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*Global Health Nexus*
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New York University

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Some 15 years ago, New York University embarked on a systematic effort to reinvent itself as a great research institution. Today, that effort has come to full fruition, with NYU recognized as one of the major research universities in our nation. Like its parent university, the NYU College of Dentistry (NYUCD) recognizes that our nation’s best dental schools also are known for the quality of research they produce, and in recent years we have been moving with dazzling speed to create an enhanced research environment consistent with both the research commitment and excellence represented by NYU and the singular position NYUCD occupies as the largest academic dental center in the United States.

Thanks to major advances over the past decade in the oral health sciences, information technology, computer-based imaging systems, and the decoding of the human genome, dental research has undergone not only a change in orientation but a true transformation. Both for basic researchers who study the underlying biology of disease, and for clinical investigators who are utilizing the expanded biomedical knowledge base to develop improved approaches to diagnosis and treatment, scientific opportunity has never been greater. And NYUCD’s commitment to research has never been stronger.

This commitment puts NYUCD right in sync with national policy, as stated in the first Surgeon General’s
Report on Oral Health (May 2000), which asserts that “The nation’s continued investment in [oral health] research is critical for the provision of new knowledge about oral and general health and disease for years to come and needs to be accelerated if further improvements are to be made.”

In this issue of *Global Health Nexus*, we present Part One of the story of NYUCD’s coming of age as a research institution. We begin with an overview of research objectives and profiles of selected basic research faculty, people who are building an infrastructure and an agenda that position research both as a core activity and an area that improves and supports teaching and clinical care. In a subsequent issue of *Global Health Nexus*, we will focus on the opening of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and on NYUCD’s patient-oriented clinical research program, including its role in facilitating the transfer of new knowledge to industry and, ultimately, to patient care.

**Practicing for Life℠**

*In the True Sense of the Word*

Each of our Practicing for Life℠ columns features a practicing dentist—an alumnus and/or faculty member—who talks about an issue of great personal interest that also resonates in ways that go beyond the person’s clinical experience. In this issue, you’ll read the story of Dr. Clarence M. Calman, ’51, clinical associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, who views Practicing for Life℠ as a process of recycling—himself.

You’ll find another variation on the theme of Practicing for Life℠ in the story entitled “A Harlem State of Mind,” which spotlights dental education’s continuing challenge to increase the percentage of African-American young people who choose careers in dentistry.

At NYUCD, we are addressing this issue through a new initiative that makes NYUCD and local legislators partners in creating incentives for promising African-American young people to consider careers in dentistry long before they actually apply for admission. In contrast to recycling professional expertise in later life, this initiative is about planting the seeds of a professional future early in life. Although the results won’t be known immediately, we feel optimistic that this approach will bear fruit.

All told, this issue of *Global Health Nexus* testifies to the passion for discovery, rejuvenation, and innovation that characterizes NYUCD today.
Urging the Class of 2002 to actively exercise their rights and obligations as citizens, former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins delivered a rousing keynote address to an audience of nearly 3,000 guests who joined together on May 24, 2002, to celebrate the educational achievements of over 400 candidates who received the D.D.S. degree, the A.A.S. degree in dental hygiene, the B.S. degree in dental health education, and certificates in the postgraduate dental specialties. Only hours earlier, Mayor Dinkins had graciously agreed to pinch hit for the scheduled speaker, United States Congressman Charles B. Rangel, who was called to Washington, D.C., for an important vote.

Accepting NYUCD’s highest honor, the David B. Kriner Medal, on behalf of Congressman Rangel, Mayor Dinkins paid tribute to his longtime political ally and good friend, calling him “a distinguished legislator, human rights champion, and New Yorker’s New Yorker.”
Top left: Mayor David N. Dinkins congratulates the Class of 2002; top right: Mr. Stanley M. Bergman accepts the Strusser Award as the graduates enjoy their moment in the sun.
Minority entry into the dental profession is slipping—a downward trend that is particularly disturbing with regard to African Americans. In 2000, only 337 applicants to dental schools in the United States were African-American out of a total applicant pool of 6,735. And in the U.S. as a whole, with a population of approximately 35 million African Americans, only about 6,000 are dentists.

To help broaden access to dental education for a more richly diverse pool of applicants, the NYU College of Dentistry has joined forces with key New York State legislators to identify and motivate highly qualified African-American young people and other underrepresented minorities to see dentistry as a career option. Our premise is twofold: (1) the sooner a young person starts thinking about a future career path, the better; and (2) local legislators are heroes to their young constituents and can positively influence their career choices. Subsequently, if a student applies to NYUCD and is accepted on the basis of strong academic credentials, potential for achievement, and financial need—and if she or he is personally recommended by a participating legislator—the applicant will be eligible to receive a scholarship in that legislator’s name.

Among the legislators who have already endorsed this initiative are Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell, Jr., chairman of the New York State Assembly’s Ways and Means Committee; Assemblymember Keith L. T. Wright, chairman of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators; Assemblymember Roger L. Green, chairman of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, and Hispanic Legislative Caucus; Assemblymember Alexander B. Pete Grannis, chairman of the New York State Assembly Insurance Committee; and Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat, chairman of the New York State Task Force on New Americans and vice-chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.
Many additional legislators are expected to take part as the initiative moves forward.

Several legislators have offered to sponsor outreach programs in high schools in their communities that offer strong programs in the sciences and a large African-American student population, such as the Frederick Douglass Academy and Thurgood Marshall High School, both in Harlem, and the Science Skills High School in Brooklyn.

Recently NYUCD conducted a full-day program at the Frederick Douglass Academy sponsored by Assemblymember Farrell, whose district office is next door. Ms. Novella L. Jones, assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, spoke about the benefits and rewards of pursuing a dental career and encouraged students to start thinking now about colleges that offer an excellent predental curriculum. Other speakers included Ms. Connie Turner, coordinator of the Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental care program, and a group of students from the Student National Dental Association. Afterward, the students boarded the Smiling Faces, Going Places van for dental screenings and photos with Assemblymember Farrell. A follow-up field trip to NYUCD is being scheduled.

**Oral Cancer Screenings Again**
**Part of NYU Cancer Awareness Month**

For the second year in a row, volunteers from NYUCD’s Faculty Practice North, based at the NYU Medical Center, provided free oral cancer screenings to the general public throughout February as part of NYU Cancer Awareness Month. Sponsored by NYU’s Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of only 37 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the nation, the event marked the eighth consecutive year that the NYU Medical Center has sponsored this program, and the second year that it has offered oral cancer screenings.

“Forty-two participants were screened this year, with seven people recommended for follow-up care,” said Barbara Donofrio, manager of the NYU Dental Faculty Practice. “This is a dramatic increase in follow-ups from last year, and a clear indication that our involvement is having an impact on people’s lives.”

A squamous cell carcinoma—the most common oral cancer.
A growing body of evidence now indicates that preterm low birth-weight (PLBW) infants are more likely to die before their first birthday than normal birth-weight babies and that survivors may suffer from a number of health problems. Moreover, while the rate of PLBW is significantly higher among African Americans than among whites, over the past 15 years there has been a gradual increase in PLBW among whites as well. Accordingly, the need to understand what the risk factors are for preterm deliveries and low birth weight, and how they can be modified, has become a significant public health issue.

One such risk factor is believed to be pregnant women’s poor periodontal health. Indeed, periodontal disease may be responsible for up to 18 percent of preterm deliveries, making it a factor that appears to be as strong as smoking or alcohol abuse.

To focus public attention on periodontal disease as a risk factor affecting birth timing and weight, NYUCD will devote its next “Ask Your Dentist” campaign to this problem. Previous “Ask Your Dentist” campaigns have focused on raising public awareness of the importance of oral cancer screenings and on eradicating childhood caries.

Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, associate professor of epidemiology and health promotion, and director of the Clinical Research Training Program, has done extensive research on the consequences of poor periodontal health in the pregnant woman. According to Dr. Dasanayake, “The importance of our findings lies in the fact that poor periodontal health is easily amenable to prevention.” The new “Ask Your Dentist” campaign will bring this message to the general public through a series of advertisements and news stories. Watch for details in a future issue of Global Health Nexus.
Recycling and E-ZPass: An Invitation to Retirees

Dr. Clarence M. Calman
Class of 1951

We dentists know about many things, but two areas we should know more about are recycling and E-ZPass. My hope is that other “mature” (I hesitate to use the word “elderly”) dentists will take heed and also realize the value of recycling—ourselves.

When I retired from practice 10 years ago, I played tennis daily, went fishing, and traveled. But always there was the return home to the same routine. It was difficult to reconcile my previously active life with the letdown I felt after the tennis, fishing, and traveling were over.

