GLOBAL HEALTH NEXUS

DISCOVERY
Part Two: Clinical Research

Special Guest Editorial:
“Clinical Research: The Time Is Now”
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New York University

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International research collaborations reinforce NYUCD’s commitment to the creation of a global community of knowledge.

Message from the Dean

What is the best way to serve the dental profession and the society in which we live? At NYUCD our answer to this question is to make our College the dental institution in the world with the greatest impact on oral health education, innovation, and outreach. Our quest to reconceptualize NYUCD finds us transforming our facilities, our academic programs, and our relationship with the practicing profession in a variety of exciting and innovative ways. We have already committed $22 million for capital projects that are dramatically enhancing the quality of life and learning on our campus, including several new facilities featured in this issue. The task before us is to raise an additional $28 million to complete our facilities agenda and to develop new programs and technologies commensurate with our vision.

Recently we sent a copy of our handsome new Capital Campaign brochure, Transformations: Our Building, Our College, Our Profession, to all NYU dental alumni throughout the world. Transformations outlines our case for raising the additional funds needed for NYUCD to achieve its objectives, among them the creation of a strong, two-way bridge between medicine and dentistry.

Developing New Therapies, New Partnerships, and New Practice Paradigms

This issue of Global Health Nexus, Part Two in our “Discovery” series, takes a close look at the solid clinical research infrastructures we have put in place to permit investigators to work together to pursue promising pathways in oral and systemic health and well-being. In the pages that follow, you will learn about some of the new patient-oriented clinical research being conducted at the College. Examples include investigations into improved oral health for HIV-positive women, new diagnostic procedures and treatments for oral lesions, and improved techniques for achieving optimally aesthetic results with dental implants.

Two premier clinical facilities, the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research (BCCR) and the Rosenthal Institute for
Aesthetic Dentistry, both featured in this issue, provide unparalleled environments in which first-rate researchers and clinicians are able to pool and harness their expertise to create possibilities yet unseen.

NYUCD’s M.S. Program in Clinical Research, which has as its mandate to train tomorrow’s leaders in clinical research, is also featured in this issue. And you will notice that we have expanded our “International Partners in Health” section to include international research collaborations, a move that reinforces NYUCD’s commitment to the creation of a global community of knowledge.

I am especially proud to call your attention to a wonderful guest editorial entitled “Clinical Research: The Time Is Now,” by Dr. Dominick P. DePaola, President and CEO of The Forsyth Institute. A Past-President of the ADEA, a member of the National Advisory Council of the NIDCR, and a former Dean of three dental schools, Dr. DePaola consistently offers penetrating and provocative insights into dental education, research, and practice. I’m confident that you will find his article compelling.

Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force Established

Closer to home, I am pleased to report that NYUCD is part of the new, federally funded Catastrophe Preparedness and Response Center at NYU, which has been established with a $7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. It is a point of pride that the idea for the Center grew out of a proposal submitted by NYUCD six months before September 11, 2001, to establish an NYU Center on Catastrophic Events. The goal of the new Center is to work closely with New York City and State, as well as the federal government, to look beyond the terrorist attacks and advise on how to best prepare for future emergencies, including the possibility of biowarfare.

In support of these goals, NYUCD has established an on-site Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force, led by Dr. Dianne Rekow. Task Force initiatives focus on adopting an integrated approach to intervention, facilitating training as “first responders” for dental professionals, communicating in a timely and reliable manner to the public, enabling rapid distribution of medical supplies, conducting research to help detect a biological weapon before it becomes a catastrophe and creating an emergency response plan for NYUCD. As part of the effort to raise awareness of the potential role of dentists in bioterrorism preparedness, I recently sent every NYUCD graduate a copy of the AMA’s updated Quick Reference Guide to Biological Weapons.

Things are also moving ahead at the national level. The Journal of the Academy of General Dentistry has devoted three issues to this topic, and the ADA News recently featured a cover story on terrorism preparedness. In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the ADA are planning to cosponsor a Consensus Conference on Terrorism Preparedness in March, and members of the NYUCD Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force have been invited to participate.

On all these fronts, NYUCD is working diligently to foster strategic collaborations within and beyond the dental community to make our world a healthier, safer, better world in which to live.
Clinical Research: The Time is Now

by Dominick P. DePaola, D.D.S., Ph.D., President and CEO, The Forsyth Institute

The spectacular scientific and technological advances of the past two decades offer dental medicine an unprecedented opportunity to transform clinical practice and revolutionize our profession. The challenge is to transfer these new research findings to the public domain through new diagnostics, new modes of prevention, novel therapeutics, and a generation of over-the-counter products that I predict will dramatically impact public health and well-being.

Whereas most of us are familiar with the concept of the clinical trial in which a new therapy is tested, the broader term “clinical research” also encompasses studies that occur earlier in the chain of drug/product development and that are a necessary prelude to actual human testing. For example, studies that draw correlations between the presence of a certain mediator in a human disease and its progression, e.g., elevated levels of prostaglandins (PG) in gingival crevicular fluid in periodontitis, set the groundwork for testing PG synthetase inhibitors to slow the progress of the disease. This is translational research; it goes hand in hand with clinical correlation and often involves “proof of principle” studies in an animal model of a human disease. Therapies that pass these tests move on to Phase I FDA studies, in which the safety of the drug/product is verified in a small population. Phase II studies involve a determination of efficacy, again in small populations. Phase III is the full-scale clinical trial, in which both safety and efficacy are again assessed in a much larger study group.

Why now? Many of us can recall a similar emphasis on translational and clinical research in the early 1970s. It was presumed that the basic knowledge to bring about dramatic cures, in cancer, stroke, heart disease, and even oral diseases, had already been developed, and
that the missing link was translation into clinical practice. In retrospect, of course, this presumption was naive. The basic knowledge of genes, molecules, and molecular mechanisms and the sophisticated technologies of modern biology were still decades away from realization.

The difference today is that, with the completion of the Human Genome Project, we now have at hand all of the essential information about the human organism. Certainly there is much work still to be done in terms of deciphering and integrating all of the genomic and proteomic data, and in determining how it all fits together. However, correlations with other animal genome projects, particularly the mouse, will allow scientists to efficiently test the role of individual genes in determining normal and abnormal development, healing and tissue repair, susceptibility to disease, and even longevity.

Why the urgency? Consider that the 2000 Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health was a clarion call to address the silent epidemic of oral disease. Consider that dental diseases remain the nation’s number one unmet health need, that too many children go to bed with pain from oral conditions, that they miss school and experience low self-esteem as a consequence of oral disease, that one person dies every hour from oral cancer and that control of oral infections has the potential to reduce the risk of systemic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, pulmonary disease, low birth weight, premature birth, diabetes, and a host of others. Consider that disfiguring clefts of the lip and palate are among the most prevalent human birth defects.

It is estimated that it takes approximately 20 years for a finding to proceed from the bench to the bedside, or for a new technology to go from concept to market. Dentistry, like medicine, is a conservative profession, predicated on the Hippocratic admonition to “do no harm.” Yet the landscape has changed and the vast benefits of aggressively translating science into practice now outweigh traditional caution. Over the past decade, the American public has strongly supported basic science research, most recently through a doubling of the budget of the National Institutes of Health. Payback time is now.

Translating science into applications that benefit society will require forging unique partnerships among the private sector, federal government, health
professions schools, scientists, clinicians, and the consumer. It will also require the acquisition and investment of sufficient resources to enable the conduct of multiple clinical research studies and trials in a manner consistent with today’s needs and tomorrow’s challenges. Unfortunately, there has been only modest emphasis on clinical research for decades, largely based on the assumption that translation into practice was premature. However, if we continue to approach clinical research non-aggressively and without appropriate partnerships and resources, we will not only be missing great opportunities, but indeed will be negligent in our collective responsibility to alleviate human suffering. As Einstein said: *Concern for man himself . . . must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors.*

The opportunities are truly unbelievable. Let me provide some examples for your consideration. One that hits home is that the scientific community is close to developing a vaccine for dental caries! Think about this for a second, a vaccine that can largely prevent the most prevalent infectious disease of mankind. Consider the effects of this vaccine on underserved populations in the United States and on children in third world countries who never see a dentist! Reducing dental caries world-wide is within the realm of possibility using the oldest public health strategy known, and now only awaits confirmation of efficacy in large-scale clinical trials.

As it stands now, the dental practitioner is still treating caries and periodontal disease using a “surgical approach” rather than with pharmaco-therapeutics. Existing antibiotics have shown great promise in reducing infections with oral pathogens in many studies, yet use in routine practice is still lagging. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are poised to work with the scientific and practitioner communities to develop new-generation antibiotics and novel therapeutics targeted toward oral pathogens. Moreover, new targets for therapeutics have been identified from the sequencing and annotation of the genomes of oral pathogens, like *Porphyromonas gingivalis,* a major causative agent of periodontal disease. We need clinical studies to confirm the efficiency and safety of non-surgical treatments for caries and periodontal diseases. How will these types of therapy affect access to care issues, the public health, and the practice of dentistry?

With the discovery of relationships between periodontal infections and systemic diseases, we need multiple, clinical intervention studies to confirm these relationships and to establish whether they are causal or not. But just consider the ramifications to the health of the public and to the integration of dental medicine into the medical community if we confirm that preventing or treating a periodontal infection will reduce the risk of cardiac disease. Of stroke. Of giving birth prematurely. These data will position dentists as crucial
players in overall health care delivery—as true primary care health professionals.

We are also moving closer to the time when diseased teeth and bones will not be replaced by artificial means such as implants, but can be regenerated using the principles of stem cell research and bioengineering. The impact on clinical practice of regenerating teeth and bones would be truly revolutionary. Moreover, scientists are working on the engineering platform(s) that will allow multiple salivary analytes to be measured precisely and simultaneously, like today’s standardized blood test, enabling saliva to be used like blood and other body fluids—only better because of the non-invasive nature of collecting it. Salivary antibodies can be measured to detect oral bacterial infections, diagnose viral hepatitis, monitor the progression of Sjogren’s Syndrome and drug and alcohol abuse, determine response to therapy in breast cancer, and even assess the progression of Alzheimer’s disease. With full appreciation of what this will mean to the public’s health, Dr. Larry Taback and many other insightful scientists are encouraging clinical research in this area.

