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"Philanthropy is America’s most distinctive virtue. There is no other aspect of American life that is so vast in scale, so rooted in tradition, so broadly supported by the law and public policy or more gratuitously neglected by the educational community." So writes Robert L. Payton,* one of the founders of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

According to Mr. Payton, philanthropy, which he defines as “voluntary action for the public good,” is ignored in American college classrooms, despite the fact that it “touches the life of every student and every faculty member at every American college.”

Although both private and public undergraduate colleges and professional schools depend on charitable giving to a greater or lesser extent, there has traditionally been no place in higher education for a systematic approach to the concept of philanthropy. The result, says Mr. Payton, is the loss of a unique opportunity to explain to successive generations of Americans that the right and the obligation to raise money and to give it – a concept nurtured in America – is vital to the continuation of a free, open and democratic society. Or, one might say, to the continuing independence, autonomy and prestige of a profession, including the dental profession.

*Mr. Payton’s essay can be found at PaytonPapers.org
This is precisely the conclusion that the American Dental Association (ADA) and its philanthropic arm, the ADA Foundation (ADAF), have come to – namely, that if dentistry is to successfully address the core issues facing its future, and to continue as a respected, self-determining profession, dentists and other stakeholders must become philanthropic.

More than 20 years ago, Dr. Art Dugoni, a former President of the American Dental Association (ADA) and of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the current President of the American Dental Association Foundation (ADAF), realized that the future of the practicing profession depends upon the strength of its infrastructure, which is dental education.

The excellence of American oral health-care, he argued, owes much to dental education. But dental education in the United States faces many challenges, including faculty shortages, lack of diversity, aging physical and clinical facilities, lagging governmental support and escalating costs, among them. These challenges place severe strains on the dental education system and need to be addressed. Art envisioned a $1 billion campaign dedicated to addressing these issues. But the time wasn’t yet right.

But Art never gave up, and so several years ago, he orchestrated an intensive planning study to test the feasibility of raising $1 billion to meet challenges to dental education that had by now become extreme. As part of that study, nearly 150 dental education stakeholders were interviewed. The data proved what many of us have believed for years – that challenges facing dental education in America cannot and will not be addressed with anything less than a national response.

And so the decision was made to establish a National Campaign for Dental Education, Dental Education: Our Legacy, Our Future, with a comprehensive goal over 10 years of raising approximately $500 million – the first step toward a longer-range objective of reaching Dr. Dugoni’s $1 billion goal.

The NYU College of Dentistry strongly supports the ADA’s and the ADAF’s historic decision to place the role of private philanthropy front and center in its project to secure the future of dental education and the dental profession, and we are pleased to feature a campaign preview in this issue of Global Health Nexus.

To explain the campaign’s rationale, objectives and plans going forward, we have invited the campaign Co-Chairs, Dr. Richard Haught, President of the ADA, and Dr. Cecile Feldman, Dean of the UMDNJ New Jersey Dental School, to contribute an article.

We are also delighted to include an interview with Dr. Dugoni, Honorary Chair of Dental Education: Our Legacy, Our Future. Dr. Dugoni, who on June 30th will retire as the esteemed Dean Emeritus of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific, is arguably the longest-serving dental school dean in the nation. Dr. Dugoni has long been a role model for many dental deans, not least because of his

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**THE CHALLENGES FACING DENTAL EDUCATION IN AMERICA CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE ADDRESSED WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN A NATIONAL RESPONSE.**
great success in inspiring alumni and others to generously support dental education during his many decades at the University of the Pacific.

No one believes that achieving the campaign goals will be easy. The fact is that American dental education does not have a tradition of strong stakeholder charitable support. Indeed, results of the 2003-04* survey on dental school finances conducted by the ADA Survey Center indicate that of 56 dental schools, only 46 reported receiving private philanthropy of any kind. Moreover, the median amount of private funding reported by the 46 schools was $248,856, and the average gift contributed by individual alumni to their alma mater in 2003-2004 was $702.78.

In contrast, an American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) 2004 Annual Development Survey, in which 66 institutions out of a total of 120 medical institutions participated, reported that the median amount of total private support was $19.6 million, about 80 times higher than private giving to dental schools, and the average gift from medical school alumni was $1,106. While medical schools have the benefit of higher levels of foundation giving and the support of grateful patients, which explains in part the huge difference in giving to dental schools, dental education must do much better if it is to prosper. One key to solving this problem is for individual dentists to do more. While many dental alumni are quite generous, far too many do nothing, thereby weakening the profession and denying themselves the wonderful fulfillment that comes with giving something back.

In recent years, NYUCD has begun to change this tradition, with gratifying success. Indeed, one barometer is alumni giving, which has grown eight-fold over the past eight years. To give you an insight into the evolution of private philanthropy at NYUCD, we offer an article by Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations Rita Startup. NYUCD owes a huge debt of gratitude to Associate Dean Stuart Hirsch, Assistant Dean Startup, and their terrific team for catalyzing the dramatic improvement in fundraising at NYUCD.

We close the philanthropy section with vignettes on just a few of our incredible donors. We present a personal perspective on giving by Dr. Alex Mikhailov, Class of 1988, who talks about why he gives and how it has transformed his life. We learn what moved Dr. Dennis and Karen Tarnow to make their substantial donation, which will allow us to build a new wing for Periodontology and Implant Dentistry that is worthy of the world-class program that will be housed there. Finally, we tell the wonderful story of an amazing gift by Dr. George and Ann Witkin that will transform postgraduate education and dental specialty care at NYU.

Also in this issue of Global Health Nexus, you’ll read about the enormous strides that NYUCD has made in securing federal funding for research over a rather short period of time. Indeed, we are extremely proud to report that the 2005 rankings for federal research grants to dental institutions in the U.S. show that NYUCD ranks sixth in the nation in order of grants funded by the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), and first among private dental schools.

Speaking of research, in the following pages you’ll find an insider’s look at the PEARL Network, which was established last spring with a $26.7 million NIH/NIDCR award to NYU to create a research network of dental practices. Other research highlights include advances by NYUCD faculty in the areas of osteoporosis treatment, bone regeneration and understanding HIV-disease, among others.

We believe that this issue is chock
full of interesting stories – and people. This is the first issue of Nexus to feature four dental school deans from across the country: Deans Art Dugoni, Cecile Feldman, Ira Lamster and Connie Drisko, which underscores our message that Nexus is about more than NYUCD.

You’ll also find news of the imminent opening of an NYU nursing faculty practice within the NYU College of Dentistry; the first-ever New York City Oral Cancer Walk – organized and led by NYUCD students; the round of distinctions won by NYUCD faculty and administrators at the annual ADEA/AADR meeting; and major all-University awards won by NYUCD faculty, administrators and students, plus stories on international outreach and faculty, to name just some of what’s in store.

Sadly, this issue of Global Health Nexus also includes an announcement of the passing of Dean Emeritus Edward G. Kaufman, who served as Dean of NYUCD from 1985 to 1998, in the process leading NYUCD through a period of great challenge and great achievement.

No period in the history of an institution is immune from challenge, and NYUCD is no exception. But we are New York University College of Dentistry after all. We’re not people used to sitting still. We will continue to make the decisions that will enable us to move toward our goal of becoming the dental institution in the world with the greatest impact on the health of society. One of the ways we will do this is by using the Dental Education: Our Legacy, Our Future logo and campaign tools in many of our communications in order to generate a rapid level of interest and support among our alumni. I hope that every dental school in the nation elects to accept this challenging but urgent responsibility.

One measure of a society is the commitment it makes to succeeding generations, to guide the steps and lift the lives of its children and grandchildren. A great way to take the measure of the dental profession will be by its response to the ADA’s and the ADAF’s call to action to support the next generation of dentists.

This is the first issue of Nexus to feature four dental school deans from across the country: Deans Art Dugoni, Cecile Feldman, Ira Lamster and Connie Drisko, which underscores our message that Nexus is about more than NYUCD.
Seeing the Big Picture: 
Dr. Art Dugoni Discusses His Vision for a National Effort to Support Dental Education

Dr. Art Dugoni has had a legendary career within both dental education and organized dentistry. Arguably the longest-serving dental school dean in the nation, Dr. Dugoni will retire on June 30th after 28 years as Dean of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific, which was named in his honor in 2004. A past President of both the American Dental Association and the American Dental Education Association, Dr. Dugoni is currently President of the American Dental Association Foundation (ADAF) and Honorary Chair of Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future, a national awareness effort for dental education. Recently Global Health Nexus spoke with Dr. Dugoni about his vision for this effort.

Global Health Nexus (GHN): Why do we need to raise awareness of dental education?

Dr. Dugoni: Dental education is the foundation on which all of dentistry is sustained and advanced. Dental education nurtures ethics and professionalism. It is responsible for dentistry’s image as a trusted healthcare profession. It provides the framework within which scientific discoveries are made and treatment advances are developed. Dental schools create the desire in students to become educators, researchers and practitioners. Dental schools are also the safety net for poor people in underserved communities who would not otherwise have access to care. A strong dental education system produces a vigorous dental profession, resulting in the highest level of oral health care for the public. Dental education today is in trouble, which means that the future of the dental profession is at risk.

GHN: In what ways is dental education in trouble?

Dr. Dugoni: We face a national shortage of dental educators to train future generations of students and to maintain and expand the level of research that universities expect from their various schools. The cost of a dental education and the indebtedness of students is skyrocketing. The dental student population does not reflect the diversity of our nation’s population. The physical facilities and infrastructure in which dental education is delivered are aging. Dental schools are finding it increasingly difficult to keep pace with today’s escalating technological and scientific advances. If allowed to persist unchecked, these

DENTAL EDUCATION TODAY IS IN TROUBLE, WHICH MEANS THAT THE FUTURE OF THE DENTAL PROFESSION IS AT RISK.
challenges will diminish American dental education’s status as the best in the world and will ultimately compromise the level and quality of private practice, oral health care and general health.

In the past, many dental schools were not sufficiently aggressive about the need to raise funds – particularly schools that receive public funding. However, public funds are no longer readily available. As a result, in too many instances, dental schools were closed because their parent universities were not willing to invest the funds required to upgrade programs and facilities. The bottom line is that great universities and great dental schools are built on endowments, and there is a huge need for dental education endowment funds that will send a message to universities that their dental schools are an important and vital component of the educational community.