Then one day I ran into Larry Salman, the former chairman of the Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, who invited me to teach part-time at NYUCD. The two-day-a-week salary would do little more than cover commuting and parking expenses, but the process of recycling, enhanced by the savings and convenience of E-ZPass, was about to begin.

Fast forward to 10 years later, and here I am today, having been completely recycled as a clinical associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. I’m convinced that the process has extended my life; it has certainly made it more interesting. The only activity it is depriving me of—thank God—is spending my days as a couch potato. Until the infirmities of old age caught up with me recently, I still played tennis, fished, and traveled. Now, because of health problems, I’ve given up those activities. But because I’ve been recycled, I can still teach students.

It is not an overstatement to say that I have been rejuvenated intellectually. The synapses in my brain are growing because they are continuously being stimulated by students who challenge my knowledge and abilities. In spite of increasing age, a process we cannot stop, my mind is sharper than ever. Sure, the commute is a hassle, especially since September 11, although E-ZPass certainly helps. Sure, parking is difficult and often expensive, but arriving at NYUCD, raring to go, makes it all worthwhile.

To all you retirees, I have this to say: Teaching opens the door to a life that remains professionally active, but without the headaches of private practice. There is an acute shortage of dentists in teaching positions. And while you will not be richly rewarded financially—after all, recycling a can or a bottle only gets you a penny—you will reap other benefits. Just as recycling a can or bottle promotes the greater good, so does a recycled dentist promote the well-being of the profession. And think of all the money you’ll save by using E-ZPass on your commute to NYUCD.
DISCOVERY
Two years ago I left my post as associate dean for basic sciences and Carolina Distinguished Professor of Developmental Biology and Anatomy at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine to come to NYUCD. I came because Dean Alfano persuaded me that NYUCD, long known for producing excellent clinicians, was in the process of creating a strong research engine capable of significantly advancing the knowledge base in oral health. He told me that the College was being transformed, both philosophically and physically, but I could not have imagined how far-reaching the changes would be.

**MAKING RESEARCH A PRIORITY AND SHARPENING ITS FOCUS**

NYUCD's research philosophy today is dramatically different from what it was 10 years ago. Research today is a priority, and because it is, all major decisions made at the College are considered not solely on their own terms but also in terms of how the decision will affect our ability to do research. Another major change is the redefinition of what it means to "do research." In the past, people tried to be all things to all people, doing any kind of research they could in any way they could as long as they were doing research. Now, instead of a scattershot approach to research, we are electing to focus on specific areas. Oral cancer is one of those areas. From a public health point of view it is certainly a well-founded choice, because it is an area in which dentistry can have a major impact on general health. The oral cancer initiative is twofold: there is the epidemiology and health promotion aspect—oral cancer screenings and awareness campaigns—and the basic science investigations into the fundamental mechanisms of oral cancer.

In addition to a lack of focus, there was the problem of isolation. Not only at NYUCD, but at other academic dental institutions as well, there were basic science research people doing fundamental research in cancer, cariology, or microbiology in their individual research labs, while clinical research people were off somewhere else working on xerostomia or other clinical conditions. They were independent entities. But in today's market, research institutions can no longer remain competitive in that way. In order to be productive, groups of individuals must work together synergistically.
THE MOVE TO TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

In addition to making research a priority and sharpening its focus, another key component of our research strategy is designed to foster interactions and collaborations among the world-class research faculty who have joined our ranks in recent years. Our objective is to build a bridge between the basic sciences and the clinical sciences in order to move fundamental basic science research into the clinic. This approach is called translational research—think of overlapping spheres—because it translates novel basic science findings into testable hypotheses for evaluation in clinical trials. Dr. Dianne Rekow, who recently joined NYUCD, is responsible for implementing this philosophy.

NYUCD will still conduct pure clinical research, such as studies on pain, implants, and whitening agents. And we will still have people doing research in very basic areas that may never be enacted in patient trials. But more and more will be translational research that begins in human or animal tissue experimentation and provides the groundwork to be translated into the clinical setting.

Many basic science researchers are already changing their orientation. Instead of thinking exclusively about fundamental mechanisms, they are also thinking about things that might be useful in the clinical setting five to ten years into the future. A major stimulus for this new kind of thinking comes from the revolution in biotechnology that arose from the human genome project’s exploration of our molecular selves. Simply put, things that people thought would happen far into the future are happening now.

We can expect that this new synergy among research orientations will look very much like the emerging model in biomedicine, where materials designed and tested at academic medical centers also move into clinical trials and practice there. This can easily be imagined at NYUCD in terms of implant materials.

THE RESEARCH TIMETABLE

Our goal within the next five years is to double research productivity at NYUCD and to see it thoroughly integrated into the fabric of the College. This will be achieved in three ways. First, the new Bluestone Center for Clinical Research will provide an optimal environment in which to conduct patient-oriented research designed to develop specific therapies. The results will be a tremendous boon to industry and ultimately to practitioners and patients. Second, basic science and translational research will be fully integrated approaches focused on producing specific clinical research hypotheses that can be tested at the Bluestone Center. Third, our epidemiology and health promotion activities will continue to expand. In short, we’ll have the whole gamut of research in important areas of dentistry being conducted at NYUCD. The missing piece that we require is federal support for clinical research. We will begin to build the reputation of the Bluestone Center with contracts from corporations, and then pursue NIH-funded clinical studies, which are peer reviewed and judged to be among the highest-quality research it is possible to conduct.

In the short term, my goal is to continue to build an infrastructure that facilitates research by giving faculty protected time from excessive paperwork and bureaucracy. And in addition to facilitating interaction among the major scientists at the College, we want to promote interaction with their colleagues throughout NYU, the United States, and the world in order to achieve bigger and better synergistic projects that are capable of improving oral health at the global level.

THE THINGS THAT PEOPLE THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN FAR INTO THE FUTURE ARE HAPPENING NOW.
Inside Dr. Louis Terracio's laboratory, a tiny experimental heart muscle bobs around a culture dish, throbbing much like a human heart.

Dr. Terracio created the muscle by taking heart muscle cells from rats and fusing them with collagen from cowhides. “Heart muscle cells continue beating even when they’re removed from animals,” he explains. “When we put them in the culture dish, the cells form interconnections, and in a couple of weeks, they begin beating in unison and mimicking the action of a heart.”

The experimental muscle could eventually be used to patch damaged heart ventricles, and a pacemaker could be attached to the muscle to spur the heart’s contraction. The muscle could also be implanted in children born with missing heart muscle because of congenital heart disease.

Dr. Terracio and his postdoctoral research associate, Tom Yan, are also developing skeletal muscle that could be implanted in patients with oral, head, and neck cancer. Often, these patients have their salivary glands removed or lose the muscles controlling their facial expressions. In many cases, large portions of the face are removed, leaving the patient disfigured. While faces can be cosmetically reconstructed, the muscles that control movement cannot be restored. To solve this problem, Dr. Terracio is creating bioengineered muscle in his laboratory that could be used to replace lost muscle needed for chewing and for facial expression.

While the muscles in Dr. Terracio’s laboratory are still small, he hopes to grow them large enough to be able to handle the human body’s intense workload. Initially, the muscles will be strengthened in a laboratory stretch device. Once they’ve grown robust, they will be transplanted to an animal, where Dr. Terracio hopes to connect them to the blood supply and then to the nervous system.

This project comes naturally for Dr. Terracio, who spent years studying how muscle develops. “At NYUCD, I’m combining my basic science experience with my knowledge of tissue engineering. This is part of our effort to produce research that can eventually be evaluated in clinical trials.”

The process of creating muscle strong enough for the human body is a painstaking one. For now, all eyes are on Dr. Terracio’s laboratory, where the tiny muscle beats on and on in its little culture dish. But in time, Dr. Terracio hopes its pulse will become a familiar rhythm in people’s lives.

To view a video of the beating heart created in Dr. Terracio’s laboratory, go to: www.nyu.edu/dental/research/faculty/terraciocardiac.mov
cracking
cancer’s codes

Kathleen Walsh Kinnally, R.N., Ph.D.,
is Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology
Cell shrinks as death cascade begins at 40 hours. Dying cell at 45 hours. Normal blood cell at 30 hours.

As an expert in the electrophysiology of mitochondrial membranes, Dr. Kathleen Walsh Kinnally spends her days studying the movement of proteins across membranes, or protein translocation in normal cells and in dying cells. She also studies the cascade of events that occur during apoptosis (cell death). By understanding these events, she explains, we will be able to reveal novel targets for turning the process of cell death on or off, depending on the pathology. For example, with heart attacks and strokes you want to turn the process off to minimize cell death. In cancer, you want to turn the process on, because you want those cells to die.