Interestingly, both the caries vaccine and the tooth regeneration studies conducted at Forsyth, as well as at other institutions, have been widely reported in the print and broadcast media, and have captured the imagination and attention of the scientific community, the lay public, the private sector, and political decision makers worldwide. Accordingly, all signs point to the timeliness, the need, and the feasibility of forging a true National Agenda for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Clinical Research. The goal would be to identify those clinical research questions that have the most promise for success, secure sources of funding for those projects, reevaluate the educational requirements for dental and health care professionals to practice in this new environment, and build the necessary coalitions to advance the Agenda and create the political and consumer momentum necessary to transfer the science today . . . not later, but now!

From left: Dr. Pamela Yelick, Assistant Member of the Staff, Dr. Conan Young, Staff Associate, and Dr. John Bartlett, Associate Member of the Staff, all of The Forsyth Institute, observe the first tooth ever cloned.
On October 29, the Leonard I. Bluestone Center for Clinical Research (BCCR), under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Ship, Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and of Oral Medicine, opened at NYUCD, signaling a seismic change in the College’s ability to positively impact the health of the public. Located on the second floor of the Weissman Building, the BCCR is a brand-new, state-of-the-art, 8,500-square-foot facility dedicated entirely to the development, implementation, performance, and analysis of clinical research. The BCCR is named for the late Dr. Leonard I. Bluestone, Class of 1940, who bequeathed a $2 million gift to his alma mater in support of clinical research and education, with special emphasis on oral medicine and surgery.

“The BCCR changes the complexion of the College,” said Dr. Ship. “This is the largest center of its kind in any dental school in the world. For NYUCD, the Center adds the capacity to assess potential health improvements and move them into everyday use within a framework of the strictest regulatory controls and ethical guidelines. Moreover, the BCCR will provide training in clinical research for biomedical students and faculty.”

In dedicating the BCCR, Dean Alfano said, “The Bluestone Center will establish new connections among the various health programs both within and outside the University, and new paradigms for dental and medical care through clinical research. By partnering with neighbors such as the NYU Medical Center and Beth Israel Hospital, we can facilitate the cross-fertilization of medicine and dentistry to achieve better patient care, as for example, by studying new cancer therapies.”
The BCCR is designed to be user-friendly by both industry- and government-sponsored researchers and clinical trial participants. Because flexibility is a high priority, many of the spaces are multiuse. With eight beds, the BCCR boasts the only overnight clinical research facilities in a dental school in the nation. The Center has two surgical operatories, an eight-chair dental suite equipped with digital intraoral radiography and extraoral radiography/tomography, a dental laboratory, a biological laboratory to process samples, utility space, a medication storage facility, a nurses’ station, pantry, patient day lounge,
“This is the largest center of its kind in any
dynamic relationship with practicing dentists
in which they refer patients for clinical trials
and we provide practitioners with continuing
education that will allow them to stay ahead
of the curve in such areas as oral medicine and
oral surgery (especially implant surgery), bone
growth enhancement, and oral pharmacotherapy.”

and a 15-seat multimedia conference room,
as well as four administrative offices and
substantial storage space. All patient areas
in the BCCR are equipped with cable TV
and Internet access.

“One of our greatest measures of success,”
says Dr. Ship, will be our ability to maintain a

Above from left: Dr. Robert Berne, Senior VP for Health, NYU;
Dean Alfano; Dr. Robert Glickman, Dean and Professor of
Medicine, NYU School of Medicine. Inset from left: Dr. Martin
Blazer, Chairman, Dept. of Medicine, NYU School of Medicine;
Dr. Eric Rackow, Senior V.P. & Chief Medical Officer, NYU School
of Medicine; Dean Alfano and Dr. Ship.
dental school in the world.” Dr. Jonathan Ship
Training the Next Generation

Ananda P. Dasanayake, B.D.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Health Promotion and Director of the M.S./Certificate Programs in Clinical Research

When a child in a gene therapy trial developed an illness similar to leukemia last fall, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration put a “clinical hold” on other attempts to treat a severe immune deficiency with the corrective gene.

Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake quickly took note. He lectures on the meaning of clinical holds and dozens of other FDA initiatives to students in the Master of Science Degree Program in Clinical Research.

A clinical hold suspends a trial until safety concerns are addressed. Although the leukemia-like disease temporarily halted gene therapy experiments, an FDA advisory panel subsequently recommended continuing the trials with new restrictions and protections, such as clearly informing subjects of the risk of cancer. The panel felt that one adverse event did not warrant halting all testing, noting that gene therapy apparently succeeded in curing other patients, and that the risk of cancer so far appeared to be modest.

But Dr. Dasanayake says researchers in other cases haven’t fared as well with the FDA. “Promising research careers can be destroyed because the investigators don’t understand FDA and other regulatory agency rules,” he says. “Our program teaches researchers how to flourish within those guidelines.”
“For example, we show researchers how to design a better trial by understanding the nuances of FDA language,” adds Dr. Sylvia Most, a faculty member and former Vice President of Regulatory Affairs in a leading pharmaceutical company. “Researchers who know the difference between ‘should’ and ‘shall’ in FDA regulations will be better able to assess the kinds of things they can and cannot do in a trial. Rules that say ‘should’ are advisory; those that say ‘shall’ are mandatory.”

Students in the clinical research program get a first-hand look at the do’s and don’ts of scientific investigation by involving themselves in real-life trials in the new Bluestone Center for Clinical Research. They attend institutional review board meetings; write grants, protocols, and journal manuscripts; and perform statistical analyses and other critical tasks.

The program was established in 2001 to help address a shortage of trained clinical researchers in all health fields. The demand for clinical researchers continues to grow, with industry-sponsored trials expected to employ 56,000 principal investigators in 2005, up from 33,000 in 2000, according to CenterWatch, a clinical research newsletter. Thousands more will be needed for government, academic, and other nonprofit-sponsored research.

NYUCD’s Clinical Research Program prepares students for careers as clinical researchers in any health field. “Although we have a responsibility to help meet the acute need for oral health researchers, we also want our students to be able to take advantage of the wide range of other career options available to them,” says Dr. Dasanayake. “Few programs provide such broad-based training.”

Bernal Stewart, an oral health researcher with Colgate-Palmolive who is a first-year M.S. degree student, values the chance to collaborate with students across a broad spectrum of disciplines. “Putting together a successful trial depends on understanding what other researchers have already accomplished,” says Stewart, who tests toothpaste, whitening agents, and other consumer products. “Working with other students teaches me how to analyze different research approaches.”

The program has been designed for a diverse mix of individuals from academia and industry in nursing, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and training in preparation for an academic career while on leave from the United States Navy.

As the program moves forward, Dr. Dasanayake says he expects to attract a broader range of health professionals and industry scientists with a convenient schedule of classes taught by faculty and guest lecturers from NYUCD, the NYU School of Medicine, and leading corporations, contract research organizations, and regulatory agencies. “Most of our classes are held in the evening, and we provide the options of a one-year certificate program and a one-year fellowship, as well as the two-year master’s degree program,” he notes.

While space in the M.S. program is limited to six students, Dr. Dasanayake expects enrollment in the certificate program to grow exponentially.

“We teach practical matters, such as how to design a trial, where to seek funding, and how to recruit subjects,” says Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, who co-designed the program with Dean Michael Alfano. “But beyond that, we also deal with profound issues, such as the ethical responsibilities involved in research on human beings. We train our graduates to take a wide view of their impact on the world.”

To order your copy of Training Opportunities in Clinical Research (pictured above), please call 212.998.9631.
Both studies are part of a broad new effort to enhance early detection of oral cancer and pre-cancer. Better screening techniques, combined with an understanding of the molecular changes leading to cancer, may result in an improved outlook for those at risk. Researchers ultimately hope to identify genetic markers for oral cancer that could signal a predisposition to the disease long before lesions occur.

Dr. Kerr’s research also focuses on the study of recurrent aphtous ulcers (RAU), a condition commonly known as canker sores. Five to 25 percent of the general population suffers from canker sores. And in selected groups, such as medical and dental students, who are subject to predisposing factors like stress, the rate is between 50 and 60 percent.

“While we’ve been waging a relentless battle against these extremely painful ulcers for as long as anyone can remember, we still have no cure,” Dr. Kerr observes. “For most sufferers, who get a handful of outbreaks a year, treatment is palliative, and includes the use of mucosal coating agents with topical anesthetics to relieve the pain. For those patients who have frequent recurrences or ulcers which take longer to heal, there are treatments available to reduce or even stop the frequent recurrence of ulcers, but their long-term use can cause unwanted side effects.”

Dr. Kerr recently completed a six-month study which found that a topically-applied penicillin troche significantly reduced healing time for minor RAU, which is generally defined as lesions less than 10 millimeters in diameter that heal in approximately a week to two weeks without scarring. On the fourth day of treatment, 43 percent of Dr. Kerr’s subjects who received penicillin reported that their ulcers had healed completely, compared to 15 percent of those who received a placebo and 11 percent who got no treatment. On the sixth day, 90 percent of people had completely healed in the penicillin group, compared to 55 percent and 44 percent in the placebo and no treatment groups, respectively. A total of 100 people participated in Dr. Kerr’s portion of the multicenter study.

If the penicillin troche proves successful in larger trials, it may offer a new alternative in the struggle to relieve the pain of aphtous ulcers. Yet the battle to conquer canker sores is far from over. While research has established that factors such as allergies and stress can cause an onset of the condition, the causes of many canker sores remain unknown.

But for now, any significant relief is welcome news for canker sore sufferers, who can find chewing and swallowing painful. And Dr. Kerr points out that pain symptoms disappeared faster in his penicillin-treated subjects than in those receiving a placebo or no treatment at all.
on Oral Lesions

The bluelight, up close and personal.
Raising the Bar on

The aesthetics of implant-supported restorations have been a focus of interest for the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry for many years. The original work done by our group and published in 1992 focused on the presence or absence of the interdental papilla. In that seminal study, we found that the papilla was present 100 percent of the time when the distance from the base of the contact point to the crest of bone was 5 mm’s or less. When the distance was 6 mm’s, only one mm more, the papilla was present only 55 percent of the time. When the distance was 7 mm’s, the papilla was present 25 percent of the time, and when it was 8 mm’s, it was present only 10 percent of the time. Since its publication, this paper has helped clinicians determine how to construct restorations in the aesthetic zone between teeth.