These are nationwide problems, and nothing less than a national effort is required to solve them. I’m extremely pleased that the ADA and the ADAF realize that dental education, the foundation of our profession, needs significant support and that they are committed to working with our partners to make this happen.

GHN: You’ve referred to Our Legacy – Our Future as a BHAG, a “Big Hairy Ambitious Goal,” a phrase taken from Jim Collins’s books, Built to Last and Good to Great. What does that mean?

Dr. Dugoni: A BHAG engages people – it reaches out and grabs them in the gut. It is tangible, energizing, highly focused. People get it right away; it takes little or no explanation. Our BHAG is to raise $500 million for dental education over the next decade to address core issues facing the future of dental education and its status as the best in the world.

GHN: How will the initiative work?

Dr. Dugoni: Let me answer that by saying what this initiative is and is not. Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future is not a fund-raising effort in itself, but rather an awareness effort. The objective is to raise awareness of the need for philanthropic support of dental education and to create greater visibility for the fund-raising campaigns of our many partner organizations. It’s not important to the national initiative where the support goes, as long as we can engage and motivate donors to join us in securing the future of dental education.

Many dental schools are already working to address the challenges facing dental education. We are not asking these schools to give up their goals or to change direction. On the contrary, we seek to support all the excellent work that’s currently done in dental education, as well as to inspire innovative new approaches that will augment their efforts.

GHN: Where will the funds come from?

Dr. Dugoni: They will come from practicing dentists, other dental education stakeholders, including corporations, dental industry leaders, and foundations and from the public, which benefits from the excellent oral health care that the profession provides. I believe that the key to success in this initiative is to create a “culture of philanthropy” within the profession, industry-wide and in the hearts of the public.

GHN: How will Our Legacy – Our Future do this?

Dr. Dugoni: By creating awareness, passion and
pride; awareness of the need to secure the future of dental education; passion among dentists to own the future of their own profession; and pride in being philanthropic.

Every person can be philanthropic within his or her means. But they have to understand the need, become involved in the cause, and be motivated by leaders who can inspire the desire to be philanthropic. I like to quote Winston Churchill: “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

It’s a matter of raising awareness and starting people on the road to philanthropy. Once you start to give, you discover the joy of giving and the value of giving. Your first gift is never your last, or your largest; rather, you’re motivated to continue to give.

GHN: You’ve been extremely successful in raising funds as Dean at the University of the Pacific. Could you share some of your strategies?

Dr. Dugoni: My philosophy as Dean has been that you begin to nurture the culture of philanthropy on Day One of dental school by making students realize that they are special, and part of a very special profession. They have been selected from a very large group; they are entering a learned profession with high ethical standards. They should be very proud of the fact that they are training to become doctors, health professionals who improve the quality of the lives and the health of their patients, and that they are respected and valued citizens in their communities who are expected to make a difference.

At Pacific, I worked to create an attitude of pride in being part of the Pacific family and to cultivate the desire to give in order to keep Pacific awesome. How do you create that sense of pride? I believe it is by treating students with dignity, nurturing their self worth and listening to and valuing their opinions and concerns.

I’ve taken a humanistic approach. For example, I often say, “We grow people at Pacific; along the way, they become doctors.” Another phrase that has become ingrained in our community is that “the magic of Pacific is in its people.” Other strategies include sending motivational e-mails to students, having brown-bag luncheons with them, and including them in meetings and future planning so that they know they are special and valued. We’ve had student retreats in Monterey and Marin counties, and special events such as Pacific Pride Day and the white coat ceremony.

GHN: How have these strategies worked?

Dr. Dugoni: Let me give you an example. Recently we undertook a $50 million fund-raising campaign for Pacific. When the campaign ended, we had raised over $62 million. Not only that, but 46 percent of alumni contributed almost $30 million to the campaign, and 2,200 alumni showed up at an event to announce the campaign’s success. That’s the kind of results you get when you create a “culture of philanthropy,” and that’s what Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future will do. Just a look at the list of partners on the opposite page shows you that we’re off to a great start.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
Winston Churchill
Our Legacy, Our Future Campaign Partners

As of May 2006

Facilitating Partners
ADA Foundation
ADEA William J. Gies Foundation for the Advancement of Dentistry
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation
American Academy of Periodontology Foundation
American Association of Endodontists and American Association of Endodontists Foundation
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists Foundation
American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) and the AAPHD Foundation
American Dental Education Association
American Student Dental Association
Florida Dental Association
Florida Dental Health Foundation
National Dental Association Foundation
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation

Recipient Partners
A. T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
Baylor College of Dentistry
Case Western University School of Dentistry
Columbia University College of Dental Medicine
Creighton University Medical Center
Howard University College of Dentistry
Indiana University School of Dentistry
Loma Linda University
Louisiana State University Health Science Center School of Dentistry
Marquette University School of Dentistry
Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry
Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine
New Jersey Dental School, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
New York University College of Dentistry
Nova Southeastern University College of Dentistry
State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine
Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine
Temple University School of Dentistry
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
University of Alabama School of Dentistry
University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center
University of Connecticut Health Center School of Dental Medicine
University of Florida College of Dentistry
University of Iowa College of Dentistry
University of Kentucky College of Dentistry
University of Louisville School of Dentistry
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
University of Mississippi Medical Center
University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
University of Southern California School of Dentistry
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry
West Virginia University School of Dentistry
Many people believe that dentists are not philanthropic. We disagree.

Dental professionals everywhere give their time and talent in support of oral health and access-to-care initiatives, both large and small. Whether new to the profession or well established within a community, family dentist or specialist, members of our profession value their ability to positively impact the lives of people who need what we can provide.

Dentists are also generous in terms of financial support, especially when the need is great and clearly communicated. Consider the response of dentists in recent years to large-scale disaster relief initiatives like those for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Not only did members of our community give of their time and talent to provide care for those in areas devastated by these events, they also pledged in excess of $2 million to aid in the ADA Foundation's relief efforts.

Such generosity is extraordinary by any standards. It represents a timely and focused response by our community to an urgent call for action. It proves that when dentists consider a situation compelling, they respond both as professionals and as philanthropists.

But what if the urgent call to action came from within the profession? What would our response be if faced with an immediate and pressing need related to our professional futures and to the future of our profession?

Today we face such a call to action. There is an immediate and urgent need to strengthen the foundation of our profession – our dental education system. In a 2005 study supported by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, researchers concluded that America’s dental education system faces an uncertain and potentially tumultuous future, and that if financial and other critical issues confronting dental schools are not addressed, the dental profession will face a “crisis” situation within the next 10 years.
While each dental school faces a unique set of challenges, there are a number of issues common to all. These include faculty shortages, keeping pace with technology advances, a lack of diversity among dental faculty and students, and the increasingly high cost of a dental education.

Currently, there are more than 280 full-time and 27 part-time vacancies across our nation with an average of six vacancies per school. The reasons include loss of faculty to more financially attractive alternatives, such as full-time, private-practice opportunities. In addition, more than half of current dental school faculty will retire in the next several years without enough younger dentists to replace them. Further compounding the problem is the fact that among dental school faculties, only 5.1 percent are African-American and 3.8 percent are Hispanic. These numbers fail to represent the current diversity of the population as a whole, and as the United States becomes increasingly culturally and racially diverse, the disproportion will worsen unless action is taken to make the dental profession more diverse.

Enrollment of minority students is a major issue, with only 10 percent of the current student population consisting of minority students. One reason for the lack of diversity is the high cost of dental education and the lack of federal and state funding. But a lack of diversity is also caused by a lack of mentors and role models to encourage African-American and Hispanic students to pursue dentistry as a career. It’s a vicious cycle.

Another issue is the need for innovative models of education delivery, including revised curricula, improved accreditation processes, modified length of required training and clinical time, and adoption of electronic teaching technology. Keeping pace with technological advances is especially difficult because of the high costs involved. Even with capital campaigns, financial needs outstrip gains, not least because of the fact that operating costs for dental schools are traditionally among the highest on university campuses. Unless new models of...
dental education financing are developed, the status of dentistry as a learned profession will be at risk.

What happens if we ignore these issues? Think of the line from Yeats’s poem, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*: “The center cannot hold.” Dental education is at the center of our profession; it is the foundation on which all of dentistry is built and sustained. Dental education has shaped our past, present, and continues to shape our future. It provides the environment in which research flourishes and scientific findings are translated into therapeutic advances, which improve the oral health of Americans. Through continuing education programs emanating from dental schools, we who practice are able to keep current about the latest materials, instruments, and techniques available to provide optimal care to our patients. Through community outreach programs, dental schools also serve as a vital safety net for the poor, who would not otherwise have access to care. The bottom line is that a strong dental education system is indivisible from maintaining dentistry as a respected, trusted health-care profession and improving the health of the public.

Here, then, is a call to action: Help to safeguard and advance the profession that means so much to all of us by working together to create a culture of philanthropy in support of dental education unlike anything seen before in dentistry. This will be a culture of individual pride, responsibility and support, a culture in which we set aside our differences, preconceived notions and traditional attitudes in order to enact meaningful change.

The engine that will drive this culture of philanthropy is a national campaign, *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future*, whose goal is to raise more than $500 million over the next 10 years.

A 2004 ADA Foundation Task Force created to study the challenges facing dental education and to design a national response found that what makes dental education most valuable to most dentists is its role in upholding the integrity of the profession.

Integrity is the lifeblood of the dental profession, but without a strong dental education system, our devotion to superior standards will be compromised. *Our Legacy – Our Future* puts the dentist in the driver’s seat. It permits each of us to decide how we want to support dental education, whether through programs that support research or address faculty shortages, through a dental school campaign, or through the ADA Foundation or a partner association. The campaign itself will not collect any money; it is not important to us where the support goes, as long as dental education is the beneficiary. The campaign recognizes that it takes alliances to make a difference and a determination to define dentistry more by what it gives than what it gets.

The rewards that will come from this initiative are spectacular: a rich supply of diverse, talented, fairly-compensated dental educators, plus the most innovative curricula, and the latest equipment, technology and research facilities in which to educate future generations of dentists. We hope you will make *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future* your partner in securing your professional future and the future of the dental profession.

