strategic thinking: 
shaping the future 
of dental education 
and the profession
“It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.”

Isaac Asimov
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The story of dental education and of the dental profession has become a cliffhanger: From the establishment in 1840 of the first dental college in the United States—the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery—and continuing through the 20th century—dental education has contributed significantly to improved public health and to the prestige of the profession. Today, different models of dental education are reemerging that recapitulate an older educational model that predates the incorporation of dental education into the nation’s major universities. As university-based higher education and dental education begin to diverge, there is a fear that serious research in the oral health sciences will become less of a priority in dental schools and that the brains behind advances in dental practice will simply reside in other health professions that are more firmly rooted in the great research universities. Challenges abound, including a decline in the number of adult dental visits to private practices during the past decade, access to preventive and therapeutic services, the introduction of the Affordable Care Act and its as yet unforeseen impact on dentistry, the globalization of knowledge, the rise and pervasiveness of new technology—including the accelerating impact of distance-learning capacities—and the trend towards interprofessional education. It is no easy task to predict the future of dental education and the profession.

"We want our next strategic plan to reflect a vision that is based more on consensus thinking than on operational initiatives."
Central to our effort to move from an emphasis on strategic planning to an emphasis on strategic thinking is the conviction that people are the driving force in successfully accomplishing change.

But while we may not be able to predict the future, one thing is certain: As dental educators and practitioners we have an obligation to anticipate the future. An important key to this process is strategic thinking and its corollary, strategic planning.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic thinking may be defined as the ability to see the total enterprise, to spot the trends and understand the competitive landscape; to see where a business needs to go and to lead it into the future. Strategic planning, by contrast, is an organization’s process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. While both are important, there is a distinction between these terms. Simply put, strategic thinking tends toward the conceptual, while strategic planning tends toward the tactical.

To anticipate, according to Paul J. H. Schoemaker, author of *Six Habits of True Strategic Thinkers*, one must:

- Look for game-changing information at the periphery of one’s industry
- Search beyond the current boundaries of one’s business
- Build wide external networks to help one to scan the horizon better.

WHERE WE ARE COMING FROM

In 2008, NYUCD developed a strategic plan founded on five key themes or “pillars”:

- Facilitating interpersonal relationships and mentorship
- Fostering and maintaining an environment for excellence
- Leveraging partnerships among dentistry, nursing, and dental hygiene
- Developing men and women of science
- Promoting global activity

We are now in a position to bring these aspirations closer to fulfillment through a consensus-driven approach. Our guiding conviction is that people and their enveloping culture are driving forces in successfully accomplishing change, and that the key to successful change is an open, collaboratively developed vision. This approach is in line with a philosophy outlined in the

The inaugural Strategic Planning Plenary Council was held at the NYU Global Center in September.
Our ability to anticipate the articulate the answer to the “What differentiates NYUCD classic textbook, The Practice of Adaptive Leadership by Heifetz, Linsky, and Grashow. The authors point out that it is not really change that people fear, it is loss. When people have not been a part of conceptualizing and implementing new directions, they can equate change with loss and “antibodies” develop against every new idea. The corollary is that a collaboratively developed vision also tends to be the most effective and sustainable because such change has buy-in by the people in an organization who really count; namely, those doing the work. We undertake this initiative at the perfect time—we are not under the pressure of an impending site visit or other institutional review, which affords us the privilege of deep reflection about our path forward.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND PLANNING: PART I

Since last fall, NYUCD has been engaged in a campus-wide effort to identify and address major strategic priorities. The effort began with a kick-off event in September, a “plenary council,” that drew nearly 120 members from our community of faculty, administrators, and staff—all of whom volunteered to participate. The following were identified as strategic priorities:

* Improve institutional and interpersonal communications
* Create a more nurturing environment for students
* Make patient-centered care a reality, not just a slogan.

Approximately one month later, a similar plenary-style forum was held for students, who articulated virtually the same priorities.
future rests on our ability able to following question: from other dental schools?

In all of these areas, NYUCD has been making visible, tangible advances. We will have another plenary council—including students—next fall. In the interim, we have introduced both formal and informal vehicles to enable all members of our community to have a greater, more respected voice in the affairs of the college; to provide a better understanding of organizational roles and functions; and to improve “branding” of NYUCD—both within NYUCD and beyond its walls—as illustrated in the graphics accompanying this article.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND PLANNING: PART II

Guided by the consensus we have achieved concerning institutional priorities, we are prepared to address the larger goal of anticipating the future. Our ability to anticipate the future rests largely on our ability to articulate the answer to the following question: “What differentiates NYUCD from other dental schools?” Only by answering this question will we be able to continue on the path of innovative academic leadership in an environment that poses challenges and opportunities that were unimaginable only a few years ago.

WHAT DIFFERENTIATES NYUCD FROM OTHER DENTAL SCHOOLS?

We are well on our way to answering this question: NYUCD seeks to strike a balance among technical excellence in dental education (with mere competence as a fallback position), scientific judgment in assessing the dental literature, and emotional intelligence—that indefinable something more—that people expect in a doctor, such as being ethical, sympathetic, and caring in their relationships, as well as comfortable with themselves and others in their environment.

NYUCD is able to aspire to this goal because of three major assets:

- **Size.** As the largest dental school in the U.S., educating approximately eight percent of our nation’s dentists, and with approximately 300,000 patient visits per year, NYUCD has unique resources and resources mean increased opportunities for students and increased opportunities mean professional growth and development, including unparalleled leadership opportunities and real-world experience.

- **Location.** NYUCD’s New York City location creates an atmosphere in which students can explore and

NYUCD’s new website www.nyu.edu/dental
expands their potential by sharing ideas with people from around the world. Our location also allows us to leverage both the media and industry in ways that other schools cannot do, which, in turn, increases the luster of an NYU degree.

- **Global brand.** As part of NYU’s Global Network University (GNU), whose 13 academic study centers worldwide have made it a global brand, NYU dental students have virtually limitless opportunities to participate in public health initiatives in a global setting. For our students, this goes directly to the human dimension of doing something good with one’s life and has a transformative impact on them (see related stories on pp. 68-83 and 108-114). Also, NYU’s global brand is reflected in the fact that NYU dental graduates practice in every city and state in the nation and in every country in the world.

In the coming year, we will strive to promote this concept of differentiation in multiple ways, beginning with publication of this special issue of *Global Health Nexus*, in which we are privileged to feature articles by three distinguished strategic thinkers in the corporate world—an example of NYUCD’s ability to leverage relationships with industry in special ways. **Bret Wise,** Chairman and Chief Executive Office of Dentsply, **Stanley Bergman,** Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Henry Schein, Inc., and **Ian Cook,** Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Colgate-Palmolive—all corporate leaders of the highest caliber—discuss what it means to be a strategic thinker in ways that reflect precisely the anticipatory habit of mind that Schoemaker emphasizes in *Six Habits of True Strategic Thinkers*.

This issue of *Global Health Nexus* also celebrates the ever-expanding scope of accomplishments of NYUCD research scientists who are creating the next phases of dentistry’s evolution as a scientific discipline, as well as a spectrum of articles that reflect the trend towards education that is interprofessional—a way of teaching, of scientific cooperation, and of clinical and public health practice—where various and sometimes seemingly disparate groups of educators, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers come together to work toward a common goal.

Also of note are a progress report on NYUCD’s expansion into a new, interdisciplinary building that we are constructing at 433 First Avenue, across the street from our existing campus, and articles featuring some of our remarkable students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and benefactors who are working to bring innovative ideas to the forefront of our academic enter-
prise. In this regard, it is notable that this year, both the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award and the NYU Distinguished Administrator Award—the University’s highest honors conferred for excellence in teaching and administration, respectively—were granted to two members of the NYUCD community: Dr. Leila Jahangiri, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, and Ms. Rachel Hill, director of global outreach and international initiatives. Only five members of the entire NYU community are recognized annually in each category, which makes these honors a true double-header of distinction for NYUCD.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of Global Health Nexus as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

“One of the many examples of how NYUCD is different from other dental schools is the extent to which NYUCD faculty are called upon by the media for their professional expertise.”
Have you ever had the impression that a particular sports team, a political party, industry, or even a profession, was simply meandering into a random future rather than shaping a better future? Changing current trends and creating a new vision for the future requires strategic thinking beyond the dynamics and biases within which we operate today.

Strategic thinking is like seeing around dark corners with perfect vision. It requires the ability and courage to make decisions with large implications using imperfect information, yet informed by a broad perspective and awareness of trends that may impact the outcome. Strategic thinking is related to, but different from, strategic planning. Like the fuzzy front end of the innovation process, strategic thinking is the creative part of strategy that has few rules, guidelines, or checkpoints to ensure that you are on the right course.

This concept is not new. Twenty years ago, business management expert Henry Mintzberg authored *The Fall and Rise of Strategic Planning*, in which he proposed that the label “strategic planning” be
Strategic thinking is hard work, and many leaders allocate too little time to this front-end process, and far too much time to execution. Ironically, it is the strategic thinking which determines our direction and chance of success, while planning and execution, when well done, merely confirm the wisdom of the strategic thesis.

dropped, arguing that strategic planning has impeded strategic thinking. From Mintzberg’s perspective, strategic planning is about analysis, while the core of strategic thinking is synthesis, and requires intuition and creativity to formulate an integrated perspective or vision of where an organization should be heading. In reality, strategic thinking is hard work, and many leaders allocate too little time to this front-end process, and far too much time to execution. Ironically, it is the strategic thinking which determines our direction and chance of success, while planning and execution, when well done, merely confirm the wisdom of the strategic thesis. Since focusing on execution can be far easier than strategic thought, many leaders find short-term success through tactical execution and fall short of long-term goals by failing to see, embrace, or change developing trends.

Dental education, the dental profession, and the dental industry, independently and together, face numerous challenges and opportunities in the current environment. Our collective success depends on our ability to see around those dark corners; internalize, comprehend, and synthesize opportunities and risks; and create a path to influence future outcomes. This requires a bias toward action to challenge and attempt to change certain factors that underlie our market. Beyond the many strategies and tactics we may develop, the most critical indicator of our long term-success will remain our ability to attract the best and the brightest to dentistry—as practitioners, academicians, scholars and industry leaders. No matter what else we do, the continuity of a strong, ambitious workforce is indisputably the core prerequisite for a sustainable future. We will return to this fundamental objective.

CURRENT TRENDS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED

There are many important trends affecting oral health and the dental profession that warrant critical thought. For example:

- Why does almost one in five U.S. children ages 2–19 have untreated caries despite the many preventive tools we have available?
- Why are we seeing changes in dental service utilization pat-
CHANGING THE COURSE OF A DECLINING UTILIZATION TRENDS

An October 2013 survey commissioned by the Children’s Dental Health Project found that nearly four out of every ten Americans say that they or members of their family are delaying dental care because of concerns about out-of-pocket costs. The survey also found that one-third of Americans said that they or a family member have a toothache or another problem with their teeth or gums that needs to be addressed, and 40 percent of parents report having this kind of oral health problem. This is continuing evidence that more than a decade after the Surgeon General spoke of an epidemic of oral disease, we continue to have a massive need for better oral health services and/or access.

A more recent study from the ADA Health Policy Resources Center reported that the number of dental emergency room visits in the U.S. increased from 1.1 million in 2000 to 2.1 million in 2010. Further, utilization rates among working age adults in the U.S. appear to have been contracting over the past decade.

Changing the course of the utilization trend line requires strategic thinking and initiative. One recent case study indicates that we can make progress. Data show that in economic recessions, discretionary spending declines, including oral health expenditures. The dental trade has long been frustrated with this seemingly inevitable outcome, yet has proposed no broad-based means to counter it. That changed in the depth of the 2009 recession. At that time, the Dental Trade Alliance, the primary U.S. dental trade group for manufacturers, distributors, and laboratories, also referred to as the “DTA,” undertook a campaign to increase awareness of the need for continued oral health during the economic downturn. The

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**Percentage of the Population with a Dental Visit in the Years 2000–2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Children 2-18</th>
<th>Adults 19-64</th>
<th>Adults 65 and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, AHRQ.

**Notes:** Changes are statistically significant at the 5% level for children ages 2-18 (2000–2011), at the 1% level for adults ages 19-64 (2003–2011), at the 1% level for adults ages 65 and over from 2000–2011, and at the 10% level for the same age group from 2010–2011.
ORAL HEALTHCARE CAN’T WAIT

initiative, “Oral Healthcare Can’t Wait,” launched in 2009, aimed to raise consumer awareness through the use of local advertising and online downloadable patient education resources made available to dentists. Although the trade and profession seemed to embrace the campaign, it was not immediately successful in reaching the general population, particularly those outside of the traditional dental safety net.

A year later, in 2010, the DTA embraced the challenge of extending the campaign’s partial success to include the general population, despite enormous economic and practical barriers. Through innovative and strategic thinking driven by Gary Price, the CEO of the DTA, the DTA and the ADA led an initiative that brought together 38 partner organizations, including the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), to develop a one-of-a-kind multimedia ad campaign. As described on their website, “The Partnership for Healthy Mouths, Healthy Lives” is a coalition of leading organizations in the field of oral health. The Partnership’s stated objective is to “improve children’s oral health so that they can develop into healthy, productive adults” by teaching parents and caregivers, as well as the children themselves, to take control of their own health through oral disease prevention. To accomplish this objective, the Coalition sought a strategic partnership with the Ad Council in order to launch a media campaign on children’s oral health in the U.S.

The Ad Council is the nation’s largest producer of public service advertising with the mission to “identify a select number of public issues and stimulate action on those issues through communications programs that make a measureable difference in our society.” The Ad Council receives many inquiries requesting support for potential campaigns and has specific criteria for selecting issues to endorse. The issue must be of sufficient seriousness and public importance, offer a solution through an individual action, have measureable and achievable objectives that can be helped by advertising, and be non-commercial or not designated to influence legislation.

Early in 2011, the Coalition made a compelling proposal to the Ad Council that improving the oral health of children in the U.S. was a vital public mission, and successfully gained support for a multiyear campaign.

Financed with $3 million of seed money from Coalition members, the campaign will encompass close to $100 million of donated advertising gained from the Ad Council over a three-year period. The message is a dual communication to both children, on their terms and in their environment, and to caregivers, that it is important to brush your teeth, “two minutes, twice a day.” While this seems like a simple intervention, a survey conducted by the Ad Council found that prior to the campaign only 44 percent of parents in the U.S. reported that their children brushed their teeth twice or more a day.

The “2Min2X” campaign, launched in August 2012, serves as the first initiative to address oral health in the Ad Council’s 71-year history and has gained early success with more than 1.3 million people visiting the 2Min2X.org website in
“This campaign (2Min2X) and its success illustrate the power of strategic thinking. Seeing a trend early (economic recession and reduced spending on dental care viewed as discretionary) and acting creatively to change the trend line has long-term positive implications.”
the initial year. “Recent research also confirms that 53 percent of English speaking adult caregivers and 42 percent of Spanish speaking caregivers in the U.S. now recognize 2Min2X,” says DTA CEO Gary Price. This is incredibly high initial recognition from the target audience in the first year of the campaign. Beyond television and print advertising, newer aspects of the campaign include text messaging to parents’ cell phones offering children’s oral health tips, a mobile game app, and a national in-school oral health education program.

Given the high initial recognition and the expanded media outlets now in use, this message will likely reach and hopefully influence a large segment of youth, and more importantly their caregivers, which could translate into a meaningful change in the trajectory of dental utilization and oral health for generations. Once established in the dental community, these young consumers will likely stay dedicated to good oral health practices for a lifetime. This campaign and its success illustrate the power of strategic thinking. Seeing a trend early (economic recession and reduced spending on dental care viewed as discretionary) and acting creatively to change the trend line has long-term positive implications. This campaign, timed when new reimbursement for children under the ACA is beginning, may assist in accelerating utilization for children, help reduce the rate of untreated dental caries in children, and perhaps change the utilization trend of working age adults over time.

Beyond gaining access to the nation’s youth, what else can be done about the long-term declining trend we see in working age adult utilization? How do we reach this largest part of the population in a productive and meaningful way? Given the age group (ages 20 to 65), the massive size of the group (185 million in the U.S.), and its geographic and social disparity, this is a tough, seemingly insurmountable task. Perhaps this requires that strategic actions and implications be broken down into smaller more manageable parts, for example by tackling population segments separately. The challenge is identifying which part of the population to target and the means to effectively reach that target in an economical way. One approach might be to create an inflection point at the moment they enter this working age group. In other words, could we reach a large part of this population at or just before they enter the workforce? This is critical as the most notable declines in utilization have been seen in the age segment of 19 to 34. If we can find a way to intervene at this critical inflection point, good oral health habits could be established and then continue for a lifetime. Even more importantly, these healthy habits very well could extend to the current or future families of these dental consumers.

Although this would not be a complete solution, a large concentration of this target population (more than 20 million young adults) is enrolled in our universities, just before entering the work force. As a profession, if we could reach this target group and influence their interest in oral health at this pivotal time in their lives, it could change the trend line of utilization of this critical group. This is an area where the dental trade, dental educators, and the dental profession could work together. We could start with the universities that have dental schools, develop several pilot programs or campaigns and test response rates. This is all about awareness and could be built on an internet or social media campaign with the consent of university administration. Once a successful model is developed it could easily be shared with other universities, including our many community colleges, to reach and influence a broader segment of the population. This may sound idealistic; however, the consequence of success is high and the cost of failure low. If the outcomes were to be anywhere close to what we have seen in 2Min2X, the long-term implications could be very meaningful for our profession. The potential upside certainly warrants the effort.

In the age 65-plus group, absolute utilization, driven by strong demographic trends, is rising. We should ask what we can do to support or accelerate this trend. For the most part, this group already recognizes the need for good oral health. Not only are adults living longer and more actively seeking to retain their natural teeth, there is also a growing recognition of the link between good oral health and overall well-
being. So our strategic challenge here is determining how to meet the oral health requirements of this segment of the population through products and professional services that meet their clinical and economic needs. For a large part of this population, adequate solutions already exist, so for the sake of discussion let’s focus primarily on the underserved and special needs groups as a target. Here the costs of procedures are often beyond their ability to pay or available reimbursement. Yet their needs are the same as or greater than others in their demographic group.

As a profession, we should challenge ourselves to develop strategies that allow us to meet the needs of this group within their means. The question here is whether incremental improvements in outcomes represent “better dentistry,” despite falling short of our most advanced solutions. For instance, would a formulated crown, prepared chair-side, with a five-year wear life, but at a much lower price point (say 25 percent of the cost of a traditional crown procedure), be an improvement we as a profession can endorse? One argument would be that a low-cost, five-year solution is a much better outcome than the alternatives available within the economic realities of this group. Others would argue that it does not reach the clinical standards we have today and thus is not the best dentistry. Can we view an incremental improvement as better than no improvement at all? This is the strategic dilemma that the profession and industry should address as it will grow in importance as this age group rapidly expands to become a larger component of the population in most developed countries, including the U.S.

THE GLOBALIZATION OF ECONOMIC MARKETS: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DENTAL PROFESSION

DENTSPLY has a long history of marketing and selling professional dental products on a global scale and now serves dental professionals in more than 120 countries. Yet today, more than 80 percent of our business is in the developed markets, where only 20 percent of the global population resides. The inverse, of course, is that 20 percent of our business is serving 80 percent of the population. This current state is a consequence of trends set in motion decades, even centuries ago, as economic development accelerated in North America, Western Europe, and Japan in particular. However, today we see that the rate of economic development in emerging economies is far higher than in the developed markets—a trend that will likely continue for some time. Dental education has followed a similar course. If we go back several decades, there were few international institutions, whereas today you see U.S. universities with satellite campuses in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia as well as other locations. Although there are exceptions, such as NYU, Harvard, and University of Southern California, few dental schools have followed their parent universities to international markets. Also, as a profession, dentistry remains very country-oriented and influenced greatly by regulation and policy. Typically, practitioners are educated in one country (or state in the U.S.), where they are licensed, using products developed for and regulated in that country. Over time this will change as the need for cross-border reciprocity increases to allow the profession to move more freely across borders. History has shown that when trade barriers are removed between countries or regions, economic growth generally accelerates on both sides of the previous barrier.

“The opportunities available to those who participate in our profession in 10 or 20 years may be significantly impacted by proactive engagement on this issue [globalization], or by ignoring this strategic dilemma.”
For those carrying the torch for dentistry today, our collective responsibility is to think strategically about how to embrace these issues and propose bold solutions that will position the profession and the market to thrive in the future.

We should address whether this would also be true for the dental market. Because this is a massive issue with broad implications, no one institution or group can address it in isolation. The question is whether a partnership among our educational institutions, the profession, and the trade could begin to change the trajectory of globalization of oral health care. And, if so, should we take it on. This will make many stakeholders uncomfortable, as easing trade barriers can be viewed as a threat, rather than an opportunity; however, we should proactively—and strategically—address this dilemma. The opportunities available to those who participate in our profession in 10 or 20 years may be significantly impacted by proactive engagement on this issue, or by ignoring this strategic dilemma.

**ATTRACTING THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST TO DENTISTRY**

Finally, we are brought back to the most important strategy for our profession—continuing to attract the best and the brightest to our educational markets and profession. There is no more important goal with long-term implications for dentistry. Some would say that we have been highly successful in this area thus far—and I would agree. The question now should be how we build upon that success. Certainly, the answer includes increasing opportunity for professional and economic growth. If we address some of the strategic implications noted previously, we may see increased awareness and utilization and then face the challenge of meeting demand in terms of capacity. This would be a nice problem to have.

One consideration is whether our future profession will require a more highly leveraged model. By this I mean the ability to meet more needs, grow professionally, and generate more economic impact, by leveraging skill sets with and through others. If you look at the best and brightest in most professions (medicine, law, accounting, business, professional sports, etc.), generally they have arrived at the top by successfully leveraging their own capabilities through others. Consideration of ways to accelerate opportunity in dentistry in this manner will be important in attracting talent to our markets in the future.

For those carrying the torch for dentistry today, our collective responsibility is to think strategically about how to embrace these issues and propose bold solutions that will position the profession and the market to thrive in the future.
Where Is the Puck Going?

Strategic Thinking in the Age of the Consumer Patient

By Stanley M. Bergman

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Henry Schein, Inc.
To appreciate the importance of strategic thinking, consider the wisdom of that great Canadian philosopher—Wayne Gretzky.

The most prolific scorer in the history of the National Hockey League, Gretzky played the game with a rare intelligence that more than compensated for his admitted lack of strength and speed. He relied on this strategic imperative for his success: “I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.”

That is the foundation of all strategic thinking: Anticipate where the world is going, not where it is today. To apply this thinking to the future of dental education, and to the dental profession itself, we must first define what the “puck” is. In my opinion, the puck is not technology or economics or demographics, as important as they all are. The “puck” is the patient. To paraphrase Gretzky, we must go where the patient is going to be, not where she has been.

So where is the patient going? The answer lies in the experience of other industries and professions.

**ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE**

Music, photography, publishing, retail, travel, and many other industries have been transformed beyond anyone’s imagination by the consumer’s embrace of digital technology. It is easy to say that digital itself is the great transformative power, but the greater power is how the consumer has harnessed digital technology. The most profound change resulting from the emergence of digital technology is that it shifts the balance of power from the producer to the consumer.

Before digital, the producers of consumer goods pretty much dictated what the individual would pay for a vinyl album, photographs, or books. Producers also determined the very experience of how the arts were enjoyed or how household goods were purchased. After digital, the consumer does the dictating. Don’t like the price of that plane ticket? A few keystrokes will give you plenty of choices. The consumer’s options are increasing exponentially, with no end in sight. Digital changes everything.

So what does a shift in the balance of power from producer to consumer mean for setting strategy in dental education and the dental profession? At Henry Schein, we know that the best way to secure the future health of our profession is to take a patient-centric—a consumer-centric—approach to care. If we put the patient first, and make all decisions working back from the patient, the profession’s future will be very bright. We believe this patient-centric perspective is the path to success for the entire oral health community. The obvious question is: How do we do that?

**THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE**

First, we must accept the inevitable. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus wrote, “Change is the only constant.” We live in a constantly changing world, and that change extends to oral health care—and not just dental care. We need to redefine the profession. We don’t merely take care of teeth, although that is obviously a large and vital component of the profession’s work. The dentist of the future must be an oral health care professional, for whom prevention, wellness, and outcomes should be the focus. That is what we mean by putting the patient first. Technology has little value in and of itself. Technology has value only if it serves the patient in a patient-centric practice.

In the digital world, where information is readily

“**I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.**”

Wayne Gretzky

“In my opinion, the puck is not technology or economics or demographics, as important as they all are. The “puck” is the patient. To paraphrase Gretzky, we must go where the patient is going to be, not where she has been.”
The most profound change resulting from the emergence of digital technology is that it shifts the balance of power from the producer to the consumer.

available, patients will become increasingly demanding—more cost-conscious, better informed, and more discriminating about treatment plans. The emergence of what can be called the consumer patient will increasingly determine the cost, type, time, and availability of treatment.

Despite this revolution, the profession can still shape and influence the behavior of the consumer patient. In fact, the profession has an obligation to help the patient understand the relative merits of various treatment plans, all in the context of promoting prevention and wellness. That’s where education comes in.

BEYOND THE MOUTH

At Henry Schein, we are increasingly thinking beyond the teeth and even the mouth itself. In 2012, at the start of our current three-year strategic plan, we launched a program called Total Health™ Beyond the Mouth, an integrated wellness and education program that informs patients of the integral link between oral health and total health. The program assists oral health professionals in uncovering potential systemic health problems, including periodontal disease, oral cancer, sleep disorders, heart disease, and diabetes. We launched this program because it is good for the practice and the patient. The oral health professional of tomorrow needs to think of herself as a kind of primary care physician, in which blood pressure screenings are as routine as cleanings and X-rays.

Total Health™ Beyond the Mouth fits squarely within our strategic vision at Henry Schein: To improve the practice of health care so that healthcare professionals can improve the lives of patients.

At the university level, faculty and students should consider a similar strategic vision. Our dental schools should create health care professionals whose focus is to improve not just the oral health of patients but their overall health.

When technology is ubiquitous and rapidly changing, it can be easy to focus primarily on what technology can do, rather than on what technology can do for the patient. The challenge for educators is to develop a curriculum in which technology is harnessed to improve the lives of patients, never forgetting that all of us one day will be the patient.

What would a patient-centric curriculum look like in a world where digital makes every patient a consumer? Henry Schein is not an educational institution, so perhaps it is not our place to answer this vital question directly. Instead, let’s consider the strategic changes we have made at our company to become more patient-centric.

CONTINUOUS REINVENTION

First, we undertake a rigorous exercise every three to five years through which we set a new strategic course. Reinvention is a way of life at Henry Schein, as it is at all successful enterprises, whether they are businesses or universities. We are inspired by the words of the

At Henry Schein, we know that the best way to secure the future health of our profession is to take a patient-centric—a consumer-centric—approach to care. If we put the patient first, and make all decisions working back from the patient, the profession’s future will be very bright.
renowned science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, who said: “It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.”

Our success is a result of ongoing reinvention, providing our customers with innovative, integrated solutions to operate their practices efficiently and profitably so they can provide high-quality care for the benefit of patients.

A quick survey of the history of Henry Schein demonstrates the benefits of this kind of thinking. Henry Schein, with his wife Esther, founded the company as a store-front pharmacy in Queens in 1932. They ultimately transitioned the company to become a mail-order dental distributor, and from that foundation, we became a distributor. We were the first to publish a list of products, to publish the price, and also to have the products in stock. We have since built what is now the world’s largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dentists, physicians, and veterinarians.