We next focused on what happens to the papilla when an implant is placed next to a tooth. The question was whether or not the 5-mm rule would hold up. In collaboration with a group of Belgian researchers, we demonstrated that the same 5-mm rule was in fact also true when an implant was placed next to a tooth. This explains why single-tooth replacements supported on implants can look aesthetically normal, including in the papilla area, and, since normal anatomy can be expected around the final restoration, why most lecturers like to show single-tooth implant patients.

The single most difficult problem facing clinicians occurs when two implants are to be placed next to each other in the aesthetic zone. If the other teeth have normal papillae heights, it becomes a challenge for the clinician to re-form the papilla between these two implants. In fact, it rarely fills in to the original level that existed before the natural teeth were extracted. Accordingly, our faculty began to investigate the amount of tissue that could be expected to cover the inter-implant bone—the area within which most clinicians find it difficult, if not impossible, to get a papilla to look normal. Our findings, which have recently been submitted for publication, show that only about 3 mm of papilla height can be expected between two adjacent implants in the aesthetic zone. Indeed, almost 90 percent of the papilla heights were only 2 mm, 3 mm, or 4 mm. Virtually none of the papillae reach the 5-mm or 6-mm distance that we normally see between two teeth. This means that normal, beautiful aesthetics can be expected when a single tooth implant is placed next to periodontally healthy teeth. However, if two implants are placed adjacent to each other in the aesthetic zone, the papilla will tend to be about 2 mm’s shorter than the papilla between the natural teeth in the same area.

Based on this knowledge, we revised our treatment plan to no longer place two implants next to each other in patients with high smile lines. Instead, we now recommend that one implant, along with an ovate pontic, be utilized in such cases. If three teeth are missing, then only two implants should be placed along with an ovate pontic between them.

In other research, our faculty have shown that wide body implants cause more recession than normal diameter implants. This is clinically significant because it suggests that wide body implants may not be indicated for use in the
Once again, our findings have changed the way practitioners develop treatment plans when beautiful, normal contoured restorations are the goal in the aesthetic zone.

It is a point of pride that the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry is an international leader in the field, and that it has made substantial progress in the area of aesthetics with implant support restorations. Currently we are working on a new implant design that will help maintain papilla height in the aesthetic zone. This project is spearheaded by Dr. Nicholas Elian, Assistant Professor of Implant Dentistry. Dr. Elian has a patent pending for an implant top that is scalloped instead of flat. All implants today are straight across at the abutment implant interface. If the implant is placed properly for mid-buccal aesthetics it will cause a violation of the inter-implant bone, which helps support the papilla. Violation of this point is a major factor in bone loss between two adjacent implants. The new, scalloped design will allow the implant to be placed supracrestally in the aesthetic zone, an approach that promises important patient benefits.

Above: The new scalloped aesthetic implant design has a patent pending. Right: WNBC-TV Health and Science Editor Dr. Max Gomez (left) interviewed Dr. Tarnow recently about breakthroughs in implant therapy.
A young HIV-infected woman with candidiasis, xerostomia, and enlarged salivary glands anxiously awaits a decision on her treatment. Her dentist’s course of action depends on the answers to several complex questions: Are candidiasis and xerostomia a result of the patient’s HIV infection, or a side effect of the potent antiviral drugs she is taking? Will her salivary glands continue to grow if her viral load increases? And what new oral health problems will she face should her antiretroviral drug cocktail become ineffective?

As an investigator on an NIH/NIDCR grant (the NIDCR-supported oral health substudy of the NIH-supported Women’s Interagency HIV Study [WIHS]), I have been seeking answers to these and other questions for the past seven years. WIHS is the world’s largest, longest-running effort to compare the health of HIV-infected women with HIV-negative women. Over 1,500 women are enrolled in WIHS, which began in 1995 under the joint auspices of seven federal agencies, including the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

WIHS subjects are enrolled in one of six regional consortia, four of which also conduct oral health substudies. NYUCD’s partners in the New York regional consortium are Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center/Montefiore Medical Center, Beth Israel Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and Wadsworth Laboratories.

Approximately 100 women participate in the NYUCD oral health substudy. The women receive biannual physical exams at one of the participating hospitals, followed by a separate oral health evaluation at NYUCD. The data from the physical and oral exams, combined with additional analysis of behavioral and lifestyle factors affecting the women’s health, are sent to a central data bank, where they are made available to investigators who analyze the data based on a wide range of factors. These include the entire spectrum and course of HIV infection, as well as treatment-related, endocrine, nutritional, health care utilization, socioeconomic, and behavioral risk factors. Accordingly, my team is in a privileged position to understand the changes that occur in the oral cavity of HIV-infected women, including the long-term changes caused by the widespread adoption of highly active, antiretroviral (HAART) therapy.

WIHS participants began taking these multi-drug combinations in 1996, a year after the study began.
Findings to date include the following:

- Oral candidiasis lesions occur in HIV-positive women with high viral loads and low CD4+ counts who smoke. Candidiasis prevalence decreases as a result of HAART therapy. Oral candidiasis is a very sensitive marker of immune deficiency in HIV infection. Because oral candidiasis can be an early sign of AIDS, oral health care providers who observe it should counsel their patients about the importance of HIV testing. But providers also need to evaluate the other potential causes of candidiasis, which include systemic diseases such as diabetes mellitus, local factors such as decreased salivary flow, and the use of certain medications such as antibiotics and corticosteroids.

- In the first multiyear study to examine caries progression in HIV-infected individuals, WIHS determined that HIV-infected women have significantly more caries than seronegative women. There are several possible reasons for the difference, including microbial changes and the use of medications that decrease salivary flow.

- HIV-positive women have higher rates of salivary gland disease, as measured by enlargement, tenderness, and absence of saliva, compared to seronegative women. In addition, enlargement and tenderness of some glands increase with higher viral loads.

- Xerostomia and salivary gland hypofunction appear to be significantly higher in HIV-positive women relative to a comparable group of at-risk seronegative women. Immunosuppression levels measured by CD4+ cell counts were found to be strongly associated with xerostomia and salivary gland hypofunction in these women.

The NIDCR is expected to fund the WIHS oral health substudy for at least another year. As the study progresses, I expect new insights to emerge that could ultimately guide the planning and allocation of health care resources for HIV-infected women. For example, the reappearance of oral lesions could signal a weakening of HAART therapy’s effectiveness and the need to adopt new HIV-treatment regimens. And since one-third of HIV-infected subjects in my study also are infected with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), I hope to better understand how HIV and HCV interact to affect oral health.

I’m also optimistic that researchers abroad who are intrigued by our findings will want to collaborate with us on similar studies. Scientists in Puerto Rico and Poland have shown an interest in such collaborative studies. And this summer, Dr. Anthony T. Vernillo, a Professor of Oral Pathology at NYUCD, hopes to gauge interest in collaborative studies in Africa when he travels to Tanzania to present WIHS data to the African chapter of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR).
NYUCD TAKES ITS PLACE AT THE FOREFRONT OF AESTHETIC DENTISTRY EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND PATIENT CARE

On November 21, Dean Alfano officially dedicated a wing of the College as the Larry Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry. Named in honor of its principal benefactor, the Rosenthal Institute is wholly dedicated to fostering continuing education, research, and patient care in current and emerging techniques in aesthetic dentistry. The Rosenthal Institute will have affiliations worldwide, as well as within its own neighborhood. One of the Institute’s most important features is that it will enable needy patients to receive aesthetic dental procedures at a reduced cost. The Institute also houses NYUCD’s continuing education program, which annually attracts more than 4,000 dentists from more than 20 countries, making it perhaps the most far-reaching program of its kind in the world.

“Dr. Rosenthal’s vision and generosity are helping to create a cadre of aesthetic dentists who can make these important services more broadly available to the general public,” said Dean Alfano. “I am very grateful to Dr. Rosenthal for his commitment to the creation of the Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry. He is an exemplar of the many alumni, faculty members, and friends who are engaged with the College as it reconfigures its facilities, academic programs, outreach, and even the nature of dental practice, in ways that make it possible to envision NYUCD as the dental institution with the greatest impact on health in the world.”

“I have always had a passion to create something that would revolutionize aesthetic dentistry training and care,” said Dr. Rosenthal, a 1972 graduate of the NYU College of Dentistry and an internationally renowned pioneer in his field. “I selected the NYU College of Dentistry not only because I am an alumnus, but because NYU is a recognized leader in the field of aesthetic dentistry. Now, dentists just starting out will have the advanced knowledge and tools to create beautiful, natural-looking smiles, using the latest techniques. By partnering with my alma mater, I have realized my dream of institutionalizing a comprehensive approach to training future aesthetic dentists to help people look better, feel better, and live happier lives.”

Housed in newly renovated facilities located on First Avenue between 24th and 25th Streets, the Rosenthal Institute combines the look and feel of the finest private dental practices in New York City with the ambience of a luxury hotel. The $6 million, 8,500-square-foot facility features an elegant mahogany and marble décor, 16 state-of-the-art patient treatment areas, a corporate-style executive board room with remote broadcasting capabilities, a modern porcelain laboratory, and a 52-seat amphitheater with global videoconferencing reach. The Institute also includes an “operatory under glass,” outfitted with multiple cameras to permit live, interactive clinical demonstrations around the world.
Dr. Rosenthal will teach several continuing education courses annually at the Institute. In addition to his large private practice, which counts among his patients many distinguished and celebrated individuals, Dr. Rosenthal is a popular lecturer and author. Profiled on television, radio, and in such leading publications as *Forbes*, *Vogue*, and the *New York Times*, he spreads his excitement about his work.

“I firmly believe that conservative aesthetic dental techniques have a powerful and positive impact on patients’ lives,” says Dr. Rosenthal. “Improving an individual’s appearance can help create an astonishing self-confidence that is wonderful to see.”
to create a cadre of aesthetic dentists services more broadly available to the general public.”

Dean Alfano
News from the College

NYUCD Creates Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force

Dean Alfano has announced the creation of an NYUCD Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force to develop strategies and a structure for a coordinated, collaborative response effort to deal with the threat of terrorism, including bioterrorism, and other catastrophes.

The Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force is chaired by Dr. Dianne Rekow, Director of Translational Research and Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and of Orthodontics. “In organizing an on-site Bioterrorism and Catastrophe Response Task Force,” says Dr. Rekow, “Dean Alfano has declared NYUCD’s determination to play a leadership role within a national terrorism preparedness and response network.”