For more information on *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future*, please visit www.securedentaled.org.
“Because of NYU,” says Dr. Alex Mikhailov, a graduate of both the NYU College of Arts and Science (CAS) and its College of Dentistry, “I was able to fulfill my educational goals and succeed in my profession. I feel both an obligation and a desire to give something back in return for this opportunity.”

Born in the former Soviet Union in 1962, Dr. Mikhailov emigrated with his family from Russia in 1979. He graduated from CAS in 1984; earned his DDS degree in 1988; and has been a Clinical Assistant Professor at NYUCD since 1992.

“In the United States, because of a combination of freedom of religion and educational opportunity, my family and I have been able to become part of the fabric of society and to enjoy and participate in it in ways that would not be possible otherwise. This is why I support NYUCD; when I give to NYUCD, I feel that I’m not just giving money, I’m transferring opportunity.”

Dr. Mikhailov, who has dental practices in multiple locations, thinks it’s altogether appropriate for schools to look to successful graduates for support. So when Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development, invited Dr. Mikhailov to visit NYUCD several years ago to see how it was being transformed, he was moved to make a generous gift to promote student welfare. “There’s no substitute for giving,” he says.

“Looking around at the learning environment that Dean Alfano was creating made me even more proud of having received an NYU dental education. I saw for myself the incredible changes occurring and I made the decision to be part of the new NYUCD culture that I saw emerging.” Dr. Mikhailov’s first gift was not his last.

“I think you have to decide for yourself whether supporting your alma mater is something you want to do. My feeling is that life gains meaning from the contributions a person makes. Along those lines, I look at my graduation from dental school as part of an ongoing process of contributing to society. Supporting NYUCD is part of the same process as contributing to the health and well being of my patients. It’s all interconnected, and it’s all part of my journey as a person and a health professional.”
The Evolution of Philanthropy at NYUCD

By Rita A. Startup, Assistant Dean for Development & Alumni Affairs

When Dr. Michael C. Alfano assumed the deanship of NYUCD in 1998, the state of the union with regard to alumni relations was not good. Alumni events were a mixed bag – some well attended, some poorly attended. Overall alumni giving was low in comparison with other dental schools and other NYU schools, and many alumni were disaffected, feeling that they had been treated poorly as dental students.

Alumni fund raising at NYUCD reflected this state of affairs. In 2001, the annual Alumni Fund drew just $303,753 and the overall fund-raising campaign reported $1,952,181. But last year, alumni gave $877,000 to the College and the overall campaign raised $9,022,000. The charts which follow show the evolution in the growth of giving to the College.

Under Dean Alfano’s leadership, we were able to implement a number of changes – cultural, philosophical and structural – that transformed what had been a troubled relationship between NYUCD and its alumni into what I believe most alumni today would say has become a robustly healthy one.

Because Dean Alfano came to NYUCD without any institutional baggage – he was neither an alumnus nor a faculty member – and armed with an extremely diverse and impressive list of educational and professional accomplishments and an exciting vision for the future, we knew that we had a good “product” to advertise and that it was important for alumni to get to know him as soon as possible. One of the first things we did to break down barriers between the Dean and alumni was to eliminate the annual Alumni Day program, a labor-intensive, costly and poorly-attended annual event. After surveying alumni, it became clear that they did not want to leave their practices for an entire day to attend a CDE program and socialize. They preferred to attend continuing education courses given locally and at more convenient times.

In its place, we instituted small group meetings with alumni, including regional visits and Dean’s Roundtables, which allowed alumni to share their expertise with students and students to network with alumni. These events also provided an opportunity for alumni to become directly involved in the College, and many elected to join the faculty on a part-time basis.

At these meetings, Dean Alfano listened, really listened, to what alumni had to say and pledged his commitment...
to move NYUCD in a more positive direction. And he shared with alumni his vision for the College, which included plans to increase research funding, renovate facilities, improve student and faculty relations, recruit world-class faculty, increase faculty and staff, improve the practice of dentistry through media-driven public awareness campaigns and, especially, to have a successful accreditation visit.

All of these objectives, he explained, were directed toward a larger goal: To make NYUCD the dental institution in the world with the greatest impact on the health of society.

Then, in 2002, Dean Alfano made a decision that many at the time found shocking, but which proved to be the turning point in NYUCD’s relationship with its alumni. In a letter to alumni, he wrote: “I sincerely apologize to all of you who were mistreated by the faculty and/or staff of the College at any time in the past.” He went on to pledge, “Whether or not you choose to accept my apology, NYUCD is committed to working hard to build a great dental school with an enlightened, respectful faculty, a cooperative staff,

BUT LAST YEAR, ALUMNI GAVE $877,000 TO THE COLLEGE AND THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RAISED $9,022,000.

**COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY ANNUAL FUND**

* This figure represents the projected total for the close of the Annual Fund Campaign on August 31, 2006, based on gifts received to date of $1,015,000.
and a dedicated student body.” Alumni understood that something big had happened.

Dean Alfano also offered a new vision of student-faculty relations—a partnership in which students develop their critical-thinking abilities. Inherent in the faculty-student partnership is a strict code of ethics that establishes the highest standards of professional conduct and promotes lifelong learning as fundamental to professional growth.

“Today,” he declared, “dental education at NYU focuses squarely on training students to be great people first—people of high integrity and ethical character—and then great dentists.”

“Integrity,” he wrote, “requires that we own up to our mistakes.”

The response was extremely gratifying. Heartened by the Dean’s candor and willingness to reach out, alumni responded very positively, with many making gifts for the first time. During this period, the College also began to attract important leadership gifts from alumni, which led to the transformation of NYUCD’s infrastructure to include such magnificent facilities as the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and the Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry, both the result of alumni gifts to the College. Later would come other major alumni naming gifts, including, but not limited to, the Jonathan and
Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics and the Tarnow Wing for Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (see related story, page 20).

Dean Alfano promised alumni that we would put their gifts to good use, and in November 2003, it became apparent that this was happening when a site visit by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association resulted in NYUCD receiving a perfect accreditation score, with zero recommendations for improvements in any of the programs and 30 commendations recognizing the high quality of the College’s clinical care and basic science programs, research enterprise, and the collegial and cooperative manner in which students, faculty and staff interact.

To understand just how far the College had come, consider that at the previous accreditation visit, in 1996, NYUCD received 43 recommendations and zero commendations.

More recently, when the rankings for federal research support to dental institutions in 2005 were announced, NYUCD ranked sixth in the nation in order of grants funded by the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). NYU had moved up from 11th place in 2004 to sixth place in 2005 and, more remarkably, from 41st place in 2000 to its current top 10 position.

Coupled with substantial advances in the quality of our students, faculty and facilities; our ongoing high programmatic impact in the U.S. and abroad; the continual enhancement of our clinical facilities; and our strong focus on ethics and integrity; NYUCD’s achievements in recent years mean that an NYU dental degree is more prestigious than ever.

Other initiatives along the way that helped NYUCD to build a better relationship with alumni included a public relations campaign, “Ask Your Dentist,” which uses the media to drive public awareness of oral health issues; a multiple-award-winning publication, *Global Health Nexus*, which reaches 23,000 people around the world; and the formation of a new gift club, the Dean’s Circle, which began in 1999 with 18 founding members who gave $1,000 each to celebrate the Dean’s first year in office. The Dean’s Circle challenges donors to bring in at least one new Dean’s Circle member annually. What began seven years ago with 18 donors now includes over 300 people at the $1,000 and above level.

Alumni also responded positively to a new approach to reunions – an ensemble approach of inviting all anniversary classes of the year to celebrate together. Last year over 350 people attended the combined reunions gala and we expect to host over 500 alumni in 2006. In addition, the leadership of the development office changed, and staff and other resources were increased so that more outreach and fundraising could take place.

Also, just as NYUCD reached out to alumni in recent years, we also worked to create a cohesive, energized and involved on-campus community of faculty, students, and staff through special events like boat rides, parties at the United Nations, the wax museum and great New York City locations.

NYUCD today has stopped looking back and is solidly focused on the future. We are determined to continue to make our alumni proud, and all signs are that we are succeeding.
A major gift from Dr. and Mrs. Dennis P. Tarnow will create the Tarnow Wing for Periodontology and Implant Dentistry at NYUCD. The Tarnow Wing, scheduled to open in early 2007, will be housed in the Graduate Center for Clinical Excellence (GCCE), which will consist of five full floors designed to enhance interaction and synergy among the various specialties. In addition to periodontology and implant dentistry, the GCCE will include prosthodontics, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and pediatric dentistry.

“The Tarnow Wing for Periodontology and Implant Dentistry recognizes Dennis Tarnow’s nearly 30 years of professional excellence in the areas both of periodontology and implant dentistry,” said Dean Alfano. “Dr. Tarnow trained in both prosthodontics and periodontics, is Board-certified in periodontics, and is also internationally renowned in the field of implant dentistry. He has taught, influenced, and inspired legions of implant dentists both in the United States and abroad. The Tarnow Wing will allow extraordinarily innovative approaches to the teaching of periodontology and implant dentistry, which will help to set the direction for the practice of dentistry in the future.”
Dr. Tarnow said that he and his wife, Karen, were motivated to make their gift in response to the merging late last year of the Department of Periodontics and the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry to create a new, integrated Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, which he chairs.

“Karen and I were excited that the philosophy of interaction and collaboration among faculty from various disciplines that has always driven the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry would now also drive the practice of periodontology. The result would be a much richer learning and treatment planning experience for periodontal residents, as well as a better experience for patients.

We knew that once the departments were merged, the next priority was to move the new department into the Graduate Center for Clinical Excellence, and that meant securing financing to build out an entire floor of the GCCE. Dean Alfano’s vision of a multidisciplinary approach to specialty training and patient care convinced us that the time was right to make a gift that would allow this to happen.”

Dr. Tarnow said he was also motivated by the example of his friend and classmate, Dr. Larry Rosenthal, ’72. “Early in Mike Alfano’s tenure, I helped to convince Larry to make a gift that would kick-start Mike’s vision of transforming the College. Larry immediately stepped up to the plate by making a major gift that enabled Mike to build the Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry. The Rosenthal Institute is the model for the kind of learning and patient-care experience that we want to create in the Tarnow Wing, because it combines the teaching resources of a clinic with the comfort and amenities of a private practice. Larry knew how much I admired his gift and the positive impact it has had on students, faculty and patients, while also involving him in academia. He decided to return the favor by persuading Karen and me to make our own gift, and we are grateful that he did.”
The largest-ever alumni gift to NYUCD, $5 million, will create the George and Ann Witkin Graduate Center for Clinical Excellence. Dr. Witkin, a 1942 graduate of NYUCD, was associated with the College for over 30 years, as a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Periodontology, Associate Dean and Interim Dean. He retired in 1978.

