In Remembrance

Dr. Raymond Beldegreen, Class of 1936
Dr. Gustav Lasoff, Clinical Professor of Orthodontics
Dr. Sidney R. Berger, Class of 1977; former Clinical Assistant Professor of Endodontics
Dr. Gerald N. Green, Class of 1962; Clinical Associate Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Jay Steinberg, Class of 1984
Dr. Roy A. Swenson, Class of 1950

Professor Alla Wheeler
1958–2010

"Thank you, Professor Wheeler, for your excellence as an educator and clinician, and for your gift to us of a life well lived."

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In Remembrance
The publication in 2000 of Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General appeared to forecast a new era of importance for dentistry. The report’s findings emphasized leading-edge technologies and research that could be brought to bear on maintaining and restoring health; the need to alleviate the burden of oral diseases and disorders in the nation as a whole; and actions to be undertaken to improve oral health across the life span.

Consistent with these findings, the report envisioned a biomedical research workforce of sufficient quantity, skill, and commitment to fulfill, with supportive infrastructure, the promise of diminished oral disease and the attendant benefits that improved oral health brings to general health.

Yet, just one decade later, a terrible irony has emerged. Recent evidence suggests a reverse trend, a gradual de-emphasis on research within those traditional incubators of potential oral health researchers—our nation’s dental schools. What has gone wrong?

Today, US dental schools are not competing effectively for available research dollars in the oral health sciences in comparison with other kinds of
academic institutions. Indeed, between 1993 and 2008, the percentage of NIH funding going to dental schools decreased from almost 70 percent to less than 50 percent, despite an overall increase in dollars awarded for dental research by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). As the dental research pie has increased, the piece going to dental schools has gotten smaller. Moreover, between 1982 and 2000, seven dental schools—none having a significant research portfolio—closed, and since 2000, four dental schools have opened. The new schools are presumed to be non-research-intensive because they do not appear to be investing in research-oriented faculty and are nested within parent universities that are themselves not known to be research-intensive. When these data are viewed in aggregate, it appears that a redirection of dental education away from its historic mission of research, teaching, and service toward a more limited and exclusive focus on teaching may be taking place.

One likely explanation for this trend is the substantial increase in the compensation of practicing dentists in recent years. This development has led to a greater demand for dental education from an expanded pool of academically outstanding dental applicants for whom high compensation is a key driver in the selection of an occupation, and to the emergence of additional dental schools to meet this demand.

One interpretation has been that new schools are not just new, but rather that they embody a new style of dental education as well, one founded

It appears that a redirection of dental education away from its historic mission of research, teaching, and service toward a more limited and exclusive focus on teaching may be taking place.

on a simple, tuition-based financial plan, often in non-research-intensive universities, and for which research may not be a driving priority. Although the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) has an explicit standard
The decline of dental education’s competitiveness in the research arena is the predictable outcome of years of de-emphasizing the importance of dental research in dental education institutions in general (whether new or old) and, perhaps, because of an ambiguity in the minds of dental practitioners themselves about the relative importance of research as the foundation of a learned profession…As a consequence, research in the oral health sciences has been taken up by…medical schools, engineering schools, and hospitals…for which dental research, astonishingly, has a higher priority than it does for US dental schools.
for accreditation requiring that research must (emphasis theirs) be an integral component of the purpose/mission, goals, and objectives of a dental school, it is hard to envisage a dental school being cited because of an insufficient research program or losing its accreditation because of an inadequate research environment.

In principle, it is certainly possible for a dental school to exist without supporting a large resident faculty, tenure, or basic scientists. It is even possible for dentistry to be taught without a significant preclinical educational infrastructure, including large (often money-losing) student clinics or research laboratories. In fact, both the newly emerging dental schools and long-established dental schools (many of which are, in truth, non-research-intensive) have attempted varying blends of these diverse survival strategies. But whether a dental school is among the crop of the newly established or not, what is quite clear is that society as a whole genuinely values dental research. This is evidenced by a continued increase in funding for research in the oral health sciences over recent years. Yet, as funding for oral health research has increased, the percentage going to dental schools has declined.

This outcome cannot be placed at the feet of new, less research-oriented dental schools—they haven’t been around long enough to have an impact one way or another. More importantly, no matter how many non-research-intensive dental schools might be formed, this could never explain why the research-intensive ones have become so much less competitive in securing funding from an increased pool of research dollars. Rather, the decline of dental education’s competitiveness in the research arena is the predictable outcome of years of de-emphasizing the importance of dental research in dental education institutions in general (whether new or old) and, perhaps, because of an ambiguity in the minds of dental practitioners themselves about the relative importance of research as the foundation of a learned profession.

In the abstract, practicing dentists presume that dental research is going on someplace by somebody, and they guess that it must be happening in dental schools. It isn’t. As a consequence, research in the oral health sciences has been taken up by non-dental academic institutions, including medical schools, engineering schools, and hospitals, with the added research funding—and more—being absorbed by these institutions for which dental research, astonishingly, has a higher priority than it does for US dental schools.

If a trend away from fostering a robust oral health research infrastructure is a manifestation of a change in the mission of existing dental schools and/or a reflection of new dental schools whose long-term institutional commitment coalesces around teaching the technical aspects of dentistry while minimizing research as the foundation of dental practice, a diminishing research scenario could well continue over an extended period. The result, to my mind, would be to undercut the pipeline of potential research scientists coming from US dental schools, decreasing further the amount of research conducted within dental schools, and weakening the nation’s oral health infrastructure.

Equally important is the impact of this trend on the dental education process. Much of professional

“All dental schools without exception need to help students acquire the taste for complex issues, for problems, and for problem solving—though there may be more than one way of doing so. An education colored by research is one way of achieving the objective of intellectual rigor and of helping to cultivate in students an appreciation for complexity.”
education entails learning to cultivate sophisticated tastes and nuanced satisfactions. Acquiring the taste for complex issues, for problems, and for problem solving comes naturally to some people; for others, it needs to be cultivated. This, more than anything else, is what higher education is supposed to accomplish. All dental schools without exception need to help students acquire this taste—though there may be more than one way of doing so.

An education colored by research is one way of achieving the objective of intellectual rigor and of helping to cultivate in students an appreciation for complexity. But this may not be the only way to do it. It’s quite possible for dental schools that lack a research focus to still cultivate an emphasis on critical thinking. While not contributing original research themselves, they may still educate students to understand that a scientific literature exists; where to find it; how to read that literature and understand it; to critique it; to segregate the scientifically valid from the invalid; and to take what is valid and adapt it to the care of patients. Whatever the mechanism employed, one thing is certain: All the discussion of evidence-based practice (EBP) will be irrelevant if dental graduates are scientifically illiterate and if the language and syntax of modern biological research are unintelligible to dentists.

Implicit in the discussion is the unstated assumption that the risk of slipping into vocationalism is great for dentistry. This risk entails a mindset that says: “Just tell me what I need to know technically and nothing more; keep everything snappy, practical, and up-to-date, with nothing theoretical or irrelevant.” The problem with such an approach is that it encourages acceptance of flawed assertions as true and tends, in the long run, to move one away from truth, rather than toward it.

Dental educators, like everyone else, fear the unknown.
Accordingly, it’s not just the thought of new schools, but of new kinds of schools, that has provoked an anxiety—possibly irrational—over a new and unwelcome direction for dental education and practice. This anxiety recently crystallized around a meeting of deans from research-intensive dental schools held at the University of Michigan. A positive outcome may well be a tremendous increase in consciousness in the minds of practitioners and educators alike of the diminished state of dental research in US dental schools as a whole.

This issue of Global Health Nexus offers a window into the current debate regarding the implications of the trend away from an emphasis on research within dental education. This issue of *Global Health Nexus* offers a window into the current debate regarding the implications of the trend away from an emphasis on research within dental education. We are privileged to have among our guest authors Dr. Michael C. Alfano, Executive Vice President of NYU and a former dean of NYUCD; Dr. Peter Polverini, Dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry; Dr. Dominick P. DePaola, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine; and Dr. Richard I. Vogel, Executive Vice Dean of NYUCD.

This issue also celebrates a number of major faculty research achievements, including the selection of Dr. Timothy Bromage as the recipient of the 2010 Max Planck Research Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the world for scientists working in the natural sciences; the recruitment of several immensely talented new faculty members, including Dr. Brian Schmidt, who has been appointed the new Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research; and the work of nursing professor Dr. Joyce Anastasi to help chronically ill cancer patients manage symptoms. You’ll also find a number of articles on the increasing strides that NYUCD is making in providing sustainable oral health care in remote regions of the world, and on the consistent rise in philanthropy to NYUCD, including a $3.5 million gift in honor of Dr. Schmidt’s work and a multimillion dollar, multiyear commitment by Henry Schein Cares, the Henry Schein company’s global responsibility program, to support global student outreach at NYUCD.

I am also pleased to call your attention to a story about the induction of the inaugural members of the NYU College of Dentistry Academy of Distinguished Educators, which speaks to the importance of recognizing outstanding teaching at the College. To underscore the importance of the Academy to the life of the University, NYU President John Sexton was present to officially induct the inaugural members.

In all, this is an issue filled with stories that we believe you will find both provocative and enlightening.
I assumed a new role at New York University four years ago, and for the first time in more than 40 years, the profession of dentistry has not been a part of my daily life. Nevertheless, I continue to follow the development of the profession because I care deeply about its future. Alas, my observations on some aspects of recent developments in dentistry and dental education have not been encouraging. My concerns prompt me to express a few thoughts about the troubling trend lines that are developing.

CIRCLE BACK?

Let’s start where the profession ‘begins’—with education. Dentistry can be proud of its long march to an ever-improving educational system. Beginning with its origins as an apprentice-based trade, dental education has risen from the era of the barber surgeons, through the period of proprietary schools of dentistry, to university-affiliated colleges and schools, many of which have strong research programs. Indeed, if I were to try to identify the signature event that moved dentistry from a trade to a profession, it would be the alignment of the dental education system within universities, especially research universities, early in the 20th century. Related developments have certainly helped to enhance both the quality and esteem of the profession along the way, including the founding of the ADA, AADS (ADEA), NIDR (NIDCR), CODA, and the Regional Board System—especially as this

By Michael C. Alfano, DMD, PhD

Executive Vice President, New York University; Former Dean, NYU College of Dentistry
Board system has become more progressive in recent years. In addition, we should always be mindful and thankful for the innovations of our colleagues in academic and corporate research labs that have led to the development of diagnostics, instrumentation, therapeutics, preventives, and materials-based advances that the barber surgeons never dreamed about.

So, why worry? I am very concerned that the dental profession is losing esteem, struggling to find leaders who are up to the task, and possibly even circling backward. One reason is the potential long-term impact of the new dental schools that have opened, or are scheduled to open, in the near term. While I am not familiar with all of the schools in the queue, those that I do know, taken individually, should contribute well to educating a diverse array of talented new colleagues. For example, one school has a strong emphasis on recruiting and serving Native Americans; another will integrate the education of dentists with other health professionals; and a third will try to reduce educational costs, while increasing access to care, by utilizing broad community-based clinical education. What is not to like about such creative approaches to dental education? In fact, it is this very willingness to experiment with different models of dental education that makes the profession strong. Moreover, some very talented leaders have been recruited to guide these institutions forward. Therefore, I am not concerned about any individual new dental school.

My concern arises from the fact that not one of these new schools is nested within the structure of a research-intensive university. In fact, I believe the last dental school to be sited at a major research university was at the University of Florida in 1972. Why is this? Moreover, why have universities elected to close their dental schools? Why have institutions like Harvard, Penn, and Michigan welcomed dental schools in the past, but universities like Stanford, Chicago, and Yale will not consider them now? What will replace the contributions of research-based dental schools in the advancement of dental care?

Comprehensive answers to these questions are beyond the scope of this short article, but the present situation is already causing worrisome developments. For example, 27 research-oriented dental schools recently concluded a meeting in the Midwest to discuss what to do to foster more research on oral health and to address the added costs of running a research dental school and its consequent impact.

that moved dentistry from a trade to a profession, it system within universities, especially research
partner with non-research intensive schools to enhance the educational experience of the students and advance the profession? How far will such subdivisions set back the brilliant move of ADEA a few years ago in pulling all aspects of dental education together by welcoming all components of the profession to membership? Surely these issues warrant open discussion at the highest levels of the profession.

**CIRCLE THE WAGONS?**

While dental education might be in danger of circling back, our colleagues at the ADA seem content to circle the wagons, at least in one important area. To be sure, there have always been crises of sorts within the organization of the ADA—triptate membership; professional advertising; expanded function dental auxiliaries (EFDAs); denturism. However, in previous eras, the Association seemed to be able to initiate dialogue or to identify leadership that helped the organization to evolve positively perhaps slowly but positively nonetheless. The situation today seems different to me.

For example, ADA staff leadership has been dismissed under a cloud pierced only by the cognoscenti; current staff leadership is under duress in similar secrecy; rumors of federal oversight circulate; trustees and delegates snipe at each other; and the Association seems consumed by what it is against rather than what it supports. As this dysfunction, as many are calling it, continues, the two defining dental care issues of our time—healthcare reform, which has the potential to add 10 million additional children to the rolls of dental insurance, and the launch of the new dental practitioners (community dental care coordinators, dental therapists, or advanced dental hygiene practitioners) are proceeding with inadequate discussion and reflexive as opposed to insightful thinking. Thus, it would seem that the ADA, in failing to study and understand the mistakes it made in Alaska with respect to the dental therapist model, is doomed to repeat them.
On Alaska, I remember a discussion with a highly placed leader of the ADA in which I called to inquire about the ADA’s stand on adoption of the New Zealand model of dental therapists by settlements of native Alaskans. It went something like this:

Let me understand this. The ADA is going to sue the native Alaskans who are trying to adopt a system of dental care that has been proven to work for 90 years for use in remote sites that currently have no dental care? (Short answer: Yes.) And do I further understand correctly that in addition to paying lawyers large sums of money to conduct the litigation, you are going to spend equally large sums of money on a PR campaign to ameliorate the concerns of the public about access to dental care? (Short answer: Yes). Why? (Short answer: This is what the Board wants.) So, why don’t you spend all of that money to actually hire dentists to go to Alaska to deliver the care? If you do this, the PR will take care of itself, and the headline will be, “Dentists dig deep into their own pockets to ensure dental care for rural Alaskans.” (Short answer: The Board won’t buy it; it wants to nip this approach in the bud.)

The rest, as they say, is history. Fast forward a decade or so, and note where we are:

1. Minnesota has passed legislation allowing for the development of mid-level dental practitioners.
2. Several other states are considering such legislation.
3. A group of a dozen or so state dental organizations are obliged to meet privately (without ADA participation) to determine the best approach to introduce and license mid-level practitioners. This group of state dental associations understands both the passion of the citizenry for better access to care and the importance of participating in the process to ensure that the enabling legislation in their states improves access to care without risking the health of the population or undermining the high quality of dental practice in those states.
4. In contrast, a second group of state dental organizations was recently organized to fight the development of mid-level dental practitioners. Thus, more than half the state dental societies in the country are at odds with each other.
5. The ADA was not invited to participate in two high-level federal committees studying the delivery of dental care in the United States. Imagine that! The ADA, which considers itself the leading institution on dental care in this country, was not invited to the table to discuss the signature dental health issue of the day.
6. Efforts by a foundation-supported group of educators to write curriculum guidelines for the dental therapist model have been hampered—but not stopped—by the concern of some invitees that they will be ostracized by ‘organized’ dentistry.

The resistance to new models of practice by dentists is not unique to the dental therapist discussions of today. For example, the first efforts to establish a dental hygiene school in Ohio in 1910 were fiercely resisted by local dentists, resulting in the school’s closing after a couple of years. Similarly, the establishment of the Fones School of Dental Hygiene in 1913 in Connecticut was bitterly opposed by local dentists; but fast forward 100 years and there are now about 300 dental hygiene programs in the United States. Periodic tiffs between dental and dental hygiene organizations notwithstanding, few would argue that the public and the dental profession have not benefited enormously from the establishment and growth of the dental hygiene profession. Perhaps the dental oriented dental schools recently concluded a meeting what to do to foster more research on oral health, costs of running a research dental school and its ‘sticker price’ of dental education. This strikes me as aren’t all dental schools at the table to discuss this topic?
profession can once again rise above its natural state of resisting any intrusion on the status quo to have an open discussion on how the public and the profession might once again benefit from new treatment paradigms like the dental therapist. Alternatively, we can circle the wagons and await the inevitable outcomes of the failure to learn from our past mistakes.

CIRCLE THE MOMENT?

Often a signature event can catalyze important change. Think of the individual who survives a myocardial infarct, but then begins an exercise program; closer to home, reflect on the tragic dental infection-caused death of Deamonte Driver, which galvanized Congress to pay attention to the need for more funding for dental care. Is it possible that the growth in the numbers of non-research-intensive dental schools can catalyze the first meaningful collaborations among dental schools of different types? Would such collaborations make dental education better… more efficient… more respected? Will alumni of research-oriented dental schools ‘dig deeper’ to support an educational model with inherently higher operating costs to preserve research in dental schools?

On the practice side of the ledger, will the rise of these new dental practitioners create models that change the dental profession in important, positive ways? ADA policy states that the dentist must remain the leader of the team. Is the profession aware that the proposed “dental therapist” being educated at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry will work in a private practice under the supervision of the dentist? Can practicing dentists accept that dental therapists can effectively deliver certain clinical procedures—but certainly not all dental therapies? Will the arrival of these new dental professionals enable dentists to evolve in ways that more fully utilize the breadth of the scientific education that was part of their dental curriculum?

Will these evolving dentists focus more exclusively on diagnosis, treatment planning, and complex cases; and will they promote the expansion of dentistry as a primary healthcare discipline? Can they rise in service to a country with an inadequate primary healthcare system to lead teams of hygienists, therapists, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals in creating not only better access to health care, but simply earlier and better health care? Will they recognize that there are 30 to 40 million Americans who get regular dental care, but not regular medical care? And will they arrange through their general healthcare colleagues working with them in their expanded primary care-dental practices to diagnose and manage the millions of cases of diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia, among other conditions which today go both undiagnosed and untreated until it is too late, and too expensive?

Finally, let me note that I worked for eight years in a non-research-intensive dental school, and for an additional eight years in a research-intensive school. Each made important contributions, and there is need for both types of schools. My concern is that the balance is beginning to shift away from the research-intensive schools, which I think is a serious mistake in the evolution of dentistry and dental care. Indeed, I fear this trend will accelerate in the near future, and dental education will founder with a diminished research base, and the profession of dentistry will decline in synchrony with its educational arm.

I also practiced dentistry privately for some time and have been an ADA member for 40 consecutive years, including a 16-year period when I worked in the corporate world. I have had the privilege to consult for the ADA on numerous occasions, and I am more convinced each year that this is a mistake that needs to be corrected. If we do not, I fear that dental education and dental care will suffer the consequences of our failure to learn from our past mistakes.
occasions, and although I have often disagreed with ADA policy, I never considered dropping out of the Association. I will not drop out now, even though the Association is disappointing me greatly at the moment. Nevertheless, I will write about these issues as opportunities, such as this invitation to write for *Global Health Nexus*, present themselves. I encourage you, whatever your views, to do the same. *Wake up, dentistry!*
The New Dental Schools: A Threat or an Opportunity to Address the Needs of the Public?

There has been considerable conversation and concern raised by some individuals as well as some dental schools about the proliferation of new dental schools. In fact, some have gone so far as to label them “non-research-intensive” schools with an agenda that focuses on education (training) rather than on research, as if the two were mutually exclusive. So, the label “non-research-intensive” has become a pejorative term suggesting or stating outright that these schools pose a threat to the science base of dental education and clinical practice and, therefore, to dentistry’s prestige and future. Recently, some of the research-intensive schools held a meeting, excluding the schools they did not believe were research-intensive. I have seen a lot during my 40-plus years in the dental profession. But this exclusion of some schools from a meeting because of the perception that they are not research-intensive is among the most disheartening. Indeed, it strikes me as potentially so divisive and destructive as to pose a serious threat to dental education and its ability to grow, embrace collaboration and change, sustain its prestige, and reinvent its future.

Once the house is divided it can fall, and like a house of cards it can be conquered by a variety of predators, including our own universities, professional organizations, and federal and state regulators and legislators. To be sure, scholarship is vital to maintain a learned profession, and to use the adage of former Congressman Paul Rogers, “Without research, there is no hope.”

Some have gone so far as to label the new schools ‘non-research-intensive’ schools with an agenda that focuses on education (training) rather than on research, as if the two were mutually exclusive.

By Dominick P. DePaola, DDS, PhD

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Nova Southeastern University
College of Dental Medicine;
Professor Emeritus, The Forsyth Institute
What constitutes research and what defines a research-intensive versus a non-research-intensive school is a matter of considerable debate.

However, what constitutes research and what defines a research-intensive versus a non-research-intensive school is a matter of considerable debate. Academia has gone through many iterations of defining scholarship. For the purpose of this article, it is critical to define research and scholarship in the broadest manner possible.

Perhaps the most influential event in redefining scholarship occurred following the 1990 publication of *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate* by Ernest Boyer, former Director of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Boyer advanced four forms of scholarship appropriate for faculty work. These forms included:

- The Scholarship of Discovery—generally what is referred to as research.
- The Scholarship of Integration—generally focuses on interpreting the findings of discovery science in a larger, more comprehensive context. This is where the connections with other disciplines occur and boundaries are blurred.
- The Scholarship of Application—generally focuses on how knowledge can be applied to consequential problems. The Scholarship associated with addressing social issues and problems as well as service flows out of Application.
- The Scholarship of Teaching—teaching as an intellectual activity per se.

There is not sufficient space or time in this short article to discuss these areas in detail. However, translating these definitions, which are widely accepted by the academy, in the context of dental education extends the boundaries of scholarship from pure discovery (biomedical science) to the social and behavioral sciences and to epidemiology, public health, service learning, and education research itself. So, identifying the research-intensive nature of dental schools is not so simple. Diversity in educational programs is the hallmark of the US system, which allows for constant improvement as the dynamics of the nation’s needs change according to societal demands and population and economic stresses.
This is the time in the evolution of the dental profession when we should be advocating for aggressive collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships instead of competition for a diminishing pool of resources. It should be a time when we ensure that we educate and graduate scholars, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners across the spectrum of schools and disciplines as well as competent practitioners. Without question, there have been great advances in science fueled, in recent years, by the genome project. Yet, we have a long way to go to realize the promise that emanates from understanding and mapping the human genome. Indeed, there are some dental schools and health centers that have superb biomedical science profiles, but to realize the hope of science to improve the public health, we must reach out to a broader array of individuals and institutions that can assist in accelerating the translation of science to the practitioners and the public. The Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRN) funded by NIDCR are an example of the use of multiple constituents, including the practicing community, to respond to real world problems. Clearly, this activity requires the forging of innovative partnerships among the health professions, industry, the practicing community, and the public sectors and should encompass all the dental schools, not just those perceived to be research-intensive.