Task Force initiatives include:

Complementing and Enhancing Medical and Public Health Potential in Surge Demand (led by Dr. Walter Psoter, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion). NYUCD has organized a Surge Demand Needs Evaluation Team (SDNET). The SDNET will draw upon and integrate the expertise within both NYUCD and New York University-at-large, as well as within the New York City Department of Health, the military, and organized dentistry. Its objective is to help plan, develop, demonstrate, and evaluate appropriate roles for dental professionals and their auxiliaries to function as part of teams for triage, emergency care, information distribution to the public and the profession, outbreak investigation, syndromic surveillance, diagnosis and, potentially, conversion of medical and dental offices for delivery of care to some of the afflicted.

Early Identification of Catastrophic Events (led by Dr. Rekow). Because most “invisible” biological, chemical, and/or radiological attacks present first with flu-like symptoms, many can proliferate and affect large segments of the population extremely quickly before they are recognized as biowarfare agents. This initiative focuses on partnering with a dental management company to construct a template for data gathering and response. The objective is to develop a surveillance system for detecting “invisible” attacks by capitalizing on routine tracking of cancellations of dental appointments. With information regarding the geographical area in which people are canceling dental
appointments in large numbers, conclusions can be drawn and preparations made for a potentially large-scale emergency.

**Detection of Pathogens**
(led by Dr. Page Caufield, Professor of Cariology and Operative Dentistry and Head of the Division of Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, and Health Promotion). The most sensitive and rapid methodology for testing the presence of etiologic agents of terrorist-related diseases is real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), which is similar to DNA fingerprinting, but on a molecular basis. This initiative seeks to expand access and use of RT-PCR to reduce delays in testing, confusion about which laboratory is doing tests, and where citizens, public health officials, local law enforcement, and the FBI would be able to obtain test results. One approach with great potential for assessing environmental contamination of the community involves investigating the capabilities of the public health system to routinely screen for pathogens as well as for evidence of explosives and radiation by analyzing samples taken by means of a unique sampling method that is in patent development.

**Distribution of Response Supplies**
(led by Dean Alfano and Henry Schein, Inc.). While stockpiles of government-controlled materials exist, there is no coordinated plan for how, when, what, and where to deliver them. Henry Schein, Inc., has a robust system in place that could meet this need, and, in collaboration with the federal government, can develop a strategic plan that includes shipment of general supplies in anticipation of an event, followed by event-specific supplies in continuing deliveries. NYUCD aspires to work with Henry Schein, Inc., on this initiative.

**Preparedness Plan for NYUCD**
(led by Dr. David Glotzer, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Operative Dentistry). Just as every hospital has an Emergency Response Plan that delineates the responsibilities and procedures that will be invoked at the time of the plan’s activation, NYUCD is designing a plan that will allow us to quickly determine how a disaster will impact the way the College operates. The plan’s priorities include ensuring the safety of students, faculty, and staff; fostering preparedness training in detection, diagnosis, and response to biological, radiological, and chemical terrorism; mitigating physical damage to the building and utilities; facilitating proper communication with the University and civilian authorities, and recovery and restoration of academic operations.

New Jersey Senator Jon Corzine (top) and New York Senator Charles Schumer discuss catastrophe preparedness with Dean Alfano.
Dr. K. William Mopper to Receive Smigel Prize in Aesthetic Dentistry

Dr. K. William ("Buddy") Mopper, Cofounder and Chairman of Cosmedent, Inc., an Illinois-based corporation dedicated to training dentists in the burgeoning field of cosmetic dentistry and to developing and marketing aesthetic dental materials to the profession, has been selected as the second recipient of the Irwin Smigel Prize in Aesthetic Dentistry. The prize will be presented to Dr. Mopper in spring 2003 at an NYU Continuing Education Symposium on aesthetic dentistry at a date to be announced.

NYU College of Dentistry established the Smigel Prize in 2000 to recognize the pioneering achievements in aesthetic dentistry of Dr. Irwin Smigel, a graduate of the NYU College of Dentistry and the Founder and President of the American Society for Dental Aesthetics, and to honor significant contributions to the field by others across the globe.

The Smigel Prize carries with it a $5,000 stipend and an award designed by Calvin Klein. The inaugural recipient of the prize was Dr. Ronald E. Goldstein, a cofounder and Past President of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry and a past president of the International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry.

“By every measure, the perfect candidate for the distinction of receiving the Irwin Smigel Prize in Aesthetic Dentistry is Buddy Mopper,” said Dean Alfano. “Dr. Mopper is a visionary and a person of great achievement, who has played a pivotal role in advancing aesthetic dentistry. His devotion to education and innovation has inspired countless dentists in pursuit of excellence.”

As the cofounder of Cosmedent, Inc., in 1982, Dr. Mopper made his mark in what was then an emerging field by promoting a new class of dental materials made from stronger, longer-lasting composite resins.

Modern resins have changed the face of dentistry and Cosmedent was one of the pioneers in this movement.

In 1998, Cosmedent opened the Center for Esthetic Excellence, which offers cosmetic dentists a highly interactive educational program designed to expand their knowledge and skills.

In addition to directing the Center’s educational programs, Dr. Mopper maintains an active private practice, and also teaches continuing dental education at the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, and the University of Florida at Gainesville College of Dentistry.

“BY EVERY MEASURE, THE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR THE DISTINCTION OF RECEIVING THE IRWIN SMIGEL PRIZE IN AESTHETIC DENTISTRY IS BUDDY MOPPER.”
Oral Cancer Consortium’s Free Screenings Expand to Pennsylvania

On November 7, the Oral Cancer Consortium conducted its fourth annual free oral cancer screening program at more than 30 sites throughout New York, New Jersey, and, for the first time, Pennsylvania, where two new sites, the Village Senior Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Lawrenceville Senior Center, also participated. As in previous years, a vital factor in the program’s success was the vigorous campaign of televised public service announcements sponsored by ABC 7.

“What started as a local and regional effort with five founding partners,” said Dean Alfano, “now includes more than 30 metropolitan area health care institutions and professional societies from as far away as Pittsburgh. Hospitals and colleges in the Boston area have formed an oral cancer consortium and the University of Southern California School of Dentistry is also organizing a consortium which will complement the New York/New Jersey model. Last year the ADA sponsored a national oral cancer awareness campaign, and will probably sponsor a national, full day oral cancer screening day at some point within the next several years.”

Overall, nearly 2,000 people were screened for oral cancer and more than 136 brush biopsies were performed on November 7. NYUCD alone screened 301 patients and performed 15 brush biopsies. This year’s screening program was coordinated by Dr. A. Ross Kerr, Assistant Professor of Oral Medicine and Director of Special Patient Care and Hospital Dentistry. “When you think of the impact the Consortium and its spin offs are having on professional practice and on oral cancer preventive education and diagnosis,” said Dr. Kerr, “it’s thrilling to realize that we are at the forefront of a movement that will help to save lives across our nation.”

ABC 7 Meteorologist Sam Champion talks with Dr. Debra Cinotti, the Consortium’s current Chair from SUNY/Stonybrook.
The Oral Cancer Foundation: One Man’s Crusade

“I considered myself very dentally aware,” says Brian Hill, a four-year, stage-four oral cancer survivor, “having been a member of the dental community my entire adult life, first as a prosthetic technician and later in a variety of positions within the management teams of some of the nation’s best-known dental products manufacturers. When I sold my implant manufacturing company at age 45, I believed my dental health to be optimal. I was wrong.”

Unknown to Brian, a painless, squamous cell carcinoma had developed on his tonsil. Despite visits with to several different dentists and hygienists over a two-year period, the lesion went undiagnosed and continued to grow. It was only when he developed a large lump on the side of his neck—a metastasis of the original tonsilar cancer—that an ENT specialist diagnosed his condition. “I was stunned that a lesion larger than the size of a nickel had been plainly visible in my mouth all this time and no one had noticed it.”

“The chances of recurrence in the first five years following detection are very high for this disease, and in particular for those of us who had it detected in late stages,” he says. “This is particularly disturbing since the early stages of oral cancer, and even many of its precursor tissue changes, can be seen by the naked eye, by anyone who takes the time to do an oral cancer screening. With early detection, approximately 80 percent of oral cancers are completely curable.”

After months of surgery and radiation treatments, Brian began the long road to recovery and to beginning a new chapter in his life, as an oral cancer activist and advocate through the foundation he started, The Oral Cancer Foundation, a non-profit entity designed to educate and support individuals with the disease, as well as those dental and medical professionals most likely to find it in its early, curable stages.

Today Brian devotes 100 percent of his time to The Oral Cancer Foundation, striving to build a consensus among the dental and medical communities, the public, and corporations on the importance of routine oral cancer screenings.

“As a survivor who has made oral cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection his personal crusade, Brian is indispensable to efforts to make the disease a major national health issue,” says Dean Alfano. “I encourage every alum us and friend who reads this article to support The Oral Cancer Foundation.”

For more information or to become a member please visit www.oralcancerfoundation.org or call 949.646.8000
NYUCD has entered into a historic agreement with Tuskegee University to conduct a combined B.A.-D.D.S. program. This marks the first time that Tuskegee University, one of our nation’s Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) has collaborated on a B.A.-D.D.S. program, and the first time that NYUCD has done so with a historically black university.

Founded in 1881 by Dr. Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee University is the only university in the U.S. to be designated a National Historic Site. The NYUCD-Tuskegee agreement bolsters the two institutions’ mutual commitment to increase the number of African American dentists in the U.S. African Americans represent almost 13 percent of the U.S. population today, but only 3.5 percent of the dentists.

The agreement gives strongly motivated Tuskegee students whose primary goal is dentistry a virtual guarantee that, if they maintain an honors grade point average at Tuskegee and fulfill NYUCD’s admission requirements, they will be accepted. Tuskegee students will be eligible for the joint program as early as the second semester of freshman year.

NYUCD congratulates Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, and Ms. Novella Jones, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions, on their efforts to secure this agreement.

“The dental profession is challenged to create opportunities for African Americans to learn about and join the profession,” says Dean Jones. “This agreement enables NYUCD and Tuskegee to make a profound contribution in that area.”

Dr. Katz and Dean Jones are currently engaged in discussions with Tuskegee officials to set up a “grandfathering” mechanism that could result in the first combined degree-program student entering NYUCD as early as fall 2003.