As part of our continuous reinvention, Henry Schein also became the world’s largest provider of dental practice management software. Almost two decades ago, during a time when there were hundreds of underfunded practice management software companies, we put financial and organizational resources behind creating the leading dental practice management software company, in terms of both unique practice management software and clinical-based software, which includes clinical charting and related technical services. While this success is certainly good for our dental customers, it is even better for their patients, who receive better care and follow-up from their oral health care provider because of the power of software.

Henry Schein followed a similar path with digital imaging. We determined that digital imaging was a technology required for the success of our company and our customers, and today Henry Schein is the world’s largest provider of dental X-ray sensors and 3D X-rays. The patient experience is better because of digital imaging.

**THE DIGITAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC REDISTRIBUTION**

What’s the next great development? We’re pretty certain that the oral health practice of the future will include more digital solutions that are driven by patient demand. Practices must embrace this reality if they are to remain relevant and succeed in the future. This change to digital solutions is important because it will offer more patient choices and convenience, and greater patient health benefits. Digital will benefit oral health practitioners by further enhancing practice efficiency, profitability, and the quality of care.
The forward-thinking dental educator might consider strategic changes to the curriculum to include instruction on teamwork within the setting of a digital oral health office, in which responsibilities are more distributed precisely because of the power of digital.

Imagine a future in which the consumer patient demands certain types of materials or treatments—or goes to a competing practitioner to get it. This consumer patient also will demand that a specific amount of time is allotted for the procedure, which day and what time of day the procedure occurs, and even which oral health care professional performs the procedure. In this wildly different future, teamwork will be critical to success.

The team is everything in the digital practice of the future because digital distributes power and makes the difficult easy. Look at music and photography; people are now creating songs on computers and taking pictures on smartphones with a quality and efficiency unimaginable just 20 years ago. Roles and responsibilities in the digital dental office will change, with assistants and hygienists doing more of the work that dentists historically performed. Practices—and schools—that embrace this change soonest will have the advantage in providing care to the patient.

Dental education, of course, tends be segregated, with separate schools or programs for aspiring dentists, hygienists, assistants, and technicians. The forward-thinking dental educator might consider strategic changes to the curriculum to include instruction on teamwork within the setting of a digital oral health office, in which responsibilities are more distributed precisely because of the power of digital. The educator might also consider an increased focus on interdisciplinary education. To achieve true oral health, the physician and dentist must be trained to work more closely together.

Beyond technological and educational change, the unprecedented shift in demographics also must be a part of any strategic assessment by oral health educators and practitioners. For example, the United Nations reports that there were approximately 810 million people aged 60 or older in the world in 2012. By 2050, that number will grow to more than 2 billion, at which time older persons will outnumber children (ages 0 to 14 years) for the first time in history. Oral health professionals can expect increasing demand for their services among the elderly.

In the United States, we are witnessing another demographic shift that will profoundly change the provision of oral health. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2043 there will be no single majority group in the country as a whole. Looking even further into the future, by 2060 the population of Americans of Hispanic background is expected to more than double, the population of Americans from Asia will double, and the population of Americans of African background will increase by more than 60 percent. With this diversity comes an urgent need for cultural competency in the oral health profession.

The educator might also consider an increased focus on interdisciplinary education. To achieve true oral health, the physician and dentist must be trained to work more closely together.
OUR JOURNEY

So where is Henry Schein in its strategic journey? Today, we are reinventing the company to be the leading provider of digital dental solutions to dental practices and laboratories. At every stage, we have what we believe to be the best products and services needed to deliver patient benefits: Patient marketing and acquisition; patient exam and treatment planning; case presentations and patient acceptance; site preparation and implant placement; accessing the treatment network; final restoration and chair-side solutions; and maintenance and hygiene.

As noted earlier, we are not educators and cannot prescribe what an oral health curriculum should be. But we do know how to think strategically, and in that context we recommend that others in the oral health community ask themselves the questions we ask of ourselves: How do we remain relevant? Are we making the right change? Is this change creating a solution for the future? Does the change deliver real benefits to patients? Are we looking at the world as it will be? And are we chasing the puck (patient) or are we going to where the puck will be?

A final word of advice on strategic planning and implementation: Whatever you do, do it fast. Time accelerates in a digital world. So what if you fail? The sooner you recognize a failure, the sooner you can learn from it and move on to success.

“A final word of advice on strategic planning and implementation: Whatever you do, do it fast. Time accelerates in a digital world. So what if you fail? The sooner you recognize a failure, the sooner you can learn from it and move on to success.”
Partnering for Caries Prevention on a Global Scale

Addressing the oral health care challenges facing billions of people worldwide requires the expertise and collaboration of industry, educators, health care professionals, and governments. By working together, these groups can create solutions that are affordable, actionable, and sustainable.

Caries is one of the most significant oral health issues we face today. The World Health Organization calls caries “the most chronic global disease,” affecting 60 to 90 percent of school children and nearly 100 percent of adults. While the introduction of fluoride toothpaste contributed to significant strides in reducing the incidence of caries, this disease remains unchanged or is worsening in some developing countries. In these markets we see rising incomes contributing to increased consumption of processed foods and sugar, which fuels cavities. This health issue is especially grave among the world’s underserved populations (including those in poverty in the U.S.) who suffer from limited access to dental care, lack of clean water, and limited education.

Historically, the resources of industry, the profession, and the public health sector focused primarily on addressing oral disease through treatments and restorations, rather than targeting the elimination of the disease. But today, the fact that oral disease is preventable must dictate a new approach. Colgate believes that new, shared strategies for cavity prevention can change the conventional approach to treatment. Reaching the goal of a cavity-free world, however, calls for new approaches to partnerships among industry, governments, the dental profession, and academia. Each of these partners brings specific expertise and capabilities that are essential to meet this challenge. Only by working collaboratively as a global team, can we find breakthrough solutions and reach those people who need them most.

“The fact that oral disease is preventable must dictate a strategies for cavity prevention can change the collaboratively as a global team, can we find breakthrough...
To be sure, Colgate also sees caries prevention as a viable business objective that can build shareholder value. Our long-term experience with oral health improvement efforts convinces us that these business objectives can be pursued in harmony with, and complement, the public policy objectives of our professional, academic, and public health partners.

PARTNERING FOR CHANGE

Given its long-term prevalence, caries is a condition that has come to be accepted and even expected as a fact of childhood. But today’s reality is that the world’s dental community possesses the knowledge and the tools to prevent the complex disease of caries. The principal barrier is a mindset of complacency, so progress must begin by raising awareness that caries is preventable, not just treatable. Partnership and collaboration must be at the center of this change, as they are the most effective means of building broad, comprehensive understanding and awareness about the potential for caries prevention.

To meet this challenge, dental, public health, and non-governmental organizations are coming together to implement new approaches to dental caries—moving the treatment in dental practices and global health policies toward a greater focus on preventive and therapeutic interventions rather than a restorative approach to dental caries. Important advances in the oral care industry to aid in the detection and prevention of caries make this shift possible. An example of such an advance is the caries tool called the International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS). Peer-reviewed and internationally recognized, ICDAS has shown that caries can be detected and prevented in its earliest stages, allowing dental and other health professionals to identify lesions that would otherwise be ignored, and prevent them from turning into cavities.

Professional and global organizations and institutions—including the FDI World Dental Congress, the

new approach. Colgate believes that new, shared conventional approach to treatment. Only by working solutions and reach those people who need them most.
Seizing the public health opportunity presented by changes in technology and outlook will also require shifting resources to prevention, including changes in the way dental care is reimbursed.

The major principle that shapes Colgate’s global strategy for caries prevention—partnerships—is also applicable to shaping the future of dental education.

American Dental Association (ADA), American Academy of Pediatric Dentists (AAPD), Kings College, Temple University, and NYU, among others—are now actively collaborating to implement new standards for caries prevention. Colgate is helping in this effort, supporting the development of the ICDAS online course since 2007, and advancing a new International Caries Classification Management System for practicing dentists.

Seizing the public health opportunity presented by these changes in technology and outlook will also require shifting resources to prevention, including changes in the way dental care is reimbursed. In the United Kingdom, dentists are already being reimbursed based on a set of prevention targets, such as the percentage of children who have fluoride varnish applied. In the United States, alternatives for remunerations for prevention, such as the number of fillings avoided, are under review by academia, the public health community, and insurers. All of this suggests the complex set of factors and practices across the oral care health delivery system that must be addressed to reinforce caries prevention objectives.

Consequently, success in global caries prevention depends on strategic and long-term approaches to building partnerships that are focused on education, community outreach, new models of prevention, and continued therapeutic innovation. All oral health stakeholders must share a commitment and dedication to a common mission, each bringing resources to a trusting, open, and transparent partnership to improve oral health in a nation or a community. Changing the approach to caries management will not happen by decree—it will require “bottom-up”, locally-driven partnerships. Importantly, the major principle that shapes Colgate’s global strategy for caries prevention—partnerships—is also applicable to shaping the future of dental education.
THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Educating consumers about the importance of improving oral health has been part of Colgate’s business strategy for over a century. We have a deep belief in the value of oral health education for consumers and experience in building the partnerships needed to deliver it. Colgate first recognized the power of education in caries prevention through an employee-managed oral care education program conducted in 1900 for a small group of New York City children.

Guided by these early experiences, we set out decades later to create the world’s first universal global education program, with the help of an international panel of educators and oral care experts. Today, this effort has grown into a global Bright Smiles, Bright Futures™ education initiative that has reached 700 million children in 80 countries since 1991 and aims to reach one billion children by 2020. This school-based education program, delivered through partnerships with local ministries of health and other government health and education agencies, has become an integral part of primary school curricula around the world. For many of the world’s children, Bright Smiles, Bright Futures™ provides their first opportunity to learn about the importance of oral care, get their first toothbrush, and understand the role oral care plays in overall health.

In the U.S., Colgate partners closely with the National Dental Association, the Hispanic Dental Association, and numerous dental schools including NYU’s College of Dentistry on these efforts. All these partnerships share a common approach: They start with education to address the oral health needs of the underserved and draw on volunteer dentists and dental students to provide dental services. This approach is central to Colgate’s mobile dental vans in the U.S., which reach 10 million children annually with education and screening services. Recently, we entered into a new partnership in the U.S. with Teach for America, a national non-profit, whose unique expertise in underserved communities has added new capabilities to deliver the Bright Smiles, Bright Futures™ educational curriculum.

All around the world, we have seen that only through such local partnerships can sustainable education efforts be established. In Vietnam, for example, a vibrant country where we have been doing business since 1995, our partnership with the Ministry of Education and Training has resulted in educating more than 22 million kindergarten and elementary age children, and training 20,000 teachers across the country. Local insights resulted in incorporating Bright Smiles, Bright Futures™ into the school’s daily flag raising tradition, an important school ritual in Vietnam, which elevated oral health as a key part of the day’s activities. Here and all around the world, we see that experienced local partners are critical to ensuring the relevance of caries education and its delivery in impactful, behavior changing ways.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR PREVENTION

Addressing the goal of caries prevention on a global scale will also require new strategic partnerships. One such effort is under way, an ambitious public health initiative called the “Alliance for a Cavity Free Future,” that Colgate strongly supports with representatives from the World Health Organization, FDI

“Educating consumers about the importance of improving oral health has been part of Colgate’s business strategy for over a century.”
World Dental Federation, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, and other dental and public health experts. Launched in 2010, the Alliance aims to increase awareness among global, regional, and local leaders that caries prevention is a critical and achievable goal. Such efforts are vital in order to focus attention on the clinical evidence that caries remains a significant problem—in both the developing and the developed world—and that it is important on its own as a disease condition and disruptive to other public policy goals for child development and education.

To further these objectives, Alliance chapters around the world are working with local academic partners to integrate early caries education into oral health curricula. Importantly, they are also working with government and NGOs to create community-based interventions in underserved areas. In many countries, community workers are trained to educate families on disease prevention and treatment. Caries needs to be understood as a target for such established, community health improvement programs.

The Alliance is providing other important resources to facilitate these outreach efforts. New web content for professionals and families, a standardized caries curriculum for key academic institutions, and model education programs to address oral health in early childhood are all being undertaken through the Alliance. Its U.K. charity status allows the Alliance to work closely with all global dental partners in advancing these initiatives.

In many countries around the world, education efforts advanced through strategic partnerships must be supplemented with innovations in non-surgical approaches to address the persistent scarcity of dental resources. For the island nation of Grenada, for example, 26,000 children are served by just 12 dentists. In such conditions, education-focused partnerships alone are not enough; bold and innovative interventions are needed.

In Grenada, NYU’s College of Dentistry joined with Colgate and the government of Grenada to pool the resources of world-class researchers, educators, government workers, and an oral care products company on a large scale. The shared goals were the same: find new, globally-relevant methods of cavity prevention. The need was urgent, as revealed by NYU’s assessment of the situation: The children had 224,000 surfaces of untreated caries.
cavities, with 83 percent under 15 years of age suffering from cavities. The resulting Grenada School-Based Oral Health Disease Prevention Project implemented a program including classroom toothbrushing, teacher training in fluoride varnish applications, and dental sealants treatments provided by NYU and local dental health care providers. Early results from the three-year program show an 80 percent reduction in caries, with an estimated 200,000 cavities prevented. Improvements of this magnitude have the power to change lives and alter decades of cultural acceptance of the inevitability of tooth decay and loss.

With such dramatic results at hand, NYU and Colgate are working to establish a sustainable prevention program for Grenada and to understand how this success can be replicated in other developing countries faced with similar conditions and constraints. Clearly, there is great potential to advance cavity prevention goals through unique intervention models like this one.

**PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT**

With the success of cavity prevention goals so dependent upon local and global partnerships for education and treatment, all of the participants must share the same deep commitment to common goals, clarity about their objectives, and transparency in their interactions. Colgate has such a commitment in the more than 200 countries where we do business.

Industry, health professionals, and the public sector are important partners for dental education, because they share the same basic goals and can have greater influence by working collaboratively. It makes sense for dental educators to be at the center of these partnerships because they have the ability to connect multiple stakeholders and understand how to leverage complementary resources to create the public policy changes needed to improve oral health worldwide.
A new technique developed at the College of Dentistry that moves teeth more than twice as fast as conventional orthodontics was featured in the November 2013 issue of the American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics (AJO-DO). The technique, developed by Dr. Cristina Teixeira, associate professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics, and Dr. Mani Alikhani, associate professor of orthodontics and director of the Consortium for Translational Orthodontic Research (CTOR), reduces treatment time by more than half, thereby enabling patients to achieve a perfect smile while wearing braces for a much shorter time.

The clinical trial illustrating the technique, called micro-osteoperforation or “MOP,” and its effect on the rate of tooth movement and the expression of inflammatory markers, were featured in a paper and a video on the AJO-DO website, www.ajodo.org.

For the clinical trial, 20 adults with Class II Division 1 malocclusion were divided into control and experimental groups. In both groups, the patient’s upper arch was bonded with fixed appliances and both upper first premolar teeth were

Patients may wear whatever type of braces they choose, but they wear them for less than half the time required by conventional orthodontics.
Dr. Mani Alikhani removed. The control group did not receive MOPs; the experimental group received MOPs on one side of the maxilla. Both maxillary cusps were retracted, movement was measured in gingival crevicular fluid, and pain and discomfort were monitored using a numeric rating scale.

After anesthetizing the gingival tissue, the NYU orthodontists use a specially-designed device to puncture a tiny hole in the upper jaw bone in several places. “We perform the MOPs through the gingiva using our patented appliance, which has a light detector,” explains Dr. Teixeira. “As soon as we reach a certain depth in the gingiva, the light turns on. We pull the appliance out, and the procedure is over in less than a minute. The procedure creates a minor abrasion to the bone through the gingiva and the bone becomes less dense, allowing teeth to move faster,” she adds.

Drs. Teixeira and Alikhani have received two patents for this procedure: one for the device used to puncture the tiny hole in the maxilla and the second for a vibration device that stimulates bone healing and may also accelerate tooth movement.

The gum and bone heal quickly and normal bone density returns when the braces come off. Patients may have mild discomfort afterward, but there are no side effects or downsides. “After the MOP procedure is completed,” says Dr. Alikhani, “there is no sign of inflammation or injury, and by the next day healing is complete.”

The procedure can be performed on anyone of any age.

Drs. Teixeira and Alikani say that this minor procedure is especially appealing to adult patients who want to attain a beautiful smile through orthodontic treatment in a very short period of time. “We had a patient who came to us for the procedure and achieved her goal of having a perfect smile in time for her wedding. We were so pleased to have helped transform her for her special day,” says Dr. Teixeira.
2014 Research Days Feature Dr. Jeremy J. Mao and 30 Prize-Winning Students

NYUCD’s Annual Student Research Days, held on April 24 and 25, 2014, showcased outstanding work by pre- and postdoctoral dental students, dental hygiene students, nursing, and master’s degree program students in the clinical, basic, and behavioral sciences. Since its inception over a decade ago, the event has doubled in size, with 140 students presenting research posters this year, 30 of whom were recognized for exemplary presentations. The two-day event also honored Dr. Jeremy J. Mao, Edwin S. Robinson Professor of Dentistry and co-director for the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Mao spoke about “Stem Cells as Disruptive Technologies to Dentistry.” In recognition of his participation and lifelong scientific contributions, Dr. Mao was presented with the 2014 Distinguished Scientist Award by Vice Dean for Research and Academic Affairs Dr. Louis Terracio.

This year, a novel way of presenting student research posters was introduced. Instead of using traditional printed posters, ePosters, utilizing large monitors and computers, displayed multimedia presentations with enhanced visuals.

“This modern method of displaying presentations in a digital format is exciting because it may change the way conferences conduct poster sessions,” says Dr. Terracio. “We received positive feedback from many students and their mentors who said that they were able to effectively convey information that may not have been possible otherwise,” he added.

NYUCD congratulates all of the Research Days awardees, whose names, presentations, and mentors are listed below.

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<tr>
<th>Dean's Award for Outstanding Presentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Chi Ngai Chan, Postdoctoral Student</td>
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<td>Non-Integrating HIV-1 DNA and HIV-1 Latency</td>
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<td>Mentor: Dr. David Levy</td>
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<td>Dr. Yugi Guo, Postdoctoral Student</td>
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<td>Metformin as a Promising Therapy for Salivary Gland Tumor</td>
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<td>Mentor: Dr. Xin Li</td>
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<td>Ms. Yiwei Jessica Li, Dental DDS '17</td>
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<td>Effects of FGF7 on Osteoblasts and Its Role in Regulating Bone Mineralization</td>
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<td>Mentor: Dr. Despina Sitara</td>
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<th>Best Basic Science Presentation by a DDS Student</th>
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<td>Ms. Rabia Tassaduq, MPH</td>
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<td>Role of Periodontal Disease in the Development of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus</td>
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<td>Mentor: Dr. Ananda Dasanayake</td>
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<td>Dr. Giovanni Molina Rojas, Dental PG</td>
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<td>Utilizing a Pre-Formed Poly-D-Lactic Acid (PDLLA) Membrane to Enhance Soft Tissue Volume</td>
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<td>Dr. Kefaii Abdalkader, Dental PG</td>
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<td>Treatment Options for Single-Implants in the Mandible Anterior Area—A Case Series</td>
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<td>Mentor: Dr. Steven Caldrony</td>
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<td>Dr. Yung Cheng Paul Yu, Dental PG</td>
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<td>A New Technique for the Conversion of Hybrid to Full-Fixed-Porcelain/Zirconium Restorations</td>
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<td>Dr. Dena Sapanaro, Dental PG</td>
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<td>Assessing Eating Habits of Patients Whose Parents Receive Nutritional Counseling</td>
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<td>Mentor: Dr. Linda Rosenberg</td>
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Vice Dean Louis Terracio, left, with Dr. Jeremy Mao
Outstanding Presentation by a Resident in Endodontics
Dr. Thuan Nguyen, Dental PG
Study of Traumatized Immature Permanent Necrotic Teeth After Revascularization Therapy
Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Gibbs

Outstanding Presentation by a Resident in Orthodontics
Dr. Bandar Alyami, Dental PG
Cytokines as Markers of Optimal Orthodontic Forces
Mentor: Dr. Mani Alikhani

Honorable Mention, Resident in Orthodontics
Dr. Jill Varriale, Dental PG
Effects of Initial Stresses and Time on Orthodontic External Root Resorption
Mentor: Dr. Rodrigo F. Viecilli

Voilont Jonathan A. Ship Award for Translational Research
Mr. Jonathan Beroukhim, Dental DDS, ’15
How Does High Frequency Acceleration Move Teeth Faster?
Mentor: Dr. Mani Alikhani

Racquel Z. LeGeros Research Award, Biomaterials
Ms. Aarti B. Patel, Dental DDS, ’16
The Mechanical Effects of Physically Altering Calcium Phosphate Scaffolds
Mentor: Dr. John Ricci

Racquel Z. LeGeros Research Award, Biomaterials
Ms. Arpita S. Patel, Dental DDS, ’15
Osteointegration of Dental Implants Utilizing a Single-Multistep vs. Conventional Drilling
Mentor: Dr. Paulo Coelho

OKU, Dr. Michael C. Alfano Award for Excellence in Research
Ms. Lorel Burns, Dental DDS, ’15
Variability in CGRP Release from Human Tooth Slices
Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Gibbs

NYUCD Student Research Award
Ms. Lindsay Deacon, Dental DDS, ’17
Lhx-Fox:p57Kip2 Regulatory Pathway in Palate Development
Mentor: Dr. Juhee Jeong

Best Case Study Presentation
Mr. Nirav Parekh, Dental DDS, ’14
Oral Manifestations of Areca Nut Habits: Selected Cases
Mentor: Dr. Ross Kerr

Best Clinical Science Presentation by a DDS Student
Mr. Ross Linker, Dental DDS, ’16
Chronic Inflammatory Conditions and Conversion to Mild Cognitive Impairment/Alzheimer’s Disease
Mentor: Dr. Angela Kamer

Dentsply Award
Ms. Renee Kojanis, Dental DDS, ’16
Molecular Events in Mid-Palatal Suture During Maxillary Expansion in Rats
Mentor: Dr. Mani Alikhani

Honorable Mention, DDS Student
Mr. Wisdom Akpaka, Dental DDS, ’14
Effects of Sodium Fluoride on Ceramic Materials Gloss and Surface Roughness
Mentor: Dr. Bapanaiah Penugonda

Honorable Mention, DDS Student
Ms. Ayesha Arif, Dental DDS, ’15
Physical and Chemical Characterization of HA-TCP Scaffolds for Bone Regeneration
Mentor: Dr. John Ricci

Mr. Hillel Kaye, Dental DDS, ’16
Novel Interdisciplinary Intra-Oral Diabetes Screening in Dental Patients
Mentor: Dr. Shieela Strauss

Ms. Nimrata Pandher, Dental DDS, ’15
Prevalence of Peri-Implant Lesions around Implants in Function for a Minimum of 4 Years. Preliminary Results.
Mentors: Dr. Patricia Corby and Dr. Ismael Khouly

Ms. Sarah Prehn, Dental DDS, ’14
Effect of Retrieval Practice on Competency-Based Dental Training
Mentor: Dr. Mitchell Lipp

Mr. Christopher Schiller, Dental DDS, ’17
Metformin Attenuates Bone Loss in Ovariectomized Pre-Diabetic Mice
Mentor: Dr. Xin Li

Outstanding Presentation by a Dental Hygiene Student
Ms. Rachel D. Kurlander
Benefits of Prolonged Breastfeeding
Mentor: Ms. Andrea L. Beall

Outstanding Presentation by a Nursing Student
Ms. Caitlin Ryan
Comorbidities and Quality of Life Among Breast Cancer Survivors
Mentor: Dr. Mei R. Fu
Student Research at NYUCD:

AN EARLY AND SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH = A LASTING IMPACT ON PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE

A strategic priority for NYUCD is to educate dentists who are able to think for themselves, be intelligent users of research, able to critique it, and comfortable with the structure and syntax of modern biomedical science. NYUCD’s term for such dentists is “men and women of science.”

According to Vice Dean for Research and Academic Affairs Dr. Louis Terracio, “Students who have a research experience are forever changed in terms not only of the way they practice, but also in the way they live every aspect of their lives—from buying a car to choosing a vacation destination—because they learn to use evidence in all the decisions they make.”

To achieve the goal of educating students who view themselves as men and women of science, NYUCD encourages students to become involved in oral health and oral health-related research both before they officially enter the DDS program and throughout their four years in dental school.

Two programs in particular exemplify this approach: the Summer Research Experience and the Honors in Research Program. In the following Q & A, Dr. Kathleen Kinnally, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, founder of the NYUCD Summer Research Experience, and course coordinator of the Honors in Research Program, and Dr. Joseph Guttenplan, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and director of the Summer Research Experience, discuss the research opportunities these programs offer students and the impact they have on their dental education and future professional choices.
Global Health Nexus (GHN): Dr. Kinnally, what is the NYUCD Summer Research Experience?

Dr. Kinnally: The Summer Research Experience is a program designed to introduce students to research at an early stage in their professional education, during the summer before they enter dental school and begin the formal DDS program. It is an eight-week program that runs from the beginning of June through the end of July.

Our goal is to inspire students to make research a vital component of their professional lives, perhaps eventually pursuing careers as researchers. The bottom line is: Why wait until the fall semester to join a research program when you can get a head start during the summer?

Summer Research Experience students attend research seminars presented by faculty experts, and each student is assigned a faculty mentor. Students learn how to present their research, and the experience culminates with a professional poster presentation at the end of July. The incoming DDS students collaborate with one another,

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Dr. Louis Terracio, Vice Dean for Research and Academic Affairs
with dental hygiene and nursing student researchers, and with their faculty mentors, most of whom are extramurally funded scientists.

Summer Research Experience seminar topics include health disparities, ethics, lab safety, DNA research, animal research, and evidence-based practice.

The Summer Research Experience is offered to incoming DDS students free-of-charge and no previous research experience is required.

**GHN:** Dr. Guttenplan, how has the Summer Research Experience evolved over the years?

**Dr. Guttenplan:** The Summer Research Experience began in the summer of 2001. As the architect of the program, Dr. Kinnally started out with a small group of students and modest funding from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), with the goal of encouraging dental students to consider careers in academia. She deserves much credit for making the program what it is today. She was the first program director, from 2002 to 2007, and principal investigator on an NIDCR grant for the program from 2003 to 2009. Dr. Stefanie Russell, clinical associate professor of epidemiology and health promotion and of periodontology and implant dentistry, served as director from 2007 to 2010. I have been the director of the program since 2010. Today, the Summer Research Experience is the largest and most rapidly-growing

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Dr. Kathleen Kinnally
pre-dental research program in the country.

**Dr. Kinnally:** Thank you! It makes me incredibly proud to see how the program has grown from a few incoming DDS students, initially, to some 30 students a year currently. I hope to see it expand even more in the future. Our deans have been great supporters of the program from the start. Dean Charles Bertolami has made sure that evidence-based practice is an integral part of what we teach, and former Dean Michael Alfano was also a huge champion of the program. Dr. Ralph Katz, my co-investigator on the NIDCR grant until 2005, helped grow the program with his incredible mentoring, and Dr. Russell and Dr. Guttenplan have been equally vital to the program’s success.

The NIDCR funding covered some costs throughout the early years, and, since 2007, NYUCD’s Office of Research, led by Dr. Louis Terracio, has funded the program. The Dean’s Office provides participating students with a stipend to cover a portion of their living expenses.

**GHN:** Dr. Guttenplan, what kind of long-term effect does the Summer Research Experience have on students?  

**Dr. Guttenplan:** A key objective of the Summer Research Experience is to cultivate in students a taste for complexity, for problems, and for problem-solving. All dental schools without exception need to help students acquire this taste. In doing so, they will generate a few scientists, but more important, they will enable every graduate to become a man or woman of science. Only by becoming a person of science is there any hope that the practitioner will be able to acquire and assimilate new knowledge and adapt to the changes in practice and in the profession that the future requires.