“The George and Ann Witkin Graduate Center for Clinical Excellence,” said Dean Alfano, “launches a new model for specialty training and care. It will enable a highly-networked community of postgraduate programs to provide both state-of-the-art specialty training and advanced care for patients with challenging needs. Indeed, we will soon begin construction on the first phase of the facility, which will include one floor dedicated to periodontology and implant dentistry connected by an internal glass elevator to the floor above that will focus on prosthodontic care. But, more important than the wonderful new facility, will be the practice and teaching model by which prosthodontists, periodontists, implant dentists and oral surgeons will collaborate in the treatment of patients and the teaching of students. On behalf of the entire NYUCD community, I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to George and Ann for their unprecedented gift, which empowers us to begin this exciting new approach to postgraduate education.”

According to Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development, who worked with the Witkins to help shape the gift to meet their desires, “This amazing act of philanthropy represents the profound love and respect that George and Ann Witkin have for one another; their desire to support Mike Alfano’s leadership and vision for the College; and their extraordinary generosity and commitment to the future of postgraduate education and patient care at NYUCD.”

The gift also marks the Witkins’ 25th wedding anniversary. “I know what NYUCD means to George,” says Mrs. Witkin, “and I know what George means to me. This is our gift to the College. Hopefully, it will inspire others to make similar gifts.”

When they started to think about making a gift, Dr. and Mrs. Witkin called their good friend and Dr. Witkin’s classmate, Dr. Abe Reiner, who had attended a class reunion at NYUCD and had told them about the impressive physical and cultural changes he had seen. The Witkins then called Dean Alfano and asked to meet so that they could see the changes for themselves.

After Dean Alfano outlined his plans to make NYUCD the dental school in the world with the greatest impact on the health of society, the Witkins decided that they wanted to do something to accelerate NYUCD’s ability to achieve that goal.

Dr. Witkin says that he has long believed in the importance of nurturing students, but that both as a student and a teacher, he saw too little of it. “When I visited the College recently,” he says, “I was extremely impressed with the changes I saw in the quality of student-faculty relationships, and with the care being given to students, thanks to Dean Alfano’s leadership. So when he told me about the environment he wanted to create for specialty education and care, and about the kind of collaboration that would guide the enterprise, I knew that making a naming gift was the right thing for Ann and me to do. In truth, after what we saw and what we learned of his plans for the future, we could hardly do otherwise.”

At approximately 50,000 square
feet, the George and Ann Witkin Graduate Center for Clinical Excellence ultimately will consist of five full floors dedicated to specialty training and patient care in periodontology and implant dentistry, prosthodontics, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and pediatric dentistry. The Witkin Center will have the look and feel of the finest specialty practices in Manhattan. Patients will arrive through a separate entrance and will take an elevator maintained exclusively for their use. Faculty and residents from all disciplines will work side by side on diagnosis, planning and treatment procedures, always with a critical focus on quality patient care.

“The Witkin Center will be driven by a philosophy of interaction and collaboration among the specialties,” says Dean Alfano, “because we believe that a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach will promote the finest patient care and speed the transfer of new knowledge from generation to generation. Our appreciation for what George and Ann Witkin have done is boundless. They believe that New York University College of Dentistry can set the standard for specialty training and care, and we will not disappoint them.”
College of Dentistry Moves Up to Sixth Place on National Research List

Ranking for federal research grants to dental institutions in 2005 put the NYU College of Dentistry sixth in the nation in order of grants funded by the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NYU moved up from 11th in 2004 to sixth this year, and now ranks first among private dental schools.

According to Dean Alfano, a number of initiatives account for this rapid rise in the national rankings, all of which derive from a philosophy that makes research a priority. “NYUCD’s mission today is dramatically different from what it was 10 years ago,” said Dean Alfano. “Today all major decisions made at NYUCD are considered not solely on their own merit, but also in terms of how the decision will affect our ability to do research and to innovate in healthcare delivery.

In addition to thoroughly integrating research into the fabric of the College, we have recruited senior research faculty from the top ranks in their fields. We have also sharpened our research focus by fostering an environment that encourages interactions and collaborations among research faculty and their colleagues in Medicine, Nursing and Arts and Science at NYU, and at other major research universities. Indeed, the majority of the research conducted today at NYUCD is driven by this collaborative approach. However, if asked to name the single change that was most important to our research growth, it would be the recruitment of Dr. Louis Terracio.”

Dr. Terracio joined NYUCD in 2000 as Associate Dean for Research from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, where he had served as Associate Dean for Basic Sciences and Carolina Distinguished Professor of Developmental Biology and Anatomy. “Today the entire gamut of research in important areas of dentistry is being conducted at NYUCD,” says Associate Dean Dr. Louis Terracio.
Terracio. “Equally important, groups of researchers are working together synergistically to move fundamental basic science research into practice.”

One example of the College’s synergistic approach is the PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning) Network, a regional networking of dental practices in research projects, which was established with a $26.7 million NIH grant. The PEARL Network marks the first time that the NIH has allocated funding for clinical research that directly involves dental practitioners, in collaboration with faculty researchers, from study concept initiation through implementation. (See related story, page 26).

Other major initiatives contributing to NYUCD’s growing strength as a research institution include the construction of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research; the construction of new research labs; the full integration of basic science and translational research approaches focused on producing specific clinical research hypotheses that can be tested at the Bluestone Center; the continued expansion of the College’s epidemiology and health promotion activities, especially in the areas of oral cancer and infectious diseases; and its strong focus on improved dental implants, biomimetics, tissue engineering, and catastrophe preparedness.

Associate Dean Terracio also pointed to more subtle changes in the College’s culture as a factor in its success. For example, decisions were made to give faculty protected time from excessive paperwork and bureaucracy; to create a research “workshop,” which allows grant-seekers to discuss their grant applications with one another as they are being developed and to benefit from ongoing feedback; and to encourage mentoring relationships between newly-recruited A-plus level research faculty and younger faculty members. This type of mentoring relationship is also seen in NIH-funded, faculty-mentored, student research, which has also grown dramatically in recent years.

Today all major decisions made at NYUCD are considered not solely on their own merit, but also in terms of how the decision will affect our ability to do research.
INSIDE THE PEARL NETWORK:

How One Practitioner’s Search for a Solution to a Real-Life Treatment Problem Became the PEARL Network’s First Research Study

TURNING AN IDEA INTO A RESEARCH STUDY: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KAY OEN

How does a treatment problem encountered by a practicing dentist become a PEARL Network research protocol? Developing and implementing research protocols aimed at finding solutions to everyday, real-life practice problems is the goal of the PEARL Network, a $26.7 million grant project funded by the NIH to identify key outcomes from dentistry, performed within private practices that are linked together into a large network of practitioners.

In this issue of Global Health Nexus, we provide an inside look at how one practitioner’s search for an answer to a treatment question became the basis for the PEARL Network’s first formal clinical trial, when Dr. Kay Oen, a general practitioner in Port Chester, New York, sought guidance on treating deep caries in teeth that are still vital.
Dr. Oen, a member of the PEARL Practitioner Advisory Group, wanted to know if he should remove all the affected tissue and risk encroaching the pulp, or leave some of the involved tissue to avoid directly entering the pulp and restore the lesion by indirectly capping and sealing it. He suspected that there was a crucial gap in knowledge when he attended continuing education courses on caries treatment, but found little information about deep caries. Fellow members of the Academy of General Dentistry shared his concerns, and when a search for published data comparing deep caries treatment options turned up no new information, Dr. Oen discussed the need for an authoritative study with other PEARL Network practitioners and with Executive Committee members, and urged the Network to undertake the study. Dr. Oen spoke to Global Health Nexus about the process of turning his idea into a research study.

**GHN:** Why did you propose a research study?

**Dr. Oen:** Because this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take ownership of a research idea and shape it into a clinical trial that will yield practical information on patient care.

**GHN:** Why did you choose to focus on deep caries treatment?

**Dr. Oen:** Whenever I wanted to consider more than one treatment option for my patients, I didn’t have practical information to guide me through the decision-making process. Studies performed in the past decade found that when the affected dentin has been only partially removed in cases of deep caries with little or no effect on pulp, an adequately-sealed indirect cap can arrest the caries process and lead to dentin remineralization. But since these studies have been conducted in clinical research centers rather than real-world dental practice settings, we know little about whether dentists are translating the growing evidence on sealing deep caries into practice.

And since there haven’t been any clinical trials comparing partial dentin removal and sealing with the traditional approach of removing all carious tissue, practitioners don’t have published data to help them evaluate the pros and cons of each option in different cases.

**GHN:** What was the first step you took to formulate a research protocol that would seek to address this gap in knowledge?

**Dr. Oen:** I reviewed my idea for a formal study with the PEARL Network Protocol Development Core Director, Dr. Van Thompson, to ensure that it met the following criteria:

- Importance. Study results that can improve the practice of dentistry.
- Feasibility. The study can be conducted efficiently and effectively in a PEARL Network member’s office over a reasonable time period.
- Relevance. The study will be of value to a large number of dentists.

After PEARL’s Executive Committee accepted my idea, Dr. Thompson prepared a three-page preliminary clinical trial outline, which was reviewed by my colleagues in the Practitioner Advisory Group and refined based on their suggestions.

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*The PEARL Network Executive Committee consists of Page W. Caufield, DDS, PhD; Frederick A. Curro, DMD, PhD; Ananda P. Dasanayake, BDS, MPH, PhD; Jonathan A. Ship, DMD; and Van P. Thompson, DDS, PhD.*
**GHN:** What happened next?

**Dr. Oen:** The Executive Committee voted to develop a full-study protocol with the help of PEARL’s data coordinating center, the EMMES Corporation. I reviewed the proposed protocol, providing suggestions from the practitioner’s viewpoint. For example, I recommended that additional time be allotted to filling out patient consent forms. Finally, the Executive Committee voted to send the protocol to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) and to an institutional review board for final approval.