This is not new territory for Dr. Kinnally, who joined NYUCD almost two years ago as a professor of basic science, bringing with her significant funding from both the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Six years ago, Dr. Kinnally published the first paper that clearly demonstrated that proteins move and change compartments through an ion channel. More recently, she described a new mitochondrial channel, the Mitochondrial Apoptosis-Induced Channel, or MAC, which she calls “a target for chemo and heart attack therapies. It is a novel channel that is only found in dead cells, or dying cells, and is assembled early in the cell death program.”

“In order to truly understand how MAC functions,” she explains, “it’s necessary to put it into a simpler system using proteins called life and death regulators, a family of proteins known as bcl-2, which were originally described in children with leukemia. bcl-2 prevents cell death, and if it is overexpressed, it blocks cells from dying and it blocks MAC from forming. The bcl-2 family of proteins are either pro-apoptotic or anti-apoptotic. They need to be balanced. Overexpressing bcl-2 means that a cell lives when it should die. Overexpressing a protein called Bax means that the cell dies. To understand how bcl-2 and Bax work, we put them in yeast because yeast have almost the same fundamental machinery as a mammalian cell has, but they don’t have the process of apoptosis because they are unicellular. Bax kills yeast, but with bcl-2 and Bax, the yeast live. If you express Bax, you get the Mitochondrial Apoptosis-Induced Channel.” Using a technique called patch clamping, Dr. Kinnally is then able to examine single ion channels.

While heart attacks, strokes, and cancer are the focus of Dr. Kinnally’s investigations, the fruits of her discoveries may also have implications for developing new therapies for a variety of degenerative illnesses. As she says, “Apoptosis is a basic phenomenon that can be attributed to almost any pathology.”
GLOBAL HEALTH

DISCOVERY
Dr. Andrew I. Spielman doesn’t have to be reminded to stop and smell the roses. For nearly two decades, Dr. Spielman has been at the forefront of research investigating how smell and taste serve as screening mechanisms to distinguish chemicals in nature that cause either attraction or repulsion.

Dr. Spielman’s particular focus is on the key roles that taste and smell play in nutrition and food selection, including promoting or inhibiting pleasure, efficient metabolism, and a good overall quality of life. During the past decade, considerable progress has been made toward understanding the basic mechanisms of taste and smell, but there is still limited knowledge of taste and smell dysfunctions among many practitioners and the general public. Indeed, although more than two million Americans suffer from disorders that affect the sense of olfaction and/or gustation, chemosensory disorders do not evoke the same degree of public recognition as do hearing and vision impairment. Much remains to be done and current demographics underscore the need for speed.

Chemosensory dysfunctions affect a disproportionate number of the elderly, the fastest-growing segment of the population in the Western world. Hence, the importance of Dr. Spielman’s efforts, which seek to clarify the molecular events that underlie abnormal chemosensory function in order to improve diagnostic techniques.

For many chemosensory disorder sufferers, the problem is underdiagnosis because many dentists and physicians do not know what to look for. As a result, many patients become concerned about the seriousness of their disorder and develop depression. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that treatment of these disorders is still limited to conditions with discernible and reversible causes. “Yet,” says Dr. Spielman, “if people knew that they had an untreatable but not life-threatening disease, as most chemosensory disorders are, the likelihood is that they would cope with the situation better. We’re not yet very advanced in this area of health, but we have made a start. More research funding is needed to improve understanding of chemosensory mechanisms, develop better diagnostic procedures, and disseminate knowledge among practitioners and the general public.”
finding clues to caries and more in DNA

Page W. Caufield, D.D.S., Ph.D., is Professor and Head of the Division of Diagnostics, Infectious Disease and Health Promotion
Dr. Page W. Caufield, a distinguished microbiologist/infectious disease specialist, was the first to demonstrate that mutans streptococci—one form of bacteria responsible for dental caries—are transmitted from mother to infant during a discrete interval, which has been designated a “window of infectivity” occurring when the infant is around 26 months of age. Because mother and infant enjoy intimate contact and have similar immune systems, unlike those of fathers, infants acquire members of the indigenous oral bacteria from mothers, not fathers. Dr. Caufield’s premise is that by genetically identifying at-risk children early in life, it will be possible to treat them more easily and effectively. “What we now know,” he says, “is that we are on our way to developing an anti-caries antibiotic.” He predicts that it will not be long before dentists will be able to treat at-risk infants with this antibiotic and then seal all the spaces in the young child’s mouth where bacteria could live.

To track the transmission of oral bacteria from mother to child, Dr. Caufield and his team use DNA fingerprinting techniques. In a study recently funded by the NIH, Dr. Caufield will use these and other molecular tools to discover why some children are more susceptible to a severe form of tooth decay called rampant caries. Using bacterial profiling, the investigative team hopes to reveal what genetic factors in the bacteria are associated with this severe form of dental caries.

These same tools can be applied to uncovering the genetic basis for other infectious diseases, including ulcerative colitis and peptic ulcers. In a similar fashion involving genetic codes, Dr. Caufield is also looking at the genetic diversity of different strains of Streptococcus mutans collected from around the world. “By comparing DNA sequences, we can construct a family tree, so to speak, of the bacteria from ethnically diverse humans. Since bacteria and their human hosts evolved together over time, the human tree and the bacterial tree should be similar—at least, that is what we expect to find.”

Dr. Caufield and his colleagues have sampled people in remote areas, including the rain forest of Central Africa and in China, Brazil, New Zealand, Japan, and the U.S. Dr. Caufield will be part of a team of anthropologists, dentists, and physicians who will soon visit the Wapasha tribe deep within the Amazon of South America.

As a result of sampling bacteria from all over the world, the team has discovered several peptide antibiotics made by oral bacteria that are active against many of the now antibiotic-resistant bacteria common to other areas of the body. Several of these antibiotics received U.S. patents and are now being made in fermenters for large-scale production. One of the mutacin antibiotics is also active against the bacillus associated with anthrax, and therefore is a potential weapon against bioterrorism.
A Spectacular

NYUCD’S annual research day in April set new standards both for the quality and variety of submissions and the number of students and faculty who came to celebrate them.

Kudos to Chaninah Zweihorn, ’03, who won the ADA Dentsply Student Research Award for his presentation entitled “Ion-Selectivity Switch Is a Permeability Gating Mechanism With Physiological Relevance.” Chaninah’s adviser was Dr. Kathleen Walsh Kinnally, professor of basic science and craniofacial biology. Joseph Zelig, ’02, won the OKU Award for his presentation entitled “Neovascularization of a Bioengineered Tissue: An Adenoviral Approach.” Joseph was advised by Dr. Louis Terracio, associate dean for research, and Dr. Upinder Fotadar, research associate.

Joseph was also a corecipient of the Dean’s Student Research Award, along with Phillip Zaveloff, ’03. Dr. Mea A. Weinberg, clinical associate professor of periodontics; Dr. Robert J. Boylan, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology; and Dr. Fotadar advised them on their presentation entitled “A Novel Method for Determining the Prevalence of Identical Porphyromonas Gingivalis Strains Among Family Members.”

Left to right: Philip Zaveloff, Jeffrey Karen, Dr. Harvey Wishe, Bahram Saffar, Dr. Yihong Li, Man Ki So, Richard Leung, Dr. Louis Terracio, Chaninah Zweihorn, Angeline Chan, Wayne Hsieh, Klenise Paranhos, Claudine Agosta, Dawn Pietkiewicz, Thomas Kolodge, Ruben Cohen, Liang Guo, Serguei Grigoriev and Wentao (Tom) Yan.
The award for postdoctoral presentations was shared by Dawn Pietkiewicz for “The Effect of Cytochrome c on Apoptosis” (adviser: Dr. Kinnally), and by Wentao (Tom) Yan for “Tissue Engineering of Skeletal Muscle: Phase 1-Tissue Culture Conditions” (adviser: Dr. Terracio).

The judges included Dr. Ananda Dasanayake, associate professor of epidemiology and health promotion and director of the M.S. Program in Clinical Research; Dr. Robert Glickman, professor and chairman of the Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and director of the Advanced Education Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Dr. Angela Kamer, assistant professor of periodontics; Dr. Yihong Li, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and director of international research; and Dr. Harvey Wishe, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology.
International Partners in Health

the
Japanese and Chinese
Nex

By Andrew I. Spielman, D.M.D., Ph.D.,
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Every time I glance at the faces of NYU dental students, I am reminded that NYUCD really is the most global dental school on earth. And it is global from so many perspectives: Our students come from all across the United States and nearly 50 foreign countries; every national student dental organization is represented here; and more than two dozen languages are spoken.