Assistant Dean Novella Jones

Dr. Booker T. Washington
International Partners in Health

The NYUCD-UPRSD Connection

By Ralph V. Katz, D.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion

“Unique” may be an overused word, but it’s the only one that accurately describes the NYU College of Dentistry (NYUCD)-University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry (UPRSD) partnership. Not only do these two schools share a commitment to improving the oral health of Puerto Ricans, both within the Commonwealth and in New York City; they are also partners on a pre- and postdoctoral student-exchange program and on three major NIH grants totaling over $10 million in awards that will extend into 2008. But the ultimate expression of partnership is a shared, jointly-appointed faculty member, Dr. Walter Psoter, who spends the entire fall semester at NYUCD in New York City and the entire spring semester at UPRSD in San Juan.

An indispensable condition for the establishment and maintenance of a strong NYUCD-UPRSD connection is the fluid, back-and-forth migration patterns between Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland. Equally important is the “people” factor. As the principal investigator for the NYU Minority Oral Health Research Center (MOHRC), one of four Regional Research Centers for Minority Oral Health funded by a major NIH/NIDCR grant that ran from 1992 to 2000, Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros, Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and the Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, forged strong ties with UPRSD. Under her guidance,
Dr. Gustavo Cruz, who received his dental degree from UPR, and Dr. Diana Galvis, who received training in both dental assisting and dental hygiene at UPR, strengthened their research skills at the MOHRC and have gone on to become full-time faculty members at NYUCD.

Dr. Cruz, who became an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of Public Health and Health Promotion in 2000, is currently the co-principal investigator on two NIDCR grants on oral cancer, one a major clinical trial on smoking cessation, and the other a project to plan and implement a New York State oral cancer prevention program. For the past three years he has also conducted a study of the oral health status of elderly Puerto Ricans, a collaborative effort among NYUCD, UPRSD, and UPR’s School of Public Health with funding from both the NIH and the Puerto Rican government.

Dr. Galvis, NYUCD Class of 2002, was recently appointed an Instructor in Cariology and Operative Dentistry and the Director of Dental Anatomy for the first-year curriculum.

Another offshoot of the MOHRC was a collaborative NYUCD-UPRSD student summer research program during which several UPR dental students spent summers at NYUCD working on MOHRC projects. By the summer of 2000, as part of the Tuskegee Legacy Project, which I co-direct with Dr. Cristina Claudio of UPRSD, four UPR dental students and two NYU dental students were studying the effects of acculturation on the willingness of Puerto Ricans to participate as research subjects in biomedical studies.

The project continued the following year in the NYUCD laboratories of Dr. Kathleen Kinnally, Professor of Basic Sciences, and Dr. Peter Sacks, Associate Professor of Basic Sciences, and it appears that it will be ongoing.

Now, we come to Dr. Psoter, who had been serving four-month rotations at UPRSD as part of the NYU Oral Epidemiology Postdoctoral...
Training Program (an NIH/NIDCR Long-term Research Training Grant, now in its 11th year producing dentists with Ph.D. degrees in epidemiology).

An early indication of the success of his joint appointment is Dr. Psoter’s role as co-investigator and writer on a three-year, $1 million NIH/NIDCR Research Infrastructure grant at UPRSD, in which NYUCD is a major partner. Another indication is the fact that, under the mentorship of the grant’s principal investigator, Dr. Augusto Elias-Bonito, Director of Research at UPRSD, and Dr. Psoter, postgraduate students at UPRSD have begun to win annual research prizes in campuswide postgraduate student research competitions.

The growing partnership between NYUCD and UPRSD also figured prominently in our success last year in being awarded a seven-year, $8.3 million NIH/NIDCR grant to establish the NYU Oral Cancer Research for Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion (RAAHP) Center. Large components of three of the RAAHP Center’s major studies are based at UPRSD, and Dr. Elias serves as co-director of the RAAHP Center.

One of these studies, “Environmental and Genetic Risk Factors in Oral Epithelial Dysplasia (OED) in Puerto Rico” (principal investigator: Dr. Douglas Morse, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion at NYUCD) is a partnership with Dr. Terri Bravo, a UPRSD professor with a strong background in oral cancer research and education, which involves obtaining OED cases from virtually all the pathology laboratories in Puerto Rico.

Another study, “Current and Emerging Technologies in Diagnosing Oral Cancer” (principal investigator: Dr. David Sirois, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Oral Medicine at NYUCD) will compare six leading oral cancer detection techniques currently available to dental practitioners. Our major partner in this study is Dr. Francisco Bermudez, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and immunologist at UPRSD.

The third major RAAHP Center study with a strong UPRSD component is “Factors Affecting Cancer Screening and Research Subject Participation in Minorities,” which is a random, digit dial telephone cross-cultural interview of 1,800 Hispanics, African Americans and Caucasians in San Juan, New York City and Baltimore. I am the PI and UPRSD Professor Cristina Claudio is a co-investigator.

The most recent collaboration between NYUCD and UPRSD is a jointly-held UPRSD pilot study of the relationship between preterm birth delivery and periodontal disease, conducted by Dr. Ananda Dasanayake, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of the M.S. Program in Clinical Research at NYUCD, and Dr. Lydia Lopez, Associate Professor of Ecological Sciences, at UPRSD.

NYUCD and UPRSD are extremely proud of the relationship they have created. This unique, inter-university connection is a win-win for our universities, our faculties, and our students, as well as for dental science and education and the oral health of Puerto Ricans residing both within the Commonwealth and in New York City.
Our Man in Puerto Rico: Dr. Walter Psoter

“I immediately picked up the phone,” recalls Dr. Psoter, “called the village school principal, and in a few days, a busload of school children was on its way to my San Juan clinic.”

The clinic was located at the University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry (UPRSD), where Dr. Psoter was doing a postdoctoral fellowship in oral epidemiology as part of an NIH funded study directed by Dr. Ralph V. Katz to examine why Hispanics have higher oral cancer and mortality rates than whites. UPRSD’s research director, Dr. Augusto Elias Bonito, was impressed by Dr. Psoter’s ability to organize public health studies, and, after receiving Dr. Katz’s endorsement, asked Dr. Psoter to join the UPRSD faculty and help build its research program. The eventual result was Dr. Psoter’s current joint faculty appointment.

“This joint appointment is mutually beneficial from many perspectives,” explains Dr. Psoter. “UPRSD benefits from my expertise in grant writing, research design, and analysis. And NYUCD gains from the connections I make with researchers in Puerto Rico. Dr. Psoter was recently awarded $300,000 as an investigator on a grant from the NIH to develop UPRSD’s research infrastructure. The grant also funds a partnership with NYUCD to assess how oral health disparities in Puerto Rico, particularly with regard to dental caries, can be reduced. Caries rates vary significantly between the island’s poor rural areas and developed sections of San Juan.

“I’ve always enjoyed being on the front lines of public health efforts,” says Dr. Psoter. “Puerto Rico is my latest front line and another chance for NYUCD to impact oral health far beyond New York.”
International Research Collaborations: Working Together to Find Solutions to Global Health Problems

Growing Global Partnerships
A number of indicators point to the increasing globalization of NYUCD’s research program. In the past two years alone, more than a dozen faculty members have been invited to speak in as many countries. Today NYUCD is involved in 39 active, collaborative research projects, of which 24 are international collaborations conducted with partners in France, Germany, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Belgium, Thailand, Switzerland, Dominican Republic, India, China, Haiti, Brazil, Denmark, Norway, Spain, and Costa Rica. Fourteen of the projects are funded by NIH, NSF, Israel-U.S. Binational Agricultural Research Development Foundation, professional associations, industries in the U.S. and overseas, or international not-for-profit foundations. Projects include basic science studies of tissue engineering, HIV-infection, caries research, early diagnosis of oral cancer, dental-facial pain research, and biomaterials.

Dr. Kathleen W. Kinnally, Professor of Basic Sciences, is the director and principal investigator of a U.S.-France Cooperative Research Program that is studying the role of bcl-2 family proteins in protein translocation across mitochondrial membranes that alter cell death. In addition to students from the U.S. and France, her laboratory hosts a team that includes students from Spain, Russia, India, South Korea, and China. Collectively, they discovered a new mitochondrial channel, the Mitochondrial Apoptosis-Induced Channel, or MAC, a novel channel found only in dead or dying cells, which appears to have great therapeutic potential.

Another collaborative priority is dental caries, the most prevalent chronic disease among children in many developing countries, as well as in the U.S. Since 1990, Dr. Page Caufield, Head of the Division of Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, and Health Promotion, and I have been collaborating with three major dental schools in China on studies focusing on risk assessment for early childhood caries, cariogenic microorganism transmission between mother and child, a new method for caries prediction, and a molecular epidemiological study of S. mutans virulent factor. To date, six postgraduate students and junior faculty members from China have trained with us.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chairman; Dr. Stephanie Russell, Assistant Professor; and Dr. Douglas Morse, Assistant Professor, all of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, are collaborating with colleagues at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and the University...
of Copenhagen in Denmark. They are studying the old-old living in Kungsholmen, an area in central Stockholm with a high proportion of elderly residents. The project, known as the KEOHS (Kungsholmen Elders Oral Health Study), is unique in focusing on people over age 80, an understudied segment of the aged population. The team has described the substantial and ongoing impact of dental caries within the old-old population. Future papers will focus on psychosocial correlates of caries and findings regarding periodontal disease.

In India, we are also pursuing studies relevant to the global HIV epidemic, which has infected 3.5 million Indians, along with oral cancer, which has been and continues to be a major health issue in India. Dr. A. Ross Kerr, Assistant Professor of Oral Medicine and Director of Special Patient Care and Hospital Dentistry, has been invited by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) to share his expertise in these areas and help to develop a plan for future research collaborations between NYUCD and RGUHS.

On another front, Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, Professor and Chairman of the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry, is the principal investigator on a multicenter study being conducted in collaboration with the University of Tel Aviv. The project’s aim is to evaluate new modular implants for immediate placement in patients with full dentures who have limited financial resources. Dr. Tarnow has also collaborated with the University of Brussels on research investigating the presence or absence of the papilla between teeth and implants. In addition, the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry is conducting research in partnership with internationally based implant companies.