**GHN:** What happened after the proposal was formally approved?

**Dr. Oen:** The first thing we did was to send PEARL Network members a survey that asked how frequently they chose the two major treatment options – partially removing carious dentin and sealing the lesion, or removing all of the affected tissue – as well as what factors influence their choice, and what the perceived outcomes are. I presented these results, and those from a similar nationwide survey we conducted of practitioners in Met Life’s dentist network, at the PEARL Network’s annual meeting in April. Next fall, we’ll launch a three-year prospective study that focuses on treatment outcomes. Every practitioner in our network will be asked to report clinical outcomes, such as tooth vitality and retention, as well as patients’ perspectives on symptom relief, treatment satisfaction, and overall oral health.

**GHN:** How much time did you spend developing the study?

**Dr. Oen:** I averaged about an hour a day during the development phase, which lasted approximately eight weeks. I expect to spend roughly the same amount of time over the next three years as the principal investigator conducting the study. PEARL compensates me for my time, and provides training, guidance and support every step of the way.

**GHN:** What would you say to other practitioners to encourage them to submit proposal ideas?

**Dr. Oen:** We are looking for ideas from practicing dentists, so it’s perfectly fine if you have never worked as a researcher. It didn’t matter that I had no formal research training because the experienced researchers on PEARL’s leadership team provide me with plenty of guidance. You’ll receive recognition for your idea, including the chance to lead your own study and present the findings to other practitioners. Also, it’s easy to develop and submit an idea: just go online and fill out the short proposal form at www.pearlnetwork.org.
Dentistry Professor Examines the Role of “Parent” Viruses and Recombination in the Evolution of HIV

As it courses through the body, the HIV virus mutates at a dizzying rate. In fact, the virus evolves so quickly that the diversity of genetic sequences within a single infected individual is roughly comparable to the diversity of influenza sequences worldwide in any given year. Although over 100 HIV vaccine preparations have been tested in humans and animals in the two-plus decades since HIV was identified, none have yet proven powerful enough to defend against this swiftly-changing virus.

Dr. David N. Levy, an Assistant Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology at the College of Dentistry, seeks to explain recombination, one factor in HIV’s rapid evolution that is not yet fully understood. Recombination occurs when two genetically-distinct HIV viruses, or “parents,” infect one cell and swap genetic material, causing “offspring” viruses to develop new characteristics. Until now, scientists haven’t been able to determine how often two or more HIV viruses infect a cell and recombine. Dr. Levy is addressing those questions in research that could enable scientists to predict how quickly HIV evolves by recombination. This information could be used to formulate vaccines and treatments that protect against mutations.

Funded by a two-year, $300,000 NIH grant, Dr. Levy analyzes recombination in individual cells, rather than in groups – a unique approach enabling him to observe subtle changes to the virus that might otherwise escape detection. For example, he investigates what occurs when a healthy virus recombines with a virus that cannot replicate because of a genetic defect. This recombination could transmit the defect to the offspring virus, or it could repair the defective gene and contribute to offspring that replicate even faster than its “parents.” A virus that replicates faster is likely to cause disease that spreads more quickly.

Infectious disease research is a priority for the College of Dentistry, which last year recruited Dr. Daniel Malamud, a biochemist and one of the leading researchers in anti-HIV agents and oral-based diagnostics. In addition to conducting his own research, Dr. Levy will collaborate with Dr. Malamud in investigating how a protein present in saliva can prevent HIV transmission – a study that could ultimately lead to the development of new vaccines or medications.
Until recently, Zelda Brand, who received her B.A. from NYU in 1945 and her M.A. in 1947, couldn’t taste the food she ate. After enduring cancer surgery and radiation that resulted in the removal of her vocal cords, she had lost the use of her salivary glands.

But since participating in a clinical trial at the College of Dentistry’s Bluestone Center, where Brand received a new medication that was carefully monitored, she has regained the ability to salivate and, thus, experience the joy of tasting foods again. Says Ms. Brand, “It was wonderful, a marvelous experience. I recommend it to anyone.”

The Bluestone Center is the largest dental-school based facility in the United States built specifically to investigate promising new medical and dental treatments before they are available on the market. In addition to being the largest center of its kind in the nation, the 8,500 square-foot Bluestone Center is also the only one with bedrooms for patients who have to be closely monitored overnight. While the vast majority of clinical trials do not require an overnight stay, patients who do stay overnight can expect a room with private bath and shower, cable TV and Internet access, plus whatever they want to eat, if it’s available at a Manhattan restaurant or deli that delivers.

“The only way to develop safe new drugs for patients is to test them in a controlled environment in accord with the strictest government regulations and ethical guidelines,” says Dr. Jonathan Ship, Director of the Bluestone Center. “Our strategy is to combine academic excellence with industry’s efficiency and speed. In order to do that, we must aggressively market participation in clinical research. But we always stay focused on the needs and desires of individual patients.”
At the Bluestone Center, a team of physicians, dentists, nurses, and specially-trained clinical research coordinators from NYU’s College of Dentistry, College of Nursing and School of Medicine conducts outpatient and overnight Phase I – IV research studies in a wide range of medical and dental areas. Each phase answers different questions about the new treatment.

Medical trials include analgesics, anti-inflammatory drugs, sedatives, cancer therapy, sleep apnea medications, anxiolytics, and dermatology products. Oral health trials might consider new dental devices and restorative materials, dry mouth and mucositis, oral lesions and cancer, periodontitis, implants, dental caries, whitening and anti-plaque products, and oral facial pain.

In Phase I studies, researchers look for the best way and how frequently to safely administer a new treatment; e.g., by mouth, IV drip, or injection. They also watch for any harmful side effects. Because less is known about the possible risks and benefits in Phase I, these studies usually include a limited number of subjects, between 15 and 30, who would not be helped by existing treatment therapies.

Phase II trials continue to test the safety of the new treatment, and begin to evaluate how well it works against a specific disease. As in Phase I, only a small number of people (usually less than 100) take part. When a Phase II trial begins, it is not yet known if the agent being tested works against the specific disease being studied.

Phase III trials focus on how a new treatment compares to standard treatment. In most cases, studies move into Phase III testing only after a treatment shows safety and efficacy in Phases I and II. Phase III trials may include hundreds to thousands of people at many clinical centers. In Phase III trials, people are assigned at random to receive either the new treatment or standard treatment.

Phase IV trials are used to further evaluate the long-term safety and effectiveness of a treatment. Less common than Phase I, II, and III trials, Phase IV trials usually take place after the new treatment has been approved for standard use.

“In addition to receiving special attention for a medical or dental condition, participating in Bluestone Center clinical trials offers patients an excellent way to understand clinical research,” says Dr. Ship. “It also provides an opportunity to help others who may be suffering from a common or rare disease or illness, now or in the future.”
New Study Reveals Promising Osteoporosis Treatment

CALCIUM PHOSPHATE-BASED SUPPLEMENT IMPROVES BONE STRENGTH AND THICKNESS

By Christopher James, NYU Press Office

A New York University College of Dentistry professor has developed a calcium phosphate-based supplement that – even at low concentrations – significantly improves bone strength and thickness without the side effects of many current drug treatments. Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros, a Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and the Leonard I. Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, presented her research on the supplement at the American Association for Dental Research annual meeting on March 9, 2006.

Current FDA-approved pharmaceutical-based osteoporosis treatments, such as bisphosphonate drugs and hormone therapies, do not effectively repair bone that has already been lost. In fact, bisphosphonates have been shown to actually inhibit bone redevelopment. Many of these treatments also have serious side effects, including increasing the risk of heart disease, strokes, and breast cancer.

But the supplement Dr. LeGeros developed by combining magnesium (Mg), zinc (Zn), and fluoride (F) ions in a calcium-phosphate (CaP) matrix does not have the side effects of the current pharmaceutical-based treatments. Perhaps more importantly, a Mg/Zn/F-CaP supplement would be inexpensive to produce and would not require FDA approval. Dr. LeGeros’ formulation could be available to market as an over-the-counter supplement, pending patent approval.

In her study, Dr. LeGeros investigated the effect of Mg/Zn/F-CaP ion combinations on several bone properties: strength, thickness, quality, and composition of bones. She divided a sample of 72 (36 males, 36 females) adult Sprague-Dawley rats (average weight, 160g) into six groups receiving the following diets: control; mineral deficiency-induced osteoporosis (MD); MD supplemented with Mg-CaP; Zn-CaP; F-CaP; and Mg/Zn/F-CaP. Each supplement was 0.6% of the MD diet. The post-mortem examination of the femurs in the MD Mg/Zn/F-CaP group showed that even this small amount of Mg/Zn/F-CaP supplement substantially improved bone strength and thickness. However, these results need to be confirmed in other studies and ultimately in human trials.

Dr. LeGeros’ paper, Effect of Mg/Zn/F-CaP Supplements on Bone Properties: Phase 1, describes initial results of her research, which is funded by a four-year, $2 million grant from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Osteoporosis is a silent, progressive, and debilitating disease characterized by bone loss and the thinning of cortical bone leading to bone fracture. In the United States, the disease affects an estimated 10 million older adults, resulting in more than 1.5 million fractures annually; the overwhelming majority of those afflicted with osteoporosis (80%) are women.

Dr. LeGeros said future research may also focus on using Mg/Zn/F-CaP compounds to repair fractures and periodontal bone defects.
New Nanocomposite Provides More Consistent Bone Regeneration

NYU PROFESSOR’S TIME RELEASE PRODUCT WINS FDA APPROVAL

Although calcium sulfate has been used to stimulate bone growth for decades, its usefulness to dentists has been limited because it often resorbs before bone is fully regenerated. Many dentists, in fact, use the compound mainly to fill small voids, such as those found in post-extraction tooth sockets and periodontal bone defects, and only as an adjunct to other types of longer lasting bone graft materials.

Recently, however, a College of Dentistry professor, working with scientists from Orthogen Corporation, the research division of BioLok International, formulated and tested a new calcium sulfate nanocomposite that resorbs more slowly and regenerates bone more consistently, a development that will enable dentists to use the material in place of more expensive fillers in larger bone defects and in bone grafts for dental implant patients. The FDA approved Professor John Ricci’s new formulation in late March, and it will be on the market this fall. BioLok International is marketing the nanocomposite under the trade name BoneGen-TR™.