For NYUCD such diversity signals an obligation: to fulfill our potential to become the dental institution in the world with the greatest impact on the health of society. One way in which we are making a global impact is through international faculty visits and exchange programs. Last year I was personally involved in two such visits after receiving invitations to travel to Japan and China to organize a symposium to highlight a growing trend in the field with broad implications for oral health; namely, tissue engineering of oral tissues. In addition to myself, NYUCD was represented at the symposium by Associate Dean for Research Louis Terracio, a leading authority on muscle tissue engineering. Dr. Terracio wowed the audience by recounting how former astronaut and senator John Glenn used the weightlessness of the Space Shuttle during his final space mission to perform an experiment designed by Dr. Terracio to grow bioengineered muscles. His presentation also demonstrated NYUCD’s leadership in the field of bioengineered muscle.

We were pleasantly surprised and flattered when one of the Japanese organizers of the symposium, Dr. Yoshinori Kuboki, a professor emeritus at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, requested permission to translate an entire issue of Global Health Nexus into Japanese and publish it in the Japanese Dental Journal. We realized that not only is Global Health Nexus a multiple award-winning magazine in the United States; it also serves as a model for other dental school publications around the world. In Latin, one definition of nexus is “bond,” and it is in bonding together dental institutions across the globe that Global Health Nexus is helping to advance NYUCD’s international mission.

During my last day in Tokyo I had the opportunity to visit Tokyo Dental College. My host, Professor Kiyoshi Minaguchi, whom I had known from my graduate days in Toronto, chairs the Department of Forensic Dentistry, one of 22 departments at Tokyo Dental College. In contrast to U.S. dentists, who pursue four years of college

China

As president of the American Association of Oral Biologists, I was responsible for working with my Japanese counterpart to organize a symposium to highlight a growing trend in the field with broad implications for oral health; namely, tissue engineering of oral tissues. In addition to myself, NYUCD was represented at the symposium by Associate Dean for Research Louis Terracio, a leading authority on muscle tissue engineering. Dr. Terracio wowed the audience by recounting how former astronaut and senator John Glenn used the weightlessness of the Space Shuttle during his final space mission to perform an experiment designed by Dr. Terracio to grow bioengineered muscles. His presentation also demonstrated NYUCD’s leadership in the field of bioengineered muscle.

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Professor Lee Chou of Boston University (far left) and Dr. Spielman (third from right) with faculty from the Shanghai Second Medical University.
followed by four years in dental school. Japanese dentists arrive straight from high school to pursue six years of dental study. The first three years comprise traditional basic science courses. Patient contact, under strict faculty supervision, occurs only during the last one and a half semesters of the program. Moreover, with 74,000 dentists, a higher per capita ratio than in the U.S., Japan has a glut of private practitioners. Hence, the lure of teaching and a consequent oversupply of qualified faculty.

**Shanghai**

My visit to Shanghai Second Medical University, hosted by Professor Lee Chou of Boston University, revealed an opposite trend: a shortage of faculty members and practitioners in a country emerging as a global economic superpower. China graduates approximately 2,000 dentists annually, a fraction of the number needed in the world’s most populous nation. The reason is that Chinese universities, which rely heavily on government subsidies, offer admission only to students with top-tier academic credentials, many of whom go on to further their education in the U.S., including at NYU, which leads to a cross-fertilization of Eastern and Western knowledge and techniques.

Another opportunity for global impact arises from the potential to develop student exchange programs. Chinese dental schools have huge patient populations, and see many disorders much more frequently than in the U.S. Oral cancer is an example of a condition with a much higher incidence among the heavily smoking Chinese population who lack early diagnosis and treatment, along with awareness of the disease and how to prevent it. The dental component of Shanghai Second Medical University has its own hospital, including a 100-bed department to perform oral and maxillofacial surgery. If an exchange program could be developed to bring more Chinese students to study at NYUCD and allow NYUCD students to study difficult surgical cases in Shanghai, there could be major benefits for both societies.

Overall, I was extremely impressed by the strong desire for continuing study that the Chinese dental education system inspires, by the hospitality shown to me personally, and by the prospect of developing exchange programs with the potential to foster the sharing of expertise and resources among academic dental centers worldwide.
In fall 2001, at the beginning of my senior year, my classmate Azar Boujaran and I traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, to participate in the NYU College of Dentistry’s first-ever semester-abroad program for predoctoral students. Over the years NYUCD has hosted many international students, but this was the first time it had sent its own students abroad for a formal exchange program. Although I was excited about this opportunity, there was a fair amount of anxiety about being in a foreign country during my senior year. However, as the departure date approached, our doubts were assuaged by Dr. Stuart Hirsch, associate dean for Development and International Programs, and his colleagues Dolores Spinelli and Ron Eckhardt. They all worked very hard to facilitate our introduction to Danish society and, afterward, our return to New York. The trip turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It allowed me not only to expand my knowledge of the world and the dental profession, but also to grow as an individual.

Denmark, the smallest of the Scandinavian countries, has a population of approximately five million people. There are only two dental schools in the country, the larger being Copenhagen University, which houses the Panum Dental Institute. The institute’s five-year dental education program is divided into semesters, with students generally entering directly from high school. Azar and I were integrated into the ninth semester, also known as the “international semester,” because of the presence of foreign students and the fact that most classes are held in English. Other exchange students came from England, Belgium, Norway, and Greece, so we had the opportunity to become acquainted not only with Danish dental techniques and culture but also with a broader European perspective.

The first few days were spent learning about our new surroundings. The state-of-the-art Panum Institute is extraordinary. Every student has his or her own cubicle in the general clinic, complete with private sink and desk. Clinical assistants and nurses are usually available to mix alginate or prepare IRM.

I was placed in a clinical group with five other students. Our mornings consisted of a rotation clinic in
either oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, or emergency care. In contrast to NYUCD, students at Copenhagen University do not generally follow a patient through the entire course of treatment. Instead, once a patient enters the system, he or she is placed on a waiting list for a crown, endodontics, filling, bridge, etc. The students then select from the waiting list the procedures they would like to do.

Early afternoons were spent in classes, and late afternoons were spent in general clinic sessions. In addition, thanks to the miracle of video conferencing, we were able to participate long distance in the NYUCD seminars that we were not able to attend in person.

The faculty-student interactions are very different from what I had known at NYUCD. No one is called “doctor.” All teachers are addressed by their first names, and the result is a more casual but nevertheless extremely professional teaching environment. Other differences are the frequency with which students challenge their instructors and the attitude toward preservation of tooth structure. Oral surgery was almost always the option of last resort.

While it was a great experience, the trip was not without its challenges, chief among them adapting to a foreign language. Although virtually everyone speaks English, the principal language is Danish. This could be especially difficult in pediatrics, where many young patients hadn’t yet learned English in school. But we always managed to communicate. “Tell-show-do” became “show-do,” with parents or dental assistants acting as interpreters.

The experience has given me a new perspective on what it means to be a dental professional. Many of the people I met impressed me deeply, whether it was a patient saying a simple “tak” (thanks), or the Danish breakfast I enjoyed on Friday mornings with my group. We often take for granted the impact that other people have on our lives, especially patients, fellow students, and professors. Perhaps one of the most valuable lessons I took away from this experience was a deepened appreciation not only of a different culture and dental school, but also of my own.
Prior to joining NYUCD, Dr. Rekow had been a professor and the chairperson of the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Dental School (UMDNJ), a member of the graduate faculty at UMDNJ, and the co-director and a graduate faculty member of the New Jersey Institute of Technology-UMDNJ Joint Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Engineering.

A multitalented, multiredented clinician and researcher, Dr. Rekow holds an M.S. degree in mechanical engineering, a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, and a certificate in orthodontics, all from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, and an M.B.A. from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since 1999, she has served as the director of the Associated Institutions for Material Science (AIMS), a partnership among Princeton University, the Sarnoff Corporation, Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Stevens Institute, and UMDNJ. The mission of AIMS is to foster and enable multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, academic-collaborative materials science research.