The Path Forward
In addition to continuing to strengthen NYUCD’s international network by reinforcing previously-established affiliations with dental schools, academic institutions, health-related institutions, and foundations in the U.S. and abroad, the Office of International Research seeks to develop long-term student and faculty exchange research training programs with between two and five overseas dental schools over the next five years. Through this program, international faculty and students will come to NYUCD, where their perspectives and talents will add to the strength of our learning environment and they will reap the benefits of immersion in a leading U.S. academic dental center. And NYUCD students and faculty will go abroad to teach and learn, thereby building a truly international dental education community capable of contributing to the solution of oral health problems on a global basis. Also within the next five years, we will be actively seeking external funding sources to support our international collaborations. Our short-term goal is to double faculty applications for international research and/or supplement existing funded grants. Finally, we will increase communications with faculty, students, and staff in order to broaden their awareness of our international partners and of the opportunities available for collaboration.

Following is a list of current international collaborative activities led by NYUCD faculty.
### Globetrotters: NYUCD Faculty Engaged in International Collaborations

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<th>NYUCD Faculty</th>
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<td>Anthony T. Vernillo</td>
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<td>Dennis Tarnow</td>
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<td>Evaluate new modular implants for immediate loading in patients (R)</td>
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<td>Social relations as determinants of oral health among persons over the age of 80 years (R)</td>
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<td>Farhad Vahidi</td>
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<td>Gary Goldstein</td>
<td>Dental materials/Clinical research (L)</td>
<td>Khon Kaen University Chiang Mai University Mahidol University</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Dental materials/Clinical research (L)</td>
<td>Yonsei University</td>
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<td>Dental materials/Clinical research (L)</td>
<td>Pusan Dental Society</td>
<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Gustavo Cruz</td>
<td>Dental public health in the US (L)</td>
<td>Nihon College of Dentistry</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Oral health status of elderly Puerto Ricans (R)</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico</td>
<td>PR/US</td>
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<td>Oral health care in pregnant women (R)</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico</td>
<td>PR/US</td>
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<td>Smokeless tobacco and oral pathology in South Asian immigrants (R)</td>
<td>Leeds Dental Institute/University of Leeds School of Dentistry</td>
<td>England</td>
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<td>Acculturation and oral health among Haitian immigrants (R)</td>
<td>University of New England, Armidale</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>NYUCD Faculty</td>
<td>Research (R) / Lecturing (L) / Project (P)</td>
<td>Collaborator</td>
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<td>Herbert Frommer</td>
<td>Clinical radiology (R)</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University School of Dental Medicine</td>
<td>Israel</td>
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<td>Kathleen Kinnally</td>
<td>US-France cooperative research: The role of bcl-2 family proteins in protein translocation across membranes (R)</td>
<td>University of Bordeaux</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td>Student exchange research projects (R)</td>
<td>University of Extremadura University of Acoruña</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Lidia Kiremidjian</td>
<td>Public health outreach (P)</td>
<td>Serrano Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Schumidjian</td>
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<td>Dept of Health of the Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Lisa Antonoff</td>
<td>Improving HR management (L)</td>
<td>Alliance of American &amp; Russian Women</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Neal Herman</td>
<td>International Partners in Health (R)</td>
<td>University of Copenhagen</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<td>International Partners in Health (L)</td>
<td>Village of Apatrapa, Ghana</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
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<td>Page Caufield</td>
<td>Early childhood caries and <em>S. mutans</em> transmission (R)</td>
<td>Peking University School of Stomatology</td>
<td>China</td>
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<td>Two novel diagnostic tests for caries risk assessment (R)</td>
<td>Sichuan University West China College of Stomatology: 3M ESPE</td>
<td>China &amp; Germany</td>
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<td>Natural history of dental caries (R)</td>
<td>Wuhan University School of Stomatology</td>
<td>China</td>
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<td>Dental caries as an infectious and transmissible disease (L)</td>
<td>UNITELEX</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Dental caries as an infectious and transmissible disease (R)</td>
<td>UFRGS</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>Paul Rosenberg</td>
<td>Endodontic emergencies (L)</td>
<td>Dental Hospital</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>A. Ross Kerr</td>
<td>Early detection of oral cancer (R)</td>
<td>Rajiv Ghandi University of Health Sciences</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Oral cancer/precancer among Indian adolescent and adult (R) HIV infection in India</td>
<td>Rajiv Ghandi University of Health Sciences</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Steven Lee</td>
<td>Bilateral balance and occlusal equilibration in removable dentures (L)</td>
<td>Shanghai Second Medical University School of Stomatology</td>
<td>China</td>
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<td>Stuart Super</td>
<td>Oral maxillofacial surgery (L)</td>
<td>University of Milan</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Walter Psoter</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry (Joint Faculty Appointment) (R, L, P)</td>
<td>Research Department</td>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>Haiti National Oral Health Survey (R)</td>
<td>PAHO</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
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<td>Yihong Li</td>
<td>Early childhood caries and <em>S. mutans</em> transmission (R)</td>
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<td>Natural history of dental caries (R)</td>
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<td>China</td>
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Dr. Leila Jahangiri, an authority on bioengineered prosthetics and the development of periodontal ligament on dental implants, has been named Chairperson of the Louis Blatterfein Department of Prosthodontics. Dr. Jahangiri’s previous positions included Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics and Biomaterials at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Dental School (UMDNJ), Codirector of Prosthodontics at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics at NYUCD.

Dr. Jahangiri earned both her D.M.D. degree and an M.S. degree in Oral Biology from Harvard University. She also holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from King’s College School of Medicine and Dentistry in London. The recipient of the Arthur R. Frechette Award in Prosthodontics from the International Association of Dental Research (IADR), Dr. Jahangiri is currently investigating the development of periodontal ligament on endosseous dental implants by orthodontic tooth movements and innovations such as prosthetics made from human tooth cells.
Dr. Louis M. Lin has joined NYUCD as a Professor of Endodontics and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Endodontics. He was previously a Professor of Endodontics and Chairman of the Section on Endodontics at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Dentistry.

Dr. Lin holds a B.D.S. degree from the Chung Shan Medical College School of Dentistry in Taiwan, a D.M.D. degree from UMDNJ, and a Ph.D. degree in pathology from the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. Dr. Lin, who has published widely on endodontic successes and failures, is currently investigating microorganisms associated with endodontic treatment failure and the formation and treatment of periapical lesions.

NYUCD’s new Senior Director of Clinical Operations, Jack H. Wiggin, is a Certified Public Accountant with over 17 years experience managing large dental practices. In his newly created position, he is responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of NYUCD’s clinics, which handle over 250,000 patient visits a year—more than any other dental school. His priorities include developing procedures for delivering consistent, efficient patient care and overseeing budgeting, staff development, patient recruitment, retention and registration, and medical record-keeping.

Mr. Wiggin was previously the COO of Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based Dental Associates, Ltd., America’s largest single-owner dental practice, with over 800 employees. During his tenure, annual revenues more than doubled.
DR. EVELYN M. NELSON
Appointed Assistant Professor of General Dentistry and Management Science and of Epidemiology & Health Promotion

Dr. Evelyn M. Nelson, formerly a Clinical Assistant Professor of General Dentistry and Hospital Dentistry at UMDNJ, has been appointed an Assistant Professor of General Dentistry and Management Science and of Epidemiology & Health Promotion. Dr. Nelson holds a D.M.D. degree and a Certificate in General Dentistry from UMDNJ and an M.P.H. degree from Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health. Dr. Nelson is currently working with Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion on the Tuskegee Legacy Project, and with Dr. Joan A. Phelan, Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Oral Pathology, on the Women’s Interagency HIV Study.

DR. MICHAEL D. TURNER
Appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Dr. Michael D. Turner has joined NYUCD as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Turner holds both a D.D.S. degree from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and an M.D. degree from SUNY Stony Brook. He was previously a Clinical Instructor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center. Dr. Turner did his residency training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Long Island University Medical Center. He is the coauthor of an article entitled “The Pregnant Patient and the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon,” which will be published in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

DR. BOLAJI O. OGUNDARE
Appointed Instructor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Dr. Bolaji O. Ogundare, Class of 1998, has been appointed an Instructor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Ogundare, who also holds a B.D.S. degree from the University of Lagos in Nigeria, completed externships at King’s College School of Medicine and Dentistry and United Medical and Dental School in England. He recently completed a residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Howard University, where he was Chief Resident. Prior to joining the NYUCD faculty, Dr. Ogundare served as Clinical Research Coordinator for the NYU Minority Oral Health Research Center. Dr. Ogundare has conducted research on risk factors for destructive periodontal disease in minority populations and on the pattern of facial fractures in a major urban trauma center.

DR. DIANA M. GALVIS
Appointed Instructor in Cariology and Operative Dentistry

Dr. Diana M. Galvis, Class of 2002, has been appointed an Instructor in Cariology and Operative Dentistry. In addition to her dental degree, Dr. Galvis holds a B.S. degree in Dental Hygiene from Farleigh Dickinson University and an M.S. degree in Dental Hygiene from the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery. Dr. Galvis previously taught dental hygiene at NYUCD and at UMDNJ. Dr. Galvis is a passionate advocate of oral health care for the underserved. As a research associate at the NYU Minority Oral Health Research Center in the 1990s, she played a pivotal role in organizing and conducting research studies aimed at improving the oral health status of minority communities in New York City and the Dominican Republic.
DR. MAUREEN MCANDREW
Appointed Educational Coordinator of General Dentistry and Management Science

Dr. Maureen McAndrew has been a Clinical Assistant Professor of General Dentistry and Management Science 1995. In her expanded role, Dr. McAndrew acts as a liaison among faculty, students, and staff to ensure their optimal use of the 11th Floor Clinical Simulation and Laboratory Technology Center. Dr. McAndrew is also responsible for coordinating this year’s launch of a combined preclinical general dentistry simulation curriculum for second-year D.D.S. students and advanced placement D.D.S. students.

DR. VEENA NANDA
Appointed Educational Coordinator for the Department of Periodontics

Dr. Veena Nanda has been serving as a Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics for the past two years. A periodontist in private practice since 1977, Dr. Nanda completed a fellowship in implant dentistry at NYUCD in 2000.

DR. KIEN NGUYEN
Appointed Clinical Instructor in General Dentistry and Management Science

For a profile of Dr. Nguyen, please see page 55.

MS. NOREEN M. HOFFMEISTER
Appointed Director of Alumni Affairs

As Director of Alumni Affairs, Ms. Noreen M. Hoffmeister oversees outreach to over 10,000 alumni around the world. Ms. Hoffmeister was previously Assistant Director for Development and Alumni Relations at Baruch College. In her new position, Ms. Hoffmeister’s priorities include keeping alumni informed of developments at NYUCD, increasing membership in the Dean’s Circle, which recognizes donors of $1,000 or more to the College, and overseeing the annual alumni phonathon.