Dr. Ricci tested the new formulation in vivo by measuring how fast it dissolved and how much new bone it regenerated in the tibia – a hollow bone located between the knee and ankle. After 16 weeks, the compound had fully resorbed and had stimulated significant amounts of new bone.

Dr. Ricci, an Associate Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, says that traditional calcium sulfate compounds are usually fully resorbed within six to seven weeks – often well before bone is fully regenerated. He and his colleagues formulated the new nanocomposite to resorb more slowly by combining it with a small amount of a resorbable polymer. They experimented with several such combinations – each with a different polymer level – until settling on one that released calcium sulfate in just the right amount of time. Dr. Ricci tested the new formulation in vivo by measuring how fast it dissolved and how much new bone it regenerated in the tibia – a hollow bone located between the knee and ankle. After 16 weeks, the compound had fully resorbed and had stimulated significant amounts of new bone. A multicenter clinical trial is planned that will include testing the new material’s performance on patients with post-extraction tooth sockets and periodontal bone defects.
Research Day 2006: Columbia University Dean Dr. Ira Lamster Shares Spotlight with Student Researchers

Twenty-one students from NYU College of Dentistry (NYUCD) and its College of Nursing (NYUCN) were honored in April at Research Day 2006. The students shared the spotlight with Dr. Ira Lamster, Dean of the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, who presented a lecture entitled “The Link Between Oral Infection and Systemic Diseases: From Animal Models to Clinical Trials.” Associate Dean for Research Dr. Louis Terracio presided at the ceremony and presented the fourth annual NYUCD Distinguished Scientist Award to Dean Lamster.

ADA/Dentsply Student Research Award
Omnicron Kappa Upsilon, Omega Chapter Award
Mr. Michael Weiner, DDS ’09
Calcium Sulfate and PLLA Containing Bone Repair Materials
Advisor: Dr. John L. Ricci

Student Research Group Award for Excellence in Research
Ms. Leslie Fina, DDS ’08
Fatigue and Longevity of New Ceramic Dental Materials
Advisor: Dr. Van P. Thompson

Dean’s Research Award
Dr. Andy Lee, DDS ’06
Detection and Quantification of S. sanguinis by Quantitative Real-Time PCR Assays
Advisor: Dr. Yihong Li

Postgraduate Research Award
Dr. Marci Berger, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry ’06
Non-Invasive Methods to Diagnose Pediatric Sleep Apnea
Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Fleisher

Master of Science in Biomaterials Research Award
Dr. Jose Navarro, Advanced Program for International Dentists, ’05, MS ’07
Assessment of Mouth Motion Fatigue Testing for More Complex Structures
Advisor: Dr. Nelson da Silva

Master of Science in Oral Biology Research Award
Dr. Victoria LaMendola, MS ’06
Effect of Early Exposure to Malnutrition on Oral Bacterial Colonization in Haitian Children
Advisor: Dr. Yihong Li

Dental Hygiene Student Research Award
Ms. Maria Nemelivsky, BS ’08
Mitochondria Are Involved in Growth Plate Chondrocyte Apoptosis
Advisor: Dr. Cristina Teixeira

Nursing Student Research Award
Ms. Jennifer Estorque, BS ’06, MS. Elzbieta Galanty, BS ’06, and Ms. Tanimya Yaihuathes, BS ’06
The Efficacy of Using Alcohol Based Solution Versus Handwashing with Antiseptic Soap During Routine Patient Care in Prevention of Hospital Acquired Nosocomial Infections
Advisor: Dr. Danuta Clemmens

Oral Medicine and Pathology Research Award
Dr. Irina Babayan, DDS ’06, and Ms. Jennifer Miller, DDS ’07
Oral Cavity as a Window to HIV Infection: Dentists to Recognize HIV Related Oral Lesions
Advisor: Dr. Ross Kerr

Implant Dentistry Research Award
Dr. Dae Ho Choi, Advanced Program for International Dentists ’06
Comparison of GBR, Block Bone Grafts and DO to Achieve Vertical and Horizontal Ridge Augmentation: Review of the Literature
Advisor: Dr. Stuart Froum

Dr. Ayako Zenitani, Advanced Program for International Dentists ’06
Sinus Morphology and Vital Bone Formation following Maxillary Sinus Augmentation Procedures
Advisor: Dr. Stuart Froum
Master of Science in Clinical Research Award
Dr. Germain Jean-Charles, MS ’06
Periodontal Disease in Haitian Teenagers
Advisor: Dr. Ralph Katz

DDS Honors Research Award
Dr. Irina Babayan, DDS ’06, and Ms. Jennifer Miller, DDS ’07
Oral Cavity as a Window to HIV Infection: Dentists to Recognize HIV Related Oral Lesions
Advisor: Dr. Ross Kerr

Mr. Ganesh Rajagopalan, DDS ’07
Criteria for Management of Patients with Severely Worn Occlusion: Including the Pathology Related to Changes in Vertical Dimension
Advisor: Dr. Jyoti Srivastava

Orthodontics Research Award
Dr. Seth Newman, PG ’06
Oral Health-Related Quality of Life, Treatment Motivations, and Treatment Expectations in Adults, Young Adults and Children Seeking Orthodontic Care
Advisor: Dr. George Cisneros

Dr. Jae Hyun Park, MS ’06, PG ’06
Zn-CaP Material as Potential Antibacterial and Mineralizing Coating for Orthodontic Braces
Advisor: Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros

Endodontics Research Award
Dr. Ketan Amin, PG ’06
Articaine Versus Lidocaine for Use as a Supplemental Anesthetic in Difficult to Anesthetize Teeth
Advisor: Dr. Paul Rosenberg

Pediatric Dentistry Research Award
Dr. Marcie Berger, PG ’06
Non-Invasive Methods to Diagnose Pediatric Sleep Apnea
Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Fleisher

From top: Dr. Ira Lamster; Dr. Louis Terracio with award winner Dr. Victoria LaMendola; Dr. Jose Navarro and Dr. Paulo Coelho view a poster presentation.

Research Day celebrants
RECRUITING the BEST

Dr. David N. Levy Appointed Assistant Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology

Dr. David N. Levy, an authority on the role recombination plays in HIV evolution, has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. Dr. Levy holds a PhD in immunology from the University of Pennsylvania, and previously served as a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The recipient of an Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric AIDS Foundation Scholar Award, Dr. Levy holds several patents for technology developed to test compounds that may inhibit HIV. Dr. Levy’s research focuses on the role of “parent” viruses and recombination in the evolution of HIV (see related article, page 29).

Dr. William R. Katz Appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Group Practice Coordinator

Dr. William R. Katz, Class of 1969, has been appointed a Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and a Group Practice Coordinator. Dr. Katz, who previously served as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Hospital Dentistry at Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, is a Past President of the Suffolk County Dental Society.
Dr. Anthony M. Palatta Named Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions

Dr. Anthony M. Palatta, Director of Academic Advising and Student Development and Clinical Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, has been promoted to Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions. Dr. Palatta, who joined NYUCD in 1992, holds a DDS degree from NYU and a master’s degree in Higher Education Administration from NYU’s Steinhardt School of Education. He replaces Ms. Novella Jones, who is retiring after five years in that position.

Dr. Palatta will be responsible for admissions, student financial aid, academic advising, housing, health services and student activities.

DR. MANJU K. GOPINATHAN, a graduate of both the DDS program, ’01, and the Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, ’05, and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Endodontics, has been promoted to the rank of Full-Time Clinical Educator. Dr. Gopinathan coordinates training for both predoctoral and advanced education in endodontics program students.

MS. ROSEMARY D. HAYS, a Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, has been promoted to the rank of Full-Time Clinical Educator. Ms. Hays earned a BS degree in Dental Hygiene and an MS degree in Dental Hygiene Education, both from Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery.

DR. MAZEN NATOUR, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, has been promoted to a Full-Time Visiting Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry. Dr. Natour holds a DDS degree from Universite Saint Joseph in Beirut, Lebanon, and a DMD degree, an MS in Biomaterials, and a postgraduate certificate in prosthodontics, all from the Boston University School of Dental Medicine.

DR. MICHAEL TURNER, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Turner holds a DDS degree from the University of Maryland and an MD degree from Stony Brook University School of Medicine, and also completed his residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and a fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.
Luz Marina Ocon is a lucky woman. Ms. Ocon, whose family owns a hotel in Managua, Nicaragua, was successfully treated with radiation and surgery for a malignant oral lesion, which her dentist diagnosed three years ago during a routine examination. But in the ramshackle town of Chiquilistagua, just five miles south of Ms. Ocon’s tidy neighborhood in the Nicaraguan capital, the chances of surviving oral cancer are far slimmer. With two-thirds of its 10,000 residents unemployed, and one-third illiterate, Chiquilistagua has few people who can afford routine dental care, let alone treatment for oral cancer and other complex conditions.

Ms. Ocon’s niece, Aura Caldera, a third-year student at NYUCD, was well aware of the impact that chronically high unemployment and hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters have had on the economy, putting dental care out of most Nicaraguans’ reach. So during a visit to her aunt in spring 2004, Aura proposed an outreach visit from NYUCD. Ms. Ocon offered to help organize the mission on-site by coordinating travel and accommodations in Nicaragua, while Aura and a classmate, Tammy Chen, arranged the trip from New York.

The students sought guidance from two outreach veterans, Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs and Development, and Dr. Lidia Kiremidjian-Schumacher, a Professor Emerita of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, who leads an annual visit to the Dominican Republic. With their encouragement, the students secured an invitation from Nicaragua’s Ministry of Health, and arranged for Dr. Carlos Espinosa, Dean of the Dental College of the Universidad Americana Dental College in Managuay Americana, to send half a dozen students to assist with five days of screening, treatment and translation. The NYU students also obtained equipment and supplies courtesy of Henry Schein, Brasseler USA, and Colgate-Palmolive.
Meanwhile, Aura and Tammy assembled a team of six faculty and staff, 11 additional DDS students, two pediatric residents, a resident and fellow in oral and maxillofacial surgery, plus a student in the Advanced Program in General Dentistry for International Dentists.

Arriving in Chiquilistagua on March 5th, the team converted a school gymnasium into a clinic to screen and treat 578 patients ranging in age from two to 78. Many had painful infections. Some had never seen a dentist, while others had a history of irregular visits, mainly to treat tooth decay that had already reached an advanced stage. One person had particularly extensive decay in areas where extractions had been performed, root tips remained, and crowns had worn away. A separate pediatric area was set up under the direction of Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, to perform extractions and restorations and place sealants and fluoride varnishes. There was also an educational component: Students gave oral hygiene presentations to schoolchildren, and faculty members made a trip to Managua to conduct a continuing education program at the Universidad Americana’s Dental College.