At the same time as we are squabbling over who gets invited to the table, it is increasingly clear that the public and legislators care about three things: access to care, quality of care, and cost of care. Cost of care will eventually set boundary limits for access and quality of care, as it does now in so many countries. Going forward, if this is the case, then more than ever there will be a need for dental schools whose mission will be focused on primary care. In addition to providing a complementary, diverse science base to the biomedical research-intensive schools, these new dental schools, as well as some traditional schools, have stepped up to the plate to fill the access, quality, and cost gap by initiating new, more cost-efficient models of education, by advocating for and implementing interprofessional education programs, and by developing community-based education programs that may lead to a cadre of practitioners who will practice in the underserved communities.

Some of the gaps in access reside in educating appropriate numbers of practitioners to address these issues, which stem from the reductions in dental school class size that have taken place in the last two decades.
The drop in dental school graduates from a high of about 6,200 in the eighties to about 4,500 now exacerbates the problem that dental education and the profession face. Interestingly, there are about 10 new dental schools in the process of opening. If each one graduated an average of 80 students, the number of graduates would be about 5,300, which is still a thousand short of the 1980s. At the same time, the US population is exploding—moving from about 300 million now to over 400 million by 2050, a 33 percent increase in population.

As ADEA points out, in addition to the growing oral-systemic health linkages, people are increasingly living longer with improved oral health, so the number of teeth cared for is increasing at a faster rate than the population. The elderly cohort is growing in an exponential manner and so the dentist, increasingly, will be seeing patients with a host of chronic diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, pulmonary disease, renal disease, and many others. Future graduates must be better equipped to be able to diagnose, prevent, and treat these complex patients. This requires students who are critical thinkers and lifelong learners and who are facile with medically compromised patients.

In keeping with the broad definition of scholarship, we need to develop better scientific approaches to understand what motivates people to comply with drug therapy, better nutrition and dietary choices, better overall lifestyle choices, and willingness to engage in the personal, participatory wellness medicine of the future. These latter sciences are often not those in the forefront of research-intensive schools, but may be better served in schools at universities where these latter issues are on the front burner, so to speak. To suggest that educating the evidence-based, lifelong learner can only occur in research-intensive schools is narrow-minded and at odds with CODA standards and the emerging evidence from those new schools.

For example, one of the new schools, Western University of Health Sciences, has created a physical plant that houses interprofessional education programs, of which the dental school is an integral component. Another, the University of Southern Nevada, has added a fifth floor devoted to research in a new building under construction to house the College of Dental Medicine. Yet another, Nova Southeastern University (the oldest of the new schools), has evolved its research program over the past 13 years to the point where a new Dean of Research has been recruited and its students and faculty have received numerous honors for their research, including NIH and Howard Hughes Summer Fellowships.

To my knowledge, every new school that has opened or is in the process of opening has made the integrated biomedical and clinical sciences and scholarship a component of their mission or they would not have received approval from CODA. Accordingly, it seems that this entire debate is premature. Under the best of circumstances, it would be

"At the same time as we are squabbling over who gets invited to the table, it is increasingly clear that the public and legislators care about three things: access to care, quality of care, and cost of care.

These new dental schools, as well as some traditional schools, have stepped up to the plate to fill the access, quality, and cost gap by initiating new, more cost-efficient models of education, by advocating for and implementing interprofessional education programs, and by developing community-based education programs that may lead to a cadre of practitioners who will practice in the underserved communities."
takes dental schools a significant period of time to develop and sustain a robust research program. The dental school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, for example, took about 20 years to establish a viable, flourishing research program. So, rather than get exorcised over the trend of dental schools opening in non-research-intensive universities, let’s be collegial and give them a chance to develop, or even better, give them a hand to accelerate their research programs, rather than run off and exclude them from meetings! To reiterate, we should drop the insecurity and preach collegiality, cooperation, and partnerships with our sister schools.

In many ways, as a profession, we have been our own worst enemies. For example:
- We have elected to stay out of Medicare funding.
- We have not been successful in ensuring that adults are covered by Medicaid.
- We have not been successful in convincing enough dentists that they have an ethical and moral imperative to accept Medicaid or public assistance patients.
- We have fought the introduction of new providers (although alternative providers are emerging).
- We have largely ignored the monumental oral health problems of Native Americans.
- We have not addressed effectively the ethnic and social oral health disparities in the population.

The elderly cohort is growing in an exponential manner and so the dentist, increasingly, will be seeing patients with a host of chronic diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, pulmonary disease, renal disease, and many others…This requires students who are critical thinkers and lifelong learners and who are facile with medically compromised patients. To suggest that educating the evidence-based, lifelong learner can only occur in research-intensive schools is narrow-minded and at odds with CODA standards and the emerging evidence from those new schools.

Important, all of these “we have not’s” and the current state of dental education are a result of the input of

- We have not done enough to engage the dental hygienist and the allied health professions as partners in caring for patients.
- We have not been successful in employing evidence-based approaches to education and clinical care.
- We have not addressed effectively a procedure-based reimbursement system which impedes movement from a surgical to medical model of practice.
- We have been unsuccessful in convincing or inspiring our graduates to pursue careers in academics and research (less than 0.2 percent of graduating seniors continue to indicate they would enter a career in research).
- We have not challenged effectively the arcane and outdated national and state licensing examination structure which impedes the movement of practitioners to areas of need.
- We continue to have dysfunctional professional dental organizations.
- We have not embraced education reform (there has been much reform talk with little change).
- We have not developed cost-effective models of education and clinical care.
- We have not developed a viable, tested business model to enable dentists to practice in underserved areas.
- We have not been successful in convincing the Stanford universities of the world that dental education is a vital part of health care and thus deserves a place in these institutions.
- We have not experimented enough with novel ways to educate dental students and provide opportunities for graduates to embrace the notion of a primary care provider functioning as an integral part of the healthcare team.
- We have not been successful in convincing the Stanford universities of the world that dental education is a vital part of health care and thus deserves a place in these institutions.

Importantly, all of these “we have not’s” and the current state of dental education are a result of the input of
the present university and health science center-based dental schools, which include the current research-intensive schools.

The complex issues facing dentistry today—healthcare reform, access to care, quality of care, cost of care, new practitioners, oral-systemic health linkages, and others—will have profound influences on dental education and dentistry’s role in society in the coming decades. So, this is the time to embrace coalitions, strategic partnerships, and cooperation in order to use, effectively, the considerable talent available in all of the dental schools and health professional schools to address the needs of the public.

It is not a time to segment the schools into artificial categories. Perhaps a refresher lesson would be instructive. In the 1990s, the dental schools fought and won a successful battle to keep *US News and World Report* from ranking dental schools. We won because we were strident in our view that the methods the magazine used to rank schools were inappropriate and undefined. Fast forward to today when we are being asked, by a select group of schools, to allow them to identify themselves as the institutions that will lead the profession into the future. So, a number of questions come to mind:

1. How do you identify who should be invited to the meeting?
2. How do you define research-intensive? Is it more than one NIH Research Project Grant (R01)? Is it more than three R01s? Is it based on a threshold of NIH/NSF dollars, e.g., $1 million? Is it those schools that are a part of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program (CTSAs)? Is it publishing in refereed journals with high impact value? Is it further segmented into the institutions that publish in *Cell*, *Science*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine*?
3. How do schools fare in this “segmented academy” when their research diminishes? Are they pushed out of the tent?
4. How do you treat schools that

Rather than get exorcised over the trend of dental schools opening in non-research-intensive universities, let’s be collegial and give them a chance to develop, or even better, give them a hand to accelerate their research programs.
have primary research profiles with industry and/or foundations and little or no federal funding?

5. How do you account for the lack of research productivity by about 30-plus traditional schools that have limited or no NIH funds?

6. Are the institutions that are not dental schools (such as medical schools) invited to the party because they receive collectively about 40 percent or more of NIDCR funds?

7. Shouldn’t we be concentrating on how to increase research productivity and efficiency and reducing the cost of research?

8. Where is the evidence that there is a shift in emphasis from research to teaching in these new schools?

9. Where is the evidence that graduates of any school will remain evidence-based a generation after they graduate?

10. What role does behavioral, social, and population-based science play in this select group of schools?

11. How will this group address the issues of the day: access, quality, and cost of care?

The questions are endless and the debate is both pointless and destructive. The truth is that it is not so simple to ensure dentistry’s future. It is not a matter of who writes the next Gies Report. This is a time not for exclusives but for collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships. A few examples may help:

- Develop joint training programs for the cadre of faculty equipped with the necessary skills for the future with schools that have complementary research and education.
- Develop bidirectional opportunities for students to spend time in other institutions to gain from the research and technology strengths of these institutions; and for other students to learn about public health, community care, health promotion, and alternative education models from schools that have these complementary strengths.
- Develop individual Information Technology (IT) programs that educate faculty in contemporary forms of scholarship.
- Develop interprofessional and interdisciplinary education, research, and clinical care programs across schools and professions.
- Develop new approaches to dental education, quality, and cost of care.
- Develop cross-school community-based clinical programs where students work side-by-side with community healthcare advocates, social workers, and patient navigators to bring care to the underserved.
- Develop joint degree programs with institutions with complementary strengths in non-traditional areas at the interface of disciplines and where discipline boundaries are blurred.
- Work with complementary schools and individuals to embrace and invest in new diagnostics, prevention, and therapeutics that result in more rapid translation of science to community.
- Work with complementary schools to improve teaching effectiveness.
- Others . . .

The new schools, if they do nothing else, can add people to the workforce who are necessary to meet the future oral health needs of society.
WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE NEW SCHOOLS?

1. New approaches to dental education and clinical care delivery that result in reduction in costs without compromising quality.

2. New focus on interprofessional and interdisciplinary education.

3. New organization development models where traditional department structure does not exist and silos can be diminished.

4. Novel approaches to recruitment of students whose values include caring for the underserved in a culturally competent environment.


6. Novel mastery learning, block system of education, and continuous assessment methods that include formative and summative assessments.

7. Creative ways to share faculty resources from multiple disciplines and health professions institutions.

8. Creative approaches to public health, primary care, health promotion, disease prevention, and personal, participatory dental medicine.

9. New approaches to incorporating new information technology and social networking into dental education.

10. Novel ways to increase student clinical productivity.

11. Incorporation of interactive, Web-based instruction into the basic science and preclinical curriculum.

Perhaps Malcolm Gladwell said it best when commenting on the US dental healthcare system. He wrote that when the public is asked about their first priority in universal health coverage, the immediate answer is almost always “my teeth.”

The pain, discomfort, and disfigurement of poor oral health leads to self-consciousness, low self-esteem, low educational achievement and even slow or faulty intellectual development. Poor teeth are an outward marker of class. As we are nearing adding more children and adults into an already tired and failed healthcare system, the issues of access, quality, and cost of care are sure to escalate. In spite of the improvements in efficiency of practice, we will undoubtedly need more dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and new practitioners with clinical skills that provide the oral healthcare team more flexibility in meeting the needs of the public. So, the new schools, if they do nothing else, can add people to the workforce who are necessary to meet the future oral health needs of society.

Clearly, this is the primary mission of dental schools—to educate caring, evidence-based, competent professionals in sufficient numbers to address the oral health needs of the growing population. Indeed, the new dental schools may add a diversity of educational backgrounds that may preselect those students interested in research to seek further education, in effect shifting research from the predoctoral to the postgraduate level or creating dual educational pathways.

All dental schools and their parent institutions must come to grips with their existing strengths and weaknesses and identify how they can partner with complementary institutions so that, collectively, we can ensure meaningful and substantial contributions to the learned professions. It's not simple, but it requires a spirit of inventiveness, cooperation, collegiality, and partnerships where everyone is invited to the table in an open, fresh discussion. As Einstein is reported to have said, “We need to not think more but we need to think differently”!

“Collegiality and partnerships should be the injunction for the future!”

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The Ann Arbor Dental Deans Forum: Crafting a Response to the Emerging Tiered System of Dental Education

“...The Forum’s purpose was to make a clear statement that it is the research-intensive dental schools that must lead the profession into the future.”
A number of my fellow dental deans and I have growing concerns about issues that are not being addressed that we feel are pivotal to the future of the profession. Our concern centers on the emergence of a tiered system of dental education resulting from the opening over the past decade of a number of dental schools without a clear research mission. It is a “sine qua non” that research-intensive universities demand that all schools and colleges affiliated with their universities, including dental schools, demonstrate certain standards of excellence in terms of research and discovery. Indeed, such schools are looked upon as full partners within the mission of the university. But with the rise of dental schools that don’t have a credible research program, the issue becomes: “Who is going to lead the profession into the future if all we are doing is training dentists to be technically competent?”

As a first step toward formulating a response to this development, I decided to organize the Ann Arbor Dental Deans Forum by inviting approximately 30 dental deans or their representatives from the US and Canada to come to Ann Arbor May 20–22, 2010, to help set forth the standards that have to be met in order to keep dentistry moving forward.

The Forum’s purpose was to make a clear statement that it is the research-intensive dental schools that must lead the profession into the future. If we don’t make

“If we give up science, and don’t link research and discovery with dentistry, we will begin to look more like a trade than a profession, a posture that jeopardizes the long-term prestige and progress of the dental profession.”

By Peter Polverini, DDS, DMSc

Dean, University of Michigan School of Dentistry
that statement, I think we’re making a dangerous mis-
take about the standing of the dental profession going
forward. To put it another way, if we give up science,
and don’t link research and discovery with dentistry, we
will begin to look more like a trade than a profession, a
posture that jeopardizes the long-term prestige and
progress of the dental profession.

In 1926, the publication of the Gies Report stressed
the importance of the biomedical sciences in the dental
school curriculum and advocated that dental schools
initiate research in the basic biology of oral structure
and the pathology of oral-facial disease. Now, for the
first time in nearly a century, that position is being
challenged by this new direction in dental education,
which is based on the premise that a shift from an
emphasis on research to teaching is required to provide
more care for underserved populations.

Financially driven resource issues also play a role in
explaining the rise of the non-research-oriented dental
schools. Since dental education is the most expensive
health professions education program on a per student
basis, financial challenges have loomed increasingly
large over the past several decades, as both federal and
state support for dental education has declined drasti-
cally. A dental education management model that
reduces operating costs by contracting out the basic
sciences to a non-residential basic science faculty and

shifting institutional priorities from the traditional
clinical education, research, and patient care model to
an emphasis on clinical education and care can initially
appear attractive. But once you mortgage the responsi-
bility of basic and translational research to someone
else, you essentially lose control over the future of the
profession.

We believe that research and discovery must be a
credible part of a dental school’s mission, not some-
thing that you import when you need it and export
when you don’t. Our challenge is to convince legislators
and other academic institutions that they should be
looking to us for the future and really think very
carefully about this tiered system of dental schools.

Today, dentistry is on the outside of the healthcare
debate, looking in. For many reasons, dentistry has
never been linked to the medical network. But unless
dentistry becomes part of the solution to the challenge
of providing comprehensive patient care, it will be
looked on as part of the problem, and ultimately, all
dental schools will be called into question. Accordingly,
while the new model of dental education will no doubt
produce technically competent dentists in the short
term, without an internal culture of science, the contribu-
tions of graduates of such schools may be viewed as
less valuable a generation from now.

“While the new model of dental education will no doubt
produce technically competent dentists in the short term,
without an internal culture of science, the contributions of
graduates of such schools may be viewed as less valuable a
generation hence than they are today.”
To help frame the topics, I invited Dr. Lawrence Tabak, Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to participate in our meeting. Dr. Tabak underscored the importance of the role that dental schools play in advancing the NIDCR mission to improve oral, dental, and craniofacial health through research, training, and the dissemination of health information.

Within that context, the Forum dealt with the following topics:

- **How must research-intensive dental schools assert leadership in the emerging tiered system of dental education?**
  - What is our leadership position and strategy?
  - What should our relationship be to non-research-intensive dental schools?
  - What is our relationship to ADEA and does ADEA represent the interests of research-intensive dental schools?
  - Should the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) continue to define and shape the future of dental education and the profession alone—or are there key roles that should be assumed/managed by research-intensive dental schools?

- **How must research-intensive dental schools apply educational innovation, scholarly excellence, and academic leadership to affirm their intrinsic value to their parent universities?**
  - How can research-intensive dental schools balance expectations for education and scholarship with the expectations of their university and the profession?
  - What best practices are needed to sustain the pipeline of academic dental school faculty?
  - What should we be doing to increase NIDCR and NIH funding to dental school researchers?
  - What are some best practices for mentoring junior faculty for productive academic careers and for sustaining the productivity of mid-career faculty?

- **What strategies must research-intensive dental schools advance to facilitate collaboration and sharing of academic resources within their parent university and with other dental schools?**
  - What are some of the barriers to intra- and inter-institutional collaboration for research and what strategies must be developed to overcome them?
  - What are ways that research-intensive dental schools can establish an inventory of scientific expertise to promote research/educational collaborations and share scientific resources through the establishment of affinity groups?
  - What are ways that research-intensive dental schools can become more directly aligned with other health sciences to enhance research opportunities and develop innovative, better-integrated education and patient care programs?

The Forum succeeded in promoting an in-depth discussion of these issues, concluding with a summary of the proceedings and a decision on next steps, including publication of the proceedings. My hope is that the participants will continue to work together and, indeed, agree to collaborate in writing the next Gies Report—a Gies Report for the 21st century. Interestingly, Dr. Gies used the University of Michigan as one of six dental schools that included Harvard, California, Iowa, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania that made dental education a function of a university. The University of Michigan Dental School decided to host these same schools in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to catalyze the direction in which we want to see the profession move in the coming years. Stay tuned.
As the representative of one of the 27 US and Canadian dental schools attending the Ann Arbor Deans Forum held at the University of Michigan in May, I keep asking myself the same questions, “Would I want to go to a physician who had been educated in a university setting that is not dedicated to generating and disseminating new knowledge? For that matter, would I want Congress or state governments to provide financial support for medical schools that do not have a strong research orientation?”

Personally, I would answer in the negative. So why should the answer be any different if we substitute dental schools for medical schools?

Yet, over the next decade or two, we can expect to see the opening of approximately 20 new dental schools that, for the most part, will be affiliated with universities where research is not a primary focus. Moreover, a disturbing trend has developed in recent years of proportionally less, rather than more, federally funded oral health-related research being conducted by the nation’s dental schools.

In this context, I think it is important to consider the history of dentistry. For much of the 19th century, dentistry was considered a vocation taught by vocational schools mostly through apprenticeships. It was only through the association of dental schools with research-
For much of the 19th century, dentistry was considered a vocation taught by vocational schools mostly through apprenticeships. It was only through the association of dental schools with research-intensive universities, and the embrace of the research missions of these great universities by dental schools, that dentistry became a learned profession.

intensive universities, and the embrace of the research missions of these great universities by dental schools, that dentistry became a learned profession. Accordingly, the way dentistry is appropriately viewed by the public and by other professions is based upon that association. If predictions for the coming decades prove correct, it is probable that dental schools that are associated with research-oriented universities and have the creation and dissemination of new knowledge as core values of their mission will represent a minority of our nation’s dental schools.

One can only guess at the outcomes of the above scenario, but it does not take a lot of imagination to prognosticate the diminution of the image of the profession in both the eyes of the public, and possibly even more importantly, in the eyes of elected government officials who help underwrite the budgets of many of our great research-oriented dental schools, as well as fund the basic oral health research conducted in these settings through agencies such as the NIH.

With this threat to the profession comes the question, “Who will be educating our future dental scientists and who will be making future advances in scientific knowledge that gets translated into improved oral health for both our citizens and citizens of the world?” It appears to me that less and less the answer will lie in our dental schools and, similar to other “professions,” dentistry will again revert to being considered a vocation, rather than a learned profession.

An important result of the Ann Arbor meeting will, I believe, be the strong statement that dentistry’s continued status as a learned profession is contingent upon the creation and dissemination of discoveries by its research-intensive schools. In addition, I expect that there will be a consensus to continue the discussions that began in Ann Arbor, both within the larger dental education community and within the practicing profession. Hopefully, these discussions will lead to a consensus regarding the vital role that scientific discovery within our dental schools plays for the profession-at-large as well as for the education of the nation’s future practitioners and oral health scientists.

From the Editor:
We welcome your comments on these issues. Please send to elyse.bloom@nyu.edu for inclusion in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of Global Health Nexus.
Dr. Timothy Bromage Receives 2010 Max Planck Research Award

New York University College of Dentistry’s Dr. Timothy Bromage has received the 2010 Max Planck Research Award. Dr. Bromage will collaborate with Dr. Friedemann Schrenk of Frankfurt’s Senckenberg Research Institute to study the microanatomical structure of bones and teeth, and the links between metabolic states, growth rates, life spans, and biological features such as sex and body size.

The award, given by the Max Planck Society and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, includes a stipend of 750,000 Euros ($1.02 million USD). The 2010 award, given annually to two researchers, was presented during the Annual Meeting of the Max Planck Society on June 17th in Hanover, Germany. This year’s other recipient is psychologist Michael Tomasello, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

In citing Dr. Bromage’s qualifications for receiving the award, the selection committee noted that his research on the microanatomical structure of ancestral human teeth and bones has established the modern fields of human evolution growth, development, and life history—the pace by which an organism grows. Moreover, noted the committee, his research has shown a relationship between bone and tooth microstructure and body size, metabolic rate, age, and other biological features.

Dr. Bromage, a Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, was the first researcher to use biologically based principles of craniofacial development to reconstruct early hominid skulls. His computer-generated reconstruction of a 1.9-million-year-old skull originally discovered in Kenya in 1972 by renowned paleontologist and archaeologist Richard Leakey showed that *Homo rudolfensis*, modern man’s earliest-known close ancestor, looked more

“Dr. Bromage has fundamentally altered the field of human evolution by prompting paradigm shifts in morphology, fieldwork, and experimental biology, thereby establishing the modern field of growth, development, and life history in paleoanthropology.”

Dean Bertolami
apelike than previously believed. Dr. Bromage’s reconstruction had a surprisingly smaller brain and more distinctly protruding jaw than the reconstruction that Dr. Leakey assembled by hand, suggesting that early humans had features approaching those commonly associated with more apelike members of the hominid family living as long as four million years ago.

In human evolution fieldwork, Dr. Bromage’s 1992 discovery of a 2.4-million-year-old jaw in Malawi unearthed the oldest known remains of the genus, *Homo*. The discovery, made in collaboration with Dr. Schrenk, Director of Paleoanthropology at the Senckenberg Research Institute, marked the first time that scientists discovered an early human fossil outside of established early human sites in eastern and southern Africa.