MS. ELIANNA BASLAW
Appointed Development Officer

Ms. Elianna Baslaw, formerly a fund-raising and marketing officer for the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of New York, has been named Development Officer for NYUCD. Ms. Baslaw will work closely with Associate Dean Stuart Hirsch and Assistant Dean Rita Startup to develop and implement strategies to identify, research, and cultivate potential major donors to the College.
Promoting our Own

Mr. H. Kendall Beacham, formerly Director of Continuing Dental Education (CDE), has been appointed Assistant Dean for Continuing Dental Education. Mr. Beacham administers what is perhaps the world’s largest CDE program, with over 4,000 students from more than 20 countries. He is also responsible for overseeing the development of a sophisticated distance learning program in CDE’s new home in the Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry. Mr. Beacham’s focus is on using technology to share dental knowledge rapidly and efficiently across the globe.

Dr. Warren I. Scherer, a Professor of General Dentistry and Management Science, has been appointed Chairman of the Department of General Dentistry and Management Science. Dr. Scherer had been serving as Acting Chairman of the Department since its inception three years ago. A priority for Dr. Scherer is to encourage student integrity, professionalism, and critical thinking, and to promote proficiency in all aspects of comprehensive care, including health promotion. The Department has been structured to enable students to prepare for any state’s licensing requirements—a key benefit for our students who come from all 50 states.

Mr. David G. Romand, who has served as NYUCD’s Director of Information Systems since 1989, has been named Chief Technology Officer at the College. Since joining the College, he has overseen the design and implementation of NYUCD’s technology plans, including the Y2K transition. In his new capacity, he is providing unified leadership in the development, employment, and effective use of technology services.
MS. TRACY E. KAMENS has been appointed Director of the Faculty & Staff Development Center (FSDC) after serving as its Acting Director since 2001. She is responsible for developing FSDC’s role as a unique, lifelong learning program for faculty and staff. The FSDC runs computer, communications, financial, managerial, and personal health and growth workshops. The FSDC is growing rapidly, with 95 programs offered last spring, up from 36 in the spring of 2001. A new dedicated space is planned to accommodate the FSDC’s growth.

DR. DAVID GLOTZER has been appointed Coordinator of Cariology and Operative Dentistry. Since 1993 he has been a Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Operative Dentistry. Dr. Glotzer directs the second-year preclinical operative dentistry course and oversees care in the cariology and operative dentistry clinic. Dr. Glotzer is the producer, narrator, and editor of an instructional video for students entitled “Wax-Up of Posterior Occlusion.”

Promoting Our Own Clinical Faculty Promotions

**Academic Year 2000-2001**
- Promoted from Clinical Associate Professor to Clinical Professor
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery:
    - Dr. Clarence M. Calman
  - General Dentistry and Management Science:
    - Dr. Floyd L. Dussetschlieger
- Promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor
  - General Dentistry and Management Science:
    - Dr. Ralph Cunningham
    - Dr. Alfred Huberman
  - Endodontics:
    - Dr. Peter J. Babick

**Academic Year 2001-2002**
- Promoted from Clinical Associate Professor to Clinical Professor
  - Periodontics:
    - Dr. Patrice Buonocore
    - Dr. Harold I. Sussman
- Promoted from Adjunct Associate Professor to Adjunct Professor
  - General Dentistry and Management Science:
    - Mr. Van E. Afes
- Promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor
  - General Dentistry and Management Science:
    - Dr. George L. Hoffman
    - Dr. Ivy D. Peitz
    - Dr. Bernard Rosen
- Oral Medicine:
  - Dr. Barry Rozenberg
  - Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry:
    - Dr. Stephen J. Chu
- Promoted from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
  - General Dentistry and Management Science:
    - Dr. Meung H. Joung
    - Dr. Grace E. Lee
  - Oral Medicine:
    - Dr. Danny Lo
    - Dr. Silvia Spivakovsky
- Promoted from Instructor to Adjunct Assistant Professor
  - Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology
    - Mr. Rene Lopez
NYUCD has received a $5.9 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to develop guidelines that will make it possible to use basic materials’ properties to accurately predict the long-term clinical performance of new aesthetic dental materials.

Collaborating with NYU on this initiative are physicists, engineers, materials scientists, statisticians, and clinicians from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Princeton University, the University of Maryland at College Park, the University of Maryland at Baltimore, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), as well as corporations including Vita Zhanfabrik, H Rauter GmbH and Co KG, Ivoclar, Vivadent AG, Corning Incorporated, St. Gobain Advanced Ceramics Desmarquest, Dentsply Ceramco, and Theries, Inc. Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and of Orthodontics and Director of Translational Research, is the grant’s principal investigator.

This award represents phase two of a study that Dr. Rekow and her co-principal investigator, Dr. Van P. Thompson, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and Acting Chairman of the Department of Cariology and Operative Dentistry, have led for the past seven years with the goal of developing a fundamental understanding of damage initiation and accumulation in all-ceramic dental crowns.

The current goal is to develop a rational design that will yield a damage-tolerant structure that can withstand microcracks within a layer of materials without sacrificing the structural integrity of the system.

These efforts to enhance machinability and performance of ceramics are expected to culminate in guidelines for improved product development and subsequent benefits for patients, dentists, and industry.

“The current goal is to develop a rational design that will yield a damage-tolerant structure which can withstand microcracks within a layer of materials without sacrificing the structural integrity of the system.”
NYUCD Awarded $1 Million-Plus Grant to Identify Genetic Markers in Cariogenic Bacteria

“Dr. Caufield predicts that the bacteria will yield DNA markers that could be used to identify children at risk for severe tooth decay.”

Dr. Page W. Caufield, Professor of Cariology and Operative Dentistry and Head of the Division of Diagnostics, Infectious Disease and Health Promotion, has received a grant in excess of $1 million from the NIH/NIDCR to develop a genetic profile of the oral bacteria in young children with severe caries. Dr. Caufield predicts that the bacteria will yield DNA markers that could be used to identify children at risk for severe tooth decay.

He plans to compare his findings with a DNA analysis of bacteria from each child’s mother. In earlier research, Dr. Caufield was the first to demonstrate that mutans streptococci—one form of bacteria responsible for dental caries—are transmitted from mother to infant during intimate contact when the infant is around 26 months of age. Dr. Caufield’s three-year study at Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City will focus on children three to five years old receiving treatment for severe caries.
Dr. Louis Terracio, Associate Dean for Research, has received a $663,250 grant from the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (NHLBI) to bioengineer an artificial heart muscle that could eventually be used to repair damaged human hearts. The experimental muscle is designed to be used to patch damaged heart ventricles and could also be implanted in children born with missing heart muscle because of congenital heart disease.

The grant provides Dr. Terracio with three years of funding to continue to develop an experimental cardiac muscle that bobs around a laboratory culture dish much like a human heart. Dr. Terracio believes that a video he made showing the tiny muscle moving around the dish may have helped to distinguish his proposal from the more than 100 other applications submitted to NHLBI for cardiovascular tissue engineering. His was one of 20 successful NHLBI applications.

“The video demonstrated that we had created significant-sized pieces of tissue that beat spontaneously and move around in the culture,” explains Dr. Terracio.

To view the video, go to http://www.nyu.edu/dental/research/faculty/terraciocardiac.mov
The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded NYUCD a three-year $400,000 grant to increase access to dental care for underserved children by expanding the number of pediatric dentistry residents at NYUCD.

According to Dr. Linda R. Rosenberg, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and the grant’s principal investigator, “This project allows us to increase the number of pediatric dentistry residents from 16 to 20. More importantly, it has the goal of increasing the dental workforce with providers who have achieved multiculturalism competence, increased proficiency in meeting the needs of medically-compromised pediatric patients, and increased skill in communicating with other health care professionals.”
NYUCD in the News:
The following is a sampling of recent media coverage of NYUCD:

**Crain’s Health Pulse** featured the openings of both the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and the Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry. The IADR/AADR Global Research Update also announced the openings of both the Bluestone Center and the Rosenthal Institute. The opening of the Bluestone Center was also reported by CenterWatch, a news publication for the clinical trials industry.

**Dental News,** a quarterly magazine distributed mainly in the Middle East and North Africa, devoted an entire issue to clinical research at NYUCD. Among the contributors were Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, Professor and Chairman of the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry; Dr. Robert Schoor, Associate Professor of Periodontics and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics; Dr. Neal Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Mladen Kufinec, Professor of Orthodontics; and Dr. Adil Tajmouati, a 1997 graduate of the Advanced Study Program in Orthodontics for International Dentists.

**Self** reported the results of a study conducted by Dr. Mea Weinberg, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics, on the relative benefits of brushing with a manual toothbrush versus an electric model. (The electric model won.)

**Town & Country** – Dr. Michael L. Gelb, Clinical Professor of Oral Medicine, was featured in an article on temporomandibular joint disorders.
The Daily Herald (Illinois) reported on the November 7, 2002, Oral Cancer Consortium-sponsored free screening program “led by the NYU College of Dentistry.”

ADA News – Dean Alfano was interviewed about NYUCD’s participation in the nation’s first curriculum-integrated clinical licensure examination. Dean Alfano’s comments were also reported in The New York State Dental Journal.

Reuters International News Service — Dr. Louis Terracio, Associate Dean for Research, was quoted on the successful experiment conducted by researchers at The Forsyth Institute to grow living pig teeth in rats.

DentalTown Magazine, a monthly publication of clinical information and product news for the profession, featured a quote from Dr. Martin B. Goldstein, a participant in a CDE program held at NYUCD in the 11th floor Clinical Simulation and Laboratory Technology Center describing the setting as “endodontic nirvana!”

The Los Angeles Times – Dr. Van P. Thompson, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and Acting Chairman of the Department of Cariology and Operative Dentistry, was interviewed on new options for tooth repair.

Proofs featured the role played Henry Schein, Inc., in responding quickly in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, including providing support for NYUCD as it worked with the New York City Medical Examiner’s office in identifying victims and caring for recovery workers at Ground Zero.

The Boston Globe – Dr. Michael C. Alfano, Dean of NYUCD, was interviewed on the importance of early detection of oral cancer. The story also appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Ashbury Park Press, the Las Vegas Review Journal, and the Anchorage Daily News.