Students said the Nicaragua visit was an eye-opener. “This experience helped me put things in perspective,” said third-year student Maria Kim. “With our busy schedules, I find it’s easy to get caught up in life’s little details while overlooking what’s really important. This trip removed me from my comfort zone and helped me see that the world is a much bigger place.” A follow-up visit is planned for next year.

Editor’s note: As a result of the outreach, Aura Caldera and Tammy Chen were both honored with NYU President’s Service Awards. In addition, Aura won the Reynolds Scholarship for Social Entrepreneurship awarded by the Wagner Graduate School at NYU. See related article on page 84.

From top: Teaching youngsters the importance of oral hygiene; Dr. Stuart Hirsch with Tammy Chen, left, and Aura Caldera, both Class of 2007; treating patients in Chiquilistagua.
To mark the 10th anniversary of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) International Dental Conference and Arab Dental Exhibition (AEEDC Dubai 2006), a small NYUCD delegation traveled to Dubai for five days to present lectures on current and future concepts in implant dentistry and to showcase opportunities for UAE dentists to participate in NYU’s Advanced Study Program in Implant Dentistry for International Dentists.

The group included Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development; Dr. Nicolas Elian, Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Program in Implant Dentistry for International Dentists; and Dr. Joseph Zaky, Clinical Associate Professor of Implant Dentistry.

In recent years, NYUCD has developed close ties with education and government officials in the UAE, thanks in large part to Dr. Elian. A native of Lebanon, Dr. Elian travels frequently to Dubai and to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, to visit family and friends. During his visits, Dr. Elian tries to recruit students to enroll in the Advanced Program in Implant Dentistry for International Dentists. But he harbors an additional, longer-term goal: to close the gap between the level of dental education that currently exists in the Gulf region and what it should be by establishing an NYUCD satellite campus in either Dubai or Abu Dhabi.

“While people in the UAE enjoy a very high standard of living and a thoroughly modern lifestyle, the level of healthcare education and, therefore, of health care, has not caught up with the level of wealth,” says Dr. Elian. “For example, there are great hospitals in terms of state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. But the local physicians do not have the training required to raise healthcare to the same high level as the other western-style services citizens enjoy.”
To that end, Abu Dhabi has built a Center for Excellence and Applied Research and Training (CERT), and has invited a number of U.S. medical schools to establish satellite teaching facilities. Currently, the Mayo Clinic, Harvard, Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University all have established a presence in the region through continuing medical education programs. In addition to upgrading the level of medical care, this arrangement has the added benefit of allowing citizens of the Gulf region who have conditions that are too complicated to be treated at home to travel to the schools’ affiliated hospitals in the U.S.

While medical education still has a long way to go to reach Western standards, dental education has even farther to go, according to Dr. Elian. There are many dental schools, but they do not offer a strong curriculum, and to date, there are no UAE-U.S. dental school partnerships similar to the medical model.

Dr. Elian is convinced that partnering with NYUCD is the answer to the UAE’s dental education problem. “Dentists in the UAE are desperate to improve their education,” says Dr. Elian. “Moreover, the leadership is smart, progressive, and sees education as the key to the future. It is my dream that it will be possible for the UAE and NYUCD to partner to improve dental education by establishing a satellite campus to train dentists in the latest Western dental therapies and technologies.”

Center: H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and Industry, and President of the Department of Health and Medical Services, opens the AEEDC Dubai 10th Anniversary Celebration. To the Sheikh’s left, assisting in the ribbon cutting, is Dr. Howard Lieb, Special Assistant to Dean Alfano.

While people in the UAE enjoy a very high standard of living and a thoroughly modern lifestyle, the level of healthcare education and, therefore, of health care, has not caught up with the level of wealth.
Dominican Republic

Outreach Set to Celebrate 10th Anniversary

Next November, the annual NYUCD expedition to the Dominican Republic will celebrate its 10th anniversary of providing essential oral health services to needy Dominicans living in rural areas. The program was initiated in 1997 by Dr. Lidia Kiremidjian-Schumacher, who retired in December as Professor Emerita of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology after 33 years at NYUCD. Dr. Kiremidjian, a recipient of the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award – the University’s highest teaching honor – will continue to play a leadership role in the annual Dominican Outreach as the on-site coordinator.

“The only hope for improving these people’s oral health continues to rest with NYUCD’s ability to provide care and to work collaboratively with the Dominican government and the local dental society to develop effective dental public health programs,” says Dr. Kiremidjian. “The oral health needs of the Dominican population are severe beyond anything seen in even the most underserved areas in the United States. On every visit, I feel so proud to be helping NYUCD share its resources with the world. I’m extremely pleased that NYUCD has made a commitment to continue the Dominican Republic outreach program for the foreseeable future.”

During the 2005 visit, a group of 20 student and faculty volunteers worked eight hours a day for eight days to provide care to adults and children with extreme dental needs. As on previous visits, nearly 3,000 services were provided. Also as in previous years, NYUCD provided financing and supplies for the trip and Colgate-Palmolive’s Dominican Republic component provided a mobile unit and gift bags for distribution at all sites.

One of the participants, Marcus Young, Class of 2007, called the experience “unparalleled.” “At NYUCD, we see every possible oral health condition,” he said, “but in the Dominican Republic, we also get to see variations that can occur in a more homogenous society. It makes our education even richer.”
During their eight-day outreach visit to Jamaica, West Indies, in January, NYUCD students and faculty, along with dental students from Columbia University and the University of Michigan, a team totaling 35 people, provided care for a staggering 2,000 adults and children, most with acute dental needs.

Participating NYUCD students from the Class of 2006 included Drs. Min Chung, Pamela Barias, Margaret Funny, Sonia Bhamba, Khadine Alston, Jason Gordon, Melissa Wilson, Beth Herko, Pey-Ru Kao, Kittima Boonsirisermsook, and Mustafa Mukata. The Class of 2007 was represented by Eric Niver, Soo Jin Kim, Cornelius Yen, and Esther Yang. NYUCD faculty included Dr. Ralph P. Cunningham, Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, who has led the annual Jamaica outreach for many years, and Dr. Haig H. Rickerby, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care. Also participating were two Advanced Education Program students, Dr. Melani Kapetanakos, Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics Class of 2007, and Dr. Yigal Zibari, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics Class of 2006.

A few months later, Drs. Alston and Funny went on to make outreach history at NYUCD by spearheading the first-ever New York City Oral Cancer Walk. That story appears on page 62.
Focus on International Faculty

DR. MLADEN KUFTINEC: CREATING AN EVER-HIGHER PROFILE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORTHODONTICS PROGRAM

In the past five years, Portuguese, German, Spanish, Korean, and Greek have been named the “official language” of the Advanced Program in Orthodontics for International Dentists. Dr. Mladen M. Kuftinec, a Professor of Orthodontics and the Program Director, began naming an official language in 2002 to highlight the program’s growing diversity and to honor the country with the most students represented.

The program is quite well-known around the world, thanks in part to Dr. Kuftinec’s frequent travels to present his research at scientific congresses and meet colleagues at dental schools throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America. Dr. Kuftinec, who was born in Zagreb in the former Yugoslavia, travels so often, and has so many friends overseas, that several cities – among them Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Zagreb, and Veracruz – have made him an honorary citizen.

Dr. Kuftinec’s reputation as an innovator in orthodontic concepts and techniques has been an important factor in building the program’s international reputation. For example, he helped develop a self-ligation technique, the System-R and the System-C with In-Ovation Bracket®, which is widely acknowledged to be a more efficient treatment method with fewer side effects than traditional orthodontic procedures. NYUCD was one of the first schools to teach this new technology.

The Advanced Program in Orthodontics for International Dentists enrolls 15 to 20 students annually from approximately 12 countries, and includes several faculty members who hold international dental degrees. “The program’s appeal has grown with the addition of students and faculty from more countries,” Dr. Kuftinec says. “For our international students, networking with colleagues from around the world, while learning a variety of newly-developed orthodontic methods, is a major reason for choosing our program.”
It was supposed to be a brief visit. Dr. Cristina Teixeira arrived in the U.S. in 1993, shortly after receiving a DDS degree from the University of Porto in Portugal, with the intention of spending two years in an orthodontics specialty training program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.

Instead, she remained at Penn for eight years, earning not only a postgraduate certificate in orthodontics, but also a DMD degree, an MSc in oral biology, and a PhD in cell and molecular biology. She also taught orthodontics at Penn before joining NYUCD in 2001 as an Assistant Professor of Orthodontics and of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology.

But Dr. Teixeira has found a way to maintain her ties with the University of Porto. “This year,” she explains, “I arranged for a junior scientist from the Biomedical Engineering Institute at the University of Porto to collaborate with me on a cartilage engineering study.”

Dr. Teixeira believes that understanding how cartilage evolves into bone could lead to new growth disorder treatments. For example, implanted cartilage could replace grafted bone in cleft palate patients, because the cartilage would grow more fully and provide more natural-looking results. “Mentoring him is one way in which I can stay close and say ‘thank you’ to the Portuguese foundations that helped me come to the United States.”
Dr. Farhad Vahidi

**DR. FARHAD VAHIDI:**
**“MY STUDENTS ARE LIKE FAMILY”**

Arriving in New York in 1973 fresh from receiving his DMD degree from Teheran University in Iran, Dr. Farhad Vahidi knew that he had a place waiting for him in NYU’s postgraduate program in prosthodontics; what he didn’t have was an apartment. In those days, there were few resources available to assist students looking for housing.

His experience was a far cry from the kind of welcome awaiting today’s students in the Advanced Program in Prosthodontics for International Dentists. “When students arrive, it’s like a family member comes to visit. We do everything we can to help them find housing and adjust to life in New York,” says Dr. Vahidi, the program’s inaugural Director and an Associate Professor of Prosthodontics. “In addition to teaching prosthodontics to the international residents, I try to advocate for their best interests.”

A faculty member for 26 years, Dr. Vahidi is also Director of the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics.