By amplifying a student’s knowledge of research, the Summer Research Experience adds to a student’s credentials, as, for example, when applying to postgraduate programs. Actively participating in research shows postgraduate program directors that an NYU dental graduate knows how to evaluate data and engage in critical thinking. It’s a factor in enabling NYU dental graduates to differentiate themselves from other applicants. Also, students who participate in the Summer Research Experience tend to be interested in clinical research in practice, which expands their professional expertise.

**GHN:** Dr. Kinnally, what additional opportunities do students have for research at NYUCD?  

**Dr. Kinnally:** NYUCD offers Honors in Research Programs for DDS students throughout their four years in dental school. The freshman Honors in Research Program is a six-credit elective, which runs from the beginning of March through the end of July and features topics including the fundamentals of clinical and basic research, lab safety, bioethics, animal issues, and research career opportunities.

The Honors in Research Programs for second-, third-, and fourth-year DDS students, which provide up to six credits per year, are designed for students who have completed the freshman Honors in Research Program and want to continue to conduct research, as well as for those who have not yet participated in research programs but would like to begin to do so. More than 100 students participate in the Honors in Research Programs annually.

Topics across the second-, third-, and fourth-year Honors in Research Programs include clinical research in each of the dental specialty areas, laboratory-based research in basic sciences, biomaterials or epidemiology, behavioral sciences, nursing, and teaching. The Consortium for Translational Orthodontic Research (CTOR)—a nucleus for integration of basic science, clinical science, and industrial resources in the field of orthodontics—provides a rigorous research experience for several students each year. In addition, Dr. Timothy Bromage, professor of biomaterials and biomimetics, heads a mineralized tissue preparation and imaging technology development laboratory, the Hard Tissue Research Unit (HTRU), which provides exciting opportunities for students to examine the substructure of the dentition of modern and ancient mankind.

Students learn to ask themselves questions such as, “Why might this be a better approach or technique than another?” They become adept at evaluating literature and staying on top of current ideas and scientific
methodologies. Their research experiences fundamentally change their thinking and help them make good decisions in all aspects of their lives, not just in their clinical or other professional careers. Our research programs are also a great opportunity for students to be with others who are similarly motivated, and our aim is to provide them with the full-range of clinical and basic science training so that they are prepared to play key roles in health care discovery, delivery, and policy.

Sara Hinds, ’15, who participated in both the Summer Research Experience and the Honors in Research Program, and is currently president of the Student Research Group (SRG), exemplifies this orientation. “Participating in research,” says Sara, “has expanded my perspective and put me into contact with interesting ideas and fascinating people. As president of SRG, I strive to share my experiences in the scientific research arena and encourage others to pursue their own research interests.”

Students present their research at various meetings in New York and throughout the country, including the Greater New York Dental Meeting, the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) meeting, the New York Academy of Dentistry meetings, the American Dental Association (ADA) annual session, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) research conference, and the Hinman Student Research Symposium. Travel support comes from a variety of sources, including NYUCD’s Office of Research; Dentsply, which supplies stipends for the ADA meeting; the New York Academy of Dentistry, which provides support for students presenting at their local meetings; and the AADR fellowship, which supports student travel to the ADEA research conference.

To learn more about the NYUCD Summer Research Experience and the Honors in Research Program, please go to www.nyu.edu/dental/msp/index.html and to www.nyu.edu/dental/research.

NYUCD RECEIVES NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH GROUP AWARD

NYUCD has received the prestigious National Student Research Group Award presented by the National Student Research Group (NSRG) of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR).

The NSRG is a student run organization whose main purpose is to foster an environment in every dental school whereby students interested in enriching their dental education through research are encouraged to do so.

FACULTY OF 1000 RECOMMENDS ARTICLE BY DR. SHOSHANA YAKER

An article by Dr. Shoshana Yaker, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, “Reductions in Serum IGF 1 During Aging Impair Health Span,” has been recommended as being of special significance by the Faculty of 1000. Initially a collaboration of 1,000 international faculty members in the sciences, the Faculty of 1000 now numbers more than 5,000 scientific experts worldwide. The paper was selected for its importance in the study of growth hormone and aging. It will be published online in F1000Prime.
Jacqueline Ng, ’16, Receives 2013 Hinman Best Basic Science Presentation Award

Second-year dental student Jacqueline Ng won the Hinman Award for best basic science presentation at the 19th annual Hinman Student Research Symposium held in October 2013, at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. This year’s symposium drew 104 students representing 47 dental schools from 29 states, the District of Columbia, and four Canadian provinces.

Jacqueline’s project investigated the mechanism of action of organogold compounds with anti-tumor activity against oral carcinoma cells. The project was directed by Dr. Kathleen Kinnally, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology at NYUCD, with the participation of investigators from Cornell University and the City University of New York.

“Participating in the Hinman Symposium was one of the best experiences I’ve had in my dental school career thus far,” said Ms. Ng. “This award means a lot as it recognizes the effort that Dr. Kinnally and I have put into our research project for the past three years.”

Global Health Nexus congratulates Ms. Ng on her outstanding achievement in this prestigious national research competition.

“Participating in the Hinman Symposium was one of the best experiences I’ve had in my dental school career thus far.”

Jacqueline Ng
New HIV-1 Replication Pathway Discovered by NYUCD Researchers

Dr. Levy notes that an interesting phenomenon which other researchers have observed is that some bacteria which live in our mouths can stimulate HIV-1 to emerge from its dormant state.

Current drug treatments for HIV work well to prevent patients from developing AIDS, but no one has found a way to entirely eliminate the virus from the human body, so patients continue to require lifelong preventive treatment.

Now, a team of researchers led by Dr. David N. Levy, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, have discovered a new way that HIV-1 reproduces itself which could advance efforts to eliminate infection.

For decades, scientists have been confident that HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS, must insert its genetic material into a cell’s DNA in order to reproduce. This process, called “integration,” makes the virus a permanent part of the cell. Some of these infected cells can remain as long as the person is alive, and this is one reason why HIV+ individuals must remain on anti-HIV drugs for life.
Dr. Levy’s National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research, “HIV-1 Replication Without Integration,” published online in September 2013 in the Journal of Virology (http://jvi.asm.org/) with lead author Dr. Benjamin Trinité, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Levy’s laboratory, has shown HIV-1 can sometimes skip this integration step entirely.

“Although this is not the virus’s main method for replicating, having this option available can help HIV survive,” said Dr. Levy. “These new findings suggest one mechanism by which HIV may be surviving in the face of antiviral drugs and suggests new avenues for research into eliminating infection.”

The integration step is highly inefficient and actually fails up to 99 percent of the time, leaving most viruses stranded outside of the safe harbor of a cell’s DNA. It has been assumed that these stranded, or “unintegrated,” viruses were unable to reproduce, but Dr. Levy’s team has found that if the conditions are right, they can generate new viruses that infect new cells.

The team also found that the unintegrated viruses can survive for many weeks in cells, allowing HIV to “hide out” in a dormant state. The ability of HIV-1 to go dormant helps it avoid elimination by antiviral drugs and immune responses.

“There is intense interest by researchers in the idea that new drugs might be developed to help to completely eliminate the virus from infected individuals,” said Dr. Levy. “We think that the new replication mechanism we have found could provide a target for drugs designed to eliminate infection.”

Dr. Levy notes that an interesting phenomenon which other researchers have observed is that some bacteria which live in our mouths can stimulate HIV-1 to emerge from its dormant state.

“NYUCD has some terrific researchers who are expert in oral flora and HIV, so we’ll be quite interested in working with them to find out how oral health might influence the new replication pathway that my team has discovered,” added Dr. Levy.

—CHRISTOPHER JAMES

Dane McMillan, ’15, received the predoctoral award of the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) at the 2013 ACP annual meeting in Las Vegas in October for his poster titled “CAD/CAM Dentistry: Can Intraoral Scanners Handle the Heat?” The award recognizes Dane’s contributions to the knowledge base in the health sciences and exemplifies NYUCD’s commitment to research as an integral part of the dental education experience.

Dane’s poster examined the effect of ambient conditions on CAD/CAM technology. He was mentored in this project by Dr. Kenneth Kurtz, clinical professor of prosthodontics.

NYUCD congratulates Dane on this high achievement.
On the Threshold of Discovery: NYUCD JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

Shortly after his arrival at NYUCD in 2000, Vice Dean for Research and Academic Affairs Dr. Louis Terracio noted that NYUCD had long been known for producing excellent clinicians, and was now committed to building on that achievement by focusing on the creation of “a strong research engine capable of significantly advancing the knowledge base in oral health.” His remark has special resonance within the context of NYU’s current strategic plan, which states that “A great research university produces, preserves, and transmits new ideas, insights, and knowledge. Its basic research activities promote and nurture scientific progress, develop artistic and creative expression, and sustain an informed democratic society and its political life.”

That NYUCD has created a strong research engine is beyond argument. NYUCD is recognized today as a research leader in areas including genomics in oral cancer and periodontal research, bone health, especially osteoporosis research, but also bone development and healing, biomimetics and biomaterials research, salivary diagnostics, HIV research, caries research across the lifespan, behavioral research, with an emphasis on family violence, and orthodontic research. But let the numbers speak for themselves: Federal research funding for NYUCD has increased from $4.5 million in 2002 to nearly $16 million in 2012.

The junior researchers profiled below—all tenure-track faculty—are committed to advancing scientific knowledge by sharing new data and insight into oral diseases that can be translated into clinical solutions. These investigators start by asking “why,” and are continually seeking answers to questions that are at the heart of improved public health.

**Despina Sitara, BSc, MSc, PhD**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. Formerly a postdoctoral fellow in immunology and infectious diseases at the Harvard University School of Public Health, Dr. Sitara earned an MSc degree in molecular genetics from the University of Bristol and a PhD in endocrinology from Queen Mary University in London. Her major areas of research

“I have always been curious about how the human body works,” says Dr. Sitara. “I’ve often wondered, ‘Why do we look the way we do, why do some people contract certain diseases while others do not, and what are the mechanisms of various pathological conditions?’ This scientific curiosity and my desire to help others made me realize that a career in dental research was a perfect fit for me.”

Dr. Despina Sitara
include bone development, genetics, hematopoiesis, and endocrine regulation.

Dr. Sitara came to NYUCD in 2010 to work with Dr. Nicola Partridge, professor and chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, in the area of parathyroid hormone research. “Dr. Partridge is an authority on molecular endocrinology and bone and mineral research,” says Dr. Sitara. “It is exhilarating to be contributing knowledge to the NYU Center for Skeletal and Craniofacial Biology, which Dr. Partridge founded.”

Dr. Sitara has received numerous grants and awards during her time at NYUCD, including the prestigious NYU Whitehead Fellowship for Junior Faculty in Biomedical and Biological Sciences.

“I have always been curious about how the human body works,” says Dr. Sitara. “I’ve often wondered, ‘Why do we look the way we do, why do some people contract certain diseases while others do not, and what are the mechanisms of various pathological conditions?’ This scientific curiosity and my desire to help others made me realize that a career in dental research was a perfect fit for me.”

**Jennifer Gibbs, MSc, DDS, PhD,** is an assistant professor in the Dr. I. N. and Sally Quartararo Department of Endodontics. Prior to joining NYUCD in 2011, Dr. Gibbs was an assistant professor of endodontics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry. A graduate of the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) at San Antonio Dental School, she earned an MSc degree in clinical research from the UCSF School of Medicine, a certificate in endodontics from the UCSF School of Dentistry, and a PhD in pharmacology from UTHSC at San Antonio Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. “My decision to come to NYUCD was an easy one,” says Dr. Gibbs. “I was impressed by the enthusiasm and energy I witnessed when I first visited, and appreciated the highly-supportive research environment for junior faculty instead of the typical ‘sink or swim’ approach.”

Dr. Gibbs’ primary research interest is in the neurobiology of the dental pulp, especially as it relates to pain, inflammation, healing, and regeneration. She is investigating several types of receptors and their role in pain transmission in dental pulp neurons. She is also researching outcomes of endodontic treatment in children and new approaches to measuring pain in people experiencing acute dental pain.

“I hope that these efforts will lead to clinical studies to evaluate novel pharmacotherapies or dental products designed to manage dental pain and inflammation,” says Dr. Gibbs. “As a clinician-scientist, I have embraced the translational potential of research; putting the knowledge I study as a scientist to practice as a clinician is exciting, challenging, and intellectually stimulating.”
Xin Li, BSc, MSc, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, joined NYUCD in 2011. Dr. Li was formerly a postdoctoral fellow in periodontics and oral medicine at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. Dr. Li earned a BSc degree from Shandong University in Jinan, China, an MSc degree in insect pathology and physiology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, and a PhD in physiology and integrative biology from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Rutgers University. Her research focuses on bone biology, cancer prevention, and metastasis.

Recently, as the principal investigator on two separate National Institutes of Health (NIH)- and National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded projects, Dr. Li has been studying epigenetic alterations associated with cancer development and treatment. She has used various techniques to determine the impact of metformin, a widely used anti-diabetic drug, on prostate cancer and bone metastasis. She found that metformin usage lowered prostate cancer risk and offered a positive prognosis in diabetic patients, indicating metformin inhibitory effects in prostate cancer.

“Prostate cancer is the most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in American men,” explained Dr. Li. “The outcomes of our study are expected to reshape current concepts and paradigms about the role of metformin in prostate cancer treatment and prevention.”

Dr. Xin Li

Dr. Shimizu was awarded the NYU Center for Skeletal and Craniofacial Biology (CSCB) Research Pilot Project Award last fall and has received several grants to study pulp capping and bone healing with the aim of improving clinical understanding and treatment of endodontic patients.
treatment and prevention,” she added. Cancer risk reduction was also reported with other types of cancers, including oral cancer. “In the future I would like to assemble a cancer research team at NYUCD to study novel cancer prevention mechanisms.”

**Emi Shimizu, DDS, PhD,** is an assistant professor in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and in the Quartararo Department of Endodontics. A graduate of Nihon University School of Dentistry at Matsudo in Chiba, Japan, Dr. Shimizu received a PhD in endodontics from the Graduate School of Nihon University. She joined NYUCD in 2009 as an adjunct assistant professor and associate research scientist. In 2012, Dr. Shimizu earned a certificate in endodontics from NYUCD’s Advanced Education Program in Endodontics. Dr. Shimizu’s research focuses on tooth development, tooth regeneration, and bone biology. Her future research aspirations include studying tissue engineering of tooth regeneration and translational research of human dental diseases.

Dr. Shimizu was awarded the NYU Center for Skeletal and Craniofacial Biology (CSCB) Research Pilot Project Award last fall, and has received several grants to study pulp capping and bone healing with the aim of improving clinical understanding and treatment of endodontic patients.

“I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to launch my career at such a distinguished institution,” says Dr. Shimizu. “NYUCD is in the top ranks when it comes to dental research as evidenced by funding levels, quality of research, and recognition of faculty and students at both the national and international levels. It is exciting to be a part of such a vibrant community.”

**Deepak Saxena, BSc, MSc, PhD,** is an associate professor in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. Dr. Saxena earned his BSc, MSc, and PhD in microbiology from Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda, India, and a diploma in business management from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies in Mumbai, India. His research focuses on post-parasitic interaction, infectious disease, and environmental effects on the human microbiome.

Dr. Saxena’s current investigations include the relationship between the human microbiome and oral cancer, pancreatic cancer, and osteonecrosis of the jaw. He is also studying the effects of e-cigarette smoking on the oral microbiome. He is also studying the effects of e-cigarette smoking on the oral microbiome (see related story on p. 47).

“There are 10 times as many cells from microorganisms like bacteria and fungi in and on our bodies than there are human cells,” he explained. “These microorganisms have a huge impact on our health. Without them, our bodies don’t seem to do very well.” Dr. Saxena’s quest is to understand the links between bacteria and disease so that diseases such as oral and pancreatic cancer can be prevented and new methods of diagnosis and treatment can be developed.

“Being an investigator at NYUCD provides excellent opportunities for collaboration and growth for many reasons,” he says, “including its prime location along the First Avenue Health Corridor, the diversity of the faculty and student body, and a highly supportive Office of Research led by Dr. Louis Terracio. I am proud to work in such a fertile research environment with equally inquisitive colleagues.”

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**Dr. Saxena’s current investigations include the relationship between the human microbiome and oral cancer, pancreatic cancer, and osteonecrosis of the jaw. He is also studying the effects of e-cigarette smoking on the oral microbiome.**
NYU Dental Researchers Investigate the Potential of Genomics to Tailor Treatment for Oral Cancer

Dr. Brian Schmidt, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and director of the NYU Oral Cancer Center and the NYU Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, and Dr. Donna Albertson, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and leader of the oral cancer genomics research program at the NYU Oral Cancer Center, have received a $150,000 collaborative research grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance their work on biomarkers of oral cancer metastasis. Drs. Schmidt and Albertson are co-principal investigators on the project, which will fund groundbreaking research aimed at customizing treatment for oral cancer patients.

When oral cancer metastasizes to the neck, a patient’s five-year survival rate is reduced by 50 percent. Accordingly, determining the risk for metastasis is critical for survival, but there are no current diagnostic techniques to accurately predict metastasis. As a result, surgeons often opt for a prophylactic neck dissection, a procedure that requires three-to-four hours of surgery, and, in many cases, is unnecessary. Identifying a biomarker that can accurately predict metastasis might avoid unnecessary surgery, reduce patient morbidity, and reduce resource expenditure.

With NIH support, Drs. Schmidt and Albertson previously utilized the genomic profiles of tumor samples isolated from patients to identify and validate such a genomic biomarker. This biomarker can be used to rule out neck dissection in oral cancer patients with no clinical evidence of neck metastasis. The new NIH grant will enable Drs. Schmidt and Albertson to advance their work towards a clinical trial.

Other participating institutions include MD Anderson Cancer Center; the University of Maryland; Providence Cancer Center in Portland, Oregon; and the University of California San Francisco. Patients will be recruited through the NYU Oral Cancer Center, University of Maryland, and Providence Cancer Center, and the trial will be designed and managed by the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research.

According to Dr. Schmidt, “The participation of all of these institutions is essential to further validate this biomarker in a clinical trial, which will allow us to tailor treatment for individual oral cancer patients.”
NYU Dental Researchers Investigate the Potentially Adverse Effects of Electronic Cigarettes

The electronic cigarette (e-cig) was introduced in the US in 2007 and offers nicotine-addicted individuals an alternative to smoking tobacco. E-cigs have been marketed as a safe alternative to tobacco smoking, and most e-cigs are similar enough in appearance to be mistaken for conventional cigarettes, so it is not surprising that their popularity is increasing worldwide, especially among young people. To date, however, there has been little research on the impact of e-cigs on public health.

Dr. Deepak Saxena, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, and Dr. Xin Li, assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, are working to close the gap between marketing and science by using oral cavity and various systems biology approaches to reveal the health impact of e-cigs. The FDA and the American Lung Association have cautioned that e-cig users are unknowingly inhaling vaporized chemicals including diethylene glycol. “The issue is urgent,” notes Dr. Saxena, “as a recent survey conducted among students at eight US colleges found that 12 percent of e-cig users had never smoked a conventional cigarette.”

E-cigs use a heating device to vaporize nicotine and other ingredients which simulate the visual, sensory, and behavioral aspects of smoking without the combustion of tobacco. The main difference between e-cigs and conventional cigarettes is that e-cigs do not contain tobacco, although they do contain nicotine, which is harmful to the body and is associated with toxicity and addiction. E-cigs employ a mechanism to heat up liquid nicotine, which turns into a vapor that smokers inhale and exhale, a process known as “vaping.”

Each nicotine cartridge in an e-cig can provide 200-400 puffs, equivalent to two to three packs of cigarettes. “Due to the frequency of puffing, depth of inhalation, and length of vaping,” says Dr. Li, “e-cig users may actually absorb higher concentrations of nicotine and other toxins than conventional tobacco smokers.

Since the interaction of nicotine from e-cigs with the human body occurs first in the oral cavity, Drs. Saxena and Li will collect saliva and oral mucosa from College of Dentistry patients who are e-cig users to determine the relative abundance of oral bacteria and changes in DNA in these patients in order to compare them with the effects found among conventional cigarette smokers.

The main difference between e-cigs and conventional cigarettes is that e-cigs do not contain tobacco, although they do contain nicotine, which is harmful to the body and is associated with toxicity and addiction.
Researchers Engineer a Hybrid Five Times More Effective in Delivering Genetic Material into Cells

STUDY BY TEAM AT NYU-POLY AND NYU COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY MAY LAY GROUNDWORK FOR BETTER GENE THERAPY

Researchers at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University (NYU-Poly) and the NYU College of Dentistry (NYUCD) have developed a carrier in their lab that is five times more efficient in delivering DNA into cells than today’s commercial delivery methods—reagent vectors. This novel complex is a peptide-polymer hybrid, assembled from two separate, less effective vectors that are used to carry DNA into cells.

Results of their study, “Long-Term Efficient Gene Delivery Using Polyethylenimine with Modified Tat Peptide,” has been published in Biomaterials. The findings were the result of a collaborative research project conducted by Dr. Seiichi Yamano of NYUCD and Dr. Jin Montclare at NYU-Poly. The outcome of the study could help researchers better understand gene function and ultimately improve gene therapy.

Non-viral vectors such as those engineered in this study are used for transfection—the process of introducing foreign genetic material (in this case, DNA called a plasmid) into a cell. The vectors are essentially vehicles that carry the genetic matter into the cell. But transfection is not easy. Cells are set up to keep things out of the nucleus. Even if the transported plasma manages to permeate the cellular membrane,
the cytoplasm within the cells has safeguards to stop anything from getting into the nucleus.

Traditionally, scientists have engineered viruses to carry out transfection, but viruses are problematic because cells recognize them as foreign and trigger the immune response. Virus transfection is extremely costly and presents numerous difficulties for mass producing. On the other hand, non-viral vectors do not trigger the immune system and are easily manufactured and modified for safe, more effective delivery. Their shortcoming is that they generally are effective only for short periods of transfection, as well as other forms of gene expression.

For this project, Drs. Yamano and Montclare paired a modified version of CPP HIV-1 (mTat) with PEI—a non-viral vector particularly effective for delivering oligonucleotides. In combining mTat and PEI, they built a new, non-viral vector, more effective than mTat or PEI individually. They tested their reagent vector both in vitro—grown in a Petri dish—as well as for approximately seven months in a living organism—in vivo. This vector may be used in the future for targeted gene therapy.

In addition to Drs. Yamano and Montclare, Drs. Jisen Dai, Shigeru Hanatani, Ken Haku, Takuto Yamanaka, Mika Ishioka, and Tadahiro Takayama of the NYU Department of Prosthodontics, Dr. Carlo Yuvienza of the Department of Chemical Biomolecular Engineering at NYU-Poly, Dr. Sachin Khapli of the NYU Abu Dhabi Division of Engineering, and Dr. Amr Moursi of the NYU Department of Pediatric Dentistry also contributed to this project.

This research was funded in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) program, and the U.S. Army Research Office.

Dr. Donna Albertson, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and leader of the oral cancer genomics research program at the NYU Oral Cancer Center, and her colleagues, have won the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) 2013 Newcomb Cleveland Prize for the most outstanding paper published in Science. Dr. Albertson and her colleagues won the prize for their paper titled “The Connectome of a Decision Making Neural Network.”
Recruiting the BEST

DR. PETER M. LOOMER, director and clinical professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and director of global health for oral health sciences at the NYU Global Institute of Public Health, has been appointed chairman of the Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry.

Prior to joining NYUCD, Dr. Loomer was a professor of clinical affairs at the UCSF School of Dentistry where he also served as director of Predoctoral Periodontology, vice-chair of the Division of Periodontology, chairman of the Education Committee, and, previously, of the Faculty Council, and director of Clinical Affairs in the Division of Periodontology. Dr. Loomer holds a DDS degree, a certificate in periodontics, and a PhD in cell and tissue biology, all from the University of Toronto. His research interests include the oral microbiome, bone cell biology, and periodontal regeneration.
DR. RICHARD NIEDERMAN, a periodontist and an expert in evidence-based medicine and medical informatics, has been named chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion and a tenured professor of epidemiology and health promotion at NYUCD.

Prior to joining NYUCD, Dr. Niederman served as director of the Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry and as a senior member of the staff at The Forsyth Institute. Previous positions also include head of the Office of Evidence-Based Dentistry at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, associate professor of health policy and health services research at the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, and head of the Department of Cell Biology at The Forsyth Institute. Most recently, Dr. Niederman received a grant of $6,633M from the NIH/NIMHD (National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities) to improve oral health and reduce costs of rural, school-based caries prevention programs.

DR. LESLIE F. SMITHEY, formerly co-director of the General Practice Residency Program and director of clinics at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, has been appointed senior director for Quality Assurance and Patient Care. Dr. Smithey graduated from Howard University College of Dentistry as a registered dental hygienist and went on to earn a DDS degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She completed a general practice residency program at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, and recently completed an MPH degree at Yeshiva University. Dr. Smithey was affiliated for nearly 20 years with North General Hospital in Harlem, rising to become chair of the Department of Dentistry, the first woman president of the medical staff, chair of the Medical Executive, Credentials and Ethics Committee, and a member of multiple ambulatory care service teams.
DR. BERNADETTE BODEN-ALBALA has been appointed a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion, with joint appointments in public health at the NYU Global Institute of Public Health (GIPH) and in neurology at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Boden-Albala will also serve as associate dean for program development and division head of social epidemiology at the GIPH. Dr. Boden-Albalba is recognized as one of the leading social epidemiologists utilizing stroke and cardiovascular disease models to define the ways in which culture, ethnic groups, and individual behavior interact to create disease, including examining vascular outcomes and oral health practices.

DR. DONNA ALBERTSON, formerly a professor in residence at the University of California San Francisco, has been appointed a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and a member of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research faculty and of the NYU Oral Cancer Center faculty at NYUCD. Dr. Albertson leads NYUCD’s oral cancer genomics research program. Dr. Albertson and her colleagues recently received the Newcomb Cleveland Prize for the most outstanding paper published in Science. (See related story on p. 46).

DR. COURTNEY CHINN has been appointed director of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry and director of the Advanced Program for International Dentists in Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Chinn earned his dental degree at the University of Washington School of Dentistry, completed postdoctoral specialty training in pediatric dentistry at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University, and a dental public health residency at the New York State Bureau of Dental Health. He also holds an MPH degree from Columbia University, where he has been on the dental faculty since 2007.
DR. EDGARD EL CHAAR, clinical associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, has been appointed director of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics. Dr. El Chaar received a DDS degree, an MS degree in oral biology, and a certificate in periodontics from NYUCD, and is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Periodontology and the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

MS. MAYA ARDON, formerly assistant director for new and transitioning student programs at NYU’s Student Resource Center, has been appointed associate director for student affairs. Ms. Ardon received a BA degree in arts cum laude from the State University of New York and an MA degree in higher education and student personnel administration from NYU’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

MS. ANGELA G. BANEGAS, formerly senior manager for human resources services and human resources applications and services at NYU, has been appointed director of faculty services. Ms. Banegas received a BA degree in organizational behavior and communications from the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

MS. FRANCES BARKEY, formerly a human resources services specialist at NYU, has been appointed a human resources generalist at NYUCD. Ms. Barkey earned a BA degree in art, psychology, and sociology from the City University of New York.
DR. IRYNA BRANETS has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Branets earned her DDS degree at NYUCD.

MS. CHAMPA CHONZOM, formerly a financial manager at the Research Center for Leadership in Action at NYU’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, has been appointed department administrator for the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics.

MS. IRENE DEINEKO has been appointed department administrator in the Office of Clinical Affairs, where she is responsible for managing business and administrative operations for the Office of Clinical Affairs. Prior to joining NYUCD, Ms. Deineko worked for several years as a program administrator at the NYU Langone Medical Center in the Department of Psychiatry.