In experimental biology approaches to human evolution research, Dr. Bromage discovered a new biological clock, or long-term rhythm, which controls many metabolic functions. Dr. Bromage discovered the new rhythm while observing incremental growth lines in tooth enamel, which appear much like the annual rings on a tree. He also observed a related pattern of incremental growth in skeletal bone tissue—the first time such an incremental rhythm has ever been observed in bone. The findings suggest that the same biological rhythm that controls incremental tooth and bone growth also affects bone and body size and many metabolic processes, including heart and respiration rates.

“In fact,” Dr. Bromage said, “the rhythm affects an organism’s overall pace of life and its life span. So, a rat that grows teeth and bone in one-eighth the time of a human also lives faster and dies younger.”

“Dr. Bromage has fundamentally altered the field of human evolution by prompting paradigm shifts in morphology, fieldwork, and experimental biology, thereby establishing the modern field of growth, development, and life history in paleoanthropology,” said Dean Bertolami.

A portion of the award will be dedicated to training junior scientists in the United States and Germany to assist on this research. Dr. Bromage has been honored for his academic achievements by the National Science Foundation (2009, 2007), the National Geographic Society (2008), and the National Institutes of Health.
Teenagers who suffered from protein-energy malnutrition in early childhood may be at an increased risk of developing periodontal disease, according to recent findings published by NYU dental researchers. The researchers’ studies were supported by a $1.6 million grant awarded to Dr. Walter Psoter, an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the NIH, in 2005, to support the first-ever study of the impact of early childhood protein malnutrition, or ECPEM, on oral health in Haiti, the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country.

Protein-energy malnutrition occurs when there are deficiencies in protein and many other essential nutrients. When the malnutrition occurs in early childhood, it is believed to adversely affect the developing immune system, leading to an increased risk of infection that lasts long past childhood. Over one-third of the world’s children are affected by ECPEM.

Haiti’s childhood malnutrition rates, estimated at 40 to 75 percent, are among the highest in the world.

Joining Dr. Psoter on this study were his coinvestigators at NYU: Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; Dr. Yihong Li, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; and Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

The NYU researchers conducted a series of studies comparing the oral health of adolescents with and without a history of ECPEM in more than a dozen rural villages in the Grand’Anse region of southern Haiti. The study subjects were identified from a database of height and weight measurements that the Haitian Health Foundation, a non-profit group providing nutritional programs to the villages, gathered between 1988 and 1993, when the subjects were in their first five years of life.

The researchers traveled to Haiti in 2005 and 2006 to assess the oral health status of 1,017 children and adolescents, identified from the foundation’s database, who still resided in the villages.

One study, led by Dr. Psoter, focused on possible links between ECPEM and the body’s ability to fight oral infections such as caries and periodontal disease. The study sought to determine whether ECPEM might compromise the functioning of glandular systems, such as the salivary glands, which are essential to the healthy functioning of the immune system. Dr. Psoter’s team examined all 1,017 children and
adolescents, ages 11 to 19, and found that those who experienced ECPEM had significantly lower levels of both stimulated and unstimulated salivary flow compared to teens with no history of ECPEM.

“The findings suggest that glandular systems may be compromised for extended periods following early childhood malnutrition,” explained Dr. Psoter, “which, in turn, may have important implications for the body’s antimicrobial defenses against oral and systemic infections.” Dr. Psoter published his findings in the March 2008 issue of *Archives of Oral Biology*. His coauthors included Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology.

A second study, led by Dr. Russell, assessed whether there was a link between ECPEM and periodontal inflammation in a subgroup of 96 adolescents, ages 12 to 19. Dr. Russell found that those with a history of ECPEM had a higher degree of periodontal inflammation than subjects who were not malnourished as young children, and that ECPEM was significantly and directly related to periodontal treatment needs as measured by the Community Periodontal Index, an epidemiological screening protocol.

“Because ECPEM is likely to affect the developing immune system,” explained Dr. Russell, “a person’s ability to respond to colonization by periodontal pathogens may be adversely affected permanently.” Dr. Russell published her findings in the May 2010 issue of the *International Journal of Pediatric Dentistry*.

A third study, led by Dr. Li, involved an analysis of bacterial samples from the gingiva of the same subgroup of 96 adolescents whom Dr. Russell examined. Dr. Li found that 85 percent of teens with a history of ECPEM had signs of colonization by *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, one of the bacteria most commonly associated with periodontal disease.

“The high prevalence of this bacterium may serve as a risk indicator for future initiation of periodontal disease in rural Haitian adolescents,” said Dr. Li, who published her findings in the May 6, 2010, online edition of *Clinical Oral Investigations*.

According to Dr. Psoter, additional research is needed to determine whether the links between ECPEM, salivary flow, and periodontal disease that were observed in the three studies can be generalized to adolescents residing in underdeveloped areas in other parts of the world where malnutrition is common. He added that future research should focus on uncovering possible connections between ECPEM and systemic as well as oral infections.

Meanwhile, the earthquake that struck Haiti last January has complicated efforts by aid groups to address chronic malnutrition in Grand’Anse, the rural region where the NYU researchers collected their samples. It is estimated that 100,000 people migrated to Grand’Anse from Haiti’s quake-ravaged capital, Port-au-Prince, putting a strain on nutritional programs serving residents there. See related story on p. 54.
A collaborative, interdisciplinary group spearheaded by the Department of Orthodontics is using a translational approach to accelerate laboratory discoveries into fully realized, optimal patient therapeutics. The group, known as the Consortium for Translational Orthodontic Research, or CTOR, is codirected by Dr. Cristina Teixeira, Associate Professor of Orthodontics and of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, and Dr. Mani Alikhani, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics.

In addition to Dr. Teixeira and Dr. Alikhani, faculty participating in CTOR include Dr. Louis Terracio, Vice Dean for Research; Dr. George Cisneros, Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthodontics; Dr. Nicola C. Partridge, Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Tim Bromage, Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics and of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Ron Craig, Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and member of the PEARL Network Executive Management Team; and Dr. Olivier Nicolay, Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics. One of the primary goals of CTOR is to actively involve faculty, predoctoral students, postgraduate specialty training students, and MS and PhD candidates in translational research.

For the past three years, Drs. Teixeira and Alikhani have been studying skeletal development and tooth movement in animals to determine how to accelerate tooth remodel-
ing and thereby shorten the length of orthodontic treatment time. The question they asked themselves was: “What is the easiest way to induce a controlled, therapeutic inflammatory response in order to increase the rate of bone remodeling?” The answer they came up with was very simple: osteo-perforation, or the creation of tiny holes through the cortical surface of the bone without the need for gingival flap surgery. Using this technique on animals, they found that bone remodeling accelerates significantly; as a result, teeth moved almost twice as quickly as in traditional methods, and with no side effects. The findings from their study have been accepted for publication by the Journal of Dental Research.

Next, Drs. Teixeira and Alikhani developed the protocol for a study that will allow them to translate these findings into clinical trials on patients. The study, which has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, will use 30 human patients who fit specific clinical trial criteria. Drs. Teixeira and Alikhani are currently recruiting patients for the study.

In the interim, the two investigators have received two patents, one for their osteo-perforation technique and another for a device that uses high-frequency mechanical stimulation to generate bone around teeth. They are currently awaiting FDA approval of the device.

“Our orthodontic faculty,” says Dr. Alikhani, “have, in essence, organized the first orthodontic practice-based research network (PBRN) in order to conduct this clinical trial on human subjects. The CTOR network will be part of the PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning) Network at NYUCD.”

Adds Dr. Teixeira, “We also train faculty from international and local universities who are interested in being exposed to cutting-edge research and then returning to their countries to share their new knowledge with their colleagues. To date, we have had visiting faculty from South Korea, Portugal, and Brazil.”

“As a result of being the first department of orthodontics to successfully bridge basic science and clinical practice,” observes Dr. Cisneros, “the NYU Department of Orthodontics has become a leader in the world in this area. And consistent with its name, CTOR, this is a true example of translational research success. Drs. Alikhani and Teixeira are two of our best and brightest young researchers and NYUCD is privileged to have them on the faculty.”

The two investigators have received two patents, one for their osteo-perforation technique and another for a device that uses high-frequency mechanical stimulation to generate bone around teeth. They are currently awaiting FDA approval of the device.
NYUCD’s annual Student Research Day grew significantly in 2010, by covering two days (April 21 and 22) instead of one day, and by showcasing outstanding work by 15 dental students, a nursing student, and, for the first time, a master’s degree candidate from the NYU Polytechnic Institute, plus two undergraduate students from the NYU College of Arts & Science. Twenty-four faculty members judged 113 submissions that spanned areas of interest ranging from the basic sciences to biomedical engineering. Vice Dean for Research Dr. Louis Terracio presided over the two-day poster presentations and awards presentation.

“All of the awardees have contributed to the knowledge base in the health sciences,” said Dean Bertolami. “Their achievements and their collaborations with faculty mentors exemplify NYUCD’s commitment to research as an integral part of the dental education experience.”

The student winners and their submissions are listed below:

**ADAR Research Fellowship**
Mr. Hans Hsu, DDS ‘13
Organogold(III) Complexes Selectively Induce Apoptosis in Malignant Rather Than Normal or Premalignant Oral Epithelial Cells
Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Kinnally

**ADAR Research Fellowship; Dean’s Research Award**
Mr. Robert Range, DDS ‘12
The Role of BAX Translocation and MAC Formation on Mitochondrial Dynamics
Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Kinnally

**Student Research Group Award**
Ms. Yoo Shin, DDS ‘12
Characterization of Satellite Cells from Rats and Expanded in Culture
Advisor: Dr. Louis Terracio

**Outstanding Case Presentation by a DDS Student**
Mr. Andrew Yampolsky, DDS ‘10
Idiopathic Condylar Resorption, Pathophysiology and Treatment
Advisor: Dr. Robert Glickman

**ADA/DENTSPLY Student Research Award**
Ms. Rebecca Arunasalam, DDS ‘13
Relation of Comorbid Fibromyalgia to Pain Threshold and Severity in TMD Patients
Advisor: Dr. David Sirois

**Jonathan A. Ship Award for Excellence in Clinical or Translational Research; ADA/DENTSPLY Student Research Award**
Ms. Paria Goodarzi, DDS ‘12
Correlation Between Mode of Delivery, S. mutans Colonization, and Early Childhood Caries in Thai Children
Advisor: Dr. Yihong Li

**Nursing Research Award**
Ms. Lori M. Kraljevic, MS in Nursing ‘10
Hypercholesterolemia in Children, Implementation of the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines
Advisor: Dr. Donna Hallas

**Master of Science Research Award**
Ms. Xiaojie Ji, MS in Biomedical Engineering ‘10, NYU Polytechnic Institute
Characterization of Bacterial Nuances in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Tissues
Advisor: Dr. Deepak Saxena

**Postdoctoral Research Award; Dean’s Award for Postdoctoral Research**
Dr. Paolo Peixoto
In Search of the Structure of MAC in the Mitochondrial Outer Membrane
Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Kinnally

**Postgraduate Resident Research Award in Pediatrics**
Dr. My Kim Tran, PG ‘10
DNA Isolation from Forensic Dental Specimens
Advisor: Dr. Amr Moursi

**Postgraduate Resident Research Award in Periodontics**
Dr. Daniel Tormeti, PG ‘10
A Modified Early Protocol for Implant Placement: A Retrospective Case Series
Advisor: Dr. Sang-Choon Cho

**Postgraduate Resident Research Award in Implant Dentistry**
Dr. Joohyang Park, PG ‘10
Use of a Multi-Purpose Omnivac Shell for Immediate Loading in the Mandible—A Case Series
Advisor: Dr. Sang-Choon Cho

**Honorable Mention, Postgraduate Resident Research in Implant Dentistry**
Mr. Andreas Barbetseas, PG ‘11
The Width of Keratinized Tissue Around Implants Supporting Overdentures: Significance and Methods: A Literature Review
Advisor: Dr. Christian Stappert

Dr. Christo Lolis, PG ‘11
Retrospective Study of Simultaneous Placement of Dental Implants with Bone Graft in Atrophic Ridges
Advisor: Dr. Sang-Choon Cho

Dr. Lyra Wright, PG ‘10
Maxillary Sinus Complications Requiring Retreatment
Advisor: Dr. Sang-Choon Cho

**Excellent Presentation, Dental Hygiene**
Ms. Amy Soss, AAS ‘10, and Ms. Ashley Pisani, AAS ‘10
The Effects of Bulimia on the Oral Cavity
Advisor: Professor Cheryl Westphal

**Undergraduate Recognition**
Ms. Sabrina Kamer, BA ‘13, NYU College of Arts & Science
Could Low-Dosage of Doxycycline Be Considered for Alzheimer’s Disease Treatment?
Advisor: Dr. Angela Kamer

Ms. Shivani V. Shah, BA ‘13, NYU College of Arts & Science
Antibody Response to Periodontal Bacteria Depends on the ApoE Status
Advisor: Dr. Angela Kamer
NYUCD congratulates all of the awardees on their significant contributions to the knowledge base in the health sciences.
Although tobacco use is widely understood to be one of the leading causes of oral cancer, research on the prevention of tobacco-related oral cancer in experimental animals has traditionally been limited to examining the impact of synthetic carcinogens manufactured especially for cancer research, rather than on observing the effects of carcinogens that occur in tobacco smoke.

Now, a recently completed study conducted collaboratively by Dr. Joseph Guttenplan, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology at the NYU College of Dentistry, and Dr. Karam El-Bayoumy, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Penn State University College of Medicine and Associate Director of Basic Research at the Penn State Cancer Institute, has shown that a powerful carcinogen in tobacco smoke can be used for oral cancer research in experimental animals, thus providing a new, more relevant research model with which to understand the initiation, progression, and ultimately, the prevention of oral cancer. The two-year study was funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the NIH (National Institutes of Health).

In a presentation in April 2010 at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Washington, DC, Dr. Guttenplan said the findings could ultimately facilitate research aimed at identifying new approaches to oral cancer prevention.

Oral cancer is a devastating disease that can severely and permanently compromise one’s ability to eat, drink, talk, and even kiss. In the United States, about 100 new cases of oral cancer occur each day, and approximately 7,000 people die annually from the disease. Worldwide, over 640,000 new cases of oral cancer occur annually. In addition to tobacco use, alcohol use and exposure to the HPV-16 virus (human papillomavirus version 16) are the leading causes of oral cancer.

The study described in Dr. Guttenplan’s presentation...
examined the impact of injecting low, medium, and high doses of dibenzo[a,l]pyrene, a powerful carcinogen in tobacco, into the mouths of 104 mice. The researchers examined 24 of the mice for mutagenesis and 80 for carcinogenesis. After 38 weeks, all of the mice in the high-dose mutagenesis group developed excessive numbers of mutations in their oral tissue, and within one year, 31 percent of the high-dose carcinogenesis group displayed large tumors in their mouths.

“As a result of this study,” said Dr. Guttenplan, “we now have a model that is significantly better than past models which relied on synthetic carcinogens. We plan to use this new model in future studies to examine potential agents for cancer prevention.”

STUDY FUNDED BY KOMEN FOUNDATION OFFERS NEW EVIDENCE LINKING BROCCOLI AND RED WINE TO BREAST CANCER PREVENTION

A one-year NYU dental study funded by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has found new evidence that breast cancer may be inhibited by sulforaphane, a substance in broccoli, and resveratrol, an ingredient in red wine.

The principal investigator, Dr. Joseph B. Guttenplan, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, determined that sulforaphane and resveratrol offer protection against the formation of mutations—a key early phase of breast cancer development. Moreover, Dr. Guttenplan’s team found that when the two substances are combined, they offer significantly more protection against mutagenesis than they do individually.

Sulforaphane and resveratrol are widely available as over-the-counter dietary supplements. Dr. Guttenplan’s study marks the first time that a combination of the two substances has been assessed for protection against breast cancer mutagenesis.

Dr. Guttenplan’s team treated rat mammary cells with dimethylbenzanthracene-dihydrodiol, a synthetic carcinogen used to induce breast cancer in rats, then divided the cells into three groups. The first group received sulforaphane, the second resveratrol, and the third, a combination of the two.

When the researchers compared the three sets of cells against a control group receiving no additional supplements, they found 50 percent fewer mutations in the combined resveratrol-sulforaphane group, and 25 percent fewer mutations in the groups treated with either sulforaphane or resveratrol alone. The findings were presented in April 2010 at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Dr. Guttenplan said he plans to conduct a subsequent study in which resveratrol and sulforaphane will be injected directly into rats to inhibit breast cancer induced by a synthetic carcinogen.

Dr. Guttenplan’s coinvestigators included Dr. Peter Sacks, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology at the NYU College of Dentistry.
Talking to Patients About Pain: One PEARL Practitioner-Investigator’s Experience

A surprising number of patients do not understand their dentist’s instructions on managing postoperative pain, a recent review of interim data from the PEARL Network’s Study of Analgesic Use and Effectiveness has found. Importantly, participation in the analgesics study can help dentists communicate more effectively with patients about pain management. So says Dr. James Keenan, who has enrolled 125 subjects from his Queens, New York, practice in the analgesics study since November 2008.

“I’ve become more aware of patients’ pain management needs as a result of my work on the analgesics study,” says Dr. Keenan. “My patients’ responses to questions about postoperative pain have given me a great deal of feedback about their experience with discomfort or pain following root canals, extractions, and other operative procedures; their willingness to follow my instructions for taking pain medication; whether they filled an analgesics prescription or used over-the-counter drugs; and the amount and length of time spent taking pain medication.

“Now, if a patient asks me how much pain he or she should expect to feel postoperatively, I can describe what most patients under similar circumstances have experienced and can recommend a treatment regimen knowing that other patients in similar situations have reported doing well with the same medication.

“The information from the analgesics study has enhanced my ability to assess individual thresholds for pain, and has enabled me to establish a baseline for pain that may require prescription-strength analgesics.

“The bottom line is that participating in this study can facilitate information-sharing about pain management and analgesics, which, in turn, helps me make dental treatment as efficient and painless as possible.”

In 2005, NYUCD received a $26.7 million award from the NIDCR to establish a regional practice-based network, the PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning) Network.
NYUCD’s Presence at National Research Meetings Continues to Grow

NYUCD’s presence at major annual research meetings continued to grow in 2010, with NYUCD faculty and students delivering over 70 presentations at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and American Association for Dental Research (AADR) meetings in Washington, DC. To view the complete list of presentations, please go to www.nyu.edu/dental/research/adeahandbook.pdf and www.nyu.edu/dental/research/aadrnyucdhandbook.pdf.

In addition, two NYUCD dental students received the highly competitive AADR Student Research Fellowships for 2010. Robert Range, ’12, won a fellowship for his study of the role of BAX translocation in mitochondrial dynamics, and Hans Hsu, ’13, was selected for his research on organogold(III) complexes selectively inducing apoptosis in malignant rather than normal or premalignant oral epithelial cells. Both students were mentored by Dr. Kathleen C. Kinnally, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology.

And NYUCD students and faculty made an additional 41 presentations at the July 2010 Annual Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) in Barcelona. To view details of the presentations, please go to http://www.nyu.edu/dental/research/iadrnyucdlisting.pdf.

From left: Dr. Louis Terracio with AADR Student Research Fellowship winners Mr. Robert Range, ’12, and Mr. Hans Hsu, ’13.

NYUCD Moves Up to Third Place in National Research Rankings

The NYU College of Dentistry is now in third place among US dental schools receiving federal funding from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), of the NIH, according to the national research rankings for 2009. These rankings are one public measure of the robustness of NYUCD’s intellectual climate and contributions to science.

“The indisputable engine of a college’s success in research funding is its faculty,” said Dean Bertolami. “NYUCD’s advancement to this point has been the result of the great research faculty recruited over the years. But all faculty—clinicians and researchers alike—deserve credit for creating a warm and congenial collaborative environment that values creativity and the generation of new knowledge. Of particular importance has been the leadership of Vice Dean for Research Louis Terracio, who has played a pivotal role in building and sustaining the research core of the NYU College of Dentistry.”
DR. BRIAN L. SCHMIDT, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon specializing in symptom management and care of oral cancer patients, has been named Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Schmidt, who holds an MD degree and a PhD in oral biology, as well as a DDS degree, will bring a medically related focus to the Bluestone Center, which is dedicated to the development, implementation, performance, and analysis of clinical research in an environment that combines academic excellence with industry’s efficiency and speed.

Prior to joining NYU, Dr. Schmidt was at the University of California, San Francisco, as Director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Oncology Fellowship and of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Training Program, and, more recently, as Vice Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Schmidt’s research has been consistently funded by the NIH. Most recently, he was given a gift of more than $3.5 million by an anonymous donor to advance his research in his new position at the NYU College of Dentistry. (See related story on p. 64.)
DR. JOHN C. DOLAN has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Orthodontics. Dr. Dolan earned a DDS degree, an MS in Oral & Craniofacial Sciences, and a certificate in orthodontics from the University of California, San Francisco, and an MA in Physical Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Dolan’s research interests are in orofacial pain and orofacial reconstruction. In 2007, he won the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation Collegiate Inventors Competition Graduate Award for a device that quantifies the effectiveness of analgesics in animal models of head and neck cancer.

DR. RODRIGO VIECILLI has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Orthodontics. Dr. Viecilli, whose educational background initially was in aeronautical engineering, earned both his dental degree and a certificate in orthodontics from Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil; a PhD in orthodontic biomechanics from Indiana University School of Dentistry-Purdue University; and a certificate in orthodontics from Indiana University School of Dentistry. In 2009, Dr. Viecilli received the American Association of Orthodontists Milo Hellman Research Award for his work on orthodontic biomechanics.

DR. VICTORIA H. RAVEIS, formerly an Associate Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences and Director of the Aging and Public Health Program at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, has been appointed a Research Professor in Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of NYUCD’s newly established Psychosocial Research Unit on Health, Aging, and the Community. Dr. Raveis earned an MA in Sociology from Boston College, a Master of Philosophy degree in Sociology, and a PhD in Sociology from Columbia University. A medical sociologist and social gerontologist, Dr. Raveis is an authority on family-focused disease management for vulnerable and medically underserved communities.
Dr. Mary E. Northridge, formerly a Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences (in Dental Medicine) at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion. Dr. Northridge earned an MPH in environmental health from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Rutgers University; and a PhD in Epidemiology from Columbia University. She is currently serving her fourth three-year term as editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Public Health.

Ms. Kim Misevis, formerly Program Manager for Government Relations and Global Health at the Associated Medical Schools of New York, has been appointed Assistant Director of International Recruitment and Admissions in the Office of International Programs. Ms. Misevis earned an MS in Global Affairs from NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. In addition to managing admissions and recruitment, Ms. Misevis’s responsibilities include developing new advanced study programs for internationally trained dentists.

Dr. Frederick Naftolin, formerly a medical consultant to the PEARL Network, has been appointed the PEARL Network’s first Medical Director. As PEARL’s Medical Director, Dr. Naftolin will be responsible for laying the groundwork for extensive new collaborations with medical practice-based research networks.