Dr. Rekow’s research interests focus on performance and properties of machinable brittle materials, an area in which she recently received a $5.9 million NIH grant, and on scaffolds for tissue engineering. Working with a team of physicists, engineers, materials scientists, fabrication companies, and clinicians, she designs and conducts tests to predict the long-term clinical failure of ceramic materials with the goal of establishing guidelines for improved product development. She is also developing solutions to tissue engineering problems by using a technique called “engineered porosity” in order to optimize the speed and quality of replacement bone that grows into craniofacial defects. In addition to her research, teaching, and clinical practice, Dr. Rekow publishes and lectures extensively in her multiple areas of expertise.
Dr. Thompson comes to NYUCD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Dental School, where he served as associate dean for research, industrial relations, and faculty development and as a professor of prosthodontics and biomaterials. Dr. Thompson holds a dental degree from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery at the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in biology/biophysics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Thompson’s research activities focus on enhanced machinability and performance of ceramics. He is currently the principal investigator or co-investigator on three grants in this area and has five grant applications pending. The recipient of extensive public and private research funding for nearly 30 years, Dr. Thompson has published over 120 articles, books, chapters, and abstracts and has delivered over 200 lectures both in the United States and abroad. He holds a number of patents and is the creator of several audiovisual teaching aids.

Dr. Thompson predicts that in five years NYUCD will be in the forefront of biomaterials and biomimetics research and will function as an international center in these areas. He is committed to building a broad-based cadre of interdisciplinary researchers and clinicians who will be able to move between relatively sophisticated procedures like tissue engineering and less complex ones like the application of a simple restorative bridge in the mouth. Using a collaborative approach, his team will seek funding in three principal areas: the design of 3D scaffolds for tissue ingrowth, unique calcium phosphate chemistries and application processes for implant coatings, and new adhesive restorative materials for the treatment of early and hidden caries.
DR. OLIVIER F. NICOLAY
Appointed Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics

Dr. Olivier F. Nicolay, who holds dental degrees from both Columbia University and the Universite Rene Descartes in France, has been appointed a clinical associate professor of orthodontics. Dr. Nicolay was formerly an associate professor of clinical dentistry at the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, and an associate attending dental surgeon at the New York–Presbyterian Hospital. His major research interests focus on craniofacial biology, the biology of tooth movement, and the involvement of neurotransmitters in tissue remodeling.

DR. MIRIAM R. ROBBINS
Appointed Clinical Associate Professor of Oral Medicine

Dr. Miriam R. Robbins, who holds a dental degree from the School of Dental Medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and an M.S. degree in management and health policy from NYU’s Robert Wagner School of Public Policy, has joined the faculty as a clinical associate professor of oral medicine. Dr. Robbins previously was clinical associate professor in the Department of Diagnosis and Oral Pathology at the University of Maryland Baltimore College of Dental Surgery Dental School. Her research focuses on the treatment of medically complex patients, especially those with head and neck cancer.

MS. RITA A. STARTUP
Appointed Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Programs

Ms. Rita A. Startup, formerly senior director for Alumni Programs and Special Events, has been named assistant dean for Development and Alumni Programs. A member of the NYUCD community since 1976, Rita brings to her new position an outstanding combination of creativity, energy, and skill. “Rita has galvanized NYUCD’s approach to development,” said Dean Alfano. “She is a person who virtually defines the concept of ‘six degrees of separation.’ Not only does she seem to know everyone; she is zealous about getting influential people to help support NYUCD. I am extremely confident that her leadership will add major momentum to our advancement efforts.”
Dr. Peter Sacks, an associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology, has received a grant in excess of $1 million from the NIH to investigate the characteristics of precancerous lesions in the mouth that allow them to outgrow normal cells and become malignant. Dr. Sacks is one of the very few people in the world who has been able to develop and maintain premalignant cell lines. His objective is to determine how to prevent cells that are not normal but are not malignant either, as in leukoplakia, for example, from overgrowing and becoming cancer.

By looking at early manifestations of disease, Dr. Sacks hopes to identify the characteristics of premalignant cells that give them an advantage in growth, so that when insulted by smoking, drinking, and other risk factors, they are ripe to become cancer. He is also looking at tissue cultures of premalignant cell lines, normal epithelium, and bona fide cancer cells, to see how they interact, and how, by manipulating the cells, abnormal cells can be prevented from overgrowing and becoming cancer.

“In recent years, we have been focusing on prevention,” explains Dr. Sacks. “The idea of chemoprevention is to find an agent that suppresses the disease and puts it on hold. That way, a patient can live the rest of his or her life, not have cancer, and not be forced to have a lesion removed that may or may not become cancer.” One potentially chemopreventive agent under investigation is curcumin, a spice that gives curry its yellow color, and has been shown in studies to inhibit the growth of abnormal cells. Dr. Sacks’s grant will run for five years.
The Starr Foundation, a longtime supporter of NYU programs and initiatives, has made a second grant of $250,000 to the Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental care program.

Since its launch in January 2000, the Smiling Faces, Going Places dental care program has performed nearly 7,000 pediatric procedures. Eighty percent of the children treated had no dental coverage and were treated for free. The children ranged in age from 2 to 14, and were primarily African-American, Hispanic, Haitian, Russian, and Asian. The Smiling Faces, Going Places van visits public schools, Head Start programs, day care centers, summer camps, and health fairs.

The Starr Foundation was established in 1955 by Cornelius Vander Starr, an insurance entrepreneur who founded the American International family of insurance companies, now known as AIG. The foundation has been an important benefactor of numerous not-for-profit organizations in New York City and throughout the United States.

“This latest, very generous gift demonstrates The Starr Foundation’s continued belief in NYUCD’s outreach goals,” said Dean Alfano. “When foundations of the caliber of The Starr Foundation, one of the most respected philanthropies in the world, support our initiatives, we know that we are on the right path.”
A gift of $150,000 has come to the NYU College of Dentistry from the estate of Mrs. Viola Odenheimer, a native New Yorker who was living in Boca Raton at the time of her death. The bequest was made possible by her executor, Mr. Bernard I. Klein.

Mr. Klein chose NYUCD as a beneficiary of Mrs. Odenheimer’s estate based on his strong family ties and devotion to the College. His is a dental family that gives new meaning to the term. It includes his son, Dr. Steven F. Klein, ‘80; his nephew, Dr. Alan M. Schwimmer, ’98; his father-in-law, Dr. Max B. Koppelman, ’22; Max Koppelman’s son, Dr. Howard S. Koppelman, ’58; Howard Koppelman’s son, Dr. Brian L. Koppelman, ’96; and Howard’s brother-in-law, Dr. Irwin Niditch, ’55.

The gift from Mrs. Odenheimer’s estate will name two facilities within the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, a surgical suite and a patient lounge.

A Gift in Memory of
Dr. Leonard J. Zweifler, ‘53

A generous gift in memory of Dr. Leonard J. Zweifler, ’53, who passed away in November, has been made by his widow, Mrs. Perri Zweifler. Dr. Zweifler was for many years an active member of the Board of Directors of the NYU Dental Alumni Association.

“Len Zweifler was an outstanding individual and an energetic and devoted alumnus,” said Dean Alfano. “His passing leaves a void in all our lives. We are grateful to Perri for her thoughtfulness in making a gift that will help advance innovative educational, research, and clinical care programs at the school that Len loved so well.”
Today’s market uncertainties create a dilemma for many investors. If you have held stock over the long term, you may still have paper profits. If you wish to sell shares now and reinvest, you will lose much of your investment to the capital gains tax. And it won’t be easy to find an investment that pays high income in this market.

But there is a charitable alternative that saves taxes and returns a high level of income to you. Instead of selling your stock, consider making a gift to support the College’s Transformations campaign through the NYU Charitable Gift Annuity. NYU will pay you a high level of income. You avoid capital gains taxes and obtain an immediate income tax deduction. And your entire gift will work to earn a high level of income for you—and ultimately support the future of the College of Dentistry.

For example, if at age 76 you contribute to the College $100,000 of stock that you had purchased for $20,000, the NYU gift annuity will pay you income of $8,000 for the rest of your life (the annuity rate is based on your age). This annuity rate is much higher than current market rates for bonds and CD’s. The following chart compares the advantages of the Charitable Gift Annuity with the income and tax results of selling the stock and reinvesting the proceeds in a bond that pays income at 6%.

You can establish a Charitable Gift Annuity with a gift of as little as $5,000. NYU life-income gifts can be designed to accommodate a wide variety of financial needs and objectives. We invite you to talk with us about how a life-income gift can work for you. For more information, call Alan Shapiro, Esq., Director of Gift Planning, at (212) 998-6960.

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<th>Gross Principal</th>
<th>Charitable Gift Annuity 8%</th>
<th>Sell and Reinvest: Bond 6%</th>
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Instead of selling your stock, consider making a gift to support the College’s Transformations campaign through the NYU Charitable Gift Annuity.
Dr. Stephen J. Cuchel (left center) and Dr. Martin Kane (right center), both Class of 1964, hosted a magnificent reception honoring Dean Alfano last spring at Dr. Cuchel's home in Roslyn, New York. The reception raised nearly $100,000 from alumni who had the opportunity to speak personally with Dean Alfano about his vision for the College.