DR. LUCRETIA DEPAOLA-CEFOLA has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Depaola-Cefola earned her DDS degree at NYUCD.
DR. NATALIA ELSON, formerly an adjunct instructor in dental radiology at Briarcliffe College, has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care.

MS. SARA FLYNN-SMERILLO, formerly a private contracts manager, has been appointed an academic affairs administrator.

DR. JOANA FORSEA has been appointed a clinical assistant professor of orthodontics. Dr. Forsea received both her DDS degree and her certificate in orthodontics from NYUCD. Dr. Forsea’s research focus is on cleft lip and palate corrections.

DR. RONALDO HIRATA, formerly a program coordinator at the Latin American Institute of Research and Teaching in Dentistry at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, has been appointed a visiting professor of biomaterials. Dr. Hirata received a DDS degree from Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil; an MS degree in dental materials from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil; and a PhD in restorative dentistry from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
**MS. JEANNY ISAAC**, formerly assistant director for ambulatory network services at North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System in New Hyde Park, NY, has been appointed director of clinical operations in the Office of Clinical Affairs.

**DR. MARY KANG** has been appointed a clinical assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry. Dr. Kang received both her DDS degree and certificate in prosthodontics from NYUCD.

**DR. RAMIN KASHANI** has been appointed a clinical assistant professor of pediatric dentistry. Dr. Kashani earned his DDS degree at NYUCD.

**DR. RODRIGO S. LACRUZ** has been appointed a tenured professor of basic science and craniofacial biology. Prior to joining NYUCD, Dr. Lacruz was a research associate at the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology at the University of Southern California. Dr. Lacruz holds MS and PhD degrees in paleoanthropology from the University of Witwatersrand.
DR. FABIOLA MILORD, formerly dental director at Catholic Charities Health System Inc., has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Milord earned both her dental degree and an MA degree in public health at NYU.

MR. KEITH MURRAY, formerly a grants administrator at Columbia University Medical Center, has been appointed a grants administrator at NYUCD. Mr. Murray has experience in financial management, NIH grant applications, private grants, and budgeting. He is working toward an MPA degree at Rutgers University.

DR. SHARON PERELMAN has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Perelman received a DDS degree from Loyola University School of Dentistry and an MA degree in medical informatics from Northwestern University.

DR. ALEJANDRO PEREZ has been appointed a visiting clinical instructor in periodontology and implant dentistry. Dr. Perez received a DDS degree from Complutense University of Madrid and completed the Advanced Study Program for International Dentists in implant dentistry at NYUCD.
DR. BRIDGIT-DARELLE POWER, formerly a supervisor for the postgraduate program in prosthodontics at Dublin Dental University Hospital in Dublin, Ireland, has been appointed a clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics. Dr. Power earned a DDS degree from Dublin Dental University Hospital and completed the Advanced Study Program for International Dentists in esthetic dentistry at NYUCD.

DR. MARTIN C. PRAGER, formerly an assistant professor of restorative dentistry at UMDNJ New Jersey Dental School (now the Rutgers University School of Dental Medicine), has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Prager earned his DDS degree at NYUCD.

DR. JOHN F. RATHBAUER has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Rathbauer earned his DDS degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

DR. RYAN R. RUFF, formerly director of research and evaluation at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and an adjunct associate professor at NYU Steinhardt, has been appointed a research assistant professor of epidemiology and health promotion.
DR. JAMES M. UYANIK, formerly course director of oro-facial pain and dysfunction at Saint Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, has been appointed a clinical assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine. Dr. Uyanik earned a DDS degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine and completed an oro-facial pain and dysfunction residency program at the University of California Los Angeles.

DR. SPYRIDON VARTHIS, formerly a clinical instructor of dentistry at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, has been appointed a clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics. Dr. Varthis received a DDS degree from Luliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Romania, an MS degree in prosthodontics from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, and a PhD degree in the science of education from Columbia Teachers College.

DR. YING J. WONG, formerly an executive committee member and a principal investigator of analgesic studies at the NYU PEARL Network, has been appointed a clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care. Dr. Wong received a DDS degree from Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine and an MS degree in chemistry from Clemson University in South Carolina.
Promoting Our Own

MS. SUSAN ABRAHAM, formerly director of administration, has been promoted to senior director of administration.

DR. MANI ALIKHANI, formerly an assistant professor of orthodontics, has been promoted to associate professor of orthodontics.

DR. WILLIAM W. BONGIorno, formerly a part-time clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, has been appointed a full-time clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care.
DR. PAULO COELHO, formerly an assistant professor and director of implant research in the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and the Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, has been promoted to associate professor in those departments.

MS. JOANNE DUNBAR, formerly assistant director of Financial Aid, has been promoted to associate director of Financial Aid and Support Services.

MS. ELS EERDEKENS, formerly a human resources generalist, has been promoted to human resources manager.

MR. OSCAR ELLESEFF, formerly director of clinical technology information services, has been promoted to senior director of clinical information technology services.
MS. ROBIN ELLIOTT, formerly a lead patient services representative in the Office of Clinical Affairs, has been promoted to clinic manager.

MR. MITCHEL ERVIN, formerly manager of audio and visual media services, has been promoted to assistant director of educational media.

MR. JARETT J. GILBERT, formerly manager of special events and international marketing in the Office of International Programs, has been promoted to director of Continuing Dental Education at NYUCD’s Linhart Continuing Dental Education Program.

DR. THOMAS GIUGLIANO, formerly a part-time clinical assistant professor in the Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, has been appointed a full-time clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics.
**DR. LEILA JAHANGIRI**, formerly a clinical associate professor of prosthodontics, has been promoted to clinical professor of prosthodontics. Dr. Jahangiri, who chairs the Department of Prosthodontics, was recently honored as the recipient of one of only five University-wide Distinguished Teaching Awards presented in 2014. (See related story on p. 124).

**MS. JEAN GIORDANO**, formerly web communications specialist, has been promoted to associate director of communications and public affairs.

**MR. MORILLE JEAN-MARIE**, formerly manager of clinical supplies in the Office of Clinical Affairs, has been promoted to director of sterilization and materials management.

**MS. NADIA KUNAN**, formerly an administrative assistant at the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, has been promoted to department manager at the Bluestone Center.

**DR. KENNETH KURTZ**, formerly a clinical associate professor of prosthodontics, has been promoted to clinical professor of prosthodontics.
DR. WAYNE KYE, formerly a clinical assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, has been promoted to clinical associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry.

DR. ELISABETH N. LOPEZ, formerly an adjunct assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, has been appointed a research assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology.

DR. MAUREEN MCANDREW, formerly a clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care, has been promoted to clinical professor of cariology and comprehensive care.

MS. CHRISTINA MORROW, formerly assistant director of Academic Advising, has been promoted to associate director of Advising and Academic Support Services.

DR. MARY NORTHRIDGE, formerly an assistant professor of epidemiology and health promotion, has been promoted to associate professor of epidemiology and health promotion.
DR. KAY T. OEN, formerly a part-time clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, has been appointed a full-time clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care.

DR. KATSUSHI OKAZAKI, formerly a part-time adjunct assistant professor of endodontics, has been appointed a full-time clinical assistant professor of endodontics.

MS. ISABELLA PELLICCIARI, formerly a systems analyst in the Office of Technology and Informatics Services, has been appointed a department manager in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine.

MR. ALEX RUANO, formerly a web application programmer, has been promoted to assistant director of Informatics Services.

MR. ROBERT SANTIAGO, formerly a development associate in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, has been promoted to development officer.
DR. DEEPAK SAXENA, formerly an assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, has been promoted to associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology.

DR. ANDREW SCHENKEL, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and educational coordinator, has been appointed associate director of community-based education and patient care in the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care.

MR. MAURICE SHIRLEY, formerly student affairs administrator, has been promoted to program coordinator for Student Affairs and Academic Services.

MS. DENISE SHORTT, formerly an assistant manager in the Office of Central Sterilization, has been promoted to manager.

DR. BARBARA D. SLASKA, formerly a part-time clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, has been appointed a full-time clinical instructor of cariology and comprehensive care.
NYUCD Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Part-time Faculty

Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology
Dr. Kathy J. Dooley, adjunct instructor
Dr. Carolyn S. Fuss, adjunct associate professor
Dr. Jessica Manser, adjunct associate professor
Dr. Rhonda Quinn, adjunct associate professor

Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care
Ms. Kathleen W. Apitauer, adjunct instructor
Dr. Carolina Bank, adjunct associate professor
Dr. Tara Byrd, clinical instructor
Mr. Angelo Calcagno, adjunct instructor
Dr. Edath Ellis, clinical instructor
Dr. Mojdeh Faraz, clinical instructor
Dr. Sivan Finkel, clinical instructor
Dr. Craig B. Gimbel, clinical instructor
Dr. Maged F. Iskaros, clinical instructor
Mr. Daniel G. Karus, adjunct instructor
Dr. Marcie W. Lebovic, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Mei Li, clinical instructor
Dr. Sabrina B. Magid-Katz, clinical instructor
Dr. Fred A. Puccio, clinical instructor
Dr. Joyce A. O’Connor, adjunct associate professor
Dr. Jeffrey Romanowski, clinical instructor
Dr. Jeffrey S. Sacks, clinical instructor
Ms. Susan Schlussler, adjunct instructor
Dr. Edward Sherman, clinical instructor
Mr. Maurice Shirley, adjunct instructor
Dr. Richard E. Slutsky, clinical instructor

Dental Hygiene Program
Dr. Kristy Lee, clinical instructor
Dr. Martha Macaluso, clinical instructor
Dr. Nividita Puri, clinical instructor
Dr. Amy Stochel, clinical instructor

Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion
Mr. Mikako Deguchi, adjunct instructor
Dr. Christian R. Salazar, adjunct associate professor
Dr. Marcelo De Stefano, adjunct associate professor

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine
Dr. Ryan S. Lee, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Dennis A. Robbins, adjunct professor
Dr. Edward S. Roth, clinical assistant professor

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Robert A. Aslanian, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Bonnie S. Gitman, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Manolis G. Manolakakis, clinical assistant professor

Department of Orthodontics
Dr. Justin E. Bair, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Anderson T. Huang, clinical assistant professor

Department of Pediatric Dentistry
Ms. Suzanna Chen, clinical instructor
Dr. Nicole Lambert, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Varsha D. Reddy, clinical assistant professor

Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry
Dr. Babak Hamidi, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Trevor F. Simmonds, clinical assistant professor

Department of Prosthodontics
Dr. Daniel B. Feit, clinical assistant professor
Dr. Jason Lee, clinical assistant professor

Congratulations also to:

DR. LENA AL-SABBAN, formerly a part-time clinical instructor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on being appointed a clinical assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

MS. TATIA HAYWOOD on being appointed program coordinator for Advising and Academic Support Services.

MS. KELLIE R. KENNEDY on being appointed a clinical instructor in dental hygiene.
La Preciosita, Mexico, Welcomes NYUCD-Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program

When two vans full of NYUCD dental students, faculty, and residents rolled down the dusty road into the village of La Preciosita, Mexico, over spring break in March 2013,* “It was nothing like I expected,” says Igor Khabensky, who was a third-year dental student at the time. “I had heard that we weren’t going to be staying in a five-star hotel, but there were chickens, roosters, and mules all around.”

It was NYUCD’s second visit to this mountainous village, a two-and-a-half hour drive from Mexico’s fourth largest city, Puebla. When the NYUCD team first visited La Preciosita in March 2011, to see whether it would be an appropriate site for a dental outreach project, it was clear that the rural village met all of the outreach criteria. There was no dental care, a population of children with profound needs, a school in which to work, and strong local supporters to sustain the program.

But the village of 900 residents also had features that set it apart from the College’s past outreach destinations. “It’s a town run by women,” says Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, vice dean for international initiatives, development, and student affairs. “A lot of the men have left for other parts of Mexico or the United States to earn money that they send back to their families,” explains Dr. Hirsch.

In addition, there are no hotels or other tourist services in La Preciosita, so the 30-person NYUCD team would need to sleep in the villagers’ homes, sometimes using sleeping bags and cots for lack of bed space. It was the first time that a College of

There are no hotels or other tourist services in La Preciosita, so the 30 person NYUCD team would need to sleep in the villagers’ homes, sometimes using sleeping bags and cots for lack of bed space. It was the first time that a College of Dentistry outreach program would involve a home stay a component that made the intervention both culturally richer and more challenging.
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“It is fascinating and a very different type of experience from what we’d had before,” Dr. Hirsch says. The village had been identified by dentists from the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) as having significant dental needs. The collaboration began when two NYUCD students in the DDS/MPH dual-degree program, who had been studying at UPAEP during the winter session, approached their Mexican faculty about the project. UPAEP first sent representatives to New York and then hosted NYUCD’s global outreach planning team in Puebla, introducing them to La Preciosita’s school, Escuela Rural Federal Vicente Guerrero. It took more than an additional year for the project to become a reality, with much time spent securing permission to conduct dental care and bring in supplies and equipment.

In both 2012 and 2013, the team set up a clinic in the local school, which is attended by several hundred children. During the first outreach visit, the prevalence of decay among these children was found to be 87 percent, with an average of 4.5 decayed teeth per child. This extremely high rate of decay further underscored the need for

*In March 2014, the outreach team made their third visit to La Preciosita.*
preventive oral health services for the children of La Preciosita. NYUCD provided oral-hygiene education, applied fluoride varnish to the children's teeth, and trained all of the teachers in preventive care so that they could implement daily tooth brushing and apply fluoride varnish, of which the dental team left a year's supply. Dentists from UPAEP joined the intervention and agreed to follow up with children who needed further treatment.

For Igor Khabensky, in 2013, each day started with a wake-up call from a rooster. Then he and his housemates—well fed by their hosts—trudged up a dirt-paved road to the school amid the sounds and smells of dogs and sheep. They worked all day, providing sealants, fillings, extractions, stainless steel crowns, and root canal therapy.

Over five days, they treated 153 children and 185 adults, including those who had walked to the village from other towns. As the clinic got busier every day, they were able to complete treatment on nearly all of the children and applied 178 sealants. With Spanish translation provided by both NYU students and local dentists, the team reinforced the teacher training provided the previous year.

The team found a 12 percent reduction in the prevalence of tooth decay from the first year to the second—a decrease that is expected to continue as long as the preventive measures remain in place.

"Still, almost every child had a problem that needs attention," says Dr. Khabensky, '14, noting that the opportunity to provide dental care in a place like La Preciosita was one of the chief reasons he had chosen to attend NYU College of Dentistry.

The needs in La Preciosita are similar to the dental issues that the NYUCD outreach team sees in most of its outreach sites in impoverished areas. "The answers are not simple," says Dr. Hirsch, "but you have to look into people's cultures to find opportunity for changes. You can't say 'Don't eat this and don't eat that,' but if you give fluoride varnish and get kids brushing, you'll see some improvement without changing eating habits."

For students like Igor Khabensky, the high volume, hands-on experience working under the supervision of top dentists was a confidence builder. Dr. Khabensky was not new to procedures like extractions, "but having expert general dentists, oral surgeons, and endodontists, like Dr. Jennifer Frangos and Dr. Hirsch standing behind me, guiding me every step of the way, was enormously helpful," he says.
“From a cultural point of view, the trip was unparalleled,” says Alison Kurtz, assistant director of global outreach. “Students saw that their hosts offered us everything they had without hesitation. They worked from sunup to sundown, making traditional meals on outdoor wood stoves for our group. You could really feel the sense of community and how warm and welcoming they are. It completely changes your perspective when you’re in someone’s home.”

Dr. Khabensky agrees that, besides the appreciation he received from the villagers, the second most rewarding part of the trip was the abundance of fresh beans, tacos, bread, and eggs. At the midday break, women brought baskets of sandwiches to the school for lunch.

“This trip is particularly eye-opening for our dental students,” says Rachel Hill, director of global outreach and international initiatives. “They see the extensive need from children and adults coming into the clinic, but they also see how people live and gain a greater appreciation for the luxuries of life in the United States—not just our easier access to health care, but hot water and home heat. They also gain an appreciation for what they can do with their own dental skills outside a traditional office.”

Dentists from UPAEP have been visiting the village every three months to assist the teachers with the fluoride varnish applications and maintain the relationships that have been created.

—Barbara Kancelbaum

“Almost every child had a problem that needs attention,” says Dr. Igor Khabensky, ’14, noting that the opportunity to provide dental care in a place like La Preciosita was one of the chief reasons he had chosen to attend NYU College of Dentistry.

March 17 – 24, 2013, La Preciosita, Mexico Outreach Participants

Faculty/Staff/Administrators
Dr. Stuart Hirsch – Clinic Director
Ms. Alison Kurtz – Assistant Director, Global Outreach
Ms. Danielle Becker – Program Coordinator, Global Outreach
Mr. Christopher Tung – Research Administrator, Global Outreach
Ms. Ashlie Butler – Clinic Administrator
Dr. Aneta Mejia – Cariology and Comprehensive Care Faculty
Dr. Jen Frangos – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Faculty
Dr. Jennifer LaSasso – Pediatric Faculty
Dr. Patrick Ting-So – Pediatric Faculty
Dr. Courtney Linenberg – Endo Faculty

Residents
Dr. Courtney Beed – Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Melissa Wilner – Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Uthman Uthman – International Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Brian Warner – Endodontics
Dr. Dontra Scott – Endodontics

International Comprehensive Care Program Students
Dr. Andrea Lofano
Dr. Armaghan Ahmad
Dr. Pathida Patirapakarn

Alumni
Dr. Bobby Bakhshoudeh
Dr. Brian Kim
Dr. Hamid Hoveida
Dr. Amy Wong
Dr. Diana Campos
Dr. Siddiq Karim

Class of 2014
Dr. Igor Khabensky
Dr. Andrew Ramirez
Dr. Andi Miro
Dr. Mansi Mehta
Dr. FNU Ramandep
Dr. Shernique Wallace
Sometimes when you work so hard for something, it’s easy to forget what you’re working for. I remember when I was a child thinking that life was easy. People would ask what you wanted to be when you grew up; you would respond accordingly; and it was as simple as that—your future would be set out before you. My parents always told me: “Work hard, do good, and you can be anything.” So I grew up believing I would be a basketball player, and when I wasn’t dribbling a ball I would spend my time helping others.

I’m 27 now and on the cusp of achieving my dreams. I will be a dentist soon, and even though it’s not basketball, it’s a career choice I’m very satisfied I made because it will give me the opportunity to help people. But as we all know, achieving your career objective is not as simple as going from Point A to Point B. For the past three years my life has been lived in a dental bubble, in which my sole focus has been on fulfilling requirements for graduation. With the emotional stress that naturally ensued from rounds of test taking and clinical requirements, it became easy to forget why I wanted to be a dentist in the first place. Last spring, though, I was given the opportunity to participate in a clinical outreach to Mexico—an experience that helped me reconnect with my desire to be a dentist in a very dramatic way.

When I learned that I had been selected to participate in an outreach, I was excited to have the opportunity to learn more dentistry and to improve my clinical skills. Also, from what past outreach participants had told me, the experience would change my life, and I was excited to find out how.

For the past three years my life has been lived in a dental bubble, in which my sole focus has been on fulfilling requirements for graduation. With the emotional stress that naturally ensued from rounds of test taking and clinical requirements, it became easy to forget why I wanted to be a dentist in the first place.
The trip began with a bus picking up our large team from NYUCD. We quickly loaded numerous duffle bags filled with necessary supplies and headed for the airport. We landed in Puebla, Mexico, around 10 pm, local time. Early the next morning our team set out for a small town called La Preciosa. We arrived on a holiday, when it was initially quiet. We quickly set up our equipment; as soon as we finished, word spread that the “dentists were here,” and a line quickly began to form. We worked from early in the morning straight through for eight to nine hours; we treated everyone who was patient enough to wait. Early the next morning, the line —each day longer—formed again, and continued to do so throughout our five days onsite, with each day bringing a greater sense of fulfillment than the previous day.

Being removed from the daily routines and challenges of the dental school environment helped me to focus on my patients first and foremost as human beings, through caring and listening. This is the same philosophy promoted at NYUCD. But I think that, by being off-site, a person’s perspective expands, bringing with it a greater opportunity to focus on patients as individuals—on building trust as the foundation of a successful patient-dentist relationship. I know that this insight will strongly influence the way I practice after graduation.

When it was time to leave, every member of our team expressed a greater feeling of satisfaction than any of us had previously felt. We were grateful to have had the opportunity to provide a needed service for the La Preciosa community. For my part, I felt added gratitude for the opportunity to see and feel the bigger picture beyond completion of my dental requirements. The outreach reminded me why I had chosen to pursue dentistry; it renewed my passion for the profession; and it restored my image of myself as a healer.

I felt gratitude for the opportunity to see and feel the bigger picture beyond completion of my dental requirements. The outreach reminded me why I had chosen to pursue dentistry; it renewed my passion for the profession; and it restored my image of myself as a healer.
Outreach to Machias, Maine

It was a chilly, damp Monday morning as I entered the public school where we had set up a temporary dental clinic. I was struck by the long line of Machias residents waiting patiently for the facility to open. From the start, the participating NYU dental students radiated enthusiasm. It was my great pleasure to assist and guide them as they treated a constant flow of patients, some of whom presented with needs that the students had not previously encountered. Over the course of the week, I watched as the students gained increased clinical experience and expertise along with an expanded understanding of the impact that dentistry can have on patients who do not have access to routine dental care.

As the week progressed, I recognized some familiar faces, including a mother who, the previous day, had had a tooth extracted. Here she was again, bringing her young daughter for an exam. I noticed a man in the reception area waiting patiently for treatment who, only two days earlier, had confided in me that he suffered from a dental phobia which had prevented him from seeing a dentist for decades.

My most vivid memory is of one of our dental students sitting next to her patient as she proudly held a mirror up to show him his beautiful restorations, which she had just completed. The patient had arrived the previous day in need of many anterior restorations which would have been a challenge for even experienced practitioners. Now, both student and patient were smiling broadly—a true transformation had occurred both in the patient’s oral health and in the student’s confidence.

Just as our patients and students were being transformed, so too was I. I felt stirring in me a reminder of the many gifts I have been given: to be a part of the wonderful profession of dentistry; to have the unique and precious opportunity to teach and mentor the next generation of dentists; and to be able to have a positive effect on the health, appearance, and self-esteem of patients in need of dental care. For all this, I am grateful.

Over the course of the week, I watched as the students gained increased clinical experience and expertise along with an expanded understanding of the impact that dentistry can have on patients who do not have access to routine dental care.

By William J. Maloney, DDS

Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care
NYU College of Dentistry

I have been a practicing dentist for over 20 years and a member of the NYU dental faculty for nearly 14 years. I’ve had many wonderful experiences during these years, both as a practitioner and an educator. But my participation in 2013 as a member of the outreach team that visited Machias, Maine, under the sponsorship of the Henry Schein Cares-NYUCD Global Student Outreach Program, stands out as transformative for me, personally, and, I am convinced, for the participating NYU dental students.
Granada, Nicaragua, Is New Site of NYUCD-Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program

In a temporary clinic set up at El Colegio San Antonio, an elementary school in Granada, Nicaragua, Francesca Verratti, ’15, was trying to begin treating Katherine, a young Nicaraguan girl who needed several extractions. Katherine was squirming in her plastic chair, and every now and then cried, “Give me a break!”

“She was a little panicky,” says Dr. Verratti. “But after I finished treating her,” she adds, “she started hugging me and did not want to leave. That really touched me.”

During the week of September 28 to October 5, 2013, Dr. Verratti, along with 35 other NYUCD faculty and students, provided general and emergency treatment to adults and children in this underserved region of Central America where access to oral health care is extremely limited. While NYUCD has conducted outreach visits to Nicaragua before, specifically to the rural town of Chiquilistagua, this mission kicked off a new phase of the outreach effort.

Granada, fifth largest city in Nicaragua, is home to approximately 118,000 people. The outreach adhered to the same oral healthcare model that was implemented in Chiquilistagua and other NYUCD-Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach programs, such as those carried out in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, the tri-island nation of Grenada, and other regions with minimal access to oral care. The program provides emergency dental services for adults and complete, comprehensive care for children, including oral health screenings, fluoride varnish applications, sealants, restorative treatments, root canal therapy, and extractions. Over the course of one week in Granada, the NYUCD team provided comprehensive care for 314 children and emergency dental care for 440 adults.

In keeping with the goal of achieving a sustainable, preventive care model, the NYU dental team trained the principal and teachers at El Colegio San Antonio to keep logs of daily brushing and to reapply fluoride.
varnish and sealants every three months. Henry Schein, Inc., generously supplied 1500 pounds of dental equipment and Colgate-Palmolive, another key sponsor, provided toothbrushes, toothbrush covers, and toothpaste.

The program came about when, in spring 2012, Dr. Yakir Arteaga, a faculty member in the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, approached NYUCD’s Office of Global Outreach to propose an outreach to his home country of Nicaragua. Dr. Arteaga, who graduated from NYUCD in 2000, is originally from the small town of Nagorate in the municipality of León. He emigrated to the US with his family in 1984.

“The needs in Nicaragua are just unbelievable,” says Dr. Arteaga. “What we see—no fluoride, a high sugar and high starch diet, no access to a dentist—it’s just a recipe for disaster in terms of oral health.”

Nicaragua is the second poorest nation in the Americas after Haiti. With a population of about six million, Nicaragua faces many difficulties, including high levels of unemployment, illiteracy, and poverty. Access to oral health care is virtually non-existent, as exemplified by the fact that Dr. Arteaga treated a 25-year-old female patient who needed to have every tooth extracted. “Every single one was completely broken down,” says Dr. Arteaga.

“There’s a phrase I heard several months ago that keeps playing in my mind: ‘Culture eats strategy for lunch,’ “ says Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, vice dean for international initiatives, development, and student affairs and the outreach program director. “You have to know the culture and work with it,” adds Dr. Hirsch.

“Luckily, I work with a team of extraordinary people in the Office of Global Outreach. Our director, Rachel Hill, is a gifted problem solver. She and our entire team—Danielle Becker, Alison Kurtz, and Chris Tung—truly want to make the world a better place.”

To carry out a dental outreach of this magnitude always poses multiple challenges, beginning with the tremendous amount of advance planning required, including gaining permission from the Nicaraguan government.
to treat the public, securing visas, and dealing with overall safety issues.

At the same time, as with every global outreach, NYUCD was involved in identifying local partners who are committed to the program and want to help with in-country costs and logistics. In this case, Melanie Hughes and Guillermo Suescum, both part-time residents of Granada who had previously initiated a laptop program at El Colegio San Antonia and are also committed to improving the health of the children of Granada, served as NYUCD on-the-ground partners.

“Our partners were spectacular—sincere, hardworking, caring,” says Dr. Hirsch. “They provided transportation for our team, served us meals in their homes, and were on the scene at the clinic to help when problems arose. Partners like that are essential to ensure that things run smoothly.”

The initial baseline data of the children evaluated and treated in Granada revealed an approximate 56 percent prevalence of tooth decay. In fall 2014, the NYUCD outreach team plans to return to Granada to conduct a follow-up survey and continue with the

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Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch

implementation of the preventive program. "In a year we hope to see a radical decrease in decay in the children," says Dr. Arteaga, who is thrilled to be able to give back to his homeland in this capacity.

"It is such a great feeling," he says, "Not only to treat patients personally, but also to offer our students an expanded clinical and cultural perspective on oral health care. They learn how to make a difference in a very meaningful way, and also see what my beautiful country has to offer."

Dr. Hirsch agrees that global outreach opportunities such as these allow students to think about dentistry in a broader sense than usual. "Students ask themselves, 'What does a dentist do? He drills and fills,'" he says. "But just maybe there are other things that I could be doing to fulfill my role as an oral healthcare professional.' This change in thinking is what I find the most exciting."