Ms. Jennifer Buwala, formerly a financial analyst at the Cleveland Clinic, has been appointed Senior Financial Analyst in the Office of Clinical Affairs. Ms. Buwala’s responsibilities include analyzing revenues and expenses and providing recommendations on enhancing fiscal performance.
NYUCD Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Part-time Faculty

Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology
Dr. Inder J. Singh, Adjunct Professor

Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Hedieh Samadi Aminzadeh, Instructor
Dr. Omid Arastehmanesh, Instructor
Dr. Roghieh Atapour, Instructor
Dr. Patrick O. Bailey, Instructor
Dr. Sirlene S. Billera, Instructor
Dr. David Forlano, Instructor
Dr. Michael J. Genco, Instructor
Dr. Brian Greenspan, Instructor
Dr. Gloria D. Kenney, Instructor
Dr. Chad S. Korach, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Dr. Herrick Lai, Instructor
Dr. Jan Linhart, Instructor
Dr. Maura Maloney, Instructor
Dr. Madalina M. Manea, Instructor
Dr. Layne B. Martin, Instructor
Dr. Herminio Perez, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Eric Arkady Poznyansky, Instructor
Dr. Sheindy Pretter, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Dr. John F. Rathbauer, Instructor
Dr. Maria P. Rodriguez Cardenas, Instructor
Dr. John A. Salvi, Instructor
Dr. Shahram Shekib, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Elena Tsymbalova, Instructor
Dr. Dana R. Vieru, Instructor

Department of Dental Hygiene
Ms. Christine Havliaras-Delozier,
      Adjunct Assistant Professor

Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Dr. Anthony Bossis, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Jeffrey Guss, Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Janet Bodey, Clinical Assistant Professor,
Dr. Stephen S. Gelfman,
      Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Orthodontics
Dr. Laura S. Cappetta, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Jack C. Fisher, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Rahul Gulati, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Ankush Khanna, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Mita Parikh, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Dawn Pruzansky, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Brian N. Stearn, Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Cristina M. Abreu Sosa,
      Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Julie S. Wee, Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Dr. Cyril Evian, Clinical Associate Professor

Department of Prosthodontics
Dr. Eleanor Lisa Reid,
      Clinical Assistant Professor
Promoting our Own

DR. MICHAEL P. O’CONNOR (top), formerly Executive Associate Dean for Administration & Finance, has been promoted to Vice Dean for Administration & Finance; and DR. LOUIS TERRACIO (bottom), formerly Associate Dean for Research, has been promoted to Vice Dean for Research.

The change in both Dr. O’Connor’s and Dr. Terracio’s titles recognizes that their roles go considerably beyond their specific portfolios within the College of Dentistry. In particular, each plays a much broader enterprise-wide role in the combined dentistry-nursing endeavor than their former titles indicated. Each has been called upon to assume additional and protracted school-wide assignments as the need has arisen and a significant part of their time is now invested in the College of Nursing and in providing key administrative linkages between the College of Dentistry and its College of Nursing. Accordingly, their new titles reflect these expanded responsibilities.

“In their respective areas,” said Dean Bertolami, “both Michael O’Connor and Lou Terracio have set new standards for excellence in carrying out the vision and mission of the NYU College of Dentistry and its College of Nursing. Their elevation to Vice Dean is appropriate acknowledgement of their contributions to sustaining and advancing the College’s current stature.”
**Dr. Angela De Bartolo**, Class of 1987, formerly a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, has been appointed a full-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care. Dr. De Bartolo completed a general practice residency at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, and has been in private practice in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, for the past 20 years.

**Dr. Vera W. L. Tang**, Class of 2000, formerly a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, has been appointed a full-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care. Dr. Tang earned an MS in Dental Sciences with a concentration in periodontics and a certificate in periodontics from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in Gainesville.

**Mr. Daniel Ferraro**, formerly a Local Area Network Administrator and Network Manager in the Office of Information Systems, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Systems and Infrastructure Support in the Office of Technology and Informatics Services. Since joining NYUCD in 1997, Mr. Ferraro has managed the information technology infrastructure and prepared it for future growth. His accomplishments include designing and implementing upgrades to support the use of chairside digital radiology and DENTRIX® practice management software.
In January 2010, a 43-member team representing the NYU College of Dentistry–Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program arrived in Grenada, launching the first phase of a four-year mission to develop a sustainable oral health model for the tri-island nation. The NYU dental team carried out the most comprehensive oral health assessment and treatment program ever undertaken in a Caribbean country, hosted by the governments of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique.

Over the past two decades, NYUCD and Henry Schein, Inc., the largest distributor of healthcare products and services to office-based practitioners, have combined forces to conduct oral health outreach projects in underserved and at-risk communities around the world. Last year, thanks to a major gift from Henry Schein Cares, the global social responsibility program of Henry Schein, the NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program was created to focus specifically on narrowing the disparity in the delivery of oral healthcare services and information to underserved communities, both in the US and abroad.

The decision by NYUCD to help meet Grenada’s oral health needs was fueled by a request from Ms. Gracelyn Harris, an NYUCD Clinic Coordinator who emigrated 24 years ago from St. George’s, Grenada, to the United States. When Ms. Harris heard the news that a trip to Grenada was being planned, she quickly helped orchestrate the involvement of Concerned Grenadians of New York (CGNY), a nonprofit advocacy group. “I wanted to make sure everything would run smoothly,” said Ms. Harris. “This was all very new to Grenadians, who usually go to the dentist only when they have pain.”

“In approximately 1,000 children, we found almost 10,000 cavities,” said Dr. Mark Wolff. “Multiply that by the 26,000 children on the island, and it gives you some idea of the magnitude of decay.”
Ms. Harris, along with other CGNY representatives, developed a media plan for Grenada starting in October 2009. “Every week, announcements about the NYUCD visit were broadcast on Grenadian radio. So when the outreach group finally arrived, the country was excited—the people were ready,” said Ms. Harris.

NYUCD volunteers surveyed 1,075 children at 22 schools throughout the country. In addition to the oral health assessment, the NYU dental team provided free general and emergency dental care—including fluoride varnish, sealants, root canals, fillings, and extractions at the Tivoli Medical Station in St. Andrew’s Parish.

Hundreds of Grenadians lined up at the clinic each morning seeking dental care. In five days, over 500 adults and 200 children were seen, many needing multiple visits. The team focused its efforts on completing treatment for children at a primary school located adjacent to the clinic. Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, trained a local dental auxiliary assigned to the area by the Grenada Ministry of Health in the proper method of applying fluoride varnish so that preventive measures could be continued for the children at three-month intervals, until NYUCD’s next outreach to Grenada in January 2011.

The NYUCD team also offered oral health education for parents; spoke to students at a community college about considering dentistry as a profession; and provided continuing education lectures to dentists throughout the island.

Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, who led the Grenada outreach as Survey Director, said, “We had the generous support of Henry Schein Cares; a wonderful team in the Office of International Affairs & Development—Rachel Hill, Lauren Meyers, and Amanda Meissner—who organized the outreach; the enthusiastic Grenadian government, which immediately issued a formal invitation to us; and the Concerned
Grenadians, who not only raised additional money to support the outreach, but also went down to the island in advance to prepare for our visit. The stars of industry, academia, government, and community aligned beautifully.

To assess the present oral health status of children and their future needs, the NYU dental volunteers used the World Health Organization (WHO) Basic Oral Health Survey pathfinder methodology and the stratified (age, gender, and location) cluster sampling technique. Children ages 6, 7–8, and 14–15 from the six parishes across the main island, plus the sister island of Carriacou, were examined to determine the caries prevalence and the mean number of decayed, missing, and filled tooth surfaces. The dental exam consisted of a traditional visual-tactile examination method using a mirror and an explorer with compressed air. Fluoride levels in the water were assessed by collections made at each sampling site.

Dr. Nicole Holland, ’10, a member of the Grenada outreach survey team, said, “One of the biggest challenges was getting the consent forms signed—getting the children to take the forms home and explain to their parents that they needed to sign them and then bring them back. That was often tricky.”

The baseline data collected from the study reported alarmingly high caries prevalence at 83.4 percent. The DMFS (Decayed, Missing, or Filled Due to Cavities Score) for 6–8 year olds was 10.1 (SD = 12.1) and the DMFS for 11+ year olds was 5.5 (SD = 6.8). Approximately 25 percent of children interviewed said they do not own a toothbrush and an even greater number had never visited a dentist. Among those who had, most had likely not seen a dentist in more than two years.

“In approximately 1,000 children, we found almost 10,000 cavities,” said Dr. Wolff. “Multiply that by the 26,000 children on the island, and it gives you some idea of the magnitude of decay.” (The tri-nation of Grenada’s entire population is about 108,000.) Dr. Wolff pointed out that these were
preliminary numbers, which the team is still in the process of verifying.

The high decay rate is tied to a lack of preventive measures and the high consumption of sweets. “We saw candy stores right outside the schools and in the schools themselves,” said Dr. Wolff. “Now add the fact that there are only approximately 14 dentists on the entire island. One is an orthodontist and one is an oral surgeon. Now you’re looking at just 12 people dealing with decay.”

The initial findings of the assessment along with recommendations for the establishment of an oral health model were presented to the Grenadian Ministry of Health in June 2010, and to the International Association for Dental Research in Barcelona, Spain, in July 2010.

“We will give the Grenadian government some preliminary results and discuss the possibilities of what can be done in terms of treatment and prevention,” said Dr. Wolff. “That’s where we hope to see some progress made in the future for these kids.” Prevention strategies may include water fluoridation or salt fluoridation, oral health education, and sealants.

“Understand, if there were 1,000 cavities, we saw 6,000 early lesions which hadn’t cavitated yet,” said Dr. Wolff. “If we intercept two-thirds of them with fluoride, we can save 4,000 cavities in the future. That’s pretty dramatic.”

“Every night when I go to sleep I think, ‘My God, I did it. I hit the lotto for my people’,” said Ms. Harris. “It’s a dream come true.”

In addition to Dr. Wolff, Ms. Harris, Dr. Moursi, Dr. Holland, Ms. Hill, and Ms. Meissner, participants included Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development; faculty members Dr. Ananda Dasanayake, Professor Jill Fernandez, Dr. Sumitra Golikeri, Dr. Lily Lim, Dr. Lynwood Bennerson, Dr. Heather Baumhardt, Dr. Raid Sadda, Dr. Paul Rosenberg, Dr. Jennifer Frangos, and Dr. Andrea Jordan; pediatric dentistry postdoctoral fellows Dr. Rima Gluzman and Dr. Lin Li; DDS Class of 2010 graduates Drs. Robert Block, Richard Lee, Jeffrey Lo, Guojun Ma, Melissa Nevid, Duc Nguyen, Adam Palmer, and Jenny Weng; Vincent Wong Dental Hygiene Program ’09; and Ms. Kellie Kennedy and Ms. Amy Soss, both Dental Hygiene Program Class of 2010; Alexis Cohen, DDS/MPH ’11; and DDS Class of 2011 students Heather Anderson, Anil Gudipati, Justin Hastings, Suman Kafle, Zachary Linhart; International Comprehensive Dentistry Program students Dr. Marie Rohe and Dr. Niyati Panday; and residents Dr. Brianne Hama, Liora Benichou, and Kapila Pragati (pediatric dentistry); and Drs. Wael Oweity and David Vazemiller (postgraduate endodontics).


—STEPHANIE SUSNJARA
A 30-member team of NYUCD faculty and students sponsored by the Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program traveled in March to Chiquilistagua, Nicaragua, on a weeklong mission to treat 576 children and to implement a program aimed at achieving a sustainable reduction in dental caries. The fifth annual mission to this impoverished rural town of 11,000 was modeled on NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach programs underway in underserved areas in the United States and overseas, including Hudson, New York; Ft. Yukon, Alaska; and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where childhood dental caries have been reduced by as much as 40 percent.

In Chiquilistigua, as in other locations where the sustainable care model has been implemented, the outreach team set up a temporary clinic in a local school, where it provided the children with oral health education, screenings, fluoride varnishes, sealants, restorative treatments, and extractions, and trained their teachers to reapply the varnishes at three-month intervals. The NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program also provides emergency care to adult family members. In Chiquilistigua, 643 adults were treated.

As the children arrived for their screenings on the mission’s first day, team members engaged them in a ‘Happy Tooth-Sad Tooth’ game developed by
Dr. Aura Caldera, ’08, an Instructor in Pediatric Dentistry and the mission’s co-organizer. Team members placed large plastic ‘happy’ and ‘sad’ teeth and an array of oversized magnets shaped like fruit, candy, and other natural and artificially sweetened foods at the front of a classroom adjoining the clinic, asked each child to decide whether certain foods made teeth happy or sad, and shed some tears whenever a child chose to place a lollipop or chocolate on the ‘happy’ tooth.

“It was a great way to teach children about healthy versus unhealthy foods,” said outreach co-organizer Ms. Rachel Hill, Program Administrator in the Office of International Affairs & Development.

In addition to Dr. Caldera and Ms. Hill, the outreach team included Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs & Development; Dr. K. Michael Ghalili, Clinical Associate Professor of Prosthodontics; Dr. James Toppin, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; Dr. Yakir Arteaga, Instructor in Cariology & Comprehensive Care; Dr. David Walls, Teaching Fellow in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Dr. Denise Foran, Clinical Assistant Professor of Endodontics; Dr. Patrick So, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’09; and Ms. Amanda Meissner, Program Administrator in the Office of International Affairs & Development.

Additional members of the team included Dr. Wael Oweity, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, ’10; Dr. Eric Appelin, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, ’11; Dr. Joseph Sleilati, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, ’11; Dr. Amy Honig, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Joyce Kao, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’11; Dr. Thapanee Vongthongleur, Advanced Program in Pediatric Dentistry for International Dentists, ’10; Dr. Andrea Mastrorosa Agnini, Advanced Program in Comprehensive Dentistry for International Dentists, ’10; Dr. James Hazbun, Advanced Program in Comprehensive Dentistry for International Dentists, ’10; Mr. Miganoush Ghookasian, ’11; Mr. Austin Griffith, ’11; Mr. Flor Segovia, ’11; Mr. Valentin Sviatocha, ’11; and the following students from the DDS Class of ’10: Dr. Brian Bulik; Dr. Anu Dali; Dr. Robert Hogge; Dr. Jackie Korol; Dr. Avi Malkis; Dr. Alicia Schraner; Dr. Ann Slama; Dr. Michael Weisner; Dr. Tina Wu; and Dr. Lilian Wu.
NYU Alum Assists Oral Health Coalition of Haiti in Addressing Post-Earthquake Disaster Relief Needs

In the immediate aftermath of the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti, which killed 220,000 Haitians, chaos and fear on this island nation were tangible. Most severely hit was Haiti’s capital and largest city, Port-au-Prince. Haiti’s president appealed for international aid after dozens of aftershocks ensued, stating, “Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed.”

Although the University of Haiti School of Dentistry did not suffer damage, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) recognized the need to immediately pursue disaster relief activities related to oral health, as well as intermediate-recovery range plans and long-term sustainability plans.

To that end, PAHO’s Regional Advisor for Oral Health, Dr. Saskia Estupiñán-Day, assembled the Oral Health Coalition of Haiti (OHOC) as a PAHO-led group. The coalition included PAHO, the PAHO Foundation, the University of Haiti School of Dentistry, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), the American Dental Association (ADA), the

Dr. Christina Lafontant, Oral Health Coalition of Haiti Team Leader

Since 2005, NYUCD and the University of Haiti School of Dentistry have been engaged in an informal collaboration, known as the NYUCD–University of Haiti Collaborative Research Program, which jointly researches oral health conditions in Haiti to collect the necessary oral health data needed to help the island nation’s government plan effective oral health programs for the future. This has the added goal of building a cadre of epidemiologists who are qualified to conduct future oral health research on the island. Further strengthening this link is NYUCD’s recent donation of 19 dental chairs to the University of Haiti School of Dentistry, bringing the number of dental chairs donated by NYUCD to Haiti in the past three years to a total of 46.
National Dental Association (NDA), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), the Latin American Dental Association (FOLA), the Haitian Dental Association, the US Public Health Service, Alpha Omega Foundation, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, the University of Maryland, and the Kornberg School of Dental Medicine at Temple University, among others.

NYUCD’s Dr. Walter Psoter, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, who has spent years investigating the impact of early childhood malnutrition on the development and diseases of the permanent dentition of teenagers in rural Haiti (see related article on p. 32), was chosen to lead the effort of an OHOH subcommittee to produce a written report laying out detailed plans to address post-earthquake disaster relief efforts. Over the course of a long weekend, the subcommittee—consisting of Dr. Psoter; Dr. Jean Lafond, Dean of the University of Haiti School of Dentistry; Dr. Samuel Prophete, President of the Haitian Dental Association, Vice Dean for Research Affairs at the University of Haiti School of Dentistry, and a former Visiting Professor at NYUCD;
Dr. Christina Lafontant, a PAHO consultant in Haiti and a 2008 graduate of NYU’s MPH in Global Public Health Program (oral health concentration); and Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Professor and Chair of NYIJD’s Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, who organized the subcommittee—produced a comprehensive, 29-page report.

Via weekly phone teleconferences, the subcommittee members and all OHOH members continue to focus on providing for the short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term sustainability of oral health needs in Port-au-Prince, as well as in the post-earthquake intra-Haiti diaspora, which resulted in 500,000 Haitians leaving Port-au-Prince and returning to their home villages across Haiti, as indicated on the map on p. 55.

Global Health Nexus recently spoke to Dr. Lafontant about her role in the disaster relief efforts. Dr. Lafontant, a native of Haiti, participated in epidemiological research in Haiti under Dr. Psoter’s tutelage. That experience motivated her to apply to NYU’s MPH in Global Public Health Program. Following the earthquake, Dr. Lafontant was appointed by PAHO as their on-site OHOH Team Leader.

Interview with Dr. Christina Lafontant, Oral Health Coalition of Haiti Team Leader

Global Health Nexus (GHN): When did you become a PAHO consultant?

Dr. Lafontant: I first provided services as a PAHO consultant approximately one year ago, when I was invited to help coordinate Haiti’s participation in the Oral Health Workshop for the Region of the Americas. My task was to design an oral health program for Haitian school children.

Following the terrible earthquake of January 12, 2010, the most powerful to hit Haiti in 200 years, the PAHO oral health program felt the need to contribute to the overall emergency relief efforts in Haiti. At that time, the PAHO Bureau in Haiti had a very limited capacity to evaluate and address the oral health needs of the community. So I was brought back onboard to serve as the Oral Health Coalition of Haiti Team Leader because of my background both as a dentist and a public health specialist who had experience working with PAHO and had an understanding of the community’s oral health needs following the earthquake.

GHN: What are your duties as Oral Health Coalition of Haiti Team Leader?

Dr. Lafontant: Essentially, I am the point person for helping to address oral health needs in post-earthquake Haiti. I assist in planning, implementing, and evaluating OHOH activities for aid relief to the oral health community and participate in meet-
Dr. Psoter’s experience in disaster relief was particularly instrumental in devising plans to address the immediate and long-term population needs in oral health care and services in Haiti.

Below are some of the activities we outlined:

- Immediate disaster relief activities, including emergency healthcare provisions for trauma and infections in locations hit by the earthquake, along with plans to quickly expand these activities to areas to which populations have migrated;
- Intermediate-recovery range plans, including recovery and rehabilitation plans such as sealants in the camps, institutional partnerships to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other oral health sites to deliver oral health services though the work of volunteers;
- Long-term sustainability plans, including strengthening the University of Haiti School of Dentistry’s curriculum in areas such as emergency and disaster training for dentists and creation of a dental auxiliary training program.

GHN: What is the status of oral health needs assessment in Haiti?

Dr. Lafontant: We have completed a needs assessment for NGOs providing oral health services in Port-au-Prince and will go on to conduct a similar assessment for both public and private dental health facilities in other areas of the country. This is important in order to allocate resources efficiently.

GHN: What are some areas in which you hope to work with NYUCD in the future?

Dr. Lafontant: I hope to be able to work with NYUCD in strengthening Haiti’s ability to update the University of Haiti School of Dentistry’s curriculum, broaden its clinical services provision, and build research capacity in areas including population-based research and social and behavioral research related to oral health.
Iceland’s Disruptive Volcano Doesn’t Stop Vice Dean Michael O’Connor from Presenting Capstone Executive MPH Course at Reykjavik University

Approximately two years ago, Iceland’s major university, Reykjavik University, located in its capital city of Reykjavik, invited Dr. Michael O’Connor, NYU CD’s Vice Dean for Administration & Finance, to visit in April 2010 for two non-consecutive weekends to present the prestigious capstone course in its inaugural, two-year, Executive MPH Program. Dr. O’Connor’s topic was “Knowledge-Based Organizations.” In addition to Reykjavik University faculty, two faculty members from Columbia University and two faculty members from the Mayo Clinic participated in the program, leading up to Dr. O’Connor’s capstone course focusing on public health leadership, models of organizations, healthcare access, quality improvements, employment policy and compliance, patient rights, and electronic health information systems.

Dr. O’Connor, who earned his EdD at Columbia University, is an internationally recognized expert in human capital planning and forecasting, as well as in finance and leadership in public health education, the management of academic health centers, and employment policy. Prior to joining NYU CD, Dr. O’Connor had been Vice President and Senior Associate Dean for Organization & Development at the Columbia University Medical Center and Columbia University’s Vice President & Senior Associate Dean for Budget & Finance, CFO.

Prior to holding those appointments, Dr. O’Connor had served for 23 years as the Vice Dean for Finance & Administration at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, where he led the growth and development of the Mailman School’s operating budget from $3 million a year to $130 million over a period of 15 years—in other words, the perfect person to lead the first class enrolled in Reykjavik University’s Executive MPH program. Under his tutelage, the students would be exposed to a pragmatic, knowledge-based approach to policy, management, and the operational challenges faced by senior health officials in the real world on a day-to-day basis.

The first of Dr. O’Connor’s two weekend stints, from April 7 to April 11, went off without a hitch. Then came April 15, and the first major eruption since 1821 of Iceland’s Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which spewed a vast cloud of volcanic ash that drifted over most of western Europe and Scandinavia, transforming them into unprecedented no-fly zones.

Iceland’s Disruptive Volcano Doesn’t Stop Vice Dean Michael O’Connor from Presenting Capstone Executive MPH Course at Reykjavik University
Finally, on April 19, following a five-day shutdown that left millions of travelers stranded, European officials acted to end the air paralysis caused by the volcanic eruption in Iceland, agreeing to let air traffic resume in designated “caution zones.”

Ironically, throughout the eruption and its aftermath, in Reykjavik, 75 miles west of the volcano, the air had remained clear, the sea breezes clean, and life had gone on as normal. Indeed, while air traffic from Reykjavik had been curtailed for most of the week, flights to Reykjavik remained on schedule.