Major Donors Honored

Donors of $1,000 and more were honored in June at a gala dinner held at the new Ritz Carlton Hotel in lower Manhattan. Faculty guests included, from left, Dr. Peter Perimenis, Dr. Richard Kiman, Dr. Steven David, and Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch.

Super Center Update

Dr. Stuart Super greeted guests, including Dr. Vasiliki Karlis, at a dinner at the Harvard Club celebrating another year of support from the Dr. Stuart and Tibby Super Foundation for Facial Deformities. Dr. Super is associate professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and director of the Center for Dentofacial Deformities and Corrective Jaw Surgery at NYUCD.
The NYU Distinguished Teaching Award is NYU’s highest honor for teaching, a distinction attained only by the finest teachers. It affirms the University’s commitment to teaching and to fostering a positive learning environment at NYU.

Dr. Vernillo has been a member of the NYU dental faculty for nearly 19 years. He currently serves as a professor of oral pathology. In his letter nominating Dr. Vernillo for the Distinguished Teaching Award, Dean Alfano wrote, “Tony has published numerous scholarly articles on connective tissue biochemistry and cell biology. But it is clearly Tony’s magic with students in the classroom and on the clinic floor that distinguishes him as an outstanding educator.”

In recent years, Dr. Vernillo has also been an important contributor to the College’s global mission. He has lectured at the University of Lisbon in Portugal and at the Universities of Witwatersrand and Stellenbosch, in South Africa. Last summer he joined students from NYUCD on an outreach trip to the village of Arusha, in Tanzania.

NYUCD congratulates Dr. Vernillo on receiving this wonderful, well-deserved award in tribute to a master of the art of teaching.
Mr. Glenn Marrus, director of quality assurance, has received the prestigious 2001-2002 Distinguished Administrator Award presented by New York University in recognition of his outstanding achievements as an administrator and his dedicated service to faculty, students, and staff. The award, which is accompanied by a cash gift of $5,000, is a special acknowledgment of the value NYU places on administrative excellence, and a way of formally honoring the significant contributions of administrative and professional staff. It was presented to Mr. Marrus at a dinner in April hosted by former NYU president L. Jay Oliva, who called him an “exemplary University citizen who has helped advance NYU’s goals.”

A member of the NYUCD community for the past 27 years, Mr. Marrus is responsible for monitoring every aspect of the academic programs, business functions, clinical operations, and infrastructure support of the College, and for developing quality assurance guidelines for review and implementation.

Noting that only six individuals were selected from the University-wide award competition, Dean Alfano said, “The Distinguished Administrator Award brings great honor to NYUCD as well as to Glenn, who is probably the first administrator at a dental school to have such a senior position and such broad responsibilities in the area of quality and compliance. His world is a litany of letters—EPA, OSHA, FDA, HIPAA, FDNY, Article 28 among them—and he manages them all with great technical competence and an even higher level of interpersonal skill.”
Ms. Marie Bien-Aimee and Ms. Maria DeAcetis

Win Violet Awards

Ms. Marie Bien-Aimee, a senior clinical aide in the clinical simulation and laboratory technology center, and Ms. Maria DeAcetis, administrative assistant in the Office of Research, have each won a coveted New York University “Give a Violet” award. Marie and Maria were chosen by a University-wide selection committee of faculty, students, administrators, and staff from over 300 nominees. The selection committee judged them to be “individuals who exemplify the University’s spirit in their enthusiastic and caring approach to their jobs.”

“This is a splendid tribute to two outstanding staff members,” said Dean Alfano, “and a wonderful way of completing the triangle of major University awards won by NYUCD faculty and administrators this year.”

Ms. Maria DeAcetis shares a laugh with Dr. Richard I. Vogel (far left) and Dr. Louis Terracio.

Ms. Marie Bien-Aimee with NYU Vice President Robert Goldfeld.

Members of the Class of 2002 gathered at a luncheon in their honor hosted by Dean Alfano following the all-University commencement exercises in May.
A Thank-You From President Clinton

Our last issue of Global Health Nexus featured a photo of former President Bill Clinton shaking hands with an NYUCD staff member at Ground Zero. We sent a copy of the magazine to President Clinton and received the response shown at right.

March 22, 2002

Michael C. Alfano
Dean
New York University
College of Dentistry
345 East 24th Street
New York, New York 10010

Dear Dean Alfano:

Thank you so much for the current issue of Global Health Nexus. You were kind to send it, and I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I want to say again how grateful I am for all the much-needed help the people of the NYUCD community provided on September 11. While it will be difficult for us to heal after a tragedy of this magnitude, I am confident that the extraordinary spirit and solidarity our citizens have already demonstrated will help us rise above the heartbreak and look toward a future full of promise.

My best to you and to everyone at NYUCD.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton
First Administrators Retreat

Explores Link Between Individual Productivity and Organizational Success

There are tools for every trade, including leading a professionally and personally rewarding life. That was the theme of NYUCD’s first-ever administrators retreat entitled “How to Get What You Want—On and Off the Job.” Over 50 administrators participated in the overnight event held at the Doral Arrowwood resort and conference center in Rye, New York in April. Led by Dr. Julie P. Kantor, a psychologist specializing in helping organizations succeed by helping people progress, the retreat provided the administrators with an opportunity for structured professional development away from the workplace and with the tools to work together more effectively.

“We wanted to send a clear message to NYUCD’s administrators that they are key to the College’s mission,” said Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, associate dean for development and international programs. “Our intention was both to facilitate the professional goals and objectives of our administrators and to build a stronger sense of community in order to propel NYUCD forward.”

While the formal program dealt with how to develop and use a strategic mindset in order to increase personal productivity, an added benefit was the opportunity to socialize with colleagues at a gorgeous resort located on 114 acres in Westchester County. Congratulations to Tamu al-Islam, director of human resources and administrative services, and to Tracy Kamens, acting director of the Faculty-Staff Development Center, for arranging a stimulating and fun program.
Three members of the NYU Chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) were part of a contingent of 130 dental students who went to Washington, D.C., in March for the annual ASDA–American Dental Education Association (A DEA) National Student Lobby Day. Brian A. Houston, ’04, Rubaba Khan, ’05, and Marc Brian Nock, ’03, lobbied for the Children’s Dental Health Improvement Act to increase access to care for underserved youngsters, the Student Loan Flexibility Act of 2001 to reduce the interest and amount of payments on student loans, increased funding for general dentistry residency and pediatric dentistry residency programs, federal loan repayment programs, and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Dental Reimbursement Program.

Dr. Dong Won Park, a second-year student in the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, has become the fourth recipient of the annual Dr. Harold E. Litvak Junior Fellowship in Prosthodontics.

A native of South Korea, Dr. Park received his dental degree from Pusan National University. Dr. Park is the first student to enroll in a four-year, combined prosthodontics and implant dentistry training program at NYUCD (three years of prosthodontics training followed by one year in implant dentistry). At the same time, he is pursuing a Master of Science degree in biomaterials and biomimetics.

The Litvak Fellowship was established in 1999 through a generous grant from Mrs. Adele Block in honor of her dentist, Dr. Litvak, a clinical professor of prosthodontics at NYUCD. Mrs. Block is a member of the family that owned the Block Drug Company, Inc., a major producer of oral and general health care products, which is now a division of Glaxo Smith Kline.

Dr. Dong Won Park Receives Fourth Annual Litvak Fellowship
Ms. Emilie Godfrey, the administrator of the NYU Oral Cancer Research for Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion (RAAHP) Center, has won the inaugural “RAAHP”er of the Year Award. The NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center was established last fall with a seven-year, $8.3 million grant from the NIH to investigate why African Americans and Hispanics have a higher incidence of oral cancer as well as higher mortality rates. The “RAAHP”er of the Year Award will be presented annually to the individual who excels in expanding communication among RAAHP Center investigators.

The award was presented to Emilie by Dr. Ralph V. Katz, chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion and the grant’s principal investigator, at a dinner honoring RAAHP Center board members. “During those frantic first four months leading up to the submission of our more than 1,200-page grant application,” said Dr. Katz, “Emilie was our ‘grant production office.’ She assembled and organized vast amounts of materials from our 11 collaborating universities and agencies ranging up and down the East Coast from Puerto Rico to Boston, and maintained open channels of communication among all 50 of our collaborating coinvestigators. While there were many wonderful people who played pivotal roles in securing the grant, there was no doubt in my mind who our first “RAAHP”er awardee should be.”