—Stephanie Susnjara
September 28–October 5, 2013 Granada, Nicaragua, Outreach
Participants

Faculty/Staff/Administrators
Dr. Stuart Hirsch – Program Director
Dr. Yakir Arteaga – General Dentistry Faculty/Program Coordinator
Dr. Aura Caldera – Supervising Pediatric Faculty/Program Coordinator
Ms. Rachel Hill – Program Coordinator
Ms. Danielle Becker – Program Coordinator
Ms. Alison Kurtz – Program Coordinator
Mr. Christopher Tung – Research Administrator
Dr. Raid Sadda – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Faculty
Dr. Paul Rosenberg – Endodontics Faculty
Dr. My Tran – Pediatric Faculty Assessor
Dr. Brianne Hama – Pediatric Clinic Coordinator
Dr. James Toppin – General Dentistry Faculty
Mr. Sean Udin – Videographer

Endodontic Residents
Dr. Dontra Scott
Dr. Brian Warner
Dr. Moein Darjani

Pediatric Residents
Dr. Michelle Kim
Dr. Dena Sapanaro
Dr. Natalia Figueras

Class of 2014
Dr. Kostantina Abate
Dr. Mariel Petruk
Dr. Jonathan Geleris
Dr. Rebecca Navarro
Dr. Kathryn Fabela
Dr. Polina Chernyak
Dr. Brian Jae Shin
Dr. Gregory Lewis
Dr. Francesca Verratti
Dr. Sucheta Raghavendra
Dr. Tyra Cross
Dr. Jacqueline Dikansky
Dr. Leon Johnson

International Comprehensive Care Students
Dr. Davide Cuocolo
Dr. Lara Ceballos
Dr. Sarah Abdat

“Our partners were spectacular sincere, hardworking, caring. They provided transportation for our team, served us meals in their homes, and were on the scene at the clinic to help when problems arose. Partners like that are essential to ensure that things run smoothly.”

Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch
Outreach to Kathmandu, Nepal, Extends Opportunities for Learning and Care

In November 2013, less than a week before the NYU College of Dentistry outreach team was scheduled to depart for Nepal, they learned that their tourist visas were not going to be sufficient for providing dental services in a public school. Obtaining the new volunteer visas that were required could take five to six months.

Rachel Hill, director of global outreach and international initiatives, thought fast, adapting the program so that the Srongtsen Bhrikuti Boarding High School in Kathmandu, which was expecting a dental outreach visit, would not be disappointed. For months prior to the outreach program, she had worked with Kantipur Dental College, a local teaching hospital and research center, to register NYU dental faculty with the Nepali Medical Council, which would allow them to perform dental care under the supervision of local dentists. The last-minute changes meant that the NYUCD team would need to work within the clinics of the dental college instead of at the school as originally intended, and they would need to transport any children who needed dental care from the school to the dental college for their treatment.

“Any new outreach location is challenging for us,” says Ms. Hill, “and Nepal was a perfect example.”

With a somewhat smaller team, 21 outreach volunteers from the NYUCD-Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program embarked for Nepal on November 7. Their relief at finally arriving was tempered by new challenges.

“We knew that the country’s upcoming elections could present some unexpected events, but on the weekend we arrived, we learned that a 10-day general strike—the exact duration of our visit—would begin on Monday. As a result, there were huge disruptions in business and transportation,” says Ms. Hill. The team also had to take safety precautions, avoiding large demonstrations and protests.

It was a lesson in patience, but one that paid off, because the NYUCD team encountered one of the highest levels of tooth decay they had ever seen. They began by conducting dental examinations at the boarding school, located in a neighborhood called Boudha. The school serves about 750 students, about half of whom are children of Tibetan refugees living in exile.

“There were children as young as five with a mouthful of disease. We could not complete care on all the children only because there were so many emergencies. So it wasn’t a typical outreach activity.”

Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch
About 40 percent are boarders and the others come from the poor local and mountainous areas of Nepal. Children—whose tuition is sponsored by international organizations—learn Tibetan, Nepali, and English.

The team examined 211 children at the school but had to limit follow-up care to those with the most pressing needs—pain, active infections, abscesses, and other emergencies. Children who needed treatment were taken by a tourist bus to Kantipur Dental College, about 40 minutes away. In most cases, the children’s parents were able to accompany them on the bus and sit with them through their dental treatment, and when they could not, a nurse from the school acted as a surrogate. For some parents, it was a first connection to this source of treatment—albeit one that very few of them would be able to afford in the future.

“We found that treatment needs were incredibly great,” says Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, vice dean for international initiatives, development, and student affairs. “There were children as young as five with a mouthful of disease. We could not complete care on all the children only because there were so many emergencies. So it wasn’t a typical outreach activity.”

Samira Ehteshami, a fourth-year dental student, had
previously participated in three non-clinical outreach visits to Grenada, where she says prevalence rates of caries climb to 83 percent. “They were just as high and in many cases even higher in Nepal,” she says. “Many kids had completely decayed teeth on every surface.”

Dr. Hirsch attributes the level of dental distress to a combination of diet—including increasing consumption of sugary drinks and snacks—lack of education about dental health, and lack of access to care. Being in pain, he says, is a normal situation for many people, and going to a doctor often is not an option. Although there are about a dozen dental schools in Nepal, many are private businesses that rely on clinic fees and tuition, making them unable to provide affordable care for the poorest people.

At the boarding school, two NYUCD faculty members, Professors Jill Fernandez (pediatric dentistry) and Annette Huynh (dental hygiene), provided extensive oral-health prevention and nutrition education, reaching all of the children in the school and encouraging them to stay away from candy and to maintain daily oral healthcare habits. Now students will be brushing their teeth once a day in school, and all of the teachers are trained in applying fluoride varnish, which will take place every three months.

Dr. Ehteshami adds that the school nurse is a strong advocate who will sustain the project, and dormitory monitors will reinforce these activities
with the boarders. The leadership of the NYUCD outreach team also talked with the school principal about reconsidering the current selections in the school’s snack shop.

“Given the limitations, we were able to accomplish a lot for many kids, really emphasizing the importance of prevention and education,” Ms. Ehteshami says.

Funded by the Tibet Fund in New York and the Snow Lion Foundation in Nepal, the Kathmandu project was initiated by a faculty member at NYUCD, Dr. William Bongiorno, who first connected the Tibet Fund and NYUCD in 2011. On a 2012 site visit to Nepal, the Tibet Fund and Snow Lion Foundation hosted NYUCD’s global outreach planning team and introduced them to the Srongtsen Bhrikutti boarding school, whose principal, Venerable Jampa Phuntsok, has been extremely enthusiastic and welcoming. The Sherpa family, relatives of current fourth-year dental student Jenny Sherpa, also helped the team with advance planning and logistics in the country.

Despite hindrances and challenges, the program offered NYUCD the opportunity to fulfill its three-part outreach mission of conducting service, training, and research. In addition, it met the criteria for sustainability in terms of both local-partner involvement and funding.

“This program did a lot of good,” says Dr. Ehteshami, whose passion for public health and pediatrics led her to NYUCD, in large part because of the extensive dental outreach program. “It also gave me a unique opportunity to perform a high volume of dental care with one-on-one guidance from faculty and residents.”

Dr. Ehteshami recalls that one of her nicest memories of working in Nepal, besides the incredible cultural experience, was when one of the parents on the bus ride home, on the last day, said in broken English, “I’m going to remember you every time I look at my son’s mouth.’ All of us realized that with a limited amount of resources, we were able to use our skills to really help kids.”

Dr. Hirsch adds that, while the dearth of dental care in Nepal and elsewhere in the developing world is difficult to comprehend, it is important for students to face the disparities and to think more broadly about their careers as dentists. “This is an important part of our effort at the College of Dentistry,” says Dr. Hirsch. “Being a dentist is not just about sitting patients in a chair for 35 hours a week. It is broader. The dentists we’re training are very different from the dentists of the past. That is what is so exciting to us.”

—Barbara Kancelbaum

November 7 – 17, 2013 Kathmandu, Nepal, Outreach Participants

Faculty/Staff/Administrators
Dr. Stuart Hirsch – Clinic Director
Ms. Rachel Hill – Program Coordinator
Ms. Danielle Becker – Program Coordinator
Ms. Alison Kurtz – Program Coordinator
Mr. Christopher Tung – Research Administrator
Dr. Peter Catapano – Pediatric dentistry faculty
Dr. Azadeh Ahmadi – Pediatric dentistry faculty
Dr. Roma Vasandani – Pediatric dentistry faculty
Prof. Jill Fernandez – Pediatric dentistry faculty
Matthew Morrison – Videographer
Jim Lopes – Henry Schein Inc. – Photographer

Dental Hygiene Faculty
Ms. Annette Huynh

Pediatric Dentistry Residents
Dr. Jake Fried
Dr. Max Auer
Dr. Sheena Singh

Class of 2014
Dr. Samira Ehteshami
Dr. Jenny Sherpa
Dr. Laila Hubbi
Dr. Srijana Pokhrel
Dr. Neena Joshi

Ms. Ehteshami recalls that one of her nicest memories of working in Nepal, besides the incredible cultural experience, was when one of the parents on the bus ride home, on the last day, said in broken English, “I’m going to remember you every time I look at my son’s mouth.”
Travels with Dr. Teixeira

During a 10-day visit to Kuala Lumpur and Shah Alam, Malyasia, and to Seoul, South Korea, last November, Dr. Cristina Teixeira, associate professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics, combined a series of lecture presentations and meetings with prospective students, local faculty, dental school deans, alumni of NYUCD’s advanced study programs in orthodontics and in implant dentistry, local dental association and government officials, and a busy round of social events in her honor. Dr. Teixeira’s trip yielded applications for admission to the Advanced Programs for International Dentists and fruitful discussions of potential research collaborations.

In Malaysia, Dr. Teixeira, left, lectured at the dental school of the International Medical University. The founding dean of the faculty of dentistry, professor Chooi Gait Toh, is at the far right.

CTOR Goes to China

Dr. Mani Alikhani, associate professor of orthodontics and director of the Consortium for Translational Orthodontic Research (CTOR) presented several lectures in China last fall at the invitation of the chair of the Department of Orthodontics at Beijing University School of Stomatology and the professor and vice dean of the dental school at Zhegang Chinese Medical University in Hangzhou. His trip resulted in the recruitment of the first CTOR fellow from China, who will be joining NYUCD in July.

Dr. Alikhani, left, received a certificate of appreciation from Dr. Yanheng Zhou, chairman of the Department of Orthodontics, Beijing University School of Stomatology.

DR. ASGEIR SIGURDSSON IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THIRD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DENTAL CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI

Dr. Asgeir Sigurdsson, associate professor and chair of the Dr. I. N. and Sally Quaratararo Department of Endodontics, was the keynote speaker at the Third Annual International Dental Conference of Al Noor Hospital (IDCAN) held in Abu Dhabi in September 2013.

More than 200 regional dentists attended the continuing education conference, including five alumni of NYUCD’s Advanced Programs for International Dentists in endodontics, comprehensive care dentistry, implant dentistry, and biomaterials and biomimetics. This was the third consecutive year in which NYUCD has been conducting the conference in collaboration with the Al Noor Hospitals Group.

Dr. Sigurdsson’s topics included differential diagnosis, current treatment options based on new guidelines established by the International Association of Dental Traumatology, and updates in endodontics. He also led two well-attended endodontics hands-on sessions at NYU Abu Dhabi—one on rotary instruments and one on shaping root canals using a single file technique.
29 Countries Represented at International Programs Graduation

One hundred and fifteen dentists from 29 countries graduated from the Advanced Programs for International Dentists in 2013. Among the graduates wearing traditional costumes were, from left, Dr. Farkhanda Tirmizi from Pakistan (comprehensive dentistry), Dr. Anwar Al Ramadhan from Saudi Arabia (periodontics), Dr. Kamonpan Charoendech from Thailand (oral surgery), and Dr. Nahlah Alblowi from Saudi Arabia (aesthetic dentistry). Dean Bertolami is at the center.

Inaugural International Dental Education Award Presented to Dr. Samar Alsaggaf

Dr. Samar Alsaggaf, director of Medical and Health Services Programs for the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (center), received the first NYU International Dental Education Award from Dean Bertolami (right) and Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, vice dean for international initiatives, development, and student affairs, at the 2013 International Programs Graduation Ceremony. The award was presented to Dr. Alsaggaf for her commitment to expanded higher education opportunities for international health professionals.
Dr. Simone Duarte’s research is the stuff of science fiction: the effects of microgravity on microbial biofilms. With potential implications for the future of space travel, Dr. Duarte brings new meaning to thinking outside the box.

After earning her dental degree and an MS degree in pharmacology at Piracicaba Dental School—FOP/UNICAMP—in her native Brazil, Dr. Duarte came to the US in 2003 as a visiting scholar at the Center for Oral Biology at the University of Rochester in upstate New York. In 2005, she returned to her alma mater in Brazil, where she earned her PhD in pharmacology. Also in 2005, Dr. Duarte returned to Rochester to do postdoctoral training in oral biology at Eastman Dental Center. In 2007, after completing her postdoctoral training, Dr. Duarte was appointed an assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology at NYUCD, and currently holds that position, as well as the position of course director of pharmacology.

Dr. Duarte’s research focuses on the understanding and control of cariogenic dental biofilms using natural agents, such as fruits, and, most recently,
cashew nuts. Through this research, Dr. Duarte has observed and tested dental biofilms under a number of different conditions, including photodynamic chemotherapy.

Working collaboratively with NYUCD’s Dr. David Grier and Dr. Deepak Saxena, Dr. Duarte has begun to study the influence of microgravity on the microbial biofilm matrix.

“Space is a nice subject for anyone,” laughs Dr. Duarte. “I found a study that showed that bacteria organized in biofilms produced more resistance and virulence in simulated space microgravity. But before I started my research there were no data on biofilms matrix at all.”

Building on her prior research, Dr. Duarte is investigating several approaches to treating infectious diseases “associated with biofilms that form during space travel.”

As planning for the first mission to settle on Mars gets underway, it’s little wonder the space community has taken an interest in Dr. Duarte, who was invited to the 2013 ISS Research and Development Conference organized by the American Astronautical Society.

“Even though I work with oral biofilm, my research could be applied to any biofilms such as water systems that could become contaminated,” Dr. Duarte explains. “I currently have two grants pending with NASA which will allow me to send actual bacteria to space where we could get some real data. Keeping fingers crossed.”

—70andRobin Jeffrey Scher

As planning for the first mission to settle on Mars gets underway, it’s little wonder the space community has taken an interest in Dr. Duarte, who was invited to the 2013 ISS Research and Development Conference organized by the American Astronautical Society.
NYUCD officially dedicated its newest major facility, the architecturally stunning Septodont Hall, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Dean Bertolami in September.

At a reception preceding the ribbon cutting, Dean Bertolami thanked Septodont, a leading dental product development and manufacturing corporation led by CEO Olivier Schiller, who was present for the dedication, for a major gift which enabled renovation of the auditorium.

With seating for 443 people, the new Septodont Lecture Hall is NYUCD’s largest facility for student lectures, continuing education programs, and school-wide and community events. Renovations included technology upgrades, new lighting, and other amenities.

Said Dean Bertolami, “Septodont’s visionary gift has allowed NYUCD to create a 21st century facility that boasts the latest in technology, design, and function.”

Mr. Schiller, third generation heir to Septodont, said, “Our contribution to the creation of Septodont Hall is an opportunity to further enhance the excellent educational environment that NYU is known for around the world. We recognize the quality of dentistry that comes out of this fine school as well as the cutting-edge research that will make such a positive difference in how dentistry is practiced in the future.”
"Septodont's visionary gift has allowed NYUCD to create a 21st century facility that boasts the latest in technology, design, and function."

Dean Bertolami
NYUCD recognized major donors at a gala hosted by Dean Bertolami at the magnificent United Nations building at UN Plaza overlooking the East River in Manhattan.

“Over and over again,” says Dean Bertolami, “our alumni and friends demonstrate their belief in NYUCD’s vision for the future by making the College of Dentistry a philanthropic priority. Our gratitude to them is immense.”
Dr. Jeremy Kay is Litvak Fellowship Recipient

Dr. Jeremy Kay, a second-year resident in the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics and a teaching fellow in prosthodontics, is the 2014 recipient of the Dr. Harold Litvak Junior Fellowship in Prosthodontics.

“Prosthodontics is a dynamic specialty that integrates research, technical expertise, and artistry,” says Dr. Kay. “Thanks to my experiences in the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, I have learned that knowledge, creativity, dexterity, and humility are all qualities that prosthodontists are expected to demonstrate in order to provide the best possible patient care.”

“Dr. Kay was awarded the fellowship based on his academic excellence, dedication to patient care, and positive interactions with faculty and peers,” says Dr. Mijin Choi, clinical associate professor of prosthodontics and director of the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics. “We are thrilled to have him in our NYUCD family.”

The Litvak Fellowship was established in 1999 through a generous grant from Mrs. Adele Block in honor of her dentist, Dr. Harold 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.
NYUCD in the News
A SAMPLING OF RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

**NBC News Education Nation** selected Dr. Amr Moursi, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, as an expert on its new Parent Toolkit website. Dr Moursi will be consulting on pediatric oral health issues and writing periodic blog postings.

**NY1 News** reported on a new procedure developed at NYUCD that reduces the time required to wear braces by 60 percent. The procedure was co-developed by Dr. Cristina Teixeira, associate professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics, and Dr. Mani Alikhani, associate professor of orthodontics and chair of the Consortium for Translational Orthodontic Research.

**NY1 News** also interviewed Dr. Deepak Saxena, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, for a story on the health impact of e-cigarettes and Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for his opinion on an article in *The Journal of Dental Research* which suggests that not everyone may need two dental visits annually. This interview also appeared on YNN Rochester, YNN Capital and Region, and YNN Binghamton.

**NPR** interviewed Dr. Deepak Saxena, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on the Leonard Lopate Show about the potentially harmful health effects of e-cigarettes. The *New York Post* also interviewed Dr. Saxena on this topic.

**ABCNews.com** interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for a story on Miley Cyrus’s habit of sticking out her tongue for the camera and what it says about overall health.

**ABC7 New York Eyewitness News** broadcast a segment with Dr. Amr Moursi, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, about the effects of thumb sucking on older children and ways to prevent this habit.

**ABC7 New York Eyewitness News** quoted Dr. Amr Moursi, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, for a story on dentists being hired by New York City schools.

**ABC7 New York Eyewitness News and ABC7 Online** reported on the NYU College of Dentistry’s and College of Nursing’s free dental and general health screenings.

**ABC7 Online** interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, about the effectiveness of a newly marketed toothbrush that claims to provide brushing effectiveness in six seconds.
ADA News quoted Dr. Stuart J. Froum, clinical professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, in a story about the 2013 Open Clinical and Science Forum.

ADA News reported on a major gift by Septodont to NYUCD to name the Septodont Lecture Hall.

Machias Valley News Observer featured a story on NYUCD’s annual dental outreach to Machias, Maine.

NYSDA News published an article written by Dr. William Maloney, associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on an outreach program conducted by NYUCD in Machias, Maine, and reported on Dr. Donna Albertson’s appointment as a tenured professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and member of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research staff.

ADEA Charting Progress quoted Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinic education, on the medical management of dental disease.

El Diario La Prensa ran a story on NYUCD’s Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental van program.

News2 Nashville, an ABC-affiliate, featured Dr. Nancy Dougherty, clinical associate professor of pediatric dentistry, in a story on when children can start brushing their own teeth.

Roll Call, the Washington, DC, published newspaper that is delivered daily to all members of the US Congress, published an op-ed piece by Dr. Brian Schmidt, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and the NYU Oral Cancer Center, calling for more research on cancer pain, beginning with a Congressional hearing on quality of life in cancer patients.

Dentistry IQ.com announced Dr. Donna Albertson’s appointment as a tenured professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery with an appointment in the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, where she conducts research on oral cancer genomics.

The Chronicle of Higher Education featured Dr. Stephen Ross, assistant professor of psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine and clinical assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine at NYUCD, in an article on research into mind-altering drugs for terminally ill patients.

New York Daily News interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for a story on the image of the dentist in films.
Redbook interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for a story on the effects of drinking red wine on teeth and oral health.

Health Literary Out Loud Podcast featured Dr. Leila Jahangiri, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, on "Dentists and Patients: How to Communicate Clearly."

NBC Radio interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, on the effects of eating cheese on tooth decay.

Newswise.com and Infectioncontroltoday.com reported on study findings published by Dr. David N. Levy, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, about a new HIV-1 replication pathway which could advance efforts to combat the infection.

Allure magazine interviewed Dr. Leila Jahangiri, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, on how to avoid bad breath.

Cross Link Radio featured an interview with Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene Winnie Fumari on forensic dental hygiene.

USA Today quoted Dr. Leila Jahangiri, professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, in a story on ‘digital dentistry’ trends and their impact on the treatment and services offered to consumers.

Katie, the Katie Couric show on ABC7, interviewed Dr. Gerald Curatola, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care for two dental segments, one on “What is Your Oral Health IQ?” and the second on proper flossing, brushing, and use of mouthwashes.

Poughkeepsie Journal reported on NYUCD’s oral health outreach program in Poughkeepsie.

CUNY Newwire featured Ms. Diana Macri, clinical instructor of dental hygiene, in a story on how to maintain good oral health.

Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week reported on findings of underlying biological mechanisms of oral cancer pain.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer featured Dr. Stefanie Russell, associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and of epidemiology and health promotion, in a story entitled 'Dental Visits Safe and Necessary for Pregnant Women.'

Health & Medicine Week reported on a collaborative $840,864 grant to NYUCD and the NYU School of Medicine by the Lustgarten Foundation, on research conducted by the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology which produced new hormones findings; research conducted by the Department of Endodontics on the importance of educating youngsters and teenagers on how to avoid traumatic injuries to their teeth; research by the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery on new insights into osteonecrosis; and research by the Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry on the effects of smoking and diabetes on successful implant placement.
**Doctor Radio** produced a weeklong series of programs entitled "Start Your Summer With a Smile," hosted by Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education. This was the second consecutive summer in which Doctor Radio devoted a week of programs to oral health. Both weeks were hosted by Dr. Wolff.

**Doctor Radio** also interviewed Dr. Stefanie Russell, associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and of epidemiology and health promotion, on the possible link between periodontal disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; Dr. Deepak Saxena, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on e-cigarettes; Dr. Amr Moursi, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, on issues in pediatric dentistry; Dr. Glenn Rochlen, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care and group practice director, on aesthetic dentistry as we age; Dr. Brian Schmit, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and the NYU Oral Cancer Center on the link between HPV and oral cancer; Dr. Robert Glickman, professor and chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on the relationship between heart disease and dental disease; Dr. Mark Wolff on dental care from cavity prevention to gum disease; Dr. Cristina Teixeira, associate professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics on adult orthodontics; Dr. Miriam Robbins, associate professor and associate chair of the Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine on heart health and oral health; Dr. Ron Craig, associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, on better care of teeth and gums, and Dr. William Bongiorno, clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care, on the relative benefits of root canal versus implant therapy.

**Ladies Home Journal** interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for a story on tooth sensitivity.

**Fitness Magazine** interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, on whether just one dental visit annually is enough for the average woman.

**The Wall Street Journal** interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for a story about in-home dental services, particularly teeth-whitening services.

**Wall Street Journal Blogs** reported a story on the link between oral cancer and the Indian custom of chewing a combination of areca nut and tobacco, which featured Dr. Ross Kerr, clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine.

**Men's Health** featured Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, for a story on oral health. Dr. Wolff was interviewed on the topic of mouthwashes.
New Building Construction
Nearing Completion

The new, collaborative, 11-story, 170,000-square-foot building complex under construction at 433 First Avenue, across the street from NYUCD’s current campus, is nearing the final stages of construction, with move-in slated for January 2015.

Executive Vice Dean for Finance and Administration, Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, signs building plans at “topping off” ceremony.
A structure of immense grace and beauty, as illustrated in the accompanying images, the new building will feature a 10,000 square-foot Learning Commons occupying the entire third floor of the facility, which will be shared with the College of Nursing. The Commons (already visible from the street) will be filled with sunlight from windows on three sides.

The new building, which occupies virtually the entire block from East 25th Street to East 26th Street, will provide an additional 55,000 square feet for NYUCD, which will enable significant added teaching space and relocation of Student Services and Admissions offices, as well as relocation of two academic departments—Biomaterials and Biomimetics and Epidemiology and Health Promotion.

The new facility will also provide a home for the NYU College of Nursing and research space for the new NYU Polytechnic Bioengineering Institute, thereby enabling a truly interdisciplinary partnership with a focus on synergistic academic and research opportunities among the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing and the Bioengineering Institute.

Designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates in collaboration with EYP Architecture & Engineering, the building embodies immense grace and beauty, as illustrated in the accompanying images. The new building will feature a 10,000 square-foot Learning Commons occupying the entire third floor of the facility, which will be shared with the College of Nursing. The Commons (already visible from the street) will be filled with sunlight from windows on three sides. The Commons will have seating for 350, eight printing stations, a mix of quiet reading rooms for small and larger groups of students, a reading lounge, a café, a laptop lounge, group study rooms, and a service/help desk.
Other College of Dentistry new building highlights include:
- three 127-seat lecture halls, with power at each seat in the first three rows
- an 80-seat classroom
- four anatomy classrooms that will serve as dual purpose classrooms when not in use by anatomy classes
- a 27-seat classroom
- a 15-seat seminar room, and
- a conference room that seats 12 within the new Student Services and Admissions suite on the first floor.

The building will also feature an elegant 11th floor executive conference center, shown in the illustration at left. In the conference room, as throughout the building, warm earth tones will predominate.

Another new building highlight is the Student Services and Admissions suite, which will have a “Red Carpet” feel, designed, as Dean Bertolami says, “to show our students how highly they are valued as individuals and as the future healthcare professionals they will become.”

Located on the lobby level behind an etched glass wall, the 3,000 square-foot Student Services and Admissions suite will contain a 32-seat reception area, a conference room that seats 12, interview rooms for NYUCD applicants that can also serve as multi-purpose areas, and offices for Financial Aid, Student Services, Student Admissions, International Program Admissions, and Student Advisement. NYUCD students will also continue to have access to the Student Lounge, Student
“Having a state-of-the art, interdisciplinary, interprofessional building along the NYU Health Sciences corridor will create many opportunities for collaboration that will enhance our teaching, research, and service activities.”

Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, Executive Vice Dean for Finance and Administration

Study, and Student Activities offices located on the lower level of the Schwartz Building.

A new addition to the plans is a welcoming L-shaped courtyard, which will provide a pathway from the E. 25th Street entrance of the Weissman Building to the entrance to the new building at 433 First Avenue. Two designs are being considered for the courtyard, options 1 and 2, shown at right, which are available for naming at $250,000 and $450,000, respectively.

NYUCD’s Executive Vice Dean for Finance and Administration, Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, who has led the development and plans for the new building, said: “Having a state-of-the-art, interprofessional building along the NYU Health Sciences corridor on First Avenue will create many opportunities for collaboration that will enhance our teaching, research, and service activities.”

To learn more about naming opportunities in the new building at 433 First Avenue, please call Assistant Dean Rita Startup at 212.998.9920.
Student Affairs Success Network:
A Concept Whose Time Has Come

Achieving success—at school, in a career, in your personal life—we’re all striving to attain this elusive goal that—whatever form it takes—proclaims to all, “you’ve made it.” But the path to success is often paved with challenges both personal and professional. The pressures of being a dental student stand as a prime example of a journey fraught with such challenges. With that in mind, the Office of Student Affairs and Academic Support Services has created the Student Affairs Success Network.