Dr. O’Connor was scheduled to return to Reykjavik on April 21 and was not concerned about getting there, as Reykjavik’s airport remained open. But his return was problematic as new predictions of additional eruptions kept coming.

Ultimately, Dr. O’Connor decided to make the trip. He had an uneventful arrival in Reykjavik and once there, was able to secure a return flight on Saturday, April 25, from Reykjavik to Glasgow, Scotland, and then to New York.

“I am convinced that my family and friends and colleagues at NYUCD/NYUCN were more apprehensive about my decision to go forward with the trip than I was,” said Dr. O’Connor. “I had made a commitment and was determined to see it through, though I did have concerns. Being in Reykjavik, quite near to the Eyjafjallajökull glacier, meant that the surrounding areas were alternately flooded by melting glacier water, or blanketed by ash, with no one certain about how that might affect the capital. However, I wouldn’t have missed the teaching experience, which was wonderful, and interacting with the students and other Icelanders, who were exceedingly warm and friendly.”

Among the 18 students in Dr. O’Connor’s course were general physicians, surgeons, nurse practitioners, and proprietary owners of allied healthcare agencies.
Virtually all the participants enrolled in the Executive MPH Program had ambitions to become CEOs of hospital systems or high government health officials.

“Such ambitions are not unrealistic,” said Dr. O’Connor, “when you consider how small and homogeneous Iceland is, as a stand-alone, independent country. The entire population of Iceland consists of 320,000 people in an area the size of Kentucky, with 60 percent of the population living in the small capital city of Reykjavik, a remote island, where most healthcare resources are government controlled and all educators and healthcare providers are unionized.

“On the plus side, this means that access to health care is very good. In fact, Iceland has a lower mortality rate than the US. The educational system is also very good—all students graduate high school by age 16 with a mastery of at least four languages—and all physicians are required to study abroad for at least one year, usually choosing the US, England, Sweden, Switzerland, or Ireland.

“On the downside, Iceland has difficulty retaining its professional class because other countries try to recruit those who are highly educated and because opportunity for professional growth and development is limited.

“For all these reasons,” Dr. O’Connor explained, “the introduction of an Executive MPH Program at Iceland’s major university met with a very enthusiastic response.

“The thing that impressed me most,” said Dr. O’Connor, “was the high level of the students’ knowledge, motivation, and commitment to mastering the issues, which are the same issues that we confront in the US, including the importance of public health to the overall health status of the country, health policy regulations and compliance, quality, access, patient rights, and electronic health record systems. Another similarity exists in terms of gender issues, and specifically, the issue of comparable pay for women doing the same jobs as men. Interestingly, the president of Iceland is a woman, who is thoroughly committed to equality. With a woman as president, and exciting new initiatives such as the Executive MPH program, Iceland’s future, in terms of the development of its professional class, is promising. Let’s just hope there are no more volcanoes blowing up for another 189 years.”
Brazilian PhD Candidates Advance Professionally as Visiting Scholars

NYUCD has hosted more Brazilian PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers as visiting scholars than most other US dental schools. A principal reason is that Dr. Nelson da Silva and Dr. Paulo Coelho, Assistant Professors of Prosthodontics and of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, and Dr. Simone Duarte, Assistant Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, with the support of their respective department chairs, encourage their Brazilian colleagues to identify students to take advantage of research opportunities at NYUCD. Another reason is that the Brazilian government provides grants to assist PhD candidates in studying abroad at dental schools with strong mentorship opportunities and access to innovative research concepts and technology, such as NYUCD, before returning home to defend their dissertations. During the past year, three new Brazilian PhD candidates joined NYUCD as Visiting Scholars. All three received grants from the Brazilian government.

Dr. Myrella L. Castro, a microbiologist and PhD candidate in pharmacology at the University of Campinas Piracicaba Dental School, has been a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology. Dr. Castro is being mentored by Dr. Duarte and Dr. Deepak Saxena, Assistant Professors of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on research on the effects of low dose antibiotic therapy for the treatment of periodontal disease. As a Visiting Scholar, Dr. Castro, who earned DDS and MS degrees in pharmacology from the Piracicaba Dental School, is also able to take advantage of the access that NYUCD researchers have to advanced technology in microbiology.

Drs. Guilherme B. Valverde and Amilcar C. Freitas, Jr., are both Visiting Scholars in the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics. Dr. Valverde, a PhD candidate in prosthodontics at the State University of Campinas, is being mentored by Dr. da Silva and co-mentored by Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, on the development of non-thermal plasmas for dentistry and on mechanical testing of ceramics and composites using electrodynamic instruments that simulate teeth grinding and chewing. Dr. Valverde earned a DDS degree and an MSc in oral rehabilitation from the State University of São Paulo–UNESP, Araraquara, Brazil.

Dr. Freitas, a PhD candidate in prosthodontics at the São Paulo State University, Araçatuba Dental School, is being mentored by Dr. Coelho on the use of finite element analysis in the development of ceramics and alloys for implants and other prosthetic devices. Dr. Freitas earned a DDS degree and an MS degree in prosthodontics from the Araçatuba Dental School in Brazil.
Dr. Denise Estafan came to the United States after earning a DDS degree from Cairo University College of Dentistry in 1969, completing a general practice residency at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Northern Ireland in 1971, and practicing general dentistry in Saudi Arabia from 1978 to 1980. After earning a dental degree from NYU in 1982, Dr. Estafan began to practice privately in Port Washington, New York, and joined the NYUCD faculty, where she currently serves as Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Esthetic Dentistry. In 1995, she also earned a master’s degree in dental materials from NYU.

Dr. Estafan is well known for her research on computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing, or CAD/CAM, a technology that enables dentists to create a 3D blueprint of a restoration from a photographic image of a tooth. The recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, Dr. Estafan is president of NYUCD’s chapter of the OKU dental honor society and the author of over 40 journal articles on dental materials and esthetic dentistry. She travels regularly to the Middle East and Europe to lecture on the latest dental techniques and technologies.

Dr. Estafan has played a leading role in introducing curricular innovations in esthetic dentistry, such as a preclinical course on CAD/CAM restoration, and training fellow faculty members in these innovations. She has been an inspiration to students, especially those who originally trained overseas to whom she serves as a mentor.

“When I began my clinical training at NYUCD,” Dr. Estafan recalls, “I found it challenging to deal with esthetic cases because the patients were so demanding and had extremely high expectations. But with help from my mentors, I grew more self-confident and met the challenge head-on. Today, I encourage my students to do the same. I believe strongly in Dean Bertolami’s philosophy that everyone has to have a mentor and that everyone has to be a mentor.”

“I’ve enjoyed working with Dr. Estafan because she has given me opportunities I didn’t expect to have as a predoctoral student,” says Dr. Sabina Malla, ’10, who came to NYUCD from Nepal. “Thanks to Dr. Estafan’s guidance, I’ve been able to successfully complete a full-mouth rehabilitation—a case normally reserved for postdoctoral residents.”

“Through hard work and dedication, Dr. Estafan has built a distinguished career in esthetic dentistry in her adopted home,” says Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care. “She is truly an inspiration to the many overseas-trained dentists who come to NYUCD to earn US dental degrees.”
After earning a BDS degree in 1974 from Osmania University Medical & Dental College in his native India, Dr. Bapanaiah Penugonda moved to Belize in Central America to begin dental practice. In Belize, he encountered a frustrating situation, as patients with serious posterior decay were determined to spend their limited funds on flashy gold crowns for anterior aesthetic restorations. Realizing that there was no economical alternative to gold, Dr. Penugonda soon began thinking about developing a second career in materials research, and when he learned that NYUCD offered a master’s degree in dental materials (now known as the master’s degree in biomaterials), he moved to New York in 1980 to enroll in the program, while also earning a dental degree at NYU.

After graduation, Dr. Penugonda opened a private practice in midtown Manhattan, went on to develop an alloy that has since been widely adopted as an economical alternative to gold in dental restorations, and in 1982, joined NYUCD’s faculty, where he currently serves as an Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Group Practice Director.

“Dr. Penugonda is a perfect example of how far it’s possible to advance when you are ambitious and take advantage of the rich array of educational and research resources available to you,” said Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.

“My professors in the DDS and dental materials programs encouraged me to pursue my career goals and opened my eyes to rewarding opportunities in biomaterials research, teaching, and private practice,” says Dr. Penugonda.

“Today, I maintain a part-time private practice, oversee clinical training for more than 50 students, am involved in developing new tooth-whitening products and composites, and conduct research on the environmental implications of biomaterials disposal. I travel abroad frequently to present my research findings and lecture on advances in cariology and comprehensive care. I also serve as president of the NYUCD chapter of Sigma Xi, an international honor society of research scientists and engineers. It’s a wonderful, multifaceted professional life.”
NYUCD Receives $3.5 Million Gift to Support Oral Cancer Research, Treatment, and Training Initiatives of Dr. Brian Schmidt

The NYU College of Dentistry has received an anonymous gift in the amount of $3.5 million to support the oral cancer research, treatment, and training initiatives of Dr. Brian L. Schmidt, the newly appointed Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research (see related story on p. 42).

These initiatives center on early detection, pain control, and improved reconstruction in the treatment of oral cancer patients. They include:

- Developing an innovative oral cancer pain and neuroscience research program.
- Identifying genetic and proteomic markers at the time of diagnosis to predict the progression of an oral cancer and subsequently, to tailor treatment based upon that prediction.
- Investigating saliva as a cancer predictor, which might make it possible to follow a patient with a precancerous lesion simply by giving a saliva sample that would be analyzed in the laboratory for certain predictive markers.
- Establishing a yearlong postdoctoral research fellowship for investigators who wish to develop expertise in the area of cancer pain by focusing on relevant questions that must be addressed in the laboratory.
- Improving oral cancer survivors’ quality of life by expanding a program dedicated to facial construction following surgical resection.

Dr. Schmidt and his colleague Dr. John Dolan, winner of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation Collegiate Inventors Competition Graduate Award (see related story on p. 43), will research and develop a prototype for jaw replacement, fabricated in titanium, to be delivered at the time of oral cancer resection to replace the patient’s missing jaws and teeth.

“We are thrilled by the generosity of this unrestricted gift, which will support Dr. Schmidt’s goal of enhancing the quality of life for oral cancer patients.”

Dr. Patricia Corby and Dr. Brian Schmidt
patients through his research initiatives, and will continue to expand the oral cancer treatment programs established at NYUCD by Dr. David Hirsch and department chair Dr. Robert Glickman,” said Dean Bertolami.

“Inasmuch as a cure for oral cancer does not exist,” continued Dean Bertolami, “and in recognition of the fact that a major problem for oral cancer patients is pain, this gift will be used to increase understanding of the molecular mechanisms that produce oral cancer pain and to find ways to achieve significant pain reduction in a cancer pain model. An important aim will be to translate findings into the practical clinical management of oral cancer patients.”

“We are thrilled by the generosity of this unrestricted gift, which will support Dr. Schmidt’s goal of enhancing the quality of life for oral cancer patients through his research initiatives,” said Dean Bertolami.
NYU College of Dentistry Professor Dr. Daniel Malamud is teaming up with the Malaria Institute at Macha, Zambia, to develop a rapid test for signs of malaria infection in saliva, thanks to a $100,000 Grand Challenge Award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne parasitic disease that kills as many as three million people a year. The Malaria Institute’s Scientific Director, Dr. Sungano Mharakurwa, will work with Dr. Malamud to transfer an existing laboratory test for malaria infection to a microfluidic lab-on-a-chip—a device that can detect the presence of the parasite’s DNA on a glass chip less than four centimeters wide.

“Saliva samples will be collected from the mouth with a swab—a less invasive alternative to drawing blood,” explained Dr. Malamud, a Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS research program at NYU.

The standard blood test for malaria requires samples to be sent to a laboratory for lengthy analysis. The portable lab-on-a-chip, by contrast, is designed to identify signs of malaria infection—even if there are no symptoms of the disease—in less than one hour. The adoption of this technology would enable public health officials to expand the number of people being tested for malaria infection in remote rural areas, and to begin treating those who are infected before they develop symptoms of the disease.

Drs. Malamud and Mharakurwa will use the lab-on-a-chip to test 270 rural villagers for malaria infection in an area of Zambia where large numbers of malaria cases have been reported. All subjects testing positive will be treated with medication. Additional testing involving a larger number of human subjects will be conducted in subsequent phases of the research.

Dr. Malamud’s coinvestigators include Dr. Eran Geva, a Junior Research Scientist in Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, and Dr. Cheryl Barber, an Associate Research Scientist in Epidemiology & Health Promotion, both at the College of Dentistry.

“Saliva samples will be collected from the mouth with a swab—a less invasive alternative to drawing blood,” explained Dr. Malamud.
NYU College of Dentistry Receives United Hospital Fund Grant to Improve Seniors’ Access to Oral Health Care

The NYU College of Dentistry has received a one-year grant from the United Hospital Fund that will involve dental, dental hygiene, and nursing students and faculty in developing and assessing a collaborative oral health-care referral model whose goal is to provide community dwelling, underserved older adults in New York City with better access to dental care.

According to the grant’s principal investigator, Dr. Donna E. Shelley, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice, “Our project will fill large gaps in our knowledge about the oral health needs of community dwelling older adults by screening over 300 adults over the age of 60 who either seek services from senior centers or live in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) in Manhattan and Queens. Our ultimate goal is to create a seamless referral link between community settings serving older adults and dental healthcare settings in order to increase access to much needed dental care.”

Dental, dental hygiene, and nursing students will screen residents at each partnering site. The dental and dental hygiene students will conduct oral health assessments and the nursing students will take medical histories and interview the seniors to identify potential barriers to care, such as a lack of insurance and inadequate transportation to dental service delivery sites. As part of the project, NYUCD is collaborating with the New York State Dental Association to create a directory of dentists who will serve as a referral resource.

“The data we gather will enable us to estimate the prevalence of oral health problems in this population and the amount of uncompensated care needed to meet the seniors’ basic oral health needs. We expect to find large numbers of older adults without dental insurance because Medicare does not cover dental treatment. But this is only one of the many barriers that older adults face in trying to access dental care,” said Dr. Shelley. “We also intend to use the data to develop a referral model that could be replicated in the future on a larger scale citywide and to advocate for government funding to fill gaps in uncompensated care for seniors.”

Dr. Shelley’s coinvestigators include Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; Dr. Donna Clemmens, Assistant Professor of Nursing; and Dr. Theresa Montini, Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.
Henry Schein Cares Wing Dedicated

NYUCD celebrated the opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing on June 2, 2010, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the new clinical facility.

Housed on the second floor of the NYU College of Dentistry, the Henry Schein Cares Wing includes 56 dental chairs for the care of patients in the community. Henry Schein donated equipment, technology, and healthcare supplies valued at more than $2 million to support the NYU College of Dentistry through Henry Schein Cares, the company’s global social responsibility program.

“Henry Schein and NYU share a deep commitment to advancing excellent, comprehensive oral health care while supporting the training and development of future oral healthcare professionals who not only have an impact on their profession, but on society as a whole,” said Dean Bertolami.
“Henry Schein Cares is deeply privileged to contribute to the training and education of our nation’s future oral healthcare professionals and support their service to the oral healthcare needs of the public through the Henry Schein Cares Wing of the NYU College of Dentistry, and we are grateful for the generosity of our supplier partners who have joined us in this effort,” said Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Henry Schein. “Our strategic partnership with NYU underscores our commitment to supporting healthcare education, a key pillar of our global social responsibility program, Henry Schein Cares, and we look forward to working together to ‘help health happen’ for many years to come.”

The opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing builds on a two-decade-long strategic partnership between Henry Schein and the NYU College of Dentistry. In addition to the opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing, Henry Schein Cares and the NYU College of Dentistry recently announced a five-year sponsorship of the dental school’s international outreach program—the NYU College of Dentistry–Henry Schein Cares Global Dental Student Outreach Program. (See related stories on pp. 48 and 52.)

“Henry Schein and NYU share a deep commitment to advancing excellent, comprehensive oral health care while supporting the training and development of future oral healthcare professionals who not only have an impact on their profession, but on society as a whole,” said Dean Bertolami. “NYU’s partnership with Henry Schein furthers our ability to provide quality, affordable oral health care to members of our community while offering our students an extraordinary education.”

MIGUEL COLMENARES, MANAGER OF THE HENRY SCHEIN DENTAL SUPPLY STORE AT NYUCD, HONORED BY NYUCD STUDENT COUNCIL

The NYU College of Dentistry Student Council presented the NYU College of Dentistry Student Council Appreciation Award 2009-2010 to Miguel Colmenares, Manager of the Henry Schein Dental Supply Store at NYUCD since 1991. This honor was one of 10 awards presented by the Student Council to members of the NYU faculty and administration who students feel have performed outstandingly in their support of and dedication to dental students.

Miguel Colmenares’ award is unique, as he is the first individual outside of the NYUCD faculty and administration ever to receive this honor.

From left: Justin Hastings, ’10; Miguel Colmenares; Dr. Ricardo Vanegas-Plata, faculty member, Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care at NYUCD (also a winner of the NYUCD Student Council Appreciation Award); and Dr. Jordan Bank, ’10.
Do frequent arguments between parents and an unstable home environment contribute to oral and systemic health problems, as well as to psychological stress? Researchers from the NYU College of Dentistry and Stony Brook University are examining this question with the help of a two-year, $1 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of NIH.

The study is being led jointly by Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education at the NYU College of Dentistry, and Drs. Richard Heyman and Amy Slep, both Research Professors of Psychology at Stony Brook University. The coinvestigators will evaluate 800 parents and caregivers and 400 children ages 4 to 11 who live in Suffolk County, New York. Drs. Heyman and Slep identified the subjects through a telephone survey conducted in conjunction with an earlier study that was limited to the psychological effects of family conflict in homes with frequent parental conflict and dysfunction.

In the new study, the NYU–Stony Brook research team will administer comprehensive oral, systemic, and psychological health examinations to evaluate the subjects for:

- oral health status and quality of life, including number of dental caries
- physical health status, including susceptibility to common ailments such as colds and the flu
- blood levels of enzymes and proteins associated with diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome, and other stress-related, inflammatory conditions
- mental health status, including symptoms of depression and anxiety

The investigators hypothesize that, of the subjects evaluated, children who are frequently exposed to family conflict will have higher-than-average levels of dental caries, common systemic illnesses, and psychological problems. If this proves to be the case, the study could lead to the development of specific recommendations on how to screen those at risk for a broad range of oral, systemic, and psychological health conditions.

“We hope that this study will make dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers more aware of the implications of family conflict,” said Dr. Wolff.

Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion at the NYU College of Dentistry, is a coinvestigator on the study.
Dr. Terry Y. Lin is 2010 Litvak Fellowship Recipient

Dr. Terry Y. Lin, ‘08, a second-year student in the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, has become the 12th recipient of the Dr. Harold Litvak Junior Fellowship in Prosthodontics.

In addition to a dental degree, Dr. Lin holds an MS degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. He plans to pursue a career in research, teaching, and private practice after completing his prosthodontics specialty training in 2011.

“Dr. Lin was awarded the fellowship because of his ability to excel academically, in patient satisfaction, and in his interactions with faculty and peers,” said Dr. Farhad Vahidi, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics and Director of the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics.

The Litvak Fellowship was established in 1999 through a generous grant from Mrs. Adele Block in honor of her dentist, Dr. Litvak, a Clinical Professor of Prosthodontics at NYUCD and a generous donor to the College. Mrs. Block is a member of the family that owned the Block Drug Company, Inc., a major producer of oral and general healthcare products, which is now a division of GlaxoSmithKline.

“Dr. Lin was awarded the fellowship because of his ability to excel academically, in patient satisfaction, and in his interactions with faculty and peers,” said Dr. Farhad Vahidi.
The Gift of a Lifetime: Dr. Maurice Oringer’s Extraordinary Generosity Continues to Support His Alma Mater

When Dr. Maurice Oringer, ’28, returned to NYUCD in 1998 for a welcoming reception for former Dean Michael C. Alfano, he was already committed to NYUCD’s success in dental education, research, and patient care, having been a loyal and generous supporter of his alma mater for many years.

But on that day, Dr. Oringer became an even more avid supporter of the College and a leading advocate for the vision outlined by Dean Alfano—that NYUCD would become the dental education institution with the greatest impact globally on the health of society.

With his excitement and passion for the College at a new level, Dr. Oringer established a scholarship fund so that students would be able to apply themselves 100 percent to their dental studies, and he arranged to complete its funding by naming NYUCD as a beneficiary in his estate plans. In this way, Dr. Oringer’s values of scholarship and service would be perpetuated and would serve as a model for students and young professionals for generations to come.

Dr. Oringer’s sense of public service was legendary in the dental profession. A pioneer in raising awareness of the importance of early detection of oral cancer, Dr. Oringer was one of the first proponents of routine oral cancer exams. The NYU College of Dentistry, in particular, has promoted the importance of routine oral cancer screening of dental patients. And now, the Fund established by Dr. Oringer ensures that his legacy of public service will live on, even though Dr. Oringer passed away in 2004.

Through a bequest, you, too, can make a meaningful gift to NYUCD. To learn more about how to create your own legacy, please contact Assistant Dean Rita Startup at 212.998.9920 or email her directly at rita.startup@nyu.edu.

Dr. Maurice Oringer
New York University Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing researchers were awarded a $5K grant from the American Dental Association’s Samuel D. Harris Fund for Children’s Dental Health Grants Program. The researchers, Dr. Lily Lim (principal investigator), a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Program for International Dentists in Pediatric Dentistry, and Ms. Jill Fernandez (coinvestigator), a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Pediatric Outreach Programs, both from the College of Dentistry, and Dr. Donna Hallas (coinvestigator), a Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing and Coordinator of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, from the College of Nursing, developed a proposal entitled: “Interdisciplinary Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Early Childhood Caries: Implementation of a Postnatal Educational Program and Follow-up Interventions to Establish a Dental Home in the First Year of Life.”

In their grant proposal, the researchers note that Early Childhood Caries (ECC) is the most prevalent unmet healthcare need among children 71 months old or younger, with significant health disparities in oral health care for children below five years old. Untreated dental caries among African-American children 6 to 8 years of age was 36 percent, and for Hispanic children, untreated dental caries was 43 percent as compared to white children who are at 26 percent.

To effectively combat this national epidemic, the researchers are proposing an interdisciplinary collaborative approach to the education of parents of newborns prior to hospital discharge.

“Our interdisciplinary team will consist of pediatric dentists, pediatric residents, and general dental students at New York University College of Dentistry working collaboratively with newborn and pediatric nurses, pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and PNP students from New York University College of Nursing at the College of Dentistry,” said Dr. Lim. “This project will introduce newborn and pediatric practicing nurses to interdisciplinary educational strategies for implementation on the postpartum unit for parents of newborns to reduce the incidence of ECC,” she said.