As RAAHP Center administrator, Emilie brings to her assignment a wealth of experience as a research administrator and coordinator, having coordinated large, multicenter clinical trials ranging from 30 to 300 sites in a variety of medical studies. In addition to her administrative responsibilities, Emilie, a certified dietitian-nutritionist with a master’s degree in clinical nutrition, also serves as an adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology and health promotion, and recently developed and taught a nutrition component as part of the new clinical simulation laboratory course given during the first year of the D.D.S. program. “From the low-key, almost leisurely manner in which she approaches colleagues, as contrasted with the typically rushed workplace pace,” says Dr. Katz, “to the presence of flowers and tablecloths at working luncheons and interview sessions, to the high quality of the nutrition course she created, Emilie brings a style and special touch—a touch of class—to every activity she undertakes.”
In 1999, I took a year off from my dental studies at Harvard to try to find out what the future of dentistry holds. I can say without hesitation that if there is one school that epitomizes the future of dentistry, it is the NYU College of Dentistry.

The first thing that struck me about NYU CD was a feeling of boundless energy. From the moment I entered the Schwartz Lobby, I felt myself caught up in an exhilarating whirl of activity that mirrored the rhythms of the College’s New York City location. Just like New York City, things move quickly at NYUCD. But despite the excitement and edginess of the environment, a clear sense of purpose quickly emerged: To deliver the most progressive dental education program possible, serve the needs of New York’s diverse, dynamic patient populations in the most effective and efficient way possible, and foster research to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

Each day I found myself inspired by the array of new initiatives, from Dean Alfano’s campaign to focus public awareness on the importance of oral cancer screenings to Dr. Stuart Super performing dramatic facial reconstructive surgery on patients with congenital abnormalities to the launching of the Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental care program to Dr. Racquel LeGeros’s investigations into the impact of ethnicity on oral health status—the list goes on and on.

There was not one moment during the year that I felt unchallenged. Everything at NYUCD is always changing, growing, evolving into something better, something stronger. Even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the people I met were always willing to persevere, try a new approach, and put in additional time to advance the College’s objectives. It is that impression of innovation, dedication, and determination that I took back with me to Harvard. To say that my experience at NYUCD has been a constant source of inspiration to me since my return to Harvard would be a gross understatement.

One of my last duties at NYUCD was to act as an usher at the Graduation Ceremony featuring a keynote address by U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher. I remember listening to his eloquent remarks and feeling such an immense sense of pride—not only in being a part of the dental community, but, for a brief period, being a part of the NYUCD community. There are days when dental school can feel overwhelming. But my experiences at NYUCD have kept me motivated to finish dental school and to make my own contributions to dentistry, even perhaps someday as a faculty member at NYUCD.

I CAN SAY WITHOUT HESITATION THAT IF THERE IS ONE SCHOOL THAT EPITOMIZES THE FUTURE OF DENTISTRY, IT IS THE NYU COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY.
Celebrating Our Community

_Congratulations to:_

**MS. SUSAN ABRABAHAM,** assistant to Executive Associate Dean Steven Donofrio, on exhibiting seven pieces of her outdoor art at the new public sculpture park on the Hudson River waterfront in Yonkers. The photo below shows one of Susan's pieces, a 25,000-pound “River Bed” composed of Vermont white marble and Indiana limestone depicting a wave in motion.

[Photo of Ms. Susan Abraham with her 25,000 pound sculpture.]

**MR. VAN AFES,** director of the Waldmann Memorial Library, on being interviewed by Voice of America on NYUCD’s new DVD-formatted curriculum.

**DR. KATHLEEN ACOGLIA,** clinical assistant professor of Diagnostic Science and Urgent Care, on receiving the Humanitarian Award of the New York Academy of Dentistry in recognition of her dedicated efforts as a tour commander on the Dental Information Team for the Office of the Medical Examiner of the City of New York, following the September 11 tragedy at the World Trade Center.

**DR. MICHAEL C. ALFANO,** dean of NYUCD, on authoring an article entitled “Dental Education: One Dean's Perspective” for the _Journal of the American College of Dentists_ and on being quoted in the ADA News on the need for a mandatory postgraduate dental residency program in New York State. In addition, Dean Alfano spoke at the New York State Dental Association’s Council on Dental Health Planning and Hospital Dentistry on “Dentistry’s Role in Preparing for and Responding to Bioterrorism”; he spoke at the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting on “Terrorism Preparedness”; and he presented the keynote address at the 2002 graduation ceremony at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.

Dean Alfano also presented three lectures at the ADEA Meeting in San Diego entitled “Faculty Recruitment and Retention,” “The Value of Minority Recruitment and Retention,” and “Redefining Scholarship: An Assault on Academe or Academe at Its Best?” He also spoke at the ADA conference on “The Role of Dentistry in Bioterrorism”; at the Dr. Stuart and Tibby Super Foundation dinner at the Harvard Club on “The Future of Dentistry,” and at Harvard University School of Dental Medicine’s Alumni Day on “Will Dentistry Accept the Challenge of Catastrophe Preparedness?”

Dean Alfano also served as a member of two FDA Advisory Committee panels. The first panel recommended the switch from Rx to OTC of Claritin® and the second panel recommended the Rx to OTC switch of Prilosec®.

**DR. KENNETH L. ALLEN, ’73,** assistant professor of general dentistry and management science and director of the Foundation Skills Program, on coauthoring an article entitled “Clinical Simulation and Foundation Skills: An Integrated Multi-Discipline Approach to Teaching” for the _Journal of Dental Education_. Dr. Allen’s coauthors included Dr. Frederick G. More, professor of epidemiology and health promotion, and Dr. Alan H. Rattet, ’61, clinical associate professor of general dentistry and management science. Dr. Allen’s article was also selected as a finalist in the 2002 ADEA Educational Research and New Programs Award Competition.

**MS. RASHMI AMBEWADIKAR, ’05,** on being selected for a 2002-2003 national leadership position with the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) this summer. Ms. Ambewadikar was chosen to
serve as a Washington national health policy extern. She will be funded by the ASDA to attend the 32nd Annual Session in Portland, Oregon, August 28–September 1, 2002.

**MR. JEFF BENGERT,** assistant director of student affairs, on leading a panel at the second annual NYU Student Affairs Conference.

**DR. PAGE W. CAUFIELD,** head of the Division of Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, and Health Promotion, on being interviewed for a Discovery Channel program on human wild life. Dr. Caufield spoke about how oral bacteria foster immunization in infants.

**DR. RUBEN COHEN, ’02,** on authoring an article entitled “In Service to Others” for the *New York State Dental Journal*. The article described the dental clinic for impoverished villagers in East Africa that Ruben organized last year.

**DR. ALLYN J. COLEMAN,** assistant professor of prosthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Macromolecular Leakage Beneath Complete Cast Crowns: A 6-Month In Vitro Investigation Using Microfluorimetry” for *Quintessence International*. Dr. Coleman’s coauthors were **Dr. Haig D. Rickerby,** clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics, and **Dr. Lisa R. Antonoff,** ’86, clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics.

**DR. STAN B. DAWKINS, ’63,** associate professor of general dentistry and management science and director of the Advanced Education Program in General Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Assessing the Use of a Standard Evaluation Report by CCAPA Faculty Pre- and Post-Calibration” for the *Journal of Dental Education*. Dr. Dawkins’s coauthors included **Dr. Bapanaiah Penugonda,** associate professor of general dentistry and management science; **Dr. Alan M. Solden,** ’63, associate professor of general dentistry and management science and director of clinical systems; and **Dr. Eugene Hittelman,** associate professor of epidemiology and health promotion. In his capacity as president of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) section on minorities, Dr. Dawkins also moderated a symposium of five deans, including **Dean Alfano,** who presented their views on increasing diversity in dental schools.

**DR. DENISE J. ESTAFAN,** assistant professor of biomaterials and biomimetics and of prosthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Implementing an Esthetic Dentistry Program Into the Dental School Curriculum” for the *Journal of Dental Education*. Dr. Estafan’s coauthors included **Dr. John G. Poulos,** ’75, clinical associate professor of prosthodontics and acting chairman of the Blatterfein Department of Prosthodontics; **Dr. Ivy Peltz,** ’83, clinical assistant professor of general dentistry and management science and of prosthodontics; and **Dr. Alan H. Rattet,** clinical associate professor of general dentistry and management science.