The New York State Dental Journal featured stories on NYUCD’s $17 million facilities renovation project and on the selection of Dr. K.W. Mopper to receive NYU’s Irwin Smigel Prize in Aesthetic Dentistry.

Time Out New York featured an interview with Dr. John Calamia, Professor of Cariology and Operative Dentistry, on the effectiveness of over-the-counter teeth bleaching products.

Crain’s New York Business interviewed Dr. Stephen J. Chu, Clinical Assistant Professor of Implant Dentistry, about the boom in business resulting from the popularity of cosmetic dentistry procedures.

Lab Management Today reported the presentation of the Dr. Harry Strusser Memorial Award to Mr. Stanley Bergman, Chairman, President, and CEO of Henry Schein, Inc., at the NYUCD graduation ceremony in May 2002.

New York Amsterdam News
The NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center was featured in a story entitled “Enuff Snuff… Don’t Give Me No Guff!” The story also appeared in the New York Carib News.
Celebrating Our Community

Congratulations to:

DR. MICHAEL C. ALFANO,
Dean of NYUCD, on his election as an Honorary Life Member of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. This honor has been extended to only a handful of people in the past, including former Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat. Also, Dean Alfano lectured on bioterrorism preparedness and on the work of the Oral Cancer Consortium at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry, and he spoke at the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), a national trade association representing U.S. manufacturers and distributors of nonprescription, over-the-counter (OTC) medicine and dietary supplements, including oral health products. He also served on the FDA panel that increased warnings on OTC analgesics, and he lectured on terrorism preparedness at both the Indian Dental Association Meeting and the Greater New York Dental Meeting. In addition, he spoke on the subject of recruiting underrepresented minorities at the ADEA meeting on diversity.

MS. ELYSE BLOOM,
Director of Public Affairs, on receiving a third consecutive Platinum Award from the International College of Dentists in recognition of the “continued excellence” of Global Health NEXUS.

DR. ROBERT G. CASTRACANE,
Clinical Associate Professor of General Dentistry and Management Science and of Prosthodontics, on his election as President of the NYU Dental Alumni Association.

MS. JULIE L. JARVIS
AND MR. KAMEL PREET,
both dental hygiene students, on receiving second place awards at the Greater New York Dental Meeting for their Hygiene Student Table Demonstration entitled “Effects of Smokeless Tobacco.”

DR. STUART J. FROUM,
’70, Clinical Professor of Periodontics and of Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Current Concepts of Periodontal Regeneration: A Review of the Literature” for The New York State Dental Journal.

DR. VASILIKI KARLIS,
Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on earning her M.D. degree from Tulane University Medical School and on being inducted into the American College of Dentists.
DR. RACQUEL Z. LEGEROS, Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring a book chapter entitled “Injectable Calcium Phosphate Cements for Repair of Bone Defects” for *Engineering and Biodegradable Equivalents: Scientific and Clinical Applications*. Dr. LeGeros also presented papers entitled “Implant Surface Modifications and Coatings” at the annual meeting of the Japan Society of Hard Tissue Biology and “Properties of Modern and Fossil Shark and Human Teeth” at the International Society of Odontology.

DR. YIHONG LI, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Director of International Research, on coauthoring an article entitled “Predicting Caries in Permanent Teeth from Caries in Primary Teeth: An Eight-Year Cohort Study” for *The Journal of Dental Research*. Dr. Li’s coauthors included Dr. Weijian Wan, Associate Professor of Preventive Dentistry at Peking University.

MR. SALIM S. RAYMAN, instructor in dental hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “A Framework Analysis: Male Diversity in Dental Assisting” for *The Dental Assistant*.

DR. MEHDI SABER, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics and President of the Union County, NJ, Dental Society, on leading a campaign that raised $6,000 for the Union County chapter of the American Red Cross to aid local victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

DR. DARYL STYNER, ’78, Associate Professor of General Dentistry and Management Science and of Prosthodontics, on being inducted into the American College of Dentists. Added kudos to Dr. Styner on earning a certificate in multimedia technology from the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and on her appointment as Director of Educational Multimedia Development in the Division of Reconstructive and Comprehensive Care.

MR. PHILIP ZAVELOFF, Class of 2003, on receiving the second place award at the Greater New York Dental Meeting for his Dental Student Table Demonstration entitled “An Analysis of the Horizontal Transmission among Patients with Porphyromonas Gingivalis via Heteroduplex Analysis.”
Focus on Alumni
THE PRIDE OF NYUCD

Dr. Stephen Bergen Honored with VHA Excellence in Clinical Care Leadership Award

The Leadership Award is presented annually to a health care practitioner in a leadership position who has demonstrated excellence through exceptional support for direct patient care providers on a local, network, and/or national level. The award honors Dr. Mark Wolcott, a former VHA Chief Medical Director for Clinical Affairs and Chief of Research in Surgery.

Dr. Bergen heads the largest VA dental residency program in the nation. In 1983, he developed the VHA’s first computerized dental database, which is used today to store patient records throughout the VHA network, an achievement for which he received national recognition.

“I’m honored that the VA has chosen to recognize my contributions to clinical care for veterans, information management, and dental education in such a meaningful way. And I’m particularly gratified that I’ve been able to mentor other practitioners and help them to develop their own leadership skills.”

In addition to administering the dental residency program, Dr. Bergen serves on the Board of Directors of the Leadership VA Alumni Association and is a mentor with the VA Health Care Leadership Institute.
He was relentlessly ridiculed by his cousins, who called him “half-breed,” and kicked his puppy to death. Eventually he was taken with his mother’s best friend, Mrs. Dang, on a small fishing boat headed for the Philippines.

After boarding another vessel, they were suddenly confronted with weapons and pushed overboard. His “Auntie Dang” drowned. Kien was nearly killed, but after days at sea made it back to shore, where he was arrested for trying to escape and imprisoned in a slave-labor camp. Kien finally left Vietnam in 1979, when the communists struck a deal with the United Nations that allowed 50,000 Amerasians to enter the United States through the “Orderly Departure Program.”

In 1991, Kien met Frank Andrews, the tarot columnist for The New York Post, who became his adoptive father and helped him pursue an educational path that ultimately took him to NYUCD. Kien says that he was “always a dentist at heart.” After graduating from NYUCD and waiting to receive his license to practice, Kien began to suffer from horrible nightmares. He began to record his bad dreams, and what started as a therapeutic outlet turned into The Unwanted. By this time Kien had established a successful practice in Manhattan. However, he realized that his writing, the route to his emotional and psychological salvation, had to come first. So he gave up his solo practice, but not dentistry. He continued to practice one day a week in someone else’s office.

Kien’s second book and first novel, The Tapestries, was released in October. Based on the life of Kien’s grandfather, a professional embroiderer in the court of the last king of Vietnam in the early-1900s, The Tapestries has been so well received that the state of Minnesota selected it as a month-long, official, statewide reading project.

Kien says he has enough stories in him to keep busy for the next 10 years. But he has no plans to give up dentistry. He is especially committed to helping underserved children, with whom he identifies, and plans to use his literary earnings to eventually open a free dental clinic for poor children. In the meantime, Kien has found a new home at his alma mater, which takes great pride in his literary achievements.

War Victim to Best-Selling Author: Dr. Kien Nguyen

Dr. Kien Nguyen, Class of 1998, is the author of The Unwanted, a best-selling memoir of his years growing up Amerasian and ostracized in communist Vietnam. The book has been optioned by a major movie studio, but Dr. Nguyen has not “gone Hollywood.” He continues to practice dentistry and recently returned to his alma mater as a newly appointed Clinical Instructor in General Dentistry and Management Science.

Kien was just seven when Saigon fell to the communists in 1975. The lonely son of an American father who had abandoned him and a socially prominent Vietnamese mother, Kien, along with his mother, brother, sister, and grandparents, was forced to move into a cramped compound with his mother’s sister and her 14 children.
Congratulations to:

30’s

DR. JOHN WEINTRAUB,
Class of 1932, on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

50’s

DR. ROBERT S. KLUGMAN,
Class of 1957, on the publication of his book entitled Prosthodontics in Clinical Practice. Dr. Klugman taught prosthodontics at NYUCD from 1967 to 1975 and now lives in Israel.

60’s

DR. RONALD A. ALTMAN,
Class of 1969, on being profiled in the Staten Island Advance on his 30th anniversary practicing dentistry on Staten Island.

In Remembrance

Dr. Louis Burman, Class of 1940

70’s

DR. ROBERT B. RAIBER,
Class of 1972, on being quoted in a Crain’s New York Business article on the burgeoning field of cosmetic dentistry.

DR. STEVEN E. SCHONFELD,
Class of 1973, on becoming a member of the California Dental Association Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the California Society of Periodontists, a delegate to the American Dental Association House of Delegates, and a member of the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure.

80’s

DR. MAXINE FEINBERG,
Class of 1980, on being installed as the first female president of the New Jersey Dental Association.

DR. FRANK R. LEONE,
Class of 1984, on being inducted as an associate fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

DR. STEVEN R. SCHWARTZ,
Class of 1983, on being certified as an instructor in basic life support cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automated external defibrillator (BLS CPR/AED).

DR. BARRY H. STEVENS,
Class of 1988, on becoming a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

DR. DEAN VAFIADIS,
Class of 1989, and the Hellenic Student Dental Association, on establishing a children’s dental clinic near West Point. The clinic treats foster children housed at the Academy of St. Basil’s, under the supervision of the Greek Orthodox Church. Volunteers are badly needed. To serve as a volunteer at the clinic, contact Dr. Vafiadis at dvafiadis@nj.rr.com.

90’s

DR. CHERYL G. ROBINS,
Class of 1992, on becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology.

Young Alumni
to Celebrate under the Stars

On June 5, 2003, there will be dancing and fine dining outdoors under a tent when NYUCD hosts its first annual Young Alumni Celebration under the Stars in honor of the classes that graduated between 1992 and 2002. If you graduated during those years, we hope you’ll join in renewing friendships, networking, and enjoying an early summer evening together. To become a member of the Young Alumni Celebration Planning Committee, or to make sure we have your correct address for your invitation, please call Noreen Hoffmeister, Director of Alumni Affairs, at 212-998-9927.

Got News?

You can e-mail news of your professional activities during the past year to elyse.bloom@nyu.edu and then look for your name in a future issue of Global Health Nexus.
**We thank our benefactors**

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