The 16-month project begins with the implementation of an interdisciplinary and culturally sensitive oral health educational program for parents of newborns. Follow-up assessments of the health status of the infants will be performed to determine the impact of the educational program at 6 and 12 months. Lastly, the researchers will assess the impact of the educational program by the number of parents who have taken their child to a pediatric dentist by the infant’s first birthday.

The researchers anticipate enrolling at least 30 mothers each week with a total population of 180 infants in the control group and 180 infants in the intervention group. They anticipate that the total educational program will reach around 5,000 parents of newborns at various New York City hospitals and about 200 infants who were on the in-patient pediatric unit over the one-year time frame.

—CHRISTOPHER JAMES
NYUCD in the News
A SAMPLING OF RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

ABC7 Eyewitness News broadcast an interview with Dr. Shiela Strauss, Associate Professor of Nursing and Co-Director of the Statistics & Data Management Core for NYU’s Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, about her research which found that over 90 percent of people with gum disease are at risk for diabetes, and that at least half could be screened in dental offices. The story was broadcast during NYUCD’s annual free dental screening conducted in partnership with ABC7, which also promoted the screenings with public service announcements. The research results were also reported by the ADA News and by CBS TV network stations in Buffalo, Cincinnati, and Tucson, and online by National Public Radio, AARP, Reader’s Digest, and dozens of other Web sites and blogs worldwide.

CenterWatch Weekly interviewed Dr. Brian Schmidt, Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, for an article on the growth, development, and goals of the Bluestone Center.

CNN featured a study being conducted at NYUCD in collaboration with the NYU School of Medicine on the use of a psychoactive agent to promote enhanced well-being for cancer patients.

Doctor Radio, a Sirius satellite radio channel sponsored by the NYU Langone Medical Center, interviewed Dr. Daniel Malamud, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program, for a Valentine’s Day special program on oral health and kissing; Dr. Robert Schoor, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry and Director of the postgraduate program in periodontics, about periodontal problems in diabetics and the “boomer” generation; Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, about children’s oral health; Dr. Robert Glickman, Professor & Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, about TMJ disorders; Dr. Morey Gendler, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about current issues in dentistry; Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about caring for your teeth as you age; and Dr. Ron Craig, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, about the importance of dental care as it relates to heart disease.
Chatelaine, a Canadian women’s magazine, featured an interview with Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on the impact of sports drinks on tooth erosion. The Boston Globe also reported on this study.

WNYC Radio Soundcheck featured an interview with Dr. Wolff about the use of music in dental offices to calm patients.

Business Week Saving quoted Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs & Development, in an article about dental tourism. Dr. Hirsch was also quoted on the topic in SavingAdvice.com.

Anthropology News reported on the selection of Dr. Timothy Bromage, Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, to receive the 2010 Max Planck Research Award. The story was also reported by Paleontology News, the Dental Tribune, Medical News Today, and hundreds of Web sites and blogs.

ADA News interviewed Dr. Donna Shelley, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice, about the grant she received from the United Hospital Fund to develop and evaluate a community-clinic referral model that aims to increase prevention and treatment of oral disease among older adults. (See related story on p. 67.) GrantWatch Blog also posted a story announcing the grant.

ADA News quoted Dean Bertolami and Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, in articles about NYUCD’s commemoration of Give Kids A Smile® Day, an annual nationwide event offering free oral health care and education to underserved children. (See related story on p. 93.)

Clinical Oncology Week reported on an NYUCD/Penn State study to develop a new model for investigating the tobacco/oral cancer link.

The New York Times carried a story on the NYU Stern School’s annual Entrepreneur Social Venture competition, which awarded first prize in its “profit-for-good business” category to Mr. Chirag Sadana, Assistant Director of the Office of Informatics, and Mr. Alex Ruano, Web Application Programmer/Analyst in the Office of Informatics, for their social venture entitled “America Smiles.”
The Dr. Oz Show interviewed Dr. Gerald Curatola, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on early detection of oral cancer.

The Dr. Oz Show also featured an interview with Dr. Jonathan Levine, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on the benefits of an aesthetic dentistry makeover. Dr. Levine was also interviewed on this topic by Fox News.

Science Daily reported on a study led by Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, which found a connection between drinking white wine and tooth staining.

Men’s Health Magazine interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education & Professor & Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on veneers.

Ladies’ Home Journal featured an interview with Dr. Mark Schlesinger, ’02, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about a new laser treatment for periodontal disease. Dr. Schlesinger was also interviewed by HealthRadio.net about the laser treatment and FDA approval for the new technique.

Life and Beauty Weekly published an article authored by Dr. Nancy Dougherty, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Postgraduate Program in Pediatric Dentistry, featuring tips on proper tooth brushing by children.

Health & Medicine Week reported on a study led by Dr. Yu Zhang, Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, which described how to reformulate zirconia as a glass-ceramic composite to increase its fracture resistance.

Prevention magazine quoted Dr. Edgard Elchaar, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, in an article describing unusual uses for health products, such as swabbing feet with mouthwash to prevent athlete’s foot.
**Prevention** magazine carried an interview with Ms. Judith Kreismann, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, about new and interesting ways to remember to floss.

**Earthtimes.org** quoted Dr. John Ricci, Associate Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, in an article about an implant whose surface has been precisely engineered for stability to speed healing and minimize bone loss.

**Weekly Asahi**, a popular Japanese news magazine, interviewed Dr. Mitchell Bloom, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics and Educational Coordinator, and Dr. Hanae Saito, Research Coordinator for the International Program in Implant Dentistry, on differences between American and Japanese approaches to implant dentistry education.

**WebMD** quoted the late Ms. Alla Wheeler, Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, in an article about the importance of flossing.

**Aol.com** featured an interview with Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on options for affordable dental care. FoxBusiness.com also interviewed Dr. Wolff on this topic.

**Aol.com Savings Experiment** carried a story about affordable dental care at the NYU College of Dentistry. The program explores cost-effective, sometimes lesser-known solutions to a variety of topics.

**Cancer Weekly** reported on a study by Dr. Douglas Morse, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, which found a correlation between smoking and depression in oral cancer patients.

**Univision/Channel 41** interviewed Dr. Lucy Troncoso, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Ms. Keila E. Figueroa, Outreach Program Administrator in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, about the importance of maintaining good oral health during pregnancy.

**WKRN-TV** in Nashville, TN, interviewed Dr. Nancy Dougherty, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, about the age at which children can start brushing their own teeth. The interview was also carried by NewsWest.Com, KTVZ-TV (Bend, OR), WBTB (Charlotte, NC), and WWSB (Sarasota, FL).
NYU College of Dentistry’s Academy of Distinguished Educators Inducts Inaugural Members

NYU President John Sexton is Keynote Speaker

The NYU Academy of Distinguished Educators at the College of Dentistry inducted its inaugural members at a ceremony held at the College on May 3, 2010. Dean Bertolami, who provided the impetus for the creation of the Academy, explained that “The Academy is a collective of highly qualified NYUCD faculty who share a commitment to improving the overall level of teaching at NYUCD via educational research, pedagogical practice, development of learning materials, and educational mentorship. Although excellence in teaching is indisputably central to the mission of educating tomorrow’s healthcare providers across disciplines, it is often undervalued and under-supported. The Academy is designed to change that.”

A highlight of the event was the participation of NYU President John Sexton, who presented keynote remarks and formally inducted the inaugural members.

“No matter what field you’re in,” said President Sexton, “I never write ‘university president,’ I always write ‘teacher.’ That’s what I was put on this earth to be and that’s why I am so enthusiastic about and inspired by Charles’s decision to create the College’s Academy of Distinguished Educators. As a youngster at Brooklyn Prep in 1955, I was privileged to encounter a teacher who enabled me to recognize my destiny, a mystical man who instilled in me an openness to “the other,” a yearning to understand and be curious about experiences I hadn’t yet had, to encounter the world and learn from it. The educators whom we induct into the Academy this afternoon exemplify that person’s understanding of teaching as the most thrilling and satisfying calling one can have. I am honored and privileged to officially induct them as the first members of the NYU College of Dentistry’s Academy of Distinguished Educators.”

“Although excellence in teaching is indisputably central to the mission of educating tomorrow’s healthcare providers across disciplines, it is often undervalued and undersupported. The Academy is designed to change that.”

Dean Bertolami
Each inductee received a certificate of membership and a specially crafted pin. The conceptual foundation for the Academy was laid by Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who, working with a leadership committee of faculty members known for their insight, wisdom, expertise as teachers, and commitment to the College, provided the intellectual framework and bylaws needed to launch the Academy.

Dr. Spielman noted that “With its focus on championing the central role of teachers in facilitating innovation in teaching, conducting research, and creating an environment that enhances the status of health professions educators, the Academy will function as a unique think tank, one that will redefine our understanding of health professions educators.”

The NYUCD Academy of Distinguished Educators Inaugural Inductees:

- **Eric Baker**  
  (Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology)
- **Ananda Dasanayake**  
  (Epidemiology & Health Promotion)
- **Mitchell Lipp**  
  (Orthodontics)
- **Marjan Moghadam**  
  (Prosthodontics)
- **Miriam Robbins**  
  (Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine)
- **Anthony Vernillo**  
  (Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine)
Two New Dental Schools Join NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares Alaska Outreach, Doubling the Size of the Program

The NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach to Alaska has added two new schools to its program, which visited the Arctic Circle in April 2010. The dental schools at the University of Washington and Loma Linda University joined NYUCD and the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health to implement a program aimed at achieving a sustainable reduction in dental caries in areas where the caries rate is more than twice as high as anywhere else in the United States.

The addition of the dental schools at Loma Linda University and the University of Washington brought the total number of students and faculty participating in the 2010 mission to 30, more than double the number who traveled to Alaska in 2009. NYUCD and Arizona also substantially increased their presence in 2010.

With a larger team in place, organizers extended the mission to 16 days in 2010 from 8 in 2009; more than doubled the number of villages served, to five from two; and increased the number of children treated to 165 from 87.

In Alaska, as in other locations where the NYUCD-Henry Schein Cares model of sustainable care has been implemented, the outreach team set up temporary clinics in local schools and health clinics, provided the children with oral health education, screenings, fluoride varnishes, sealants, restorative treatments, and extractions, and trained teachers and local healthcare workers to reapply the varnishes at three-month intervals. Emergency care was also provided to 140 adults.

The Alaska mission covers a much broader territory than is customary for NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares outreaches. Snow-packed mountain ranges encircle the region’s tiny villages, and flying is often the only way to get from one place to another. In order to efficiently serve as many residents of the area as possible, the NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares program aims to enlist additional dental schools for each mission, in order to be able to simultaneously deploy multiple teams to provide more care to more villages. Ultimately, the goal is to have each dental school take the lead in one area, enabling other schools to move on to serve additional villages.

For example, Arizona’s expanded presence on the mission—from two volunteers last year to six this year—
enabled it to take on a more central role in three days of outreach to Fort Yukon, a village that NYUCD and Arizona jointly visited in 2009.

“With more people on the ground, we operated our temporary clinic more efficiently,” said Dr. Maureen Romer, an Associate Professor and Director of Special Care Dentistry at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, who led the Arizona contingent in both 2009 and 2010. Arizona plans to take the lead on the spring 2011 mission to Fort Yukon, enabling NYUCD to reduce its presence there and redeploy some students and faculty to other locations.

Arizona’s increased presence ties in with its focus on preparing students to provide oral health care in areas of need throughout the United States. The school confers a certificate in public health in conjunction with a DMD degree and requires students to perform community service at off-campus dental clinics.

“We like helping people regardless of where they live,” remarked Arizona team member Dr. Cassandra Jones, ’10.

Although traveling to the Alaskan Arctic can be challenging, the team in NYUCD’s Office of International Affairs & Development was able to smooth over many hurdles.

“Actually,” said Dr. Bonnie Nelson, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the Loma Linda School of Dentistry and a veteran of the school’s outreach missions to Honduras and Nicaragua, “this was the easiest outreach I ever participated in. NYUCD Program Coordinators Rachel Hill and Amanda Meissner made all the necessary arrangements, including helping me to obtain the temporary license I needed to practice dentistry in Alaska.”

“Since we’ve been to this region before, we had a network of contacts in the state health department and in each of the villages we were scheduled to visit,” said Ms. Hill. Added Ms. Meissner, “We knew who to call to make things happen.”

Many participants cited an interest in experiencing the Alaska lifestyle firsthand as a motivation for taking the trip.

“Students are interested in doing these kinds of missions since they like to interact with people from different cultures,” said Dr. Beatrice Gandara, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Educational Partnerships & Diversity at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. Dr. Travis Nelson, a third-year pediatric resident at the school, added, “The local children seemed absolutely fascinated with all of the strangers who converged on their village for two days. Many would hang around after their appointments just to watch or talk with the dentists.”

In addition to Ms. Hill and Ms. Meissner, NYUCD’s participants in the outreach included Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs & Development;
Dr. Peter Catapano, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Gayle Miranda, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Ms. Jill Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Cristine Abreu Sosa, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Magda Goralczyk, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, ’11; Dr. Mohab Taniou, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, ’11; and the following members of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry Class of 2011: Dr. Scott Sachs, Dr. Shwetha Rai, Dr. Andrew Chang, Dr. Yoon Chung, and Dr. Alfonse Doan.

Additional participants included Dr. Hansel Gonzalez, Advanced Program for International Dentists in Oral Surgery, ’10; Dr. Nicholas Zawada, Dr. Omoirawua Osagimwangbon, and Dr. Sarah Enumsian, all DDS Class of 2010; and Ms. Patti Ong and Mr. Matthew Eppright, DDS Class of 2011.

In addition to Dr. Romer and Dr. Jones, the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health’s DDS participants included Dr. Jordan Karren, ’10; Dr. Thomas Nack, ’10; Ms. Andrea Livingood, ’11; and Mr. Rob Matthews, ’11.

In addition to Dr. Nelson, Loma Linda University School of Dentistry was represented by Dr. Laura McCormack, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’11.

**SMILING FACES, GOING PLACES DENTAL VAN VISITS SAY “THANK YOU” FOR NYC COUNCIL SUPPORT**

Since the launch of NYU’s Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental care program a decade ago, the New York City Council has provided generous support to maintain the program. NYUCD’s way of saying “Thank you” has been to visit Council districts during health fairs and other outreach activities.

This spring, the van visited Council Member Gale Brewer’s Westside Manhattan district (right) and Council Member Oliver Koppell’s Bronx district (below). Both Council Members have been extremely strong supporters of the van program.

Above: Council Member Gale Brewer, in white jacket. Left: Council Member Oliver Koppell, standing, rear.
Robert N. Eskow NYU Implant Dentistry Award Presented to Dr. George A. Zarb

The Robert N. Eskow NYU Implant Dentistry award was presented to Dr. George A. Zarb, a Toronto-based internationally accomplished prosthodontist who has played a pivotal role in introducing implant dentistry techniques to North America. The presentation was made at the annual NYU Implant Symposium in December. Dr. Zarb, a former professor at the University of Toronto School of Dentistry and the current editor of *The International Journal of Prosthodontics*, is a member of the Order of Canada, a distinction conferred by the Canadian government on Canadian citizens in recognition of “extraordinary achievements in various fields of endeavors.”

Named in honor of its principal benefactor, NYU Clinical Professor of Implant Dentistry Dr. Robert Eskow, the Eskow Award recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the science and clinical application of implant dentistry. The award carries a plaque and a cash stipend.

In addition to Dr. Eskow, the other benefactors responsible for the Eskow award include Astra Tech, Inc., BioLok™ International, Inc., Hu-Friedy Manufacturing Company, Inc., 3i Implant Innovations, Inc., Nobel Biocare USA, Straumann USA, and Zimmer Dental, Inc.

The Eskow Award recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the science and clinical application of implant dentistry.
Second Annual Dean’s Colloquium Focuses on Volunteerism and Social Documentary Photography

NOTED DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER PHIL BORGES IS SPECIAL GUEST

The Second Annual Dean’s Colloquium, hosted in April by Dean Bertolami, once again brought together major stakeholders in dental education, organized dentistry, and the corporate sector, along with selected NYU officials, to address the issue of what the NYU College of Dentistry can do that we are not already doing to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives, especially people in the developing world.

The colloquium began with a report by Dr. Mark Feldman, Executive Director of the New York State Dental Association and former President of the American Dental Association, on the progress to date of a collaborative model designed to increase access to oral care by recruiting practicing dentists who are members of the New York State Dental Association to join NYUCD’s existing outreach infrastructure. The model had been proposed at the 2009 inaugural colloquium by Stanley Bergman, Chairman and CEO of Henry Schein, and was piloted in October 2009 in Hudson, New York, a severely medically underserved area in upstate New York with funding from Dentsply.

Dr. Feldman noted that participating dentists expressed a desire to pursue additional volunteer opportunities in the future, and that data from the Hudson

The second portion of the program featured Dr. Phil Borges, who has documented indigenous and tribal cultures around the world for over 20 years.
outreach suggest that prevention programs, if they are designed for sustainability over the long term, can do much to dramatically decrease the incidence of caries in children in underserved communities.

The second portion of the program featured Dr. Phil Borges, who has documented indigenous and tribal cultures around the world for over 20 years. An orthodontist by training, Dr. Borges left practice after taking a photography course, which spurred his passion to use photography to create a heightened understanding of issues faced by people in the developing world. The result has been a series of award-winning exhibits, books, and multimedia projects, including “Bridges to Understanding,” an online program that connects youth worldwide through digital storytelling in order to enhance cross-cultural understanding and build a sense of global citizenship in youth.

Dr. Borges presented photos from his most recent project, “Stirring the Fire,” a global movement to empower women and girls. In addition to photographs, the project includes a book, Women Empowered, with a foreword by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. For more about Dr. Phil Borges’s vision and work, please go to http://www.philborges.com.
As a doctoral student in the 1980s, Joyce K. Anastasi worked as a registered nurse to support her graduate studies. She was assigned to Tim, a banker in his late 20s. She knew little about him, but the isolation cart outside his room with a meal tray announced that he had scant human contact. Dr. Anastasi could not imagine what his illness was, but it soon became clear.

At the time, AIDS was not yet considered an epidemic, but it was very much present in New York City’s healthcare system. According to Dr. Anastasi, Tim’s face expressed his fear: fear that he wouldn’t be visited, that he wouldn’t live, that he might have to disclose to his family that he was gay.

“I became his confidante,” she says, “and I learned right away that in addition to what we think of as nursing care, he needed emotional care, family support, advocacy, help coping with stigma.”

Dr. Anastasi dedicated her dissertation to Tim, who died before his illness was named “HIV.” His situation...
inspired her belief that nurses need to lead the way in caring for people with AIDS and forged her professional orientation.

Dr. Anastasi, an NYU alumna, joined the College of Nursing faculty in 2009. She came to NYU from Columbia University, where she was a faculty member for 17 years, teaching thousands of nurses, serving on numerous committees and boards, and directing the Center for AIDS Research.

**Fighting the Stigma and the Symptoms of AIDS**

During the 1980s, as the AIDS crisis grew, Dr. Anastasi worked as a clinical nurse specialist at Bellevue Hospital Center, which had one of the city’s first AIDS units. Paramount among the nurses’ duties was to work with a multidisciplinary team to ensure that patients who went home after suffering serious opportunistic infections like pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) continued to receive the care they needed—whether it was housing, homecare, or even help talking to their landlords as they began receiving large shipments of medication.

“There was so much stigma—we sometimes lose sight of this now,” she says.

From Bellevue, Dr. Anastasi was recruited to St. Luke’s Roosevelt Medical Center to help design a designated AIDS center—one of the first under the auspices of the AIDS Institute of the New York City Department of Health. In 1992, with her first doctoral degree completed, she was recruited by Columbia to develop a graduate nursing specialty program in HIV—one of the first in the country.

Although HIV care was improving rapidly, many hospitals around the country did not have the financial or human resources to handle their growing cases. With a grant from the Pfizer Foundation, Dr. Anastasi developed an award-winning interactive video that was used widely to educate healthcare professionals and destigmatize the illness. Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop was quoted saying, “I’ve never seen a better educational tool in my life.”

In thinking about the direction of her research, Dr. Anastasi looked at her patients—not only those with AIDS, but with other chronic illnesses—and saw that many were seeking non-invasive ways to manage chronic symptoms and medication side effects. Her first National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded work was a study that used a combined dietary and behavioral intervention to manage chronic diarrhea in patients with HIV. The results of that study have led to care protocols that are used in hospitals today.

Caring for hundreds of people with AIDS, Dr. Anastasi increasingly heard reports that acupuncture had worked for them. “At first I told them: As long as it’s working, you’re going to someone licensed, and it doesn’t interfere with your medication, who am I to say no?”

But a turning point in her interest in alternative therapies came in 1994 when a friend who is a nutritionist and is Chinese took her to a Chinese medicine practitioner. She was so intrigued by the treatment methods used by the practitioner and about the possibilities that traditional Chinese medicine could offer to her patients that Dr. Anastasi immediately enrolled in a three-year course in acupuncture at the New York College of Health Professions, while carrying a full teaching load and conducting research.

Throughout the course, Dr. Anastasi continually sought out research on acupuncture, but few gold-standard studies had been conducted, at least in the United States. At one point, she hired a
translator to translate Chinese studies into English. Yet her goal of testing the efficacy, safety, and usage practices of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) within the structure of a randomized controlled clinical trial was significantly hampered by a lack of funding for this kind of research.

**BREAKING GROUND**

In 1999, Dr. Anastasi received one of the largest, single-center research grants for acupuncture that had been granted by the NIH. She was awarded a $2.1 million grant to test acupuncture and moxibustion for chronic diarrhea in persons with HIV in a randomized controlled trial. (Moxibustion is a traditional Chinese treatment in which pulverized mugwort leaf, or *Artemisia vulgaris*, is compressed into a cigar-shaped cylinder, lit, and held over acupuncture points.) The knowledge and experience gained from this trial served as a model for her future research.

To date, Dr. Anastasi’s most significant findings have been that acupuncture is a promising option for managing gastrointestinal disorders such as nausea and non-pathogenic diarrhea—that is, diarrhea caused by side effects of medication rather than from a viral or bacterial source. In the decade since this study began, the use of acupuncture for nausea, even pregnancy-related nausea, has steadily increased. Dr. Anastasi is one of only a few scientists testing the use of moxibustion—which in TCM is considered another form of acupuncture, using the warming qualities of the lit herb instead of, or in combination with, needles to stimulate acupuncture points.

“Designing acupuncture research studies can be challenging because specific treatment protocols, in terms of acupuncture point selection or number of treatment sessions, may not be the best approach for all patients. In my current studies, my team and I have tried to use a real-world approach while maintaining the rigors of a randomized clinical trial,” Dr. Anastasi says. “For example, the decision of which acupuncture points or which herbal formula to use for HIV or for diarrhea is complicated and requires integrating a patient’s whole profile to develop the optimal treatment plan.”