“Our mission is to educate, engage, and empower each student to reach his or her full academic and professional potential and to collaborate with students, faculty, and staff to support them through their experience,” explains Staci Ripkey, assistant dean for student affairs and academic support services. “We want to facilitate connections one on one among students, faculty, and staff so that each student’s individual needs are known and addressed.” With a background in student development, support, and leadership in higher education, Dean Ripkey was motivated to create the network by a desire to streamline and strengthen existing structures.

Prior to the establishment of the network, if students failed an exam or faced other challenges, they would be referred to Christina Morrow, associate director of advising and academic support services.

“In the past, Christina Morrow had the enormous responsibility of being the sole advisor for 1,500 students,” notes Dean Ripkey. “She would meet with students referred to her and work closely with faculty and academic affairs to identify and reach out to all those who were struggling academically in an effort to help them get back on track.” To ameliorate the situation, NYUCD has shifted existing resources and support from being reactive to proactive.

The existing peer and faculty mentor programs were combined and a student support advisor component was added, creating a three-tiered support structure. The first-tier is the student support advisor. “With Christina Morrow taking the lead, we put out an informal call for and received responses from 14 volunteers from various departments,” explains Dean Ripkey. “We chose the number 14 because there are 14 group practices. A dedicated student support advisor for each group practice helps to bring students together, with the aim of creating a cohesive community.”
The initiative has had a positive impact on the learning experience, according to Billy Kwon, Class of 2017. “It’s easy to feel alone in a large class,” says Billy. “The faculty advisors have helped to build a collaborative environment, in which we feel safe and able to rely on one another.”

The advisors offer broad feedback on what the students’ major concerns are, which guides us in shifting support services in response. It’s a great informal channel of communication,” adds Dean Ripkey.

The second tier of the Student Affairs Success Network is a strengthened peer mentor program, which now assigns a mentor to each student from the moment of acceptance by the College. “Peer mentors provide insight into how to approach work in the classroom and be a successful student from a student perspective,” explains Dean Ripkey. “During orientation we connect the student with her or his peer mentor, facilitating the opportunity for them to meet and interact.”

Success Network is the aspiration to create a sense of community and support, embodied in such initiatives as the recently created stress breaks. “We created study stress breaks just before Thanksgiving,” notes Dean Ripkey. “The breaks allow students to share their major concerns.”

“It’s great to have a little break, eat some food, talk to your peers. Such simple things make a big difference. I think the Student Affairs Success Network facilitates this process,” says Mr. Bagga. “The program’s name is appropriate. It’s here for us to succeed and have a proper outlet no matter your needs.”

—Robin Jeffrey Scher

“With my peer mentor, I can call and text anytime of the day and she’ll get back to me. Through my interaction with her, I’ve felt more capable of helping my fellow students through stressful times in the semester,” says Vandeep Bagga, Class of 2017.
NYU-Sponsored Interprofessional Education (IPE) Event Brings Together Medical, Dental, and Nurse Practitioner Students for Multiday Program at Bellevue Hospital Center

The patient came to Bellevue Hospital Center with a six-month history of fatigue, increased thirst, frequent urination, blurry vision, persistent bad breath, pain while chewing, and sore bleeding gums. She had not seen a physician since losing her job—and her health insurance—two years earlier.

She could have wound up in a dentist’s, physician’s, or nurse practitioner’s office. But on September 9, 2013, this patient—actually a professional actor trained to play a sick person—had the good fortune to be examined by students of all three professions, working together.

The scenario was part of an unprecedented interprofessional educational experience, held over three days in September, in which 84 fourth-year dental students, 168 second-year medical students, and 84 nurse practitioner and nurse-midwifery students gathered in small groups at the New York Simulation Center, operated by the NYU School of Medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center, to learn from one another and gain a stronger understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each profession.

The program, titled TOSH (“Teaching Oral-Systemic Health”), was funded through a grant from the US Health Services and Resources Administration to the NYU College of Nursing—part of a broader effort to move students toward working collaboratively in interprofessional teams to improve patient care and safety. “We envisioned the collaborative experience as a model of care that brings maximum value to patients and practitioners,” says Dr. Erin Hartnett, program director of the two interprofessional oral health programs at the College of Nursing: Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice (OHNEP) and Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH). “The program far surpassed our goals,” she adds.

During the unique interprofessional simulation and case-study experience, each team of five students met for 75 minutes with a “patient,” documenting the case history and taking turns teaching the other students how to assess the individual from his or her unique perspective. With faculty observing from outside of the room, dental students taught the others to perform an oral exam, medical students taught a cardiac assessment, and nurse practitioner and midwifery students taught a pulmonary assessment. At the end, each group met with a faculty advisor to discuss their thoughts on the collaboration and next steps for the patient, which involved using a team approach to develop a plan to manage both the patient’s diabetes and periodontal disease.

Dr. Tiffany Ralescu, ’14, had the task of explaining to the group the connection between diabetes—the presumptive diagnosis—and periodontal disease, and how dentists treat it. “The other students hadn’t known that dentists do different kinds of cleanings depending on the situation,” Dr. Ralescu says.

“Supragingival prophylaxis is most...}
common, but if a patient hasn’t had regular cleanings or has genetic issues or plaque buildup below the gingiva, a dentist needs to clean under the gingiva. We explained how you anesthetize each quadrant of eight teeth and scrape against the root to remove irritants.”

The move toward interprofessional education for healthcare workers has been gaining momentum since the Institute of Medicine released a set of quality and safety reports, beginning in 2001 with the groundbreaking Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century, which pointed to the importance of breaking down silos between professionals before they even enter the workforce.

“Those reports spoke to the need to educate health professionals as high-functioning teams to improve quality and safety in terms of patient care and outcomes,” says Dr. Judith Haber, the Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing and associate dean of graduate programs at the NYU College of Nursing, adding that a Lancet report in 2010 added momentum to the campaign for interprofessional education in health care.

“We didn’t start the trend, but we were among the earliest adopters of interprofessional education,” says Dr. Haber, who co-directs the OHNEP initiative at NYU. The alliance formed between the NYU Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry in 2005 has been a catalyst for collaboration in research, teaching, and practice between the two colleges. The College of Nursing and the NYU School of Medicine also have an interprofessional-learning program underway, with a grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, through which the two schools have designed and implemented the NYU3T (Teaching, Technology, and Teamwork) initiative.

According to Dr. Kenneth Allen, clinical associate professor and associate chair of NYUCD’s Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, the Bellevue exercise represented a turning point in interprofessional healthcare education at NYU.

“Throughout the rest of their lives, these professionals should and
“There has been lack of accurate knowledge about the scope of practice of each profession, which actually does not serve the patient well,” Dr. Haber says. “Interprofessional learning experiences build knowledge about, respect for, and trust of, each other’s professions.”

will be interacting with one another,” says Dr. Allen, noting that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards stipulate that “Students… understand the roles of members of the healthcare team and have educational experiences, particularly clinical experiences, that involve working with other healthcare professional students and practitioners.”

To cite one immediate benefit of the group experience, Dr. Allen says, “It’s important that physicians and nurses look between the lips and back of the throat to recognize what’s normal and not normal, particularly in the case of oral cancers. The medical students who participated said that they would now be much more likely to do this.”

Driving the IPE curriculum was the document Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice, published by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative in 2011, which spells out the ways in which the healthcare professions must deliberatively work together to build a better, patient-centered healthcare system.

“There has been lack of accurate knowledge about the scope of practice of each profession, which actually does not serve the patient well,” Dr. Haber says. “Interprofessional learning experiences build knowledge about, respect for, and trust of, each other’s professions.”

Second-year medical student Allyson Herbst, who participated in the exercise, says, “Diabetes involves many aspects of patient care. Even though it’s a systemic problem, a patient can present at the dentist’s because the disease presents a number of oral health problems. In addition, physicians and nurses need to understand the oral aspects of disease, because patients will raise these issues.”

“Health care has always been a team effort,” says Dr. Thomas Riles, the Frank C. Spencer Professor of Surgery and associate dean of medical education and technology at the NYU School of Medicine. “But where it used to be mainly physicians and nurses working together, now there are other professionals involved, so we really have to think about how teams work, which is essential for patient safety.”

Dr. Riles notes that, at the New York Simulation Center, nurses and medical residents already train in teams. For example, in obstetrics, a team may consist of nurses, anesthesiology residents, obstetricians-gynecologists, and even non-medical hospital staff who might work together to address a problem. However, he says, medical students had not participated in training with dental students before the experience in September.

Students from all three disciplines reported that they were very impressed with the others’ knowledge and skills. “The dental students loved it, and everyone benefited,” Dr. Allen says, adding that dental students were particularly amused by other students’ inhibitions over putting their fingers in someone’s mouth.

In turn, Dr. Ralescu was surprised by the complexity of cardiac tests that medical students conduct and all of the places where one can take a pulse. The nursing students asked questions with a unique spin, she says, “because they see the full human being as opposed to just the cause of their disease. They asked...”

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how the patient was doing psychologically, with his depression."

Multiple students observed that there may be broader awareness and appreciation—on the part of the public and of health professionals alike—of the extent of education that physicians-in-training receive, whereas dentists’ and nurse practitioners’ training in systemic health issues is less well understood.

“I know there is a stereotype that physicians look down upon other professions,” Ms. Herbst says. “That’s why this experience was such a wonderful way to get to know each other and our skills. It was very interesting to see where our knowledge bases intersected and to see how we could share the basic facts about diabetes but still look at it through different lenses. The overlaps were greater than our gaps.”

Ms. Herbst noted that the nurse practitioner student with whom she was teamed knew as much as she did about diabetes, but both had much to learn about oral health.

As a nurse in the workforce for 30 years, Rosemary Gorman, RN, a fourth-year nurse practitioner student, had considerably more professional experience than the two medical and two dental students in her team. Her experience, she says, has confirmed that many “old-school” physicians do not always appreciate the extent of NPs’ knowledge and capabilities, but she is optimistic that educating professionals together earlier will lead to greater mutual respect.

Ms. Gorman recalls that, when students entered the patient’s room and began taking the patient’s medical history, the two medical and one dental student stood at the patient’s bedside, while Ms. Gorman sat down.

“The first thing I did was to suggest that everyone sit, so that the patient doesn’t have the sense that we’re about to run out the door,” she says. At the end of the session, Dr. Dorothy Wholihan, clinical assistant professor at the College of Nursing, reinforced the point, citing a study that showed that, in a five-minute meeting with a standing doctor or a sitting doctor, patients perceived that they had spent more time with the doctor who was sitting down.

“That’s just a small example of what we can teach each other,” Ms. Gorman says.

“One thing that really struck home with the students was that none of these professionals can completely handle these patients’ problems by themselves,” says Dr. Riles. “Just the simple understanding that a good patient outcome requires the efforts of several people was eye-opening.”

—Barbara Kancelbaum

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IPE Is Focus of Visit by California Legislators and CDA Officials

The core concept animating IPE—that no single profession can optimize patient care—is gaining substantial government as well as private foundation support and is poised to become the theoretical and practical foundation of healthcare education, research, and care going forward.

Interprofessional education (IPE) for health professionals, an initiative that involves students from different health professions learning with, from, and about each other with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of patient care, has become a major national movement in the past several years. The core concept animating IPE—that no single profession can optimize patient care—is gaining substantial government as well as private foundation support and is poised to become the theoretical and practical foundation of healthcare education, research, and care going forward.

Even before the movement began to gain national attention, leaders in dental and nursing education were championing it, as exemplified by the alliance formed in 2005 between NYU’s College of Dentistry, and the then-division of nursing at NYU, which became a College of Nursing within the College of Dentistry. With the shared goal of advancing
CDA Executive Director Peter DuBois said, “CDA is constantly stressing the importance of oral health to a person’s overall health. Visiting NYU’s one-of-a-kind nursing-dental collaborative program along with their other interprofessional initiatives was an exceptional opportunity to highlight that message for policymakers and to see, first-hand, a model of how that concept can be incorporated into health programs.”

both oral health and general health outcomes, the alliance has become a recognized model of IPE. So it is not surprising that, when a delegation of California state legislators, led by the executive director of the California Dental Association (CDA), Mr. Peter DuBois; Dr. Robert Hanlon, chair of the CDA’s Government Affairs Council; and Dr. Jim Wood, CDA member and candidate for the California State Assembly, wanted to see this model in action, they decided to visit NYUCD.

Dean Bertolami hosted the visit, which, in addition to Mr. DuBois and Drs. Hanlon and Wood, included Assemblyman Chris Holden, California State Assembly Majority Whip; Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation; Assemblyman Rob Bonta, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security; Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, Chair of the Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee; Senator Tom Berryhill, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions; and Assemblyman Adam Gray, Chair of the Assembly Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

The timing of the visit, in mid-September, was perfect, since it came just days after the completion of a three-day IPE training program cosponsored by the College of Dentistry, the College of Nursing, and the NYU School of Medicine. (See story on p. 102). The program, titled TOSH (“Teaching Oral-Systemic Health”), was designed to teach the ways in which collaborative practice can create more patient-centered care. Funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the program brought together over 300 dentistry, nursing, and medical students to collaborate in interprofessional teams on an oral-systemic case study, performing a focused exam on a standardized patient and participating in an oral-systemic discussion group about the experience.

The visitors met with three NYUCD students who have received IPE training: Dr. Navneet Dhaliwal, ’14, who participated in an elective patient assessment course with nursing practitioner students during the summer; Dr. Kostantina Abate, ’14, who participated in the TOSH initiative; and Ms. Samantha Wolff, ’15, who worked during the summer under the guidance of Dr. Brian Schmidt, director of the NYU Oral Cancer Center and the NYU Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, on an oral cancer research project. The group also included Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education; Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and associate dean for academic affairs; and Dr. Maja Djukic, assistant professor of nursing and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar at the NYU College of Nursing.

According to Assemblymember Susan Bonilla: “Seeing the innovative approaches that the NYU College of Dentistry has come up with really gives you a strong understanding of and appreciation for the value of collaborative patient care. This will be important for us to keep in mind as we work on improving California’s oral healthcare system and other healthcare programs. It’s helpful to be able to look at models like this.”

CDA Executive Director Peter DuBois added: “CDA is constantly stressing the importance of oral health to a person’s overall health. Visiting NYU’s one-of-a-kind nursing-dental collaborative program along with their other interprofessional initiatives was an exceptional opportunity to highlight that message for policymakers and to see, first-hand, a model of how that concept can be incorporated into health programs.”
Professional Growth Experiences that Changed the Way We View Ourselves as Future Dentists

By Stephanie Karapetian, ’15 and Cheryline Pezzullo, ’15

While admiring the view of Washington Square Park from a corner office on the 12th floor of NYU’s impressive Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, we had no idea that the following hour would forever alter our perceptions of ourselves as future dentists. We were at the Bobst Library to meet with Dr. Michael Alfano, former NYUCD dean and executive vice president emeritus of NYU, who we were told was a passionate advocate for interprofessional education, a concept we were just beginning to grasp after three months of intensive discussion in our honors in public health elective. While his passion was obvious, we had no idea that after that brief meeting, Dr. Alfano would personally challenge us to lead the way in communicating an understanding to our fellow students of IPE and its potential for the future of dentistry.

IPE, or interprofessional education, can be defined as “Occasions when (students) from two or more health professions programs learn with, from, and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of patient care.” While this seemed like an innovative approach to dental education and patient-centered care, we had no idea what the implications were for today’s dental student.
IPE, or interprofessional education, can be defined as “Occasions when (students) from two or more health professions programs learn with, from, and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of patient care.” While this seemed like an innovative approach to dental education and patient-centered care, we had no idea what the implications were for today’s dental student.

As a result of our meeting with Dr. Alfano, we had the opportunity to attend an IPE conference in San Francisco sponsored by the California Dental Association and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), in collaboration with other sponsors. We hoped that the conference would broaden our understanding of IPE and its relevance for us as students and future practitioners.

Our Take-Away from the IPE Conference

One of the key things we learned at the conference was the scope of IPE taking place at NYUCD, as a result of its alliance with the College of Nursing. We became aware that we, as students, are actually engaged in more IPE-centered activities than we realized. For example, we participate in monthly integrated case presentations, in which dental students throughout the four years, dental hygiene students, and nursing students work collaboratively to develop a treatment plan for an often-medically compromised patient.

It was at the very end of the conference, when the moderator asked, “Do we have any questions from our students?” that we realized where we would be able to fit into the realm of IPE. We asked, “How do you plan to promote IPE to future dentists?”

While there was a lot of discussion, there was no formal consensus, so we decided that we should take Dr. Alfano’s advice and aim to communicate the IPE concept to our fellow students. We’ve been exploring ways to do this, including by initiating a student-sponsored forum for all NYU health professions students; telling our story, as we are doing in this article; and reflecting on the role that IPE plays in our daily lives as NYU dental students.

After returning from San Francisco, we met with Dr. Amr Moursi, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, who added another dimension to our understanding of IPE by explaining the concept of a patient-centered “dental home” model of care, which he has adopted in his private practice.

Dr. Moursi explained that a “dental home” is an ongoing relationship between a dentist and a patient that includes all aspects of

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We became aware that we, as students, are actually engaged in more IPE-centered activities than we realize. For example, we participate in monthly integrated case presentations, in which dental students throughout the four years, dental hygiene students, and nursing students work collaboratively to develop a treatment plan for an often-medically compromised patient.
oral health care and also integrates oral health into general primary care in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way. He noted that in his private practice he collaborates often with both fellow dentists and physicians regarding a patient’s care. We think that his practice model expresses the IPE concept, which holds that no single health profession can optimize patient care.

**Participation in Global Outreach: Our Horizons Continue to Expand**

One of the most outstanding experiences we’ve had to date at NYUCD has been our participation in NYUCD’s Global Outreach Program, which teaches the importance of collaboration in the provision of dental care, an emphasis that is also at the heart of IPE. Although we were selected for different sites (Grenada and Mexico), we agree that the experience not only heightened our clinical skills but also made it clear why it is so important for professionals to work together for the overall well-being of the patient.

**La Preciosita, Mexico: Cheryline Pezzullo**

In La Preciosita, a rural village of approximately 800 inhabitants in Southern Mexico, the term “limited access to care” is an understatement, as the nearest city is approximately two hours away, and access to hot water is in fact a hot commodity—no pun intended. We had with us several faculty members from various specialties, along with DDS and dental hygiene students. The team was led by Dr. Stuart Hirsch, vice dean for international initiatives, development, and student affairs, all working for the same cause, to help alleviate the oral health disparities in this impoverished village.

There were hygienists and pediatric dentistry residents working tirelessly to treat every single child who came in, while also providing oral hygiene instruction. The oral surgery
faculty had its share of challenges, as not only were many teeth deemed non-restorable, but there were also instances of heat exhaustion among patients and even a nearby car accident in which a hit-and-run victim required immediate medical attention, which was provided by NYUCD’s Dr. Raid Sadda from the oral and maxillofacial surgery faculty.

As a rotating D3 student, I was able to practice in all of the specialties offered, which, in addition to oral surgery and pediatric dentistry, included endodontics and restorative dentistry. As a Spanish-language speaker, I also served as a translator for the patients, whose English was virtually non-existent. By the end of the week, we had treated all the children in the town—more than 150—as well as most of the adults, including many from neighboring towns who had traveled long distances every day for care.

To say that the experience changed my life and how I view myself as a health professional doesn’t do justice to my sentiments. Most dramatically, it gave me first-hand experience of a “dental home” in action, with professionals from various disciplines working closely and collaboratively on behalf of the health and well-being of patients.

Granada, West Indies: Stephanie Karapetian

It is common knowledge in dental school that having the opportunity to go on an outreach is life changing. From the stories other students share to the idea of traveling to an area where any kind of health care is considered to be a luxury, how could an outreach not change your life? I had been looking forward to my opportunity to travel with NYU on a global outreach since I was a freshman. I was especially interested in NYUCD’s Grenada Outreach, which I consider to be one of its greatest achievements.

Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral
Before arriving in Grenada, we were all aware of the disparities that existed there; specifically of the fact that, with a population of 110,000 people, including 26,000 children, Grenada has only 12 practicing dentists.

Stephanie Karapetian

clinical education; Dr. Stuart Hirsch; and Ms. Gracelyn Harris, a clinic manager at NYUCD, organized this outreach in 2009, when the then-Minister of Health in Grenada approached Ms. Harris, a native of Grenada, to ask for help for his country. In 2010, NYUCD completed Grenada’s first Comprehensive National Oral Health Survey of 1,078 children ages 6 to 15. The survey found the caries prevalence rate among the children to be 83.4 percent and that there weren’t oral health preventive measures in place. As a result of successive outreaches, there has been an 80 percent reduction in tooth decay, and, especially important, a locally sustainable oral healthcare model has been created and is being embraced by the nation’s government and families.

Fast forward three years to my participation in the February 2014 outreach to Grenada. We arrived with 13 faculty members, 9 residents, 1 dental hygienist, and 13 DDS students under Dr. Hirsch’s leadership. Before arriving in Grenada, we were all aware of the disparities that existed there; specifically of the fact that, with a population of 110,000 people, including 26,000 children, Grenada has only 12 practicing dentists.

On our first day, we set up our clinic in a youth center gymnasium. We had designated areas for pediatric dentistry, endodontics, oral surgery, and restorative dentistry. While every day was a new and exciting challenge, one case in particular stands out in my memory. A woman in her late twenties had come into the clinic with pain in three of her maxillary anterior teeth. The endodontics students were able to perform three root canals and ultimately referred her to me during my rotation in restorative dentistry. Upon examination, I found massive amounts of decay on each tooth. The woman asked, “Can you fix these holes in my teeth?” a question I had never been asked at NYUCD. I told her that I was going to do my very best. With Dr. Hirsch’s help, we
were able to restore this woman’s smile and make her teeth look like she had never had dark black decayed holes in her mouth. When we presented her with a mirror after we completed her treatment she was overwhelmed by the transformation of her entire facial appearance. Not only did she retain the three anterior teeth which she thought she would lose, but her demeanor also became much more positive.

**How Our Experiences Have Influenced the Way We Provide Care at NYUCD and Will Provide Care as Practicing Dentists**

This year of IPE exploration and global outreach has completely changed the way we view patient care and ourselves as healthcare professionals. From the minute we greet our patient in the waiting room, we now think about how many steps it has taken that patient to get to our chairs, how many other healthcare professionals—other dentists as well as physicians and nurse practitioners—have already treated her/him, as well as the insurance providers or government agencies that have given the patient the financial capacity to receive care. Although we might not meet any of these other providers, the minute we begin to examine our patient we know that we are part of the health professional team in that patient’s history—a responsibility we take very seriously.

We also feel a new sense of moral and professional obligation to gain the most detailed possible understanding of how the patient’s systemic condition could affect the future dental care he/she may need. By that same token, we want to be informed so that if our patients or colleagues have any questions about their condition or care, we can answer them confidently or, at the very least, refer them to the professional who does know best. We hope someday to work in an environment where this process is streamlined from a medical and dental standpoint, like the “dental home” that Dr. Moursi described.

Equally important is the obligation we feel to help improve the oral health of populations far from home. We could never have imagined the impact that our participation in outreach would have on us both personally and professionally and the commitment it would inspire in us to continue to provide care for underserved populations as practicing dentists.

This year of IPE exploration and global outreach has completely changed the way we view patient care and ourselves as healthcare professionals.
Sjogren’s Syndrome Researcher Dr. Caroline Shiboski Presents Inaugural Maurice J. Saklad Lecture

Caroline Shiboski, DDS, MPH, PhD, a professor of orofacial sciences and the director of the Oral Medicine Clinical Center and Post-Graduate Residency Program in Oral Medicine at the University of California San Francisco, presented the inaugural Maurice J. Saklad Lecture, “The Sjogren’s International Collaborative Alliance (SICCA) Data Registry and Biorepository: A Tale of Global Health,” on April 24 at NYUCD. The Saklad Lecture is dedicated to perpetuating the memory of Dr. Maurice J. Saklad, Class of 1941, NYU alumni trustee, and longtime member of NYU’s prosthodontics faculty, for whom the area adjacent to the Septodont Lecture Hall has been named the Saklad Atrium.

SICCA is an NIH-funded, international registry designed to disseminate SICCA data and biospecimens to the Sjogren’s Syndrome (SS) scientific community that will advance the field of SS research, ultimately leading to effective management/preventive strategies and therapies.

The Maurice J. Saklad Atrium

From left, Dean Bertolami, Dr. Caroline Shiboski, Dr. Stephen Shiboski

This bronze bust of Dr. Saklad was created by famed sculptor Robert Berks.
A Conversation with the Chair of the Academy of Distinguished Educators

To mark the fourth anniversary of the founding of NYUCD’s Academy of Distinguished Educators, Global Health Nexus spoke to Dr. Marjan Moghadam, chairperson of the Academy’s Executive Committee. Dr. Moghadam is a clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics and the co-director of the Fixed Prosthodontics Clinic. She is the Academy’s third chairperson, having been preceded by Dr. Miriam Robbins, clinical associate professor and associate chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, and Dr. Mitchell Lipp, clinical associate professor of orthodontics.

**Global Health Nexus (GHN):** What is the Academy and why is it important?

**Dr. Moghadam:** 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. Central to the Academy’s vision is the idea that teaching and learning are fundamental to the core mission of the college and that faculty members should be valued for their contributions in this area. Simply put, the Academy is all about improving the way we teach students and the way students learn.

**GHN:** What are the specific goals of the Academy?

**Dr. Moghadam:** The specific goals of the Academy are to:

- Enhance overall teaching at the college and to stimulate excitement among teachers around their intellectual content
- Encourage interest in teaching practice, change, innovation, and scholarship
- Network and collaborate with educators within and beyond NYUCD to share best practices
- Provide essential recognition of faculty accomplishments.
Central to the Academy’s vision is the idea that teaching and learning are fundamental to the core mission of the college and that faculty members should be valued for their contributions in this area.

**GHN:** Are there precedents for this type of academy?

**Dr. Moghadam:** Yes. NYUCD’s Academy of Distinguished Educators is modeled on the highly successful Academies of Medical Educators at both Harvard University and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). To create a model for NYUCD that would aspire to the stature of those programs while reflecting the specific nature and character of NYUCD required substantial time, effort, and leadership by my predecessors, Dr. Robbins and Dr. Lipp, and by the Academy’s executive committee. Within this context of foundation building, there has been substantial faculty scholarship undertaken to improve, critique, promote, and reflect upon community-engaged teaching and learning using a variety of vehicles.

During our inaugural year, I was privileged to be a founder of the Academy’s annual Clinical and Educational Scholarship Showcase, which is designed to focus attention on clinical research and innovative teaching strategies. I want to recognize Dr. Gary Goldstein, professor of prosthodontics, who approached Dean Bertolami prior to the formation of the Academy to recommend the establishment of a clinical recognition program equivalent to Research Day, which became the Clinical and Educational Scholarship Showcase.

In addition to recognizing faculty through the Showcase, we devote a great deal of time to pedagogy. A prime example is the Evidence-Based Dentistry Scholars Workshop—spearheaded by Drs. Analia Keenan-Veitz and Silvia Spivakovsky—which helps clinicians make healthcare decisions based on up-to-date, reliable, and accurate information. Additional activities that promote the Academy’s mission include:

- An annual Distinguished Speakers lecture series
- Publication of an online, open-access journal, the *Journal of the Academy of Distinguished Educators (JADE)*, whose mission is to endorse and reinforce the goals of the Academy of Distinguished Educators and to promote the free exchange of ideas regarding higher educational theory, methods, and tools

- A Teaching and Learning Journal Club—one of our newest initiatives
- The Academy Peer-to-Peer program
- The Excellence in Clinical Teaching certificate program.

**GHN:** Can you give an example of a highlight of your tenure as Academy chair?

**Dr. Moghadam:** A retreat that I led in December provided an opportunity for members to come together to look back on our formative years and to talk about where we want to go in the future. We reflected on the process of forming an infrastructure, bylaws, committees, and growing our membership—a major undertaking that was well worth the effort, because it has given us a strong foundation from which to explore progressive strategies for modern learning.