**MS. JILL B. FERNANDEZ-WILSON,** clinical associate professor of pediatric dentistry, on receiving a Presidential Meritorious Service Award for her outstanding service as master chief dental technician in the U.S. Naval Reserve. This is the highest non-combat award given to an enlisted person. Professor Fernandez-Wilson also presented an essay entitled “Growing Up Cavity Free—The Early Years” at the 2001 Greater New York Dental Meeting. In addition, she organized a group of dental students who acted as mentors to sixth graders at the Salk School of Science Teen Health Fair, a collaborative initiative with the Programs in Preparation for the Professions at the NYU School of Medicine. Also participating in the program was **Dr. Kenneth E. Fleisher,** assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

**DR. STUART J. FROUM, ’70,** clinical professor of periodontics and implant dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Effect of Platelet-Rich Plasma on Bone Growth and Osseointegration in Human Maxillary Sinus Grafts: Three Bilateral Case (continued on the next page)
DR. MARK N. HOCHMAN, clinical associate professor of orthodontics and of implant dentistry, on coauthoring “An In Vitro Study of Needle Force Penetration Comparing a Standard Linear Insertion to the New Bidirectional Rotation Insertion Technique” for Quintessence International.

DR. LEILA JAHANGIRI, clinical assistant professor of prosthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Subjective Evaluation of Problem-Based Learning in a Large Class Setting” for the Journal of Dental Education. Dr. Jahangiri’s coauthors included Dr. Warren I. Scherer, professor and acting chairman of the Department of General Dentistry and Management Science and Dr. Alan H. Rattet, clinical associate professor of general dentistry and management science.

DR. KENNETH W. JUDY, ‘68, clinical professor of implant dentistry and cochairman of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, on receiving an honorary doctoral degree from Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Judy is only the second person to receive an honorary degree from Yeditepe University, the inaugural recipient having been the Turkish prime minister. In addition, Dr. Judy was recently inducted as an honorary member of Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Zahnarztlche Implantologie (DGZI), the oldest implant dentistry society in Europe.

DR. RACQUEL Z. LEGEROS, Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, on authoring an article entitled “Properties of Osteoconductive Biomaterials: Calcium Phosphates” for Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research. Dr. LeGeros also recently coauthored an article entitled “Effects of Calcium Phosphate Ceramic Bone Graft Materials on Permanent Teeth Eruption in Beagles” for the Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal.

DR. YIHONG LI, associate professor of basic science and craniofacial biology and director of international research, on being named an honorary professor at the West China College of Stomatology.

MS. EVA M. LUPOVICI, clinical associate professor of dental hygiene and director of the dental hygiene clinic, on coauthoring an article entitled “Use of Internet for Recruitment of Dental Assisting Students” for the Journal of Dental Education. Her coauthors included Ms. Judith L. Cleary, clinical associate professor of dental hygiene; and Ms. Cheryl M. Westphal, assistant dean for allied health programs and director of the Dental Hygiene Program.
**DEPARTMENT OF ENDODONTICS PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

The Department of Endodontics honored four of its longest-serving, most devoted faculty members at the Annual Endodontics Faculty, Alumni, and Residents Dinner held last spring.

- **Dr. Paul A. Rosenberg**, chairman of the Dr. I.N. and Sally Quarataro Department of Endodontics, presented outstanding service awards to Dr. Harry Blechman, dean emeritus and professor emeritus of endodontics; Dr. I. N. Quarataro, clinical professor of endodontics; Dr. Leon Schertzer, clinical associate professor of endodontics; and Dr. Martin Weisselberg, clinical professor of endodontics.

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**DR. FRANCIS V. PANNO**, associate dean for clinical affairs, on receiving the Distinguished Alumnus in Dentistry Award presented by Marquette University. Added kudos to Dr. Panno on being selected to receive the Austen Sniffen Medal of Honor presented by the Ninth District Dental Society.

**DR. PAULA R. ROSENBERG, ’62**, associate dean for graduate programs and professor and chairman of the Dr. Ignatius N. and Sally Quarataro Department of Endodontics, on being elected a director of the American Board of Endodontics.

**MR. JASDEEP SAGOO, ’04**, on being selected as a winner of the 2002 Summer Dental Student Award presented by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

**DR. RODOLFO SANCHEZ**, clinical instructor of implant dentistry, on coauthoring “The Effect of Two Different Coatings on the Surface Integrity and Softness of a Tissue Conditioner” for the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry.

**DR. WARREN I. SCHERER, ’63**, professor and acting chairman of the Department of General Dentistry and Management Science, on being named to the Board of Directors of “Smiles Against Hate,” a nonprofit organization created to promote diversity and multicultural awareness among individuals from all backgrounds and eliminate hate and hate-motivated crimes, beginning in our nation’s schools.

**DR. SIDNEY I. SILVERMAN, ’37**, clinical professor of prosthodontics and of basic sciences and craniofacial biology, on being invited to participate in the XVII International Symposium on Morphologic Sciences to be held in September 2002, in Romania.

**SNDA**, the Student National Dental Association, on presenting a Community Outreach-Free Dental Screening Program at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Cambria Heights, New York. In addition to oral health screenings, the students provided health promotion information.

**DR. FRANCIS F. TUNG**, assistant professor of prosthodontics, on coauthoring “The Antimicrobial Properties of a Urea-Based Handwash Lotion with Triclosan” for General Dentistry. Dr. Tung’s coauthors were Dr. Denise J. Estafan, assistant professor of biomaterials and biomimetics and of prosthodontics, and Dr. Warren I. Scherer, professor and chairman of the Department of General Dentistry and Management Science.

**DR. M E A A. W E I N B E R G**, clinical associate professor of periodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Assessing Oral Malignancies” for American Family Physician. Dr. Weinberg’s coauthor was Dr. Denise J. Estafan, assistant professor of biomimetics and biomaterials and of prosthodontics.

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Focus on Alumni

THE PRIDE OF NYUCD

Congratulations to:

40’s

DR. RICHARD SHERMAN,
(nee Scheinman), Class of 1942, on celebrating 60 years in practice. His brother Dr. Robert Scheinman is also an NYU College of Dentistry graduate, Class of 1936, as was their father, Dr. Philip Scheinman, circa Class of 1905.

50’s

DR. WILLIAM E. SILVER,
Class of 1953, on his volunteer efforts as a member of the DMORT team of the New York City Medical Examiner’s Office doing dental identifications on victims of the World Trade Center disaster. Now retired, Dr. Silver is a consultant in forensic dentistry to the Miami Dade Medical Examiner’s Office.

60’s

DR. DOMINICK P. DEPAOLA,
Class of 1969, on receiving an honorary Doctor of Science in Pharmacy degree from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston; on his election as vice president of the American Association for Dental Research; and on his election as a member of the Board of Directors of Research! America, a 450-member nonprofit education and advocacy alliance that aims to make medical and health research a national priority. Dr. DePaola is the president and CEO of The Forsyth Institute.

70’s

DR. G. KIRK GLEASON,
Class of 1970, on being reelected to a third term as secretary-treasurer of the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA).

DR. MARK CURTIS STEVENS,
Class of 1977, on coauthoring an article entitled “Complications of an Intra-Arterial Injection from an Inferior Alveolar Nerve Block” for the Journal of the American Dental Association.

80’s

DR. MERYL J. EFRON,
Class of 1983, on being awarded fellowship in the American College of Dentists.

DR. STEVEN GOUNARDES,
Class of 1984, on being elected president of the Second District Dental Society.

In Remembrance

Dr. Emanuel Barouch, Class of 1948
Dr. Ross E. Gutman, Class of 1944
Dr. David M. Wank, Class of 1975
Dr. Leonard J. Zweifler, Class of 1953

DR. RISA C. SAMUELS,
Class of 1986, on her election as president of the Queens County Dental Society.
**90’s**

**DR. ZEV KAUFMAN,**
Class of 1994, on founding the Russian American Dental Association (RADA), and presenting RADA’s first program, “A Practical Approach to Implant Dentistry” at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel in June.

**DR. MARK STEIN,**
Class of 1995, on completing a dual oral and maxillofacial surgery/M.D. degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Dr. Stein is currently in private practice in oral and maxillofacial surgery on Staten Island and on the staff of the Staten Island University Hospital in the Department of Surgery and Dentistry.

**00’s**

**DR. MICHAEL T. MAIORINO,**
Class of 2001, a resident in the Advanced Education Program in General Dentistry, on receiving a New York State Liberty Award for voluntarily aiding in the rescue and recovery efforts after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and a Town of Oyster Bay Citation for his exceptional, heroic, and humanitarian acts in the aftermath of the attacks.

**CORRECTION**
An article in the Winter 2002 issue of *Global Health Nexus* mistakenly identified Dr. Heather DiMatteo, ’00, as GPR coordinator at Long Island Jewish Hospital. Dr. Peter A. Mychajliw, ’87, is the coordinator of the General Practice Residency Program at Long Island Jewish Hospital. Dr. Matteo is the GPR coordinator at Long Island College Hospital.

**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.*