Integrating Eastern and Western health care in teaching is also challenging, yet increasingly important as the line separating these very different approaches grows thinner. On a recent trip to Hong Kong, Dr. Anastasi noticed that nurses there are more likely to integrate the two worlds at the bedside. And even in the United States, the nursing profession is moving toward a greater openness to studying Eastern ideas. State nursing exams now include questions about supplements, and thousands of people are taking supplements such as ginkgo biloba, glucosamine chondroitin, echinacea, or milk thistle.

“It’s important for nurses today to understand the impact of the substances their patients are already taking—to help patients understand why they’re taking them, the risks, the side effects, and potential benefits. For example, nurses need to be aware of supplements that can affect bleeding time in terms of coagulation, especially for patients undergoing surgical procedures,” Dr. Anastasi says. “We teach students to search for the evidence, and the availability or lack of availability of evidence is great fodder for classroom discussion.”

Dr. Anastasi maintains a private practice in women’s health, and many patients see her for treatment for infertility. She is decidedly unique on the NYU faculty, having two doctoral degrees (a PhD and DrNP) and licensure in traditional Chinese medicine. Smiling, she says, “That’s the yin and yang of my career.”

—BARBARA KANCELBAUM
NYUCD Students Lead Fifth Annual NYC Oral Cancer Walk

The annual New York City Oral Cancer Walk, now in its fifth year, was once again led by NYUCD students, who initiated the walk in 2006 to raise awareness of a disease that kills over 7,000 American men and women each year. From its inception, the students have been mentored by Dr. Ross Kerr, Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Oral Medicine, and have benefited from the guidance and organizational support of Brian Hill, Founder and Director of the Oral Cancer Foundation. As in past years, the walk route went through Harlem to call attention to the fact that oral cancer disproportionately affects African-American men, who have the highest rates of oral cancer in the country.

In addition to students from the NYU chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), organizers and participants included students from other SNDA chapters, and NYU dental hygiene and nursing students, in partnership with the Harlem Hospital Center, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, NYU College of Dentistry, Columbia University, and Renaissance Healthcare Network.

A highlight of the event was the participation of As the World Turns star Colleen Zenk Pinter, who has survived two bouts of oral cancer and who challenged students to become oral cancer activists.

“As the future front-line specialists in screening for and detecting oral cancer at its earliest, most curable stages,” said Ms. Pinter, “you have the ability to save lives. I hope that you will claim that responsibility and make it your passion.”

The annual New York City Oral Cancer Walk, now in its fifth year, was once again led by NYUCD students, who initiated the walk in 2006 to raise awareness of a disease that kills over 7,000 American men and women each year.
Who should apply to dental school? According to NYUCD’s Director of Admissions, Dr. Eugenia E. Mejia, that question is as important as “How does one get into dental school?”

Often, says Dr. Mejia, advisors don’t know about the skills and interests common to people with an aptitude for dentistry, such as a preference for working autonomously, an interest in science, an ability to excel in artistic, esthetic, and creative endeavors, and a penchant for fixing things.

To address these issues, Dr. Mejia and Ms. Madina J. Bhatti, NYUCD Student Affairs Administrator, brought 25 undergraduate advisors from 25 northeast colleges and universities to NYUCD on April 23, 2010, to meet with admissions directors from seven of the region’s dental schools.

“The admissions directors described the qualities they seek in applicants and offered insight into the admissions process,” Dr. Mejia said.

“All too often,” she added, “college counselors assume that students who express an interest in helping others are automatically cut out for a career in medicine. We wanted to alert them to characteristics that suggest an ability to succeed in
dentistry, and the significance that dental school admissions directors place on seeking applicants with those qualities.”

Two speakers representing the American Dental Education Association—Dr. David Brunson, Director of Program Services for the Center for Equity & Diversity, and Dr. Anne Wells, Executive Associate Director of the Division of Educational Pathways—emphasized the importance of encouraging minority students to pursue careers in dentistry. Speakers from NYUCD included Dean Bertolami; Dr. Richard I. Vogel, Executive Vice Dean; Dr. Andrew I. Spilman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Anthony Palatta, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs & Admissions.

“The conference was a great opportunity to talk about our programs, our challenges, and our aspirations,” Dr. Elaine Davis and Dr. David Brown, Co-Directors of Admissions for the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, wrote in a post-conference thank-you letter to Dr. Mejia and Ms. Bhatti.

The other dental schools represented at the conference were Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Dental School, and University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.
NYUCD and ABC7 Celebrate 25 Years of Free Oral Health Screenings

From March 30 through April 1, 2010, NYUCD and ABC7 celebrated 25 years of bringing free oral health screenings to New Yorkers of all ages. Over the course of the three days, more than 2,000 adults and children received free dental screenings (and oral cancer screenings for adults), vouchers for free comprehensive examinations and polishings, free dental sealants and custom-made mouth guards (for children and adolescents), free diabetes and blood pressure screenings, and free toothbrushes and other personal oral hygiene products. In addition, children ages 6 months to 10 years received a “healthy smiles” teddy bear commemorating their visit.

As in previous years, ABC7 promoted the screenings vigorously on the air, including broadcasting a story about screening for diabetes in dental offices—the story featured NYU College of Dentistry and College of Nursing faculty. Once again, ABC7 meteorologist Lee Goldberg served as the station’s spokesperson for the event.

“A 25th anniversary is always a major event,” said Dean Bertolami, “and this anniversary celebrating the extraordinary partnership between NYUCD and ABC7 is cause for special celebration. This year the free screenings drew nearly twice as many New Yorkers as last year, underscoring the immense need of our community for essential health services. NYUCD looks forward to the next 25 years of partnering with ABC7 to offer as much care as possible to our fellow New Yorkers.”

“The free screenings drew nearly twice as many New Yorkers as last year, underscoring the immense need of our community for essential health services.”
Neighborhood Children, ADA Officers, Industry Sponsors Welcomed at Annual Give Kids A Smile® Day

For the eighth consecutive year, NYUCD opened its pediatric dentistry resources to hundreds of neighborhood children, plus American Dental Association (ADA) officials and industry sponsors of the annual Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) celebration.

GKAS was created to highlight the ongoing challenges that underserved children face in accessing oral health care, and to build support among policymakers for public and private solutions that provide regular access.

At NYUCD, children arrived throughout the day for dental treatment, screenings, and education, including career information about what it’s like to be a dentist. The 2010 event at NYU also brought a special treat for the visiting children, all of whom received a “healthy smiles” teddy bear. Nationwide, over 50,000 dentists and other volunteers participated in providing free dental care for over 30,000 youngsters.

In addition to ADA officials, including ADA President Ron Tankersley, guests included representatives of Henry Schein Dental, the founding exclusive professional product sponsor of GKAS, along with representatives from cosponsors DEXIS Digital X-ray, the Colgate-Palmolive Company, and regional consultant societies.

Dean Bertolami congratulated the GKAS sponsors and volunteers and added, “Wonderful as GKAS is, what today really should be about goes beyond giving care on this day only. It should be about focusing a very bright spotlight on healthcare disparities in our country. That is a goal we can all rally around.”
NYUCD Students Lobby Legislators to Advance Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program Objectives

Since 2007, the NYU College of Dentistry has been the home of the Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program (M TCP), one of nineteen cessation centers funded by the New York State Tobacco Control Program. M TCP partners with Manhattan-based hospitals, healthcare organizations, and community clinics to provide training and technical assistance to healthcare providers in tobacco-related policies; implements documentation system changes for the screening and treatment of patients; and encourages healthcare professionals to utilize tobacco cessation tools like the New York State Quitline.

By working closely with Group Practice Directors (GPDs) at NYUCD, M TCP staff have established strong relationships with dental students, whom they have guided in writing letters to newspaper editors, communicating with New York State representatives, and visiting legislators in person to educate them about New York’s tobacco control efforts.

During the spring of 2010, third-year dental student Chintan Patel accompanied M TCP Program Coordinator Diana Zraik on a visit to New York Senator Tom Duane’s district office to inform the senator about the impact that budget cuts would have on smoking cessation resources available to New Yorkers. With assistance from local lobbying branches of the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association, the NYUCD/M TCP representatives were also able to illustrate how state tobacco control initiatives have played a vital role in the communities where they have been implemented.

Another student outreach initiative came in the form of a letter written by Dr. Corey Corpodian, Class of 2010, to New York State Senator Liz Krueger about M TCP’s role in training dental students on patient tobacco use and dependence. Dr. Corpodian wrote: “MTCP has been a great resource for dental students at New York University College of Dentistry. It has helped us by providing the training and education needed to treat patients interested in smoking cessation.” He added that “With the help of M TCP, our patients can now lead healthier lives. I believe it is important to support this program, which has the potential to help many more patients.”

Dr. Morey Gendler, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and a GPD, has been particularly supportive of the efforts of M TCP and NYUCD students to send the message that healthcare providers are integral to efforts to help patients quit smoking. When asked what the partnership with M TCP has brought to the NYUCD educational experience, Dr. Gendler said that it is now “integrated into the student’s education. Moreover, the value of these student-led legislative outreaches will have long-lasting effects on the community, as students leverage the skills they learn to educate their future patients about tobacco use.”
NYUCD Hosts Oral Health America’s Smiles Across America

Oral Health America’s (OHAs) Smiles Across America® partnership with NYUCD supports in-school oral health services, community outreach training for dental and nursing students, and a dental home at NYUCD for follow-up visits and restorative care.

Tony Stefanou, DMD, OHA’s Assistant Director of External Relations, recently visited P.S. 15 in Manhattan to see the program firsthand. The elementary school students were treated in two mobile dental stations by second-year dental students under the supervision of NYUCD’s Dr. Josh C. Treesh.

“I was very impressed with how well the program operated,” said Dr. Stefanou. “This is a positive situation for everyone as the children get their dental needs taken care of, and the dental school students gain valuable clinical ‘real-world’ experience in treating children.”

OHA provides financial support, technical assistance, and donated dental products to the program. Professor Jill Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Pediatric Dentistry Outreach Programs at NYUCD, oversees the program, and validates its success.

“For many of these children this may be their first visit to a dentist,” she said. “Setting up portable dental equipment within the school proves to be a ‘win-win’ for both teacher and child with minimal time out of the classroom and a non-threatening environment for the child to receive care.”

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Second Annual Collaborative Pediatric Dentistry–Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Case Presentation

For the past several years, as a result of the alliance between the NYU College of Dentistry and the NYU College of Nursing, students enrolled in the College of Nursing’s Advanced Practice Nursing Program in pediatrics, which prepares registered nurses to become pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs), have studied pediatric oral health as a formal part of their curriculum.

The fruits of this collaboration were in evidence recently at the Second Annual Collaborative Case Presentation by pediatric dentistry and pediatric nurse practitioner students. The presentation was moderated by Dr. Neal G. Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, and co-moderated by Dr. Donna Hallas, Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing and coordinator of the PNP program. Dr. Lily Lim, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Program in Pediatric Dentistry for International Dentists, was the presentation coordinator, and Ms. Jill B. Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Pediatric Dentistry Outreach Program, served as co-coordinator for the presentation, which drew more than 50 attendees from the pediatric dentistry program and the PNP program.

Two students in the Advanced Program in Pediatric Dentistry for International Dentists identified medically compromised pediatric dentistry patients with multiple caries, whose treatment plans were presented and discussed. Dr. Shereen Riad identified a patient with ventricular septal defect—a defect in the heart valves—and presented the case with Ms. Katie Shaw and Ms. Tashea Gallimore, both PNP students.

The second case—autism spectrum disorder—was identified by Dr. Nathalia Escossia and copresented with PNP program students Ms. Karyn Cherwinski and Ms. Erin Leech.

“For these children,” said Professor Fernandez, “the medications they take to control their medical conditions can have important consequences for their oral health, which, until now, have not been a focus of the PNP curriculum.

“With the new focus on oral health in the training of PNPs,” added Professor Fernandez, “we are optimistic that there will be more opportunities for children’s oral health to be integrated into their overall diagnoses and treatment plans.”
NYUCD will expand services to people with developmental disabilities, complex medical problems, and other significant physical limitations with the opening in September 2010 of a new, seven-chair Special Patient Needs pilot program under the direction of Dr. Miriam R. Robbins, Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine.

The new program represents a significant expansion of the space dedicated to special-needs patients, who were previously treated in a two-chair facility.

"With the opening of this new facility," Dr. Robbins said, "we will have 70 weekly appointment slots available for special-needs patients, who traditionally have very limited access to dental care, as well as additional appointment times for other patients requiring oral mucosal disease and orofacial pain treatment."

The program is mandatory for all fourth-year students, who must also complete a series of didactic courses designed to provide them with the skills needed to treat special needs patients and to counsel these patients on overcoming barriers to maintaining good oral health. "Because special needs patients have difficulty with routine oral hygiene," Dr. Robbins explained, "they are at a high risk for gingivitis, periodontitis, and dental caries."

Dr. Robbins is partnering with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability and with United Cerebral Palsy and other nonprofit organizations to identify patients who qualify for the new program’s services.

“Because special-needs patients have difficulty with routine oral hygiene,” Dr. Robbins explained, “they are at a high risk for gingivitis, periodontitis, and dental caries.”
On May 25, 2010, the NYUCD Class of 2010, including approximately 350 candidates for the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, as well as candidates for Advanced Education certificates, MS degrees in clinical research, BS degrees in dental hygiene, and AAS degrees in dental hygiene, saw their dreams come true as they received the appropriate academic degree or certificate in front of a crowd of nearly 3,000 people in the Theater at Madison Square Garden.

In addition to the conferral of degrees and certificates, highlights of the graduation ceremony included presentation of the Dr. Michael C. Alfano Award for Promoting Diversity in Dental Education to Dr. Rueben C. Warren, Director of the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University, and the Dr. Harry Strusser Memorial Award for distinguished contributions to improved public health to Ms. Saundra Thomas, Vice President for Community Affairs at WABC-TV. Ms. Thomas has played a pivotal role in sustaining a 25-year partnership between NYUCD and WABC-TV to provide
free annual dental screenings for New Yorkers. (See related story on p.92.)

“The NYU College of Dentistry today celebrates the achievements of our newest alumni and of the faculty who have guided them to this momentous day,” said Dean Bertolami. “With their strong educational background, community-service orientation, and global perspective, the members of the Class of 2010 are poised to advance dentistry in dramatic ways. We cheer the hard work, discipline, and dedication that has led them to this day, and we wish them great success and happiness in the years ahead.”
NICOLE HOLLAND, CLASS OF 2010, SETS HER SIGHTS ON COMBINING PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY AND ADVOCACY FOR THE UNDERSERVED

While providing oral health screenings to children in an underserved Brooklyn neighborhood during her senior-year rotation aboard the College of Dentistry’s Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental van, Dr. Nicole Holland, Class of 2010, encountered a 9-year-old boy who only brushed his teeth during weekend visits to his grandmother’s house. When another dental student on the van learned about the boy’s oral health habits and pressed him to explain why he didn’t brush daily, the child became embarrassed and non-communicative. It turned out that it was only when he visited his grandmother that he became aware of the importance of brushing his teeth.

“The interaction between my fellow students and this child illustrates how challenging it can be to communicate effectively with patients from underserved communities,” Dr. Holland says. “It’s a challenge I intend to address as I pursue a career in public health dentistry.”

To that end, Dr. Holland will enroll in fall 2010 in a Master of Science in Health Communication program jointly sponsored by the Tufts University School of Medicine and Emerson College in Boston, which provides students with a foundation in the science, theory, and practice of effective health communication and prepares them to achieve a broad range of public health goals, from information dissemination, to knowledge of the social and environmental determinants of oral health, to behavior change and advocacy.

“Once I complete the MPH program, I plan to divide my time between practicing dentistry and advocating for better communication between providers and patients and more effective oral health education for the underserved,” says Dr. Holland.
Throughout her four years at the NYU College of Dentistry, Dr. Holland was an active member of the student-led Oral Cancer Walk Committee, which has organized five annual walks through Harlem to raise awareness of oral cancer. Moreover, during her senior year at NYUCD, Dr. Holland participated in an outreach to Grenada (see related story on p.48), and in an Oral Medicine Honors program that provided both valuable clinical training and an opportunity to educate patients about the connection between tobacco use and oral cancer and the importance of quitting smoking.

Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, who mentored Dr. Holland as a member of the Oral Cancer Walk Committee and who teaches in the Oral Medicine Honors Program, says, “Nicole’s professional demeanor, chairside manner, professionalism, and ethics are all exemplary, and she gets on exceedingly well with patients and staff.

“I am delighted that she has decided to expand her horizons by enrolling in the Tufts University/Emerson College MPH program. The program looks very exciting, and, given her interest in oral cancer, I am hopeful that she will be able to use her experiences at NYUCD to help promote greater awareness of this disease. We need more dentists embarking on careers in health communication and I feel that Nicole has the attributes to excel in this field.”

“Perhaps the most valuable lesson I’ve learned,” Dr. Holland says, “is that through effective communication, every healthcare practitioner has the power to help his or her patients become more accountable for their health.”
Alexis Cohen always knew that her longing for adventure and hands-on experience would never allow her to sit still for any length of time. The journey to NYU, where Alexis is currently pursuing dual degrees in dentistry and global public health, has been fueled by a passion to engage in the world at large and make a difference.

At NYUCD, Alexis has gone well beyond her academic requirements, tackling a remarkable array of extracurricular pursuits. She has served on NYUCD’s Greening Committee; helped to plan and participate in the school’s annual Oral Cancer Walk; volunteered via the Inter-American Health Alliance for one month at a health clinic in rural Guatemala, an experience that prompted her to start an NYUCD chapter to raise awareness and funds for the clinic; and has been active on the Student Council, as secretary in her second year and as president during 2009-2010. Alexis’s dedication and hard work in both the academic and extracurricular arenas have garnered her awards, including an American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation Scholarship Award and an NYU President’s Service Award.

“It’s definitely a balancing act,” says Alexis. As Student Council president, she has been especially busy. “One of my goals has been to increase collaboration and cohesiveness between the student body and the administration, which has resulted in more regular meetings to share ideas. We’ve also started monthly recognition awards for both students and faculty, since I felt people don’t always get enough recognition.”

Administrators and faculty at NYUCD who have worked closely with Alexis are struck by her unique combination of intelligence, unassuming demeanor, and solid leadership skills. Said Dr. Michael O’Connor, Vice Dean for Administration and Finance, who chairs the two-and-a-half-year-old Greening Committee, “As a charter member of the Greening Committee, Alexis has demonstrated outstanding student leadership. She has strong beliefs and articulates them very well, always backing up her views with data in a non-confrontational manner. You can’t help but react positively—she’s humble and effective in an understated way.
That’s strong leadership.”

The path toward public health dentistry was a bit circuitous for Alexis. In 2003, she graduated with a film degree from Northwestern, but soon realized that a career in the movie industry was not for her. To do some soul-searching, she decided to spend time abroad and enrolled in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, sponsored by the Japanese government, which enabled her to live in Fujisawa, a city an hour outside of Tokyo. There she taught English to Japanese junior high and high school students for one year.

“I had decided I wanted to do this but then spent the entire plane ride over crying,” said Alexis. “I didn’t know Japanese and had never taught. But I got through it, and it was so positive, I now have no fear of putting myself in a situation where I might not know everything.”

Alexis’s experience in Japan jump-started her global interests. She also realized she wanted to work in a health-related field, and a friend in dental school inspired her to choose dentistry. Before enrolling at NYUCD, Alexis spent six months in Costa Rica learning Spanish, with the goal of eventually treating underserved dental patients.

In fall 2009, with the first two years of NYUCD course work behind her, Alexis began the Master’s in Global Public Health portion of her joint degrees. A highlight of 2010 was the two weeks she spent in Grenada participating in the joint NYUCD–Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program’s initial national oral health survey. Alexis was part of the survey team that went into schools to gather baseline data on tooth decay rates in children. In addition to her other talents, Alexis is also an excellent photographer and took the photo of the Grenadian children shown in this article. In Grenada, she worked under the guidance of Dr. Stuart Hirsch, NYUCD’s Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development.

“Alexis is a great mentee,” said Dr. Hirsch, “because she’s that student who really appreciates the mode they’re in—she’s like, ‘feed me,’ always wanting to know more.” Added Dr. Hirsch, “She has a global perspective and a great passion to serve underserved communities. She’s very special.”

“Every time I tell Dr. Hirsch how thankful I am for our connection he says, ‘No, I’m thankful—you are the future.’ To which I always respond, ‘No pressure, right?’”

—STEPHANIE SUSNJARA
One hundred and eleven full- and part-time faculty members, administrators, and staff were honored recently at the 2010 annual Service Recognition Ceremony for their contributions to the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing over an extended period of time.

"All of these people have displayed exemplary dedication and play an important role in NYUCD/NYUCN’s continued success," said Dean Bertolami. "We are tremendously grateful to them all and salute their commitment to the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing." The names of recipients of Service Recognition Awards appear below.

