. Jack Rickard (DDS '61)
on November 25, 2012
- Dr. Leonard Weiss (DDS '63)
on June 7, 2012

'70s

- Dr. Albert F. Sylanski Jr. (DMD '77)
on October 15, 2012

'80s

- Dr. Scott E. Haluska (DMD '88)
on July 13, 2012

'90s

- Dr. James Steven "Jim" Ferguson (DMD '97)
on June 14, 2012

Faculty

Dr. Norbert Kanczak on January 5, 2013. Dr. Kanczak was an associate professor of anatomy who taught at the school from 1970 to 1993.

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Alumni Calendar 2013

- February 11 Dental Alumni Association Executive Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., Salk Hall room 457
- February 11 Dental Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m., Salk Hall room 457
- April 26 SDM Alumni Reception at the PDA Annual Session, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Hotel Hershey, Hershey, Penn.
- April 26-27 PDA Annual Session, Hershey, Penn.
- May 4 19th Annual T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Scaife Hall
- May 4 Dental Alumni Association Business Meeting, 1 p.m., Scaife Hall, room 5
- May 11 13th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball, 6:30 p.m., Phipps Conservatory
- May 18 School of Dental Medicine Diploma Ceremony, 1 p.m., Heinz Hall

Useful Phone Numbers

Admissions/Student Services 412-648-9806

Dental Alumni Affairs 412-648-8910

Office of the Dean 412-648-8880

Transcripts 412-624-7620