In addition to reflecting on our roots, the objectives of the retreat were to underscore the Academy’s open-

The Academy is exploring progressive strategies for modern learning.

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**The Academy is exploring progressive strategies for modern learning.**
communications character, to make Academy members more aware of the resources available to them, including funding for specific projects, and to spread the word that the Academy welcomes faculty to become involved at whatever level is most comfortable for them. I really wanted the retreat to feel like Thanksgiving dinner: everyone around the dinner table having an open discussion.

**GHN:** What’s next for the Academy?

**Dr. Moghadam:** Our priority is to weave the culture of the Academy more and more into the fabric of NYUCD as a whole—to be embraced by our academic community as something that is integral to the overall culture of teaching and learning. In this regard, the retreat played a pivotal role in strengthening our ability to work together as a community of dedicated teachers, to better define our vision and to commit ourselves to making it a reality.

To learn more about the activities of the Academy of Distinguished Educators, go to http://www.nyu.edu/dental/ade/

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**ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS**

Four NYUCD faculty members were inducted into the NYUCD Academy of Distinguished Educators for the 2013 2014 academic year. They are Dr. Rebecca Poling, clinical assistant professor of orthodontics; Vice Dean for Research and Academic Affairs Dr. Louis Terracio (honorary member); Ms. Winnie Furnari, clinical associate professor of dental hygiene; and Dr. Ronald Maitland, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care.

“NYUCD takes great pride in the outstanding contributions to dental education, research, and scholarship of these newest members of the Academy,” says Dean Bertolami. “In inducting them, the Academy continues to set very high standards for recognizing excellence in clinical and educational scholarship.”

From left: Dr. Rebecca Poling, Vice Dean Louis Terracio, Ms. Winnie Furnari, Dr. Ronald Maitland
New Issue of the *Journal of the Academy of Distinguished Educators* Online Now

The second issue of NYUCD’s open-access journal, the *Journal of the Academy of Distinguished Educators* (JADE) is online now at http://www.nyu.edu/dental/ade. JADE is the publications component of the NYU Academy of Distinguished Educators. JADE invites experts in higher education to face off on the thorny issues confronting higher education, at the same time as it endeavors to foster interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaboration.

 Appropriately, the new issue of JADE features a discussion of Interprofessional Education and Practice (IPE), a pedagogical approach to preparing health professions students to provide patient care in a collaborative, team environment.

In her guest editorial, Dr. Stefanie Russell, associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and of epidemiology and health promotion, notes that reaching beyond the borders of dentistry is fast becoming a central issue within the dental profession and that her “peak” experiences as a practitioner, regardless of the use of the term, have been informed by IPE.

The centerpiece article, “Interprofessional Education and Practice: An Opportunity to Reunite the Mouth with the Body and Make the Patient Whole,” by Dr. Kathleen Klink, immediate past director of the Division of Medicine and Dentistry at the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), and Dr. Renée Joskow, Senior Dental Advisor and Chief, Oral Health Branch (HRSA), discusses the ultimate goal of oral health integration and primary care: better health outcomes and the challenges to meeting this goal.

In her commentary, Dr. Judith Haber, associate dean for graduate programs and The Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing at the NYU College of Nursing, argues for a greater integration of oral health and general health in the teaching of dental, medical, and nursing students and emphasizes that it is our obligation as teachers to reach across academic silos to improve oral and overall health.

A second commentary, by Dr. Marko Vujicic, managing vice president of the ADA’s Health Policy Resources Center, discusses how dental care financing in the US has impacted healthcare delivery, access, and utilization.

JADE is the publications component of the NYU Academy of Distinguished Educators. JADE invites experts in higher education to face off on the thorny issues confronting higher education, at the same time as it endeavors to foster interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaboration.
Local Community Outreach Expands Dramatically

Today, NYU is a global network university that is “in and of the world” with campuses across the globe. At the same time, the University and its schools and divisions continue to strengthen a historic commitment to serving our local community.

“NYUCD has always had a community outreach program,” says Dr. Mark Wolff, professor and chair of the department of cariology and comprehensive care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education. “Two years ago,” says Dr. Wolff, “we moved to formalize this program with each of our 14 group practices taking ownership of different community-based programs, such as food pantries, homeless shelters, centers for abused women, foreign missions, senior centers, and foster care agencies.” The program is led by Dr. Wolff and Dr. Andrew Schenkel, associate director for community-based dental education and clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care.

More than 100 community outreaches are conducted each year. Since September 2012, more than 3,000 New Yorkers have been screened for dental disease and 8,500 toothbrushes have been distributed.

“Prior to the creation of my position,” says Dr. Schenkel, “with the exception of outreach activities conducted by the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, there was some local outreach but it was mostly organized by the students themselves and there was no educational component. Now, dental students throughout the four years go out several days a week in groups of approximately 15 students, under the supervision of three to four faculty mentors, to provide oral and general health education and comprehensive oral cancer and oral health screenings to the city’s underserved populations. Our program reaches reaches people of all ages from all five boroughs.”

There has been a special emphasis on meeting the dental needs of older New Yorkers. “We want to provide older adults with the tools, techniques, and support to enable them to age with vitality and independence,” says Dr. Schenkel. “This includes educating them on good oral health and providing expertise on brushing, flossing, diet, and caring for prostheses. Our students give presentations specifically tailored to an older population and are on hand to answer any questions they may have about oral cancer and oral health. Often, after the presentation, the seniors make appointments to come to NYUCD for treatment because they had such a positive experience during the outreach.”

“It is exciting to witness the way these outreaches transform our students and to hear someone say ‘thanks’ after an outreach,” says Dr. Wolff. “Our dedicated students and faculty do a great deal of good for our local community and really make a positive difference in people’s lives.”
A Sampling* of NYUCD Outreach to the Five Boroughs: September 2012 - April 2014

**MANHATTAN**
- American Diabetes Association (ADA) Expo
- B.E.S.T. NORC
- Booker T. Washington Beacon 54 School, Harlem Children’s Zone
- Canaan Senior Services
- City Tabernacle
- CoffeeHouse Senior Center
- Con Ed
- Administration for Children’s Services
- Covenant House
- Assembly Member Daniel O’Donnell
- Healthy Companions Senior Center
- Grand Street Settlement Senior Center
- Hamilton Senior Center
- Health Advocates for Older People
- Henry Street Settlement
- Highway to Health
- Hudson Guild - NORC
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Interfaith Church Center
- JASA
- Knickerbocker Village Senior Center
- Lincoln Square Neighborhood Senior Center
- Lower East Side Girls’ Club
- Mexican Consulate
- Mid-Manhattan Learning Center
- NYU Langone Medical Center
- New Life Tabernacle Church
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Our Lady of Pompei Church Senior Center
- Prince George Residence
- Rachel’s Place
- Selis Manor Vision Center
- Senator Liz Krueger’s 7th Annual Senior Resource Fair
- Seniors Day at Riverside State Park
- Sirovich Senior Center
- Times Square Community Residence
- United Sikhs
- University Community Social Services
- Woodstock Senior Center
- YWCA

**BRONX**
- Muslim Women’s Institute for Research & Development (MWIRD)
- NAACP Community Bronx Chapter
- River Bay Community Health Fair
- Run for the Bronx
- Senior Citizen Oral Health Day

**QUEENS**
- Adhikaar Outreach
- American Cancer Society, Eastern Division
- Greater Allen Cathedral
- Senior Residence
- Long Island City Health Center
- Flushing Community Health Day
- Grameen Health
- Langston Hughes Library
- Pan Am International School
- Queens Community House
- Queens Library
- Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP)
- Spring Community Fair at Rock Church

**STATEN ISLAND**
- Senator Andrew Lanza
- Safe Kids Staten Island Children Museum
- Special Needs Fair
- Grenada Day

**BROOKLYN**
- Assembly Woman Joan L. Millman Annual Senior Resource
- Bildarson 1568
- Caribbean Women’s Health Association
- Caribbean Community Senior Center
- Caribbean House Health Center
- Diaspora Community Services
- Fort Green Senior Center
- YWCA

**NEXUS**

Dental students throughout the four years go out several days a week in groups of approximately 15 students, under the supervision of three to four faculty mentors, to provide oral and general health education and comprehensive oral cancer and oral health screenings to the city’s underserved populations. Our program reaches people of all ages from all five boroughs.

* Additional programs are conducted by the NYUCD Department of Pediatric Dentistry.
NYU-Poly President and Dean of Engineering Dr. K. R. Sreenivasan Presents Guest Lecture at NYUCD on “All You Wanted to Know About Turbulence but Were Afraid to Ask”

Dr. Sreenivasan is at far left.

Dr. K. R. Sreenivasan, president of Polytechnic Institute of NYU and dean of engineering at NYU, presented a lecture at NYUCD on October 12, 2013, titled “All You Wanted to Know About Turbulence but Were Afraid to Ask” to a packed house of NYUCD faculty. Dr. Sreenivasan is also a University Professor at NYU, a professor of physics (Faculty of Arts and Science) and of mathematics (NYU Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences), and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

A highlight of Dr. Sreenivasan’s presentation was his demonstration of complex patterns of air turbulence achieved by shining a laser on smoke particles, as shown in the photo above.
“Reach Out and Read” Program Brings Joy and Laughter to Pediatric Dentistry Reception Area, Turning It into a Literacy-Rich Environment for Children

NYUCD’s pediatric dentistry waiting area has been transformed into a center of learning and excitement thanks to a wide assortment of colorful books and dedicated student volunteers.

Inspired by NYU Bellevue Hospital Center’s implementation of the Reach Out and Read program, Dr. Amr Moursi, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, brought the program to NYUCD in fall 2012. He put Ms. Kristin Juelson, pediatric dentistry department administrator, in charge of coordinating the “Reach Out and Read” program.

“‘Reach Out and Read’ is a national, evidence-based initiative promoting early childhood literacy by giving books to children during their medical and dental visits,” says Dr. Moursi. “Our student volunteers, faculty, and staff are enthusiastic about having our own program because it attempts to integrate parent education about literacy development into regular pediatric care for children.”

The program has collected over 2,000 books in English and Spanish—many donated by faculty and FirstBook.org, an organization that provides new books to children in need—and has recruited 25 student volunteers who go through a training program with Ms. Juelson and work in two-hour shifts.

“We have a great opportunity to do more with patient and family education. The “Reach Out and Read” program model has given us the structure to do that,” says Ms. Juelson.

“I grab books that have a lot of color and animation, such as Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Green Eggs and Ham, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs,” says Murad Ali, a pre-dental student volunteer from NYU’s College of Arts and Science.

Older children are also encouraged to read aloud to the younger ones, modeling book-related interactions for parents who sit nearby and watch. Every child is given a free age- and language-appropriate book after each visit so that they can continue their reading practice at home with their family.
Dr. Leila Jahangiri, professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, has been selected by an all-university committee as a recipient of the prestigious NYU Distinguished Teaching Award. The NYU Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes that, along with research, exceptional teaching, both within and outside the classroom, is among NYU’s institutional priorities. Dr. Jahangiri is one of only five faculty members university-wide to receive the award this year.

From the time Dr. Jahangiri joined the NYU College of Dentistry in 1995, following previous appointments at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, from which she graduated, and the UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School (now the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine), her penetrating intelligence, compelling teaching style, scholarly achievements, and leadership initiatives have brought her campus-wide recognition as a “go-to” person—a scientific and clinical expert, a consistently supportive, resourceful mentor, and an accessible, always welcoming colleague. More recently, she has increased her visibility and recognition university-wide, as NYUCD’s representative on the Joint Committee of NYU Stakeholders.

As chair of one of NYUCD’s largest departments, Dr. Jahangiri has played a key role in establishing NYUCD’s leadership in implant dentistry education. It was during her chairmanship in 2005 that NYUCD introduced one of the

First and foremost, Dr. Jahangiri is an extraordinary teacher and mentor with a zest for life and learning which she communicates in all of her encounters with students, transforming them into exhilarating, mutual learning exchanges.
nation’s first implant dentistry programs for predoctoral students. While dental schools had been offering dental implant education at the postdoctoral level for more than a decade, most schools had only recently begun to present these important therapies in the predoctoral program. Today, a predoctoral implant curriculum is mandated by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. NYUCD was able to take this pioneering step toward improving implant education and patient care in large part because of a generous $5 million gift from Nobel Biocare, which Dr. Jahangiri was pivotal in attracting.

Dr. Jahangiri’s teaching impact is felt equally at the postdoctoral level, where, under her tutelage, postdoctoral students in prosthodontics typically garner the majority of major awards at prestigious national competitions.

A global leader in her field, Dr. Jahangiri has written several major textbooks and has developed treatment techniques that others teach and adopt. First and foremost, however, she is an extraordinary teacher and mentor with a zest for life and learning which she communicates in all of her encounters with students, transforming them into exhilarating, mutual learning exchanges. Dr. Jahangiri’s passion for teaching is palpable as she tells students, “There is nothing you cannot do. You should feel free to push the boundaries, respecting the past but always looking to the future, and knowing that we, your teachers, will support you and that we will learn from one another.”

Commenting on the award, Dean Bertolami said, “Leila Jahangiri understands that the secret to success in healthcare education is a synthesis of scholarly expertise, the dynamic delivery of evidence-based materials, a focus on outcomes and on nurturing intellectual joy and enthusiasm in students.”

NYUCD congratulates Dr. Jahangiri on receiving this wonderful, well-deserved award in tribute to a master of the art of teaching.

The Class of 2015 achieved a 100 percent first attempt pass rate on part I of the National Board Dental Examination significantly above the national average. Such success has become the virtual norm in the past five years, with NYU dental students raising the bar on performance standards nationally. All of us at NYUCD take great pride in the Class of 2015’s achievement, which further increases the luster of an NYU dental degree.
MS. RACHEL HILL RECEIVES NYU’S HIGHEST ADMINISTRATIVE HONOR

Ms. Rachel Hill, director of global outreach and international initiatives, has been selected by an all-university committee to receive the 2014 NYU Distinguished Administrator Award. The Distinguished Administrator Award recognizes outstanding administrative and professional performance that helps NYU meet its strategic initiatives and contributes to the attainment of the university’s goals. Rachel is one of only five university-wide administrators to receive the award this year.

Since joining NYUCD five years ago, Rachel has played a pivotal role in expanding and strengthening NYUCD’s Global Outreach Program, helping to take it from approximately 4 weeks of outreach annually to a program that now conducts 15 weeks of outreach each year to dentally-underserved areas in both the US and overseas, with a focus not only on service, but on education, research, and financial sustainability. Approximately 200 pre- and postdoctoral dental students, dental hygiene students, and NYUCD faculty, staff, and alumni participate in these outreaches annually—all of them organized by Rachel and her team. NYUCD’s current outreach sites include Manta, Ecuador; Grenada, West Indies; La Preciosita, Mexico; Kathmandu, Nepal; Granada, Nicaragua; Machias, Maine; and Poughkeepsie, New York.

Through Rachel’s ability to create operational excellence on behalf of exceptional service, her concern for people, love of her job, desire to make the world a better, healthier place, plus her innovation and her commitment to partnership, Rachel has had a major impact on the scope and quality of NYUCD’s Global Outreach Program and on the culture of NYUCD as a whole. The Global Outreach Program has become an intrinsic part of NYUCD’s culture, transforming the students who participate, fostering pride throughout our community, and strengthening our ability to recruit top DDS and postdoctoral program applicants and...
For Rachel Hill’s overall performance as an administrator who models operational excellence, exceptional service, impact, and innovation; for her success in implementing complex, transformational projects which further NYUCD’s and NYU’s mission and priorities; and for her dedication to collaboration and partnership, it is altogether fitting that the University has recognized her with the 2014 NYU Distinguished Administrator Award.

Dean Charles N. Bertolami
FROM ARAB STUDIES TO DENTAL ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:
THE ODYSSEY THAT BROUGHT ME TO NYUCD

“You work where?” This is a common, initial reaction when I tell someone that I work at the NYU College of Dentistry. Often the response comes from people who know my academic background in political science and Middle Eastern Studies. I studied Arabic for more years than I care to admit; I hold an MA degree in Arab Studies; and I lived in Egypt and Jordan for a total of four years. So how did I wind up in the academic affairs office of a dental school?

The story starts in 1994, when I was a senior student at Fordham University in the Bronx. I was an honors student, and the university had a program to guide promising candidates through the process of applying for prestigious scholarships. As an area-studies specialist who needed ongoing language training, I was urged to apply for a fellowship that would pay for a year’s language study abroad as well as a portion of a master’s degree, in return for a work requirement that could be met by working in government or academia for one year. I was awarded the fellowship, and chose to study Arabic at the University of Jordan.

I had a fantastic year at the U of J, in an immersive Arabic-for-foreigners program with students from all over the world. After that I completed graduate school in the United States and came face-to-face with a two-year “repayment requirement” for my fellowship (as well as for my student loans). Working for the US government was certainly an option for students from my program—probably a quarter of my classmates did just that—but I chose to go a different route. I had the opportunity to go to work for the Jordanian government, so I took it, and once again packed my bags for Amman.

I arrived in Amman in October 1999, less than a year after King Hussein had passed away and his son King Abdullah II had assumed the throne. I was hired as a researcher in the International Press Office of the Royal Court; my boss was His Majesty’s press secretary.

“"I studied Arabic for more years than I care to admit; I hold an MA degree in Arab Studies; and I lived in Egypt and Jordan for a total of four years. So how did I wind up in the academic affairs office of a dental school?""
I had a fantastic year at the UI of I, in an immersive Arabic-for-foreigners program with students from all over the world.

(Yes, I’ve met King Abdullah, and also Queen Rania. Meeting royalty is an interesting experience; suffice to say, they’re not like the rest of us.)

My job was to read the English-language news from across the globe and to summarize any interesting bits on Jordan and the Middle East, as well as major world events and other topics of interest, like water rights and international trade. I also assisted with press inquiries, media entourages traveling with visiting dignitaries, and assorted other public-relations tasks. I had previously had a strong interest in the political uses of propaganda and information control, so this was a great job for me.

Two years later, the blush was off the rose, and I was preparing to move back to the States. I didn’t have a job and hadn’t decided where to live, so on September 6, 2001, I took some vacation time and came back to New York to evaluate and start the job hunt. I lined up an interview in Washington for the 11th and settled into a friend’s apartment to enjoy a few days off.

Needless to say, that job interview didn’t happen on September 11. Once American airspace re-opened, I returned to Jordan to find a changed country. A country that had previously been relaxed was very much on edge, with armored vehicles patrolling the streets. While a few people were pleased with what had been done in Islam’s name, most were horrified, and they were all afraid of what the US would do in response. Everyone recognized that the first shots of a war had been fired, one they didn’t want to fight, and they didn’t want to be caught in the crossfire. It’s hard to articulate: There was a sense that there was another shoe waiting to drop, people were afraid of the form it would take, and no one wanted to be anywhere near it when it fell.

Ironically, the September 11 attacks caused me to extend my stay in the Middle East by several weeks longer than I had intended. Work, as you can imagine, was a madhouse of international press inquiries and statements. When the flurry settled, I was able finally to return to New York, jobless but now knowing where I wanted to live. While I had friends and job prospects in both New York and DC, Washington in the post-9/11 world was not where I wanted to be. I chose New York, and it has rewarded me.

I also still had part of that old fellowship work requirement to meet. Over the years, the requirements had changed somewhat, and my work for the Jordanian government didn’t fully meet my obligation. Needing an income, I signed up with a temporary-employment agency and asked to be assigned only to educational institutions. I soon had a call, to work at the NYU School of Law. It was meant to be a temporary-to-permanent position, but I was deemed overqualified and let go after two months. A week later, a few days before Christmas 2001, I received my second call from the temp agency: Did I want a gig at the NYU College of Dentistry, in the academic affairs office? I said yes and have never looked back.

I’ve met King Abdullah, and also Queen Rania. Meeting royalty is an interesting experience; suffice to say, they’re not like the rest of us.
SPECIAL PATIENT CARE HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS MAKE MAJOR IMPACT AT NATIONAL MEETING

Seven senior students in the Special Patient Care (SPC) Honors Program presented posters and one student gave a talk at the Special Care Dentistry Association annual meeting in April. As this is only the second year in which NYUCD’s SPC program has participated in the annual meeting, this is a remarkable accomplishment.

The students and their poster titles are:

Dr. Manu Bharti, “Oral Health Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL) in Dental Patients with Multiple Sclerosis: A Case Report and Literature Review”

Dr. Steven Christofakis, “The Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP) in Haitian Creoles: Case Report, Literature Search, and Development of a Standardized Kreyol OHIP Survey”

Dr. Morgan Lewis-Smith, “Management of a Patient with Collapsed Vertical Dimension and Enamel Hypoplasia after Surgical Resection and Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancer,” which won the third place award from among 60 posters presented by students from across the country.

Dr. Peter Lim, “Use of Botox on Patients with Wolf-Hirshhorn Syndrome”

Dr. Rashmi Srivastava, “Art Therapy in the Dental Management of Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)”

Dr. Yewande Akinterinwa, “Oromandibular Dystonia: Case Presentation and Literature Review”

Dr. John Geleris, “Dental Management of a Patient on Bisphosphonate Therapy in a Dental School Setting.”

The oral presentation, by Dr. Khiem Nguyen, was entitled “Dental Management of a Patient with Advanced Alzheimer’s Disease: A Case Report and Literature Review on the Attitude/Belief of Caregivers of Chinese Ancestry.”

Also participating in the SPC honors program from the Class of 2014 were Drs. Bohun Choi, Celeste Mensah, Nadiya Khan, Oluwatoyin Fatogun, and Virginia Viviano.

“All of our students were very well received by the attendees,” says Dr. Miriam R. Robbins, associate professor and associate chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, director of the Special Patient Care Program, and vice president of the Special Care Dentistry Association. Dr. James D. Toppin, director of the SPC clinic and course director for the honors program, “Clinical Management of the Special Needs Patient,” adds that “Through their dedication, hard work, and research, our SPC Class of 2014 honors program students have increased the knowledge base in treating a very vulnerable population, thereby helping to build awareness and break down barriers to care.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO...

DR. KAMBIZ AFSHAR-MOHAJER, clinical assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, on receiving the Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics Award presented by the American Academy of Periodontology.

DR. MICHAEL C. ALFANO, senior presidential fellow and executive vice president, emeritus (NYU), and professor of dentistry and former dean, NYUCD, on authoring an article entitled “The Future of Dental Practice: It All Depends on You” for the Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University, Diamond magazine.

DR. MANI ALIKHANI, associate professor of orthodontics and director of the Consortium on Translational Orthodontic Research, on coauthoring an article entitled “Effect of Micro-Osteoperforations on the Rate of Tooth Movement” for the American Journal of Orthodontics, with Dr. Cristina Teixeira, associate professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics.

MR. ERIC W. BAKER, adjunct associate professor of basic science, on coauthoring an article entitled “An Innovative Method for Teaching Anatomy in the Predoctoral Dental Curriculum” for the Journal of Dental Education, with the late Dr. Phyllis A. Slott, former adjunct assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology; Dr. Louis Terracio, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and vice dean for research and academic affairs; and Dr. Elena Cunningham, adjunct associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology.

DR. JEFFREY BLYE, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on co-presenting “Web-based Image Editing Software for Publications Without Cost and Effort” at the ADEA TechExpo.

DR. TIMOTHY BROMAGE, professor of biomaterials and biomimetics and of basic science and craniofacial biology, on presenting a lecture entitled “What Cells Will Do For Global Climate Change” at the University of South Dakota and on being recognized by the University of South Dakota for his work in an online news
article published by the University of South Dakota’s Collegiate Times.


**DR. ALPER COMUT,** clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “A Technique to Salvage Endodontically Compromised Maxillary Anterior Tooth” for *The New York State Dental Journal*. Dr. Comut’s coauthors were Dr. Denise Foran, clinical assistant professor of endodontics, and Dr. Ralph Cunningham, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care.

**DR. ELENA CUNNINGHAM,** adjunct associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on coauthoring a chapter entitled “Finding the Balance: Optimizing Predator Avoidance and Food Encounters Through Individual Positioning in *Pithecia pithecia* During Travel” for *Evolutionary Biology and Conservation of Titis, Sakis and Uacris*, published by Cambridge University Press, and an article entitled “An Innovative Method for Teaching Anatomy in the Predoctoral Dental Curriculum” for the *Journal of Dental Education*. Added kudos to Dr. Cunningham on presenting a paper entitled “Ruffed Lemur Spatial Knowledge” at the CUNY Animal Behavior Initiative and on authoring “Effect of Fruit Scarcity on Use of Spatial Memory in a Seed-Predator, *Pithecia pithecia*” for the *International Journal of Primatology*.

**DR. ANGELA DE BARTOLO,** clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on being awarded fellowship in the International College of Dentists, Class of 2013.

**DR. RENATA DIAS,** clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics, on coauthoring a “Patient Satisfaction Survey of Mandibular Two-Implant-Retained Overdentures in a Predoctoral Program for The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry.” Dr. Dias’s coauthors included Dr. Marjan Moghadam, clinical
assistant professor of prosthodontics; Dr. Esther Kuyinu, clinical associate professor of prosthodontics; and Dr. Leila Jahangiri, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics.

DR. ELISE S. EISENBERG, senior director of informatics and clinical professor of epidemiology and health promotion, on authoring a Guest Perspective, “eLearning in Dental Education,” for the ADEA CCI Liaison Ledger. In addition, Dr. Eisenberg will begin a two-year term as a member of the ADEAGies Foundation Board of Trustees in July 2014; she has been elected a Member-at-Large by the ADEA Council of Sections for the Administrative Board of the Council of Sections; she coauthored an article entitled “What Dental Educators Need to Understand About Emerging Technologies to Incorporate Them Effectively into the Educational Process” for the Journal of Dental Education; she presented a lecture entitled “State of the Art: eLearning and Online Education Are Here to Stay” that was featured in the Bulletin of Dental Education; and she coordinated and facilitated the ADEA Leadership Institute Alumni Association Signature Series and the Teaching and Learning with Emerging Technologies and Information Short Talks Program, both for the 2014 ADEA national meeting.

DR. STEVEN P. ENGBRETSON, associate professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, on being the lead author on a major study entitled “The Effect of Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy on Hemoglobin A1c Levels in Persons with Type 2 Diabetes and Chronic Periodontitis: A Randomized Clinical Trial,” which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In the largest study of its kind to date, Dr. Engebretson and his colleagues found no significant effect of non-surgical periodontal treatment on diabetic status. Added kudos to Dr. Engebretson on coauthoring an article entitled “A Complex Haptic Exercise to Predict Preclinical Operative Dentistry Performance: A Retrospective Study” for the Journal of Dental Education, with Dr. Alice Urbankova, adjunct instructor of cariology and comprehensive care.

DR. DENISE J. ESTAFAN, associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on presenting a lecture entitled...
“The Latest Developments of Chairside Tooth Colored Restorations Using CAD/CAM Technology” at Dublin Dental University Hospital.

DR. JOHN S. EVANS, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on authoring an article entitled “‘Liquid-like’ Biomineralization Protein Assemblies: A Key to the Regulation of Non-classical Nucleation” for CrystEngCommJournal. The article was featured on the cover of the November 2013 issue of CrystEngComm.

DR. YURONG FEI, a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, on receiving an American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) Harold M. Frost Young Investigator Award to attend the 43rd Sun Valley Workshop in Musculoskeletal Biology in Sun Valley, Idaho.