**40-Year Service Award**

*Human Resources & Faculty Services*

Ms. Margaret P. Thompson

*Pediatric Dentistry*

Dr. Bruce A. Golden

**35-Year Service Award**

*Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine*

Dr. Rajinder K. Jain

*Periodontology & Implant Dentistry*

Dr. Michael Bral

*Prosthodontics*

Dr. Gary R. Goldstein

**30-Year Service Award**

*Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology*

Dr. Martin Roy

*Cariology & Comprehensive Care*

Dr. Kathy Udell-Martin

Dr. John R. Calamia

*Clinic Operations*

Ms. Alecia Lewis Dore

*Epidemiology & Health Promotion*

Ms. Katherine L. Reynolds

*Pediatric Dentistry*

Dr. William R. Lynch

*Prosthodontics*

Dr. Stephen F. Bergen
25-Year Service Award
Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Mr. Bernard Weissman

Clinic Operations
Ms. Angelita Leon

Endodontics
Dr. Bruce A. Merriam

Information Systems
Mr. Kenneth M. Fauerbach

Nursing
Dr. Christine T. Kovner
Dr. Madeline A. Naegle

Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Dr. Storm Field

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Robert S. Glickman

Prosthodontics
Dr. Jeffrey L. Tarlow
Dr. Bijan Khaknegar-Moghadam

20-Year Service Award
Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology
Dr. Ronald G. Craig

Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Spyridon Condos
Dr. Pofu Hsieh

Clinic Operations
Ms. Elca Joy M. Cupid-Edwards
Ms. Lori Redfearn
Mr. Anthony Rice

Dental Hygiene
Professor Cheryl M. Westphal

Endodontics
Dr. Paul A. Rosenberg

Office of Administration
Ms. Annette Cutugno

Patient Accounts
Ms. Laura S. Palmer

Prosthodontics
Dr. Graziano Giglio

15-Year Service Award
Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Irene C. Brandes
Dr. Denise Estafan
Dr. Bernardo Gil
Dr. Jerrold P. Gultz
Dr. Gene H. Kim
Dr. Alexander N. Mushvey
Dr. Frederick J. Nau
Dr. Arthur Schackman

Clinic Operations
Ms. Victoria Rivera

Continuing Dental Education
Ms. Elina Fudiman

Dental Hygiene
Professor Rhoda Gladstone

Endodontics
Dr. Leigh Busch
Dr. Samuel Kramer

Implant Dentistry
Ms. Dana Shim

Informatics
Dr. Elise Eisenberg

Medical Records
Ms. Bren-Ann Chin

Nursing
Dr. Terry Fulmer

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Manuel Matos

Orthodontics
Dr. Leonard Weinberg
Dr. Ilan L. Shamus

Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Dr. Joe Bastadjian
Dr. Edgard S. Elchaar
Dr. Edwin S. Rosenberg
Dr. Mehdi Saber
Dr. Dean C. Vafiadis

Prosthodontics
Dr. Lisa R. Antonoff
Ms. Sonia Forbes
Dr. Francis F. Tung
10-Year Service Award
Administration
Dr. Louis Terracio
Dr. Richard I. Vogel

Audiovisual/Media Services
Mr. Pedro Ortega
Mr. Raymond A. Tudor

Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology
Dr. Kathleen C. Kinnally
Dr. Peter G. Sacks

Biomaterials & Biomimetics
Dr. Hannia Lujan-Upton

Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Kenneth L. Allen
Dr. Maryam Bahadori
Dr. Paul K. Chu
Dr. Robert J. Clapcich
Dr. Elliot Grotell
Dr. Rachel A. Messinger
Dr. Shane G. Methal
Dr. Howard S. Spielman
Dr. Ronald J. Warmflash
Dr. Harold D. Weiss

Central Sterilization
Mr. James C. Dixon

Clinic Operations
Ms. Maria M. De Leon
Ms. Elita Herrera
Ms. Yolanda Ortiz
Ms. Wei Ying Xu

Epidemiology & Health Promotion
Ms. Emilie Godfrey
Dr. Ralph V. Katz
Dr. Douglas E. Morse

Faculty Practice
Dr. Wen-Ing Kao
Ms. Ojeen Herach
Ms. Barbara Donofrio

Mobile Dental Van
Ms. Constance Robinson-Turner

Nursing/Student Affairs & Administration
Ms. Vida Samuel

Nursing/General Administration
Ms. Joy Nieves

Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Ms. Lena Nemelivsky
Dr. Joan A. Phelan
Dr. David Sirois

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Ms. Diane Barclay
Dr. Edward J. Miller
Dr. Mohammed M. Imam

Orthodontics
Ms. Bernadine M. Cidranes
Dr. Joseph S. Oppenheimer

Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Bruce J. Lish

Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Dr. Gordon Douglass
Dr. Daniel Lippiner
Dr. John Lupovici
Dr. Craig M. Misch
Ms. Margarita Perez
Dr. Arnold S. Weisgold

Quality Assurance
Ms. Carol A. Lukas
Mr. Reniel Ravinera

Student Affairs & Admissions
Mr. Richard Anchundia
Ms. Mara Zelaya
CONGRATULATIONS TO...

MR. RICHARD ANCHUNDIA, formerly an Administrative Aide, on his promotion to Admissions Counselor. In his new role, Richard, who holds a law degree from Seton Hall University, will interview applicants, as well as review and analyze applications.

DR. ARTHUR ASHMAN, Clinical Professor of Implant Dentistry, on being featured in the Westport News, and on presenting a lecture entitled “New Trends and Techniques in Dental Medicine, or Everything You Wanted to Know, But Couldn’t Ask With Your Mouth Open,” at the Westport/Weston, Connecticut, Y’s Men club.

MR. ERIC BAKER, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on editing Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Medicine, and on receiving an NYUCD Faculty Council Teacher Recognition Award.

MS. ANDREA BEALL, Clinical Instructor in Dental Hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “The Breastfeeding-Oral Health Relationship” for Access Magazine.

DR. CHARLES N. BERTOLAMI, Herman Robert Fox Dean of the NYU College of Dentistry, on copresenting, with NYU College of Nursing Dean Terry Fulmer, a lecture entitled “Interprofessional Education: The Nursing and Dentistry Collaboration at NYU” at the ADEA CCI (Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education) Oversight Committee meeting in January. Dean Bertolami was also quoted in the ADA News, where he praised the ADA’s Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry and its recent workshop held at NYU for “strengthening participants’ ability to search for, read, and interpret clinical practice guidelines, as well as individual research studies and systematic reviews summarizing findings from multiple clinical studies, with a view to learning how to translate those findings into clinical practice.” Dean Bertolami was also selected to receive an American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Presidential Citation for his service to dental education.

DR. TIMOTHY BROMAGE, Adjunct Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics and of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on being selected as the recipient of the 2010 Max Planck Research Award (see related story on p. 30); on being named an Honorary Professor by La Salle Centro Universitario in Madrid, Spain; on being named a finalist for the Biology Image Library Awards; and on being interviewed for a “Strides in Science” feature appearing on the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Web site.

DR. MIJIN CHOI, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, on receiving the 2010 Claude R. Baker Faculty Award presented by the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics. The award recognizes one outstanding
young fixed-prosthodontics educator nationally.

**DR. PAULO COELHO,**
Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, on coauthoring an article entitled "A Histomorphometric Study of Nanothickness and Plasma-Sprayed Calcium-Phosphorous Coated Implant Surfaces in Rabbit Bone" for the *Journal of Periodontology.*

**DR. ANANDA DASANAYAKE,**
Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring articles entitled “Maté Drinking and Oral and Oro-Pharyngeal Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis” for *Oral Oncology,* “A School-Based Oral Health Education Intervention Program to Promote Better Oral Health Practices: Experience from an Aboriginal Community in Taiwan” for the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved,* “Does Periodontal Therapy Reduce the Risk for Systemic Diseases?” for *Dental Clinics of North America,* and “TNF-α and Antibodies to Periodontal Bacteria Discriminate Between Alzheimer’s Disease Patients and Normal Subjects” for the *Journal of Neuroimmunology.* The *Journal of Neuroimmunology* article was coauthored with Dr. Angela Kamer, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry; Dr. Ron Craig, Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Robert Norman, Research Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; and Dr. Robert Boylan, Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology.

**DR. ELENA CUNNINGHAM,**
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on presenting an abstract entitled “How Do Lemurs Return to Important Locations” at a symposium entitled “From Random Walks to Travel Routes: Understanding Patterns of Primate Movement,” part of the 23rd Conference of the International Primatological Society, in Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Cunningham’s presentation was co-supported by the National Geographic Society and the NYU College of Dentistry.

**MS. LISA DUDDY,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, on receiving an NYUCD Student Council Faculty Appreciation Award.

**MS. JILL B. FERNANDEZ,**
Clinical Associate Professor of NYUCD’s Special Olympics team
Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Pediatric Outreach Programs, on receiving the 2010 Miracle Corners of the World Spirit Award for her volunteer work in Tanzania; and on being quoted in an article in Homeland on using dentists and other nontraditional healthcare personnel to complement emergency responders. Added congratulations to Professor Fernandez on leading a delegation of 30 faculty, student, and resident volunteers from NYUCD who participated in the 2010 Special Olympics.

**MS. WINSIE FURNARI,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, on coauthoring articles entitled “Core Value: Individual Autonomy & Respect for Human Beings” and “Childhood Illnesses Revisited: Polio and Chickenpox/Shingles,” as well as an ethics column entitled “The ADHA’s Code of Ethics,” for ADHA Access Magazine. Professor Furnari has also been appointed ADHA’s liaison to the National Diabetes Education Program Pharmacy, Podiatry, Optometry, and Dental Professionals Work Group.

**DR. JOSEPH G. GHAFARI,** Adjunct Professor of Orthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Correspondence Between Subjective and Linear Measurements of the Palatal Airway on Lateral Cephalometric Radiographs” for Archives of Otolaryngology.

**DR. GARY R. GOLDSTEIN,** ’69, Professor of Prosthodontics, on authoring an article entitled “The Longevity of Direct and Indirect Posterior Restorations Is Uncertain and May Be Affected by a Number of Dentists, Patients, and Material-Related Factors” for the Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice.

**MS. NICOLE GRECO,** Instructor in Dental Hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “Human Papillomavirus” for ADHA Access Magazine.

**DR. DONNA HALLAS,** Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing and Coordinator of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, on copresenting a workshop entitled “Nurse Practitioners’ Interventions to Reduce the Incidence of Early Childhood Caries” at the Greater New York National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, with Ms. Jill Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Pediatric Outreach Programs.

**DR. ELISE S. EISENBERG,** ’84, Senior Director of Informatics, on being profiled in Apple Education’s iTunes about leaders, educators, researchers, and IT professionals using Apple technology to advance teaching and learning in schools, colleges, and universities.
DR. JASON HOLDEN, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Comparison of the Marginal Fit of Pressable Ceramic to Metal Ceramic Restorations” for the Journal of Prosthodontics, with Dr. Gary R. Goldstein, ’69, Professor of Prosthodontics; Dr. Eugene Hittelman, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; and Ms. Elizabeth Clark, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics.

DR. LEILA JAHANGIRI, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, and Dr. Thomas Mucciolo, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, on coauthoring “Presentation Skills Assessment Tools,” the featured publication on MedEdPORTAL for February 2010.

DR. RALPH KATZ, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “Identifying the Tuskegee Syphilis Study: Implications of Results from Recall and Recognition Questions” for BMC Public Health. Dr. Katz’s coauthors included Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion. Dr. Katz also coauthored an article entitled “Defining Oral Neglect in Institutionalized Elderly: A Consensus Definition for the Protection of Vulnerable Elderly People” for the Journal of the American Dental Association. Coauthors included Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Vice Dean for Administration & Finance.

DR. EDMUND KHOO, (above right), a first-year student in the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics, on winning first prize in research at the annual meeting of the American Association of Orthodontists, with Mr. Howard Bowne of Dentsply, which sponsored the award.

DR. DAVID KORRIS, ’43, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on receiving a gold NYU torch pin in recognition of 15 years as a member of the NYUCD faculty.
DR. CHARLES LARSEN, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, on receiving an NYUCD Faculty Council Teacher Recognition Award.

DR. TERRY YI-KUNG LIN, PG Prosthodontics ’11, on winning first prize in the American Prosthodontic Society’s annual research poster competition for his presentation entitled “Gene Expression in Fibroblasts and Osteoblasts Cultured with Collagen Membranes.” Dr. Lin was mentored by Dr. Seiichi Yamano, Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics.

DR. MITCHELL J. LIPP, above center, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthodontics and Coordinator of the predoctoral curriculum in orthodontics, on authoring “A Process of Developing Assessments and Instruction in Competency-Based Dental Education” for the Journal of Dental Education.

DR. WILLIAM J. MALONEY, ’92, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on presenting “Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome and Its Dental Manifestations” at the Progeria Research Foundation’s 10th Anniversary Workshop in Progeria; “The Cancer of Babe Ruth” at the Powelton Country Club in Newburgh, New York; and “Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma: The Cancer Which Took the Life of George Herman ‘Babe’ Ruth” at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Dr. Maloney also authored “A Periodontal Case Report by Dr. S. L. Clemens,” a story by Mark Twain about his experiences with early periodontal therapy. The article appeared in the Journal of Dental Research.

DR. MAUREEN MCANDREW, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Clinical Faculty Education, on authoring an article entitled “Use of an Action Learning Model to Create a Dental Faculty Development Program” for the Journal of Dental Education.

DR. EDWARD J. MILLER, JR., Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, on being elected President of the New York County component of the New York State Dental Association.

DR. KAMBIZ A. MOHAJER, Clinical Professor of Periodontics & Implant Dentistry, on presenting two papers at the 50th International
Iranian Dental Association Meeting: “Placement of Dental Implants in Deficient Ridges in Implant Panel,” and “Recent Approaches in Periodontal Plastic Surgery.”

**DR. FREDERICK G. MORE,** Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and of Pediatric Dentistry, on being featured in the ADEA Newsletter “Educator Spotlight,” about his course entitled “Diversity, Attitude and Health Beliefs.”

**DR. IVY PELTZ,** ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on co-presenting a workshop entitled “How Am I Doing? Using 360° Evaluations to Improve Faculty Performance” at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Dental Education Association, with Dr. Maureen McAndrew, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.

**DR. DOUGLAS MORSE,** Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “Smoking and Drinking in Relation to Depressive Symptoms Among Persons with Oral Cancer or Oral Epithelial Dysplasia” for Head & Neck, with Dr. Walter Psoter, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, and Dr. Elise Eisenberg, ’84, Clinical Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

**DR. WALTER PSOTER,** Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring articles entitled “Accuracy of Two Impression Materials Using Mechanical Mixing and Direct Impression Techniques: A Three-Dimensional Study” for the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry; and “Caries Patterns in the Primary Dentition: Cluster Analyses of a Sample of 5,169 Arizona Children 5–59 Months of Age” for the International Journal of Oral Sciences, with Dr. Douglas Morse, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

**DR. ARNOLD E. RAY,** ’62, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on authoring an article entitled “Numb Chin Syndrome: Dental Implications” for The New York State Dental Journal.

**DR. JOAN PHELAN,** Professor & Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, on being profiled in *Primus*, the magazine of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, as a notable alumnus.

**DR. TODD ROSS,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on
receiving an NYUCD Faculty Council Teacher Recognition Award.

DR. STEFANIE RUSSELL, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “Self-Reported Willingness to Have Cancer Screenings and the Effects of Sociodemographic Factors” for the *Journal of the National Medical Association*. Dr. Russell’s coauthors included Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion. Added kudos to Dr. Russell on being accepted into the NIH Advanced Training Institute on Health Behavior Theory.

MR. CHIRAG SADANA, above left, Assistant Director of the Office of Informatics, and DR. ALEX RUANO, above right, Web Application Programmer & Analyst in the Office of Informatics, on winning first prize in the NYU Stern School of Business Entrepreneur Social Venture Competition for “America Smiles,” a company they cofounded to facilitate outreach by dental schools to underserved populations. (Center, Mr. Stewart Satter, a sponsor of the competition.)

DR. BRIAN SCHMIDT, Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, on being interviewed for a profile on the Bluestone Center by *CenterWatch Weekly*, a leading news source for the clinical trials industry.

DR. STUART L. SEGELNICK, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on being elected a faculty member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU). Congratulations also to Dr. Marjan Moghadam, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics; Dr. Ash Estafan, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics; and Dr. Gerald Klaczany, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, who were also elected as faculty members of OKU.

DR. DONNA SHELLEY, Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Interdisciplinary Research & Practice, on coauthoring an article entitled “Increasing Access to Evidence-Based Smoking Cessation Treatment: Effectiveness of a Free Nicotine Patch Program Among Chinese Immigrants” for the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. 
DR. CHRISTIAN STAPPERT, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring articles entitled “All-Ceramic Partial Coverage Restorations: Midterm Results of a 5-Year Prospective Clinical Splitmouth Study” for the Journal of Dentistry; “Methods and Healing: The Significance of Recession Coverage Without Vertical Incisions” for Quintessence; “Papilla Height to Crown Length Proportions in the Maxillary Anterior Dentition” for The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry; and “Gingival Zenith Positions and Levels of the Maxillary Anterior Dentition,” for the Journal of Esthetic Restorative Dentistry.

DR. ANDREW I. SPIELMAN, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, on being elected Chairman of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE), a 15-member body which oversees the written National Board Dental Examinations for all dentists and dental hygienists in the United States. Added kudos to Dr. Spielman on receiving the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Colgate-Palmolive Co. Excellence in Teaching Award, and on being featured in the ADEA Newsletter’s Guest Perspective on Change and Innovation in Dental Education, where he discussed the importance of looking beyond the metrics that predict success in dental school and asking, “What attributes predict success in life?”

MS. LISA B. STEFANOU, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “The New Face of Denture Patients” for Dimensions of Dental Hygiene.

DR. ERIC S. STUDLEY, ’85, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on copresenting a workshop entitled “Seeing Is Believing: Using Videotapes for Assessment of Communication Skills” at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Dental Education Association, with Dr. Ivy Peltz, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Dr.
Ralph P. Cunningham, ’72, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care. Dr. Studley also co-presented a poster entitled “What a Pain in the Assessment! Using Exams as a Teaching Tool” at the ADEA meeting with Dr. Peltz and Dr. Aneta Wojcik, Instructor in Cariology & Comprehensive Care.

DR. JOHANNA WARSHAW, Instructor in Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on receiving an NYUCD Faculty Council Teacher Recognition Award.

PROFESSOR CHERYL M. WESTPHAL, Assistant Dean for Allied Health Programs, on authoring a guest editorial entitled “Women’s Health” for ADHA Access Magazine.

DR. YU ZHANG, Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, on authoring an article entitled “Graded Restorations for All-Ceramic Crowns” for the Journal of Dental Research, and on coauthoring “Damage and Reliability of Y-TZP After Cementation Surface Treatment,” also for the Journal of Dental Research. Dr. Zhang’s coauthors included Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, and Dr. Dianne Rekow, Provost of the Polytechnic Institute of NYU.

DR. ANTHONY VERNILLO, Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, on coauthoring an article entitled “Marketable Spit—Property and Privacy Paradigms—an Ethical and Legal Counterpart to Blood” for the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association, with Dr. Paul Wolpe, Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Center for Bioethics at Emory University.

DR. MARK S. WOLFF, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on presenting a workshop entitled “Dentin Hypersensitivity: State-of-the-Art and New Therapeutic Approaches” at the National Congress of Dentistry in Chieti, Italy. Dr. Wolff also coedited the July 2010 edition of Dental Clinics of North America: Current Concepts in Cariology, and coauthored “Defining Dental Caries for 2010 and Beyond,” which appears in that issue.
Dr. Peter Aborn, ’73:
CNN Hero of the Year Nominee

Dr. Peter Aborn, Class of 1973, was recognized by CNN in 2009 as one of 100 CNN Heroes, a program that searches out unsung heroes around the world who give exceptional service to others. Dr. Aborn was recognized for creating Project Talamanca, a program he founded in 1996 to bring free dental care to people living in rural areas of Costa Rica, a country in which there are two dentists for every 30,000 people.

Dr. Aborn, a native New Yorker, left Scarsdale to go to Costa Rica in 1995, where he settled and established a practice in San Pedro. Two years later, he had an experience that changed the trajectory of his life. In 1997, Dr. Aborn first visited the Talamanca Reserve, a cloud forest approximately 2,400 feet above sea level, as a dental volunteer. By the time his volunteer activity was over, he felt he could not leave. In the years that followed, Dr. Aborn worked tirelessly and nearly alone, traveling to more and more remote regions, increasingly on his own time and at his own expense.

In January 2005, when floods all but destroyed what infrastructure the Reserve had, Dr. Aborn enlisted two of his colleagues and became among the few who responded with material assistance. Under Dr. Aborn’s leadership, this nucleus has become Project Talamanca, a multinational, interdisciplinary volunteer organization, which in addition to providing dental care, also conducts research on the prevalence of partial and total edentulism, periodontal disease and the effect that natural medications have on it, and the prevalence of intra- and extra oral leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease found in parts of the tropics, subtropics, and southern Europe.

In January 2010, Dr. Aborn’s fellow NYUCD alumnus, Dr. Gary R. Goldstein, Professor of Prosthodontics, joined Dr. Aborn on a Project Talamanca outreach, helping to treat over 600 patients in four-and-a-half days, 60 percent of whom were children.

“What Peter has done in Talamanca is amazing,” says Dr. Goldstein. “He has single-handedly, with sheer force and determination, brought much-needed health care to an extremely remote community. But Peter needs our help. If you are in need of a grounding, life-altering experience, then consider doing as I did and joining him in Talamanca. You can contact Peter directly at peter.aborn@gmail.com.”

Dr. Gary Goldstein, left, with Dr. Aborn.
Dr. Larry Rosenthal, ’72, was honored in April by The Mann Foundation, which benefits the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Mount Sinai Hospital, at its Fifth Annual Mann of the Year Awards, held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York.

Each year since 2005, the Mann Foundation has honored a select group of New Yorkers for their support of research dedicated to finding a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Rosenthal was cited for his “impact on his profession and the community, and his support for research initiatives dedicated to finding a cure for Alzheimer’s disease.”

A street at the intersection of Cropsey Avenue and 15th Avenue in Brooklyn has been officially named “Dr. Michael Brienza Way” by the New York City Council in memory of Dr. Brienza, Class of 1994, who passed away in April 2009.

In addition to his extensive professional activities, which included serving as president of the Bay Ridge Dental Society and the New York State Dental Society of Anesthesiology, and as a fellow of the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Dr. Brienza proudly served his country in the US Naval Reserves, attaining the rank of Commander. A recipient of the Homeland Security Commendation, he also received a number of other commendations and awards, including one for expert marksmanship.
Alumni in the Spotlight

‘60s
Dr. Stanley F. Malamud, Class of 1969, on authoring an article entitled “Phentolamine Mesylate for the Reversal of Residual Soft-Tissue Anesthesia” for Dental Economics.

‘80s
Dr. Eugene L. Antenucci, Class of 1983, on being named a spokesperson for dental equipment manufacturer Planmeca USA.

Dr. Gerald Curatola, Class of 1983, on appearing on “The Dr. Oz Show” to discuss early detection of oral cancer.

Dr. Jonathan Levine, Class of 1989, on appearing on “The Dr. Oz Show” to discuss the benefits of aesthetic dentistry.

‘90s
Dr. Charles Burns, Class of 1995, on being elected President of the Fifth District Dental Society of the New York State Dental Association.

Dr. Gerardo Santiago, Class of 1991, on receiving the Southwest Florida Parent and Child People’s Choice Award for outstanding community service.

Dr. Adnan Qayyum, Class of 2003, on being a guest on “American Health Front,” an educational program on NBC-TV Channel 10 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Tejdeep Rattan, Class of 2009, on being promoted to the rank of captain in the US Army.

‘00s
Dr. Ruben Cohen, Class of 2002, on being a first responder in Haiti one week after the earthquake of 2010. Dr. Cohen was profiled in the ADA News for his relief work in Haiti.

Conferring in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake are, from left, Israel Defense Force Field Hospital Com. Col. Yitzhak Kreiss; US Army Maj. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn; and Dr. Ruben Cohen. (Photo credit: Joe Shalmoni)
In Remembrance

Dr. Raymond Beldegreen, Class of 1936
Dr. Gustav Lasoff, Clinical Professor of Orthodontics
Dr. Sidney R. Berger, Class of 1977; former Clinical Assistant Professor of Endodontics
Dr. Gerald N. Green, Class of 1962; Clinical Associate Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Jay Steinberg, Class of 1984
Dr. Roy A. Swenson, Class of 1950

“Thank you, Professor Wheeler, for your excellence as an educator and clinician, and for your gift to us of a life well lived.”

Professor Alla Wheeler
1958–2010
Wake Up, Dentistry!