DR. LAURIE FLEISHER, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on being appointed director of urgent care at NYUCD; to the ADA Advisory Team on Dental School Strategy and the ADEA Reference Committee on Administrative Affairs, and on being awarded the ADEA/American Association of Endodontists Foundation Scholar Award in the ADEA Leadership Institute and an ADEA Leadership Institute Fellowship; on her election as treasurer of the New York State Association of Endodontists and her role as Coordinator of the ADEA Online Career Fair: Coordinator of the Endodontic Section.

DR. STUART J. FROUM, clinical professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, on being installed as president of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP).

MS. WINNIE FURNARI, clinical associate professor of dental hygiene, on being featured on Cross Link Radio in a segment on managing diabetes with experts from pharmacy, podiatry, optometry, and dentistry.

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MS. WINNIE FURNARI, clinical associate professor of dental hygiene, on being featured on Cross Link Radio in a segment on managing diabetes with experts from pharmacy, podiatry, optometry, and dentistry.
MS. RHODA GLADSTONE, clinical professor of dental hygiene, on presenting a lecture entitled “Dental Hygiene: Reflecting on Our Past, Preparing for Our Future” at the annual American Dental Hygienists’ Association meeting.

DR. DAVID GLOTZER, clinical professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on reviewing the publication, Local Planning for Terror and Disaster: From Bioterrorism to Earthquakes, published by Wiley Blackwell, and on presenting a lecture entitled “Dentists as Emergency Responders, in a Disaster Surge Environment” at the International Preparedness & Response to Emergencies and Disasters IPRED III conference in Tel Aviv, Israel.

MS. MALEKHA GOHO, AAS Program in Dental Hygiene, on winning the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) competition to be District II ADHA Delegate representing New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania at the annual ADHA meeting.

MS. BRITNEY M. GREEN, ’16, on receiving the 2014 LeGrand Newman Scholarship of the Northeast Region of the National Association of Medical Minority Educators.

DR. JACQUELINE GREEN, ’14, on receiving the NYU President’s Service Award for the second consecutive year. Dr. Green was recognized for founding Women of Color in Dentistry, a peer mentor program. She also chaired the 2014 Oral Cancer Walk.

DR. MICHELE M. HARUTUNIAN, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on coauthoring an article entitled “Avoiding Impression Tears in Gingival Embrasures of Anterior Preparations” for the Open Journal of Stomatology, with Dr. Angela De Bartolo, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, and Dr. Denise Estafan, associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care; an article entitled “Teaming Students Together to Evaluate Each Other’s Cavity Preparation Using CAD/CAM Technology,” with Dr. De Bartolo and Dr. Gerald Klaczany, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care; and “Creating a Continuum of Learning Growth for the Dental Student Through Emerging Technologies,” with Dr. De Bartolo, Dr. Bruce Bandolin, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, Dr. June Weiss, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care.
associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care, and Dr. Estafán, both for MedEdPortal iCollaborative.

DR. LEILA JAHANGIRI, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, on coauthoring “Characteristics of Effective Clinical Teachers as Identified by Dental Students: A Qualitative Study” for the European Journal of Dental Education. Dr. Jahangiri’s coauthors included Dr. Maureen McAndrew, clinical professor of cariology and comprehensive care and senior director of professional development, and Dr. Thomas W. Mucciolo, adjunct assistant professor of prosthodontics. Dr. Jahangiri is also one of only five recipients this year of the All-University Distinguished Teaching Award.

(See related story on p. 124). In addition, Dr. Jahangiri and Dr. Miriam Robbins, associate professor and associate chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, have been elected to represent NYUCD on the Joint Committee of NYU Stakeholders.

DR. MARIA BELEN JAURENA, postdoctoral researcher in basic science and craniofacial biology, on being selected to present a lecture at the 2013 Gordon Research Conference on “Neural Crest and Cranial Placodes.”

DR. A. ROSS KERR, clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine, on coauthoring “Standard Examination and Adjunctive Techniques for Detection of Oral Premalignant and Malignant Lesions” for the Journal of the California Dental Association. Dr. Kerr’s coauthor was Dr. Sonal Shah, clinical assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine.


DR. KENNETH KURTZ, clinical professor of prosthodontics, associate director of the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, and assistant director of the Advanced Program in Prosthodontics for International Dentists, on coauthoring “A Rehabilitation of Children with Ectodermal Dysplasia, Part 1 and 2: An International Delphi Study” for...
the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants* and "Combination Lower Lip Prosthesis Retained by an Intraoral Component" for the *Journal of Prosthodontics*; on moderating the Inaugural Implant Symposium and the Sharry (Research) Competition, and on presenting a lecture entitled "Provocative Prosthodontics" at the 2013 American College of Prosthodontists annual session.

**DR. WAYNE KYE**, clinical assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, on being appointed to the New York State Board for Dentistry for a five-year term beginning January 2014.

**DR. YON LAI**, clinical professor of orthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled "Mandibular Permanent Second Molar Impaction Treatment Options and Outcomes" for the *Open Journal of Dentistry and Oral Medicine*.

**DR. ELLEN LEE**, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on being awarded first place for educational scholarship at the NYU College of Dentistry’s Academy of Distinguished Educators Clinical and Educational Showcase and on coauthoring an article entitled “Enhancing Performance in the Simulation Laboratory” for *Dentista Moderno*. Dr. Lee’s coauthors included Dr. Gene Sherwin, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, Dr. Arthur Goren, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care, and Dr. Lisa Antonoff, clinical associate professor of prosthodontics. Dr. Lee also coauthored an article with Dr. Goren entitled “Changes in the Job Market for Dentists Evaluated Through a Classified Advertising Index” for the *Journal of Investigative Dental Sciences*.

**DR. RONALD J. LEHANE**, clinical assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry, on authoring an article entitled “Lisinopril Induced Angioedema of the Lip” for *The New York State Dental Journal*; on being selected as a 2013 American Academy of Periodontology Foundation Institute for Teaching and Learning scholar; and, along with Dr. John W. Strange, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on completing the 2013 American Dental Education Association (ADEA)/Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL) Institute for Teaching and Learning program for early career faculty and dentists who are transitioning from private practice to a career in academia.
DR. MARCI LEVINE, assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, on presenting a lecture entitled “Treatment Dilemmas” at the annual meeting of AAOMS. Dr. Levine’s co-presenters were Dr. Asgeir Sigurdsson, associate professor and chair of the Dr. I. N. and Sally Quartararo Department of Endodontics, and Dr. Mijn Choi, clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics. The session was moderated by Dr. Andrea Schreiber, associate professor and vice-chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and associate dean for postdoctoral programs.

DR. YIHONG LI, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on coauthoring an article entitled “HIV Infection and Microbial Diversity in Saliva” for the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. Dr. Li’s coauthors included Dr. Deepak Saxena, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology; Dr. Zhou Chen, assistant research scientist in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Gaoxia Liu, assistant research scientist in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology; Dr. William R. Abrams, senior research scientist in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Joan A. Phelan, professor and chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine; Dr. Robert C. Norman, research associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion; Dr. Gene S. Fisch, research associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion; Dr. Patricia M. Corby, assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and associate director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research; and Dr. Daniel Malamud, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program at NYU CD.

DR. PETER LOOMER, clinical professor and chair of the Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, on completing the 2013 Chairs and Academic Administrators Management Program (CAAMP), an interprofessional, open-enrollment course designed for administrative leaders in health professions education.
MS. DIANA V. MACRI, clinical instructor in dental hygiene, on being featured in a radio public service announcement sponsored by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association to promote National Dental Hygiene Month and on receiving an ADEA/AAL Faculty of Color Tuition Scholarship for Professional Development.

DR. RONALD MAITLAND, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on authoring an article entitled “Debatable Evidence for the Adverse Drug Reactions to Local Anesthetics” for the Journal of Evidence-Based Dentistry.

DR. MAUREEN McANDREW, clinical professor of cariology and comprehensive care and senior director of professional development, on being appointed to chair the ADEA Section on Educational Research/Development Curriculum, as a site visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation; on coauthoring “Long-term Follow Up of a Dental Faculty Development Program” for the Journal of Dental Education; “The Use of Multiple Measures to Assess a Dental Faculty Development Program” for the European Journal of Dental Education; “The Role of Social Media in Dental Education” for the Journal of Dental Education; and the following abstracts: “The Effectiveness of an Online Tutorial on Domestic Violence Awareness for Dental Professionals” and “Assessing the Long-term Impact of a Dental Faculty Development Program: A Comparison Study; and on co-presenting a lecture entitled “Ten Things Every Dental Educator Should Know,” all presented at the 2013 ADEA annual meeting.

DR. WILLIAM MALONEY, associate professor of cardiology and comprehensive care, on authoring a paper entitled “Sigmund Freud’s Battle with Oral Cancer” and on coauthoring, along with Dr. George Raymond, professor of cariology and comprehensive care, “A Modern Exploration of a Cartesian Theory: the Multiple Oral and Dental Benefits of the Pineal Neurohormone Melatonin” for Dentista y Paciente. Added kudos to Dr. Maloney on coauthoring “Tojo’s Encrypted Denture” for The New York State Dental Association News, on appearing in a documentary on Babe Ruth’s cancer treatments entitled “Universal Babe,” and on being named a contributing staff writer for Dr.Biscupid.com and a reviewer for The International Journal of English and Literature.

DR. EUGENIA MEJIA, senior director of admissions, on her election as chair-elect of the Minority Affairs Section of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).
DR. SUZANNE MOTWALY, Class of 2014, on receiving the Colgate Research Scholarship Award presented by the American Association of Women Dentists.

DR. ELLIOTT MOSKOVITZ, clinical professor of orthodontics, on being appointed editor in chief of Seminars in Orthodontics.

DR. RICHARD NIEDERMAN, professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion, on presenting an advanced evidence-based dentistry workshop at ADA headquarters in Chicago.

MS. KIRA NIGHTINGALE, a junior research scientist at the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, has been appointed clinical research operations administrator at the Bluestone Center.

DR. MARY NORTHRIDGE, associate professor of epidemiology and health promotion, on receiving an NYU Goddard Junior Faculty Fellowship, which she used for a workshop held at NYUCD to introduce both researchers and practitioners involved in NYUCD’s interprofessional pilot study, “Primary Care Coordination by Dental Hygienists at Chairside: Developing and Evaluating an Electronic Tool,” to qualitative data analysis, including data gathered from focus groups and key informant interviews. Added kudos to Dr. Northridge on coauthoring “Recognizing Resilience,” an editorial for the American Journal of Public Health, of which she is editor-in-chief.

DR. VIKAS PATEL, Class of 2014, on being awarded a New York Academy of Medicine Margaret E. Mahoney Fellowship Award and grant to conduct research on methods to access underserved populations in the
New York area. Dr. Patel’s mentor on his research project was Dr. Andrew Schenkel, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and associate director of community-based education.

**Dr. Ivy Peltz,** clinical assistant professor and educational coordinator of cariology and comprehensive care, on receiving her PhD in Higher and Postsecondary Education from the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development and on being nominated for outstanding dissertation. Dr. Peltz was also appointed the NYUCD advocate for Medportal and copresented an educational workshop at the 2013 ADEA annual session and exhibition in Seattle.

**Dr. Joa n A. P helan,** professor and chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, on coauthoring the sixth edition of the textbook, *Oral Pathology for the Dental Hygienist* and on being interviewed about her career for a new student research journal, *Forum for Dental Student Research and Innovation.*

**Ms. Jordan Poulos,** AAS in Dental Hygiene, ’13, BS in Dental Hygiene, ’14, on being selected to serve on the American Dental Hygienists Association’s (ADHA’s) National Student Advisory Board for Region A, representing all students in dental hygiene programs in 13 states and Washington, DC.

**Dr. Nicholas Rallis,** clinical instructor in cariology and comprehensive care, on spending nine days providing free medical and dental services to people in Guatemala. The trip was sponsored by the Free to Smile Foundation, whose mission is to share resources and abilities with underserved populations and to train local healthcare providers to sustain the program.

**Dr. Karen Raphael,** professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine, on receiving a $150,000 NIH grant for a study entitled “Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial of Botulinum Toxin for Myofascial TMJ Pain,” on which she is the principal investigator; on presenting lectures on “Bruxism and

**DR. SEUNG-HEE RHEE**, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on her installation as president of New York State Academy of General Dentistry.

**DR. JEAN-PIERRE SAINT-JEANNET**, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on his appointment to the Neurogenesis and Cell Fate Study Section at the Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health.

**DR. ANDREW B. SCHENKEL**, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and associate director of community-based education, on coauthoring “Feasibility of a Computerized Clinical Decision Support System for Treating Tobacco Use in Dental Clinics” for the Journal of Dental Education. Dr. Schenkel’s coauthors included Dr. Donna E. Shelley, assistant professor of medicine at the NYU School of Medicine, Langone Medical Center.

**DR. BRIAN L. SCHMIDT**, professor of oral and maxillo-
facial surgery and director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and the NYU Oral Cancer Center, on being selected as one of six Mayday Pain & Society Fellows for 2013-2014. The Mayday Fellowship provides pain care leaders with skills to advocate for effective pain management. Fellows learn how to better communicate with the media, policymakers, and others to raise visibility for their issues.

**DR. ANDREA SCHREIBER,** clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and associate dean for postdoctoral programs, on being appointed chair of the Committee on Continuing Education and Professional Development for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS); and, along with Dr. Brendan O’Connor, clinical assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, on being inducted as an honorary fellow of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

**DR. MICHELE G. SHEDLIN,** adjunct professor of epidemiology and health promotion and professor of nursing at the NYU College of Nursing, on receiving a Senior Fulbright Scholarship to teach at the University of Szeged, Hungary, College of Dentistry, and to develop a grant proposal there to investigate causes for the increasing rates of oral cancer in Hungary, and on receiving an honorary university professorship at the University of Szeged, Hungary.

**DR. GENE SHERWIN,** clinical assistant professor of cardiology and comprehensive care, on receiving a fellowship from the Academy of General Dentistry.

**DR. ASGEIR SIGURDSSON,** associate professor and chair of the Quartararo Department of Endodontics, on being elected a Director of the American Board of Endodontics.

**DR. DESPINA SITARA,** assistant professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, on coauthoring an article titled “Molecular Bases of Disease: FGF-23 Is a Negative Regulator of Prenatal and Postnatal Erythropoiesis” for The Journal of Biological Chemistry; on receiving a four-year Scientist Development Grant from the American Heart Association for a project entitled “Role of Fibro-
blast Growth Factor-23 (FGF-23), A Risk Factor for Cardiovascular Disease, in Regulation of Hematopoiesis; a Career Enhancement Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research for a project entitled “Regulation of Hematopoiesis Is Mediated by the Bone-Derived Hormone Fibroblast Growth Factor-23 (FGF-23)”; for a Whitehead Fellowship for Junior Faculty in Biomedical and Biological Sciences for a project entitled “Role of the Anti-Aging Hormone Klotho in Hematopoiesis”; and for an NYU Research Challenge Fund grant for a project entitled “Communications Between Bone Cells and Hematopoietic Stem Cells.”

DR. ANDREW I. SPIELMAN, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and associate dean for academic affairs, on coauthoring an article entitled “Variation in Bitter Receptor mRNA Expression Affects Taste Perception” for 

SCIENCE DAILY and on participating as a panel member at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry annual symposium on IPE.

MS. JEANINE STABULUS-SAVAGE, clinical assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine, on receiving the NYUCD Teaching Excellence Award presented by the Class of 2015; on authoring “Different Labs” for the Journal of the American College of Dentists, “Ethical and Legal Issues on HIV Testing, Policy, and the Practice of Dentistry” for the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology, and “Adapting a Community Practice Model to Design an Innovative Ethics Curriculum in Healthcare” for Medical Principles and Practice; on chairing a session entitled “Oral Fluids, Like Blood, Should Have Ethical and Legal Considerations,” at the 91st annual session of the Inter-national Association for Dental Research; and on presenting a lecture entitled “Ethical, Legal, and Social Challenges to the Bloodbanking of Oral Fluid Specimens” at the 7th International Conference on Ethical Issues in Biomedical Engineering.

MS. PIROSKA SZALMA, clinical assistant professor of dental hygiene, on coauthoring an article entitled “Enhance Remineralization: Noninvasive Strategies to Support Remineralization Are Important Components of the Modern Caries Prevention Continuum” for Dimensions of Dental Hygiene. Professor Szalma’s coauthor was Ms. Sarah Yoon, clinical instructor in dental hygiene.

DR. ANTHONY VERNILLO, professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology, radiology and medicine, on receiving the NYUCD Teaching Excellence Award presented by the Class of 2015; on authoring “Different Labs” for the Journal of the American College of Dentists, “Ethical and Legal Issues on HIV Testing, Policy, and the Practice of Dentistry” for the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology, and “Adapting a Community Practice Model to Design an Innovative Ethics Curriculum in Healthcare” for Medical Principles and Practice; on chairing a session entitled “Oral Fluids, Like Blood, Should Have Ethical and Legal Considerations,” at the 91st annual session of the Inter-national Association for Dental Research; and on presenting a lecture entitled “Ethical, Legal, and Social Challenges to the Bloodbanking of Oral Fluid Specimens” at the 7th International Conference on Ethical Issues in Biomedical Engineering.
DR. RICHARD WELEDNIKER, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care, on being awarded Diplomate status at the International Congress of Oral Implantologists and an odontology fellowship by the American Academy of Forensic Science. Also, Dr. Weledniger was recently appointed editor of the American Society of Forensic Odontology Newsletter.

participating in the First Caribbean Oral Health Summit, where he presented the results of a three-year NYUCD study in Grenada aimed at reducing the incidence of caries in school children on that Caribbean island; on his appointment as dental consultant for Turner Wellness, a new Turner Broadcasting initiative designed to create health and wellness content for TV and digital media; on coauthoring an article entitled “In Vivo Effects of a New Dentifrice Containing 1.5% Arginine and 1450 Ppm Fluoride on Plaque Metabolism” for the Journal of Clinical Dentistry with Dr. Patricia Corby, assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and associate director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, and Dr. Gerald Klaczany, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care; and on coauthoring an article entitled “Delivering the Evidence—Skill Mix and Education for Elder Care” for Gerodontontology with Dr. Andrew Schenkel, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and associate director of community-based education, and Dr. Kenneth Allen, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and associate chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care; and on being interviewed for ADEA’s Charting Progress on NYUCD’s declining use of mercury amalgam restorations.

DR. CHO YI WONG, ’13, on receiving the 2013 American Academy of Periodontology AAP Student Award for Achievement in Periodontology.

DR. MARK WOLFF, professor and chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, on presenting an overview of NYUCD initiatives on health promotion and disease prevention in New York City to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; on

of cariology and comprehensive care and associate chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care; and on participating in the First Caribbean Oral Health Summit, where he presented the results of a three-year NYUCD study in Grenada aimed at reducing the incidence of caries in school children on that Caribbean island; on his appointment as dental consultant for Turner Wellness, a new Turner Broadcasting initiative designed to create health and wellness content for TV and digital media; on coauthoring an article entitled “In Vivo Effects of a New Dentifrice Containing 1.5% Arginine and 1450 Ppm Fluoride on Plaque Metabolism” for the Journal of Clinical Dentistry with Dr. Patricia Corby, assistant professor of periodontology and implant dentistry and associate director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, and Dr. Gerald Klaczany, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care; and on coauthoring an article entitled “Delivering the Evidence—Skill Mix and Education for Elder Care” for Gerodontontology with Dr. Andrew Schenkel, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and associate director of community-based education, and Dr. Kenneth Allen, clinical associate professor of cariology and comprehensive care and associate chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care; and on being interviewed for ADEA’s Charting Progress on NYUCD’s declining use of mercury amalgam restorations.

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CORRECTION: DR. PHILIP KOTICK was incorrectly listed as an instructor in cariology and comprehensive care in the Summer 2013 issue of Global Health Nexus. He is a clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care.
Alumni Association Gala for 2013-2014 Officers and Directors

NYUCD’s Rosenthal Institute was the site in December for a gala tribute to the 2013-2014 officers and directors of the Alumni Association:

President: Dr. Benjamin Godder, ‘85
President-Elect: Dr. William Bongiorno, ’73
Vice President: Dr. Michael Leifert, ’02
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Dr. Maureen McAndrew, ’83
Dr. Marjan Moghadam, ’02
Dr. Steven Resnick, ’75
Dr. Glenn Rochlen, ’86
Dr. Maria Rodriguez, ’84

From left, Dr. Amin Ayoub, Dr. Benjamin Godder, Dr. Elise Elsenberg (immediate past-president), Dr. William Bongiorno, and Dr. Roya Afshar-Mohajer

Dr. Maxine Feinberg, ‘80, Elected President-Elect of the American Dental Association

Dr. Maxine Feinberg, Class of 1980, has been elected president-elect of the American Dental Association. She will become president of the ADA next October at the Association’s annual session.

An ADA member for 32 years, Dr. Feinberg is immediate past trustee of the ADA’s 4th District (Delaware, District of Columbia, Federal Dental Services, Maryland, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands).

Commenting on Dr. Feinberg’s election, Dean Bertolami said, “As president-elect of the ADA, Dr. Feinberg is in a privileged position to help chart the future of dentistry at a time of great opportunity and great challenges for the profession. It was gratifying to me to read the ADA’s announcement of her election which quoted her promise to ‘move the association forward.’ I am confident that she is exactly the right person to fulfill this promise.”

NYUCD congratulates Dr. Feinberg on this tremendous achievement, which brings great honor to her alma mater.
Dr. Eduardo D. Rodriguez, ’92, Appointed Chair of the NYU Langone Medical Center Department of Plastic Surgery

Dr. Eduardo D. Rodriguez, a 1992 graduate of NYUCD and a renowned surgeon who made medical history, was appointed the new chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery and the Helen L. Kimmel Professor in Reconstructive Plastic Surgery at the NYU Langone Medical Center in November 2013. In 2012, Dr. Rodriguez led a groundbreaking 36-hour surgery in an unprecedented total facial transplantation and maxillofacial reconstruction of patient Richard Norris, now 39, who lost much of his face during a shotgun accident 15 years ago. The successful procedure transformed both Mr. Norris’s life and the future of plastic and reconstructive surgery. Prior to joining NYU Langone, Dr. Rodriguez was a professor of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and chief of plastic, reconstructive, and maxillofacial surgery at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Dr. Rodriguez earned a dental degree from NYU in 1992. He also holds a medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University. He completed postgraduate training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and in dental anesthesiology at Jackson Memorial Hospital/VA Medical Center in Miami, plus residencies in both general surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital/University of Maryland Medical Center, followed by a reconstructive microsurgery fellowship at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan.

“My training in dentistry and in oral and maxillofacial surgery was critical to our success as a team,” says Dr. Rodriguez, “including the ability to transfer all of the skin from the top of the head down to the clavicle, including the maxillary dentition, along with the mandibular dentition, and the anterior one-third of Mr. Norris’s tongue—everything came together as one unit.”

NYUCD congratulates Dr. Rodriguez on this prestigious appointment.

“
Dr. Maria Lisa Wexler, ’92, Memorial Scholarship Established

A scholarship in memory of Maria Lisa Wexler, Class of 1992, known to all as “Lisa,” has been established at NYUCD by her husband, Lawrence Wexler, her two daughters Kathryn and Emily, and son Michael. The Wexler family established the scholarship to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Lisa’s passing and to ensure that her memory lives on for future generations of students dedicated to her beloved profession and alma mater.

Classmates and friends who wish to contribute to the scholarship are requested to make checks payable to the NYU College of Dentistry and to indicate “Lisa Wexler Scholarship” on the memo line. Checks may be sent to the NYU College of Dentistry, Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 345 E. 24th Street, Room 1025S, New York, NY 10010.

Dr. Maria Lisa Wexler with her husband Lawrence Wexler.

Alumni in the Spotlight

’40s
DR. GERALD S. WANK, Class of 1945, on coauthoring an article entitled “Simplified Technique for Parallel Placement of Mini-Implants” for Dentistry Today.

’50s
DR. KALMEN D. EINBINDER, Class of 1959, on receiving the April 2014 Dentist of the Month Award from the Academy of General Dentistry.

DR. SHELDON WINKLER, Class of 1956, on publishing the third edition of his textbook, Essentials of Complete Denture Prosthodontics, which was released by ATBS Publishers. Dr. Winkler is currently senior editor of the Journal of Oral Implantology and executive director of the American Academy of Implant Prosthodontists.

’70s
DR. LESLIE G. BATNICK, DDS Program Class of 1977 and Advanced Education in Periodontics Program Class of 1979, on his election as a director of the American Academy of Periodontology.

DR. DALE L. CIPRA, Class of 1975, on receiving the Private Practice Award of the American College of Prosthodontists.

DR. LARRY ROSENTHAL, Class of 1972, on being the subject of an interview titled “Interview with a Dental Icon: Dr. Larry Rosenthal,” for Dentistry IQ.

DR. STEVEN SCHONFELD, Class of 1973, on his election as vice-chair of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

’80s
DR. ALAN WINTER, Class of 1973, on authoring his third novel, Savior’s Day.

DR. PETER A. GARDELL, Class of 1989, on authoring an article titled “Streamlining Adhesion with Universal Bonding Agents” for Dental Economics.

DR. GRAZIANO D. DIGLIO, Class of 1987, on receiving the Private Practice Award of the American College of Prosthodontists.

DR. GEORGE J. KATA, Class of 1985, on receiving the Academy of General Dentistry Fellowship Award.
'90s

DR. JOHN D. CONSTANTINE, Class of 1996, on his election as president of the Ninth District Dental Society.

DR. JOSE A. MORALES-DIAZ, Advanced Education in Orthodontics Program Class of 1993, on being appointed director of the postgraduate program in orthodontics at the University of Puerto Rico.

DR. LAURO MEDRANO-SALDANA, Class of 1994, on receiving the Pierre Fauchard Academy Distinguished Service Award presented by the New York Section of the Academy.

DR. EDUARDO D. RODRIGUEZ, Class of 1992, and chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery at the NYU Langone Medical Center (see related story on p. 147) on being featured in The New York Times about his role as the lead author on a recent report in The Lancet, which reviewed every face transplant procedure since the world’s first face transplant was performed in France in 2005, and found that the procedure is generally safe and feasible, and should be offered to more patients.

'00s

DR. ALBERT AMBRIZ, Class of 2010, on creating a new aesthetic dentistry technique, FloSculpt™ Technology, which was featured in Fox News Latino.

DR. MARCUS JOHNSON, Class of 2008, on being featured in an article in ASDA News.

DR. NICOLE HOLLAND, Class of 2010, on receiving an ADEA/AAL Faculty of Color Tuition Scholarship for Professional Development in the category of ADEA Summer Program for Emerging Academic Leaders.

MR. JOHN PAUL LAURENT, Dental Hygiene Program Class of 2011, on being featured in an interview titled “Career Corner: From Haiti to Paying It Forward” in RDH eVillage.

DR. AMY MANDALIA, Class of 2009, on being appointed sports dentist for the Atlanta Braves.

DR. LYNETTE PAGE, Class of 2008, on becoming a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry.

In Remembrance

Dr. Paul B. Alper, Class of 1965
Dr. Edward Anker, Class of 1963
Dr. Herbert Berger, Class of 1942
Dr. Ajit Singh Dhawan, former clinical associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology
Dr. Hyman Easton, Class of 1953
Dr. Gerald Gildenberg, Class of 1968
Dr. Jeffrey Golub-Evans, Class of 1966
Dr. Joseph A. Guarisco, Class of 1943
Dr. Heiner Hoffman, Professor Emeritus of Microbiology
Dr. Morris D. Koffman, Class of 1943
Dr. Vincent V. LaBruna, Class of 1958
Dr. Stanley Lamberg, Class of 1951
Dr. Kumar Shanmugam, clinical assistant professor of cariology and comprehensive care
Dr. Daniel M. Staub, Class of 1947
Dr. Gerald Vale, Class of 1948
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