“I may divide my time between the two programs,” says Dr. Vahidi, “but I regard all the students as part of my extended family. And while the Advanced Program in Prosthodontics for International Students is designed as a continuing education program, the same high standards apply as in the postgraduate program. In fact, we recently introduced a requirement that has students from both programs working together on many cases and sharing the same clinic.”

Even after Dr. Vahidi’s international students graduate and return to their home countries, they remain within the family fold. “I encourage graduates from around the world to form alumni organizations,” he says. “We have active alumni groups in Greece, Portugal, Thailand, and Morocco, and more locations are planned. The alumni demonstrate their enthusiasm for the education and training they received at NYUCD by arranging clinical programs to introduce visiting faculty to local practitioners. It’s a wonderful way to maintain family ties.”

Dr. Kenneth Judy, Class of 1968, and Co-Chairman of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) left, speaks with Chen Shui-bian, President of Taiwan, about the 2006 meeting of the ICOI to be held in Taipai in October. Over 1,500 delegates are expected to attend the meeting, which will feature presentations by NYU implant dentistry program faculty, including Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, Professor and Chair of the Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry. President Chen’s daughter, a dentist, has taken continuing education courses at NYUCD.
North African and Middle-East Students TALK ABOUT LIFE AT NYUCD

They have backgrounds ranging from recent dental school graduates to practitioners with years of experience. But despite their differences, students from countries in North Africa and the Middle East who were interviewed recently about their experiences in the Advanced Study Programs for International Dentists all sounded a single theme. They all talked about finding a new professional self-confidence and optimism as a result of their studies at NYUCD.

Dr. Ahmad Kutkut, a native of Ammon, Jordan, recently completed the two-year Advanced Program in Implant Dentistry for International Dentists. A graduate of Jordan University who did a general dentistry internship at Ammon’s Al Basheer Hospital, Dr. Kutkut says he was particularly pleased to have so many patients to treat, far more than in his previous years of training. “I know that when I open my private practice in Ammon, I’ll have a competitive edge because I learned to do bone and tissue grafts for implant cases.”

Dr. Amal Kharbouch, who received her DDS degree from Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco, completed the Advanced Study Program in Orthodontics last year, and is currently a teaching fellow in orthodontics. “I found exactly what I was looking for in coming to NYUCD,” she says, “a sense of freedom, openness to new ideas, and the chance to use the latest technology to treat a diverse group of patients.”

Prior to coming to NYUCD, Dr. Wael Oweity, a second-year student in the Advanced Study Program in Implant Dentistry, was a general dentist in Damascus, Syria. “Learning implants makes me look at patients in a whole new way, and lets me treat them more effectively and predictably,” he says.

Dr. Wadih El Hachem, a 2003 graduate of the DDS program at St. Joseph University in Beirut, said his training in the Advanced Program in Implant Dentistry, which he recently completed, will enable him to add a valuable new service when he returns to Beirut to join his family’s practice, which includes his father, a general dentist, and his mother, an orthodontist.

“Students in the Advanced Programs for International Dentists make a lot of sacrifices to come here, and we bend over backwards to help them get the education and training they came for,” says Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch. “At the same time, we treat them as equals, as partners in solving patient-care problems. The combination seems to work.”

From left: Dr. Nasreddin Teras of Libya; Dr. Wadih El Hachem, Lebanon; Dr. Amal Kharbouch, Morocco; Dr. Moukhamed Khabibek, Syria; Dr. Ahmad Kutkut, Jordan.
In recognition of generous gifts from several alumni, faculty, and friends, Dean Alfano hosted a reception last fall to celebrate the naming of the Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Curatola Nursing Station, the Dr. Stanley N. Turetsky Urgent Care Suite, the Zenith Dental Conference Room, the Bernard Weissman Technology Innovation Facility, and The Great White Dental Laboratory Demonstration Operatory.

The Curatola Nurse’s Station, made possible by Dr. Gerry Curatola, Class of 1983, and his wife, Georgia, provides personnel and equipment to monitor the well-being of patients participating in clinical studies at the College’s Bluestone Center for Clinical Research. Dr. Stanley N. Turetsky, Class of 1962, Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Science and Urgent Care and Director of Emergency Services, was motivated to make his gift by his first-hand knowledge of the importance of a modern, comfortable urgent care area to the more than 26,000 New Yorkers who use it annually. Dr. Turetsky has headed NYUCD’s emergency services area for many years.

The Zenith Dental Conference Room, a gift from Mr. Larry Katz, the Bernard Weissman Technology Innovation Facility, named for its donor, and The Great White Dental Laboratory Demonstration Operatory, a gift of Mr. Jim Spallino, are all located within the Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry, and were made possible by
friends and colleagues of Dr. Larry Rossenthal, Class of 1972, who is the Rosenthal Institute's principal donor. Mr. Katz is President of Zenith Dental Products, which manufactures state-of-the-art materials, instruments, and application techniques for dental practices. Mr. Weissman is the owner and President of Dentatus USA, Ltd., and Dentatus Company in Stockholm, Sweden, developers of dental products, including miniature alternative, thin-bodied implants and aesthetic components. Mr. Jim Spallino is co-founder of The Great White Dental Laboratory, which provides services and technologies for aesthetic dental care.

In dedicating the facilities, Dean Alfano said, “When we began our facilities renovation program in 2000, we promised that we would put your gifts to good use, and I hope you will agree that the facilities we are dedicating this evening means we surely have done so. Each of our honorees has played a pivotal role in making this evening possible, and I want to personally thank them for their generosity and active involvement in helping to transform NYUCD.”
Jonas Center Grant Will Support New Nursing Faculty Practice

A major grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence has been made in support of the new Nursing Faculty Practice opening this summer at NYUCD (see related story on page 58).

According to Dr. Terry Fulmer, Dean of the College of Nursing, “The Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence Award is an enormous vote of confidence in what we intend to achieve, and will provide a national platform for our work and outcomes. I would like to congratulate the entire interdisciplinary team for making the grant possible: the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, the School of Medicine and the Wagner School of Public Service. I believe this is a tipping point for increasing interdisciplinary practice and research at NYU. Dean Alfano’s vision and support have been extraordinary.”

“We are extremely proud and pleased to receive this gift from the Jonas Center,” added Dean Alfano. “It is an especially auspicious way to begin our program to use nurse practitioners in our dental clinics. We are grateful to the Barbara and Donald Jonas Family Fund for its generosity and to Naomi Levine, Executive Director of the NYU Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising, for her strong support of this initiative.”

The Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence is a first-of-its kind philanthropic program dedicated to tackling the toughest issues facing the nursing profession and to transforming nursing in New York City. The center, the first of three philanthropic initiatives to be pursued by the Jonas Family Fund, was established with money raised through an innovative auction of a portion of the family’s contemporary art collection that yielded $44 million.

“We looked around at where we could put this windfall to great use in our lifetimes,” said Donald Jonas, “and it became abundantly clear that nurses – the unsung heroes of our healthcare system – needed more champions. The nursing crisis is having a profound effect on our city and Barbara and I want to galvanize every possible sector, from policy makers to philanthropists, to take an active role in remedying the system’s ills and establishing a model for change that can be replicated nationwide.”
Is there a correlation between the number of years an immigrant has lived in the United States, and his or her ability to access oral health care? That’s one of several questions Dr. Gustavo Cruz, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of Public Health Promotion, will examine in a new study focusing on the oral health status of immigrants living in New York City. The two-year study is funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), with a grant of more than $300,000.

New York’s foreign-born population grew from 2.1 million in 1990 to 2.9 million in 2000. This study is believed to be the most in-depth effort to date to pinpoint factors that influence the oral health of specific Asian, Hispanic/Latino, and West Indian subgroups living in the United States. Dr. Cruz will examine whether there is a correlation between country of birth, age at immigration, and number of years in the U.S., and perceptions of oral health, utilization of oral health care services, and oral health status, as measured by levels of caries and periodontal disease.

Dr. Cruz will analyze data on the top six racial/ethnic immigrant groups in New York City – Chinese, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Central/South Americans, West Indians, and Indians from the South Asian subcontinent – originally collected by the NYU Minority Oral Health Research Center, one of four federally-funded regional institutes that operated from 1992 to 2000.

This study is believed to be the most in-depth effort to date to pinpoint factors that influence the oral health of specific Asian, Hispanic/ Latino, and West Indian subgroups living in the United States.
In the same way that dentistry is a precision-driven science, business management consulting also has a scientific basis. There are methods that businesses use to be successful that have been studied extensively in universities and research settings as well as in the business world. Dentistry can only benefit from incorporating these methods into practice.

What Is a Method?

The word *method* appears very prominently in many Fortune 500 consulting company brochures and on Web sites. The word means a specific approach to dealing with any activity. In the case of dental practice management, *method* refers to a specific set of systems to be introduced into the practice. Each system contains information that is essential to advancing to the next step in the method. If the method is followed and outcomes are generally successful, then it is *proven*.

A method approach to dental practice management means that the approach has been well thought out and tried and tested numerous times before. A method approach probably would not be appropriate for the once-in-a-lifetime situation that requires specific creative thinking. However, a method of dental practice management will allow the dentist or a consultant to clearly understand the practice in depth and to provide expert solutions that have a high percentage of success for that practice.
THE ANATOMY OF A METHOD

The Levin Group Method™ has been created to help the vast majority of dentists understand how to run the business side of their practices. Its components are described below.

Data Collection

The first step in approaching the business side of any dental practice is to evaluate its current situation. There are approximately 100 factors, or key performance indicators, that need to be evaluated statistically in order to understand the nature of the practice. Some of these key performance indicators are:

- Production
- Collection
- Production-collection ratio
- Accounts receivable
- Profitability
- Service mix
- Insurance participation by percentage
- Insurance participation by plan
- Insurance participation reduced fees relative to the usual and customary fees of the practice

Other key performance indicators are overhead components, such as:

- Staff labor percentage
- Rent
- Lab
- Gas and electric
- Debt
- Leasing
- Number of available doctor chairs
- Number of available hygienist chairs

Once these statistics have been evaluated, a composite snapshot can be formulated, allowing the doctor, office manager or consultants to clearly understand the current status of the practice.

DEVELOPMENT OF BEST MODELS

Once the data has been collected, the next step is to see how it relates to a best model framework. A best model refers to an ideal way of operating a dental practice, taking into account its size, condition and performance in an overall statistical analysis. The development of a best model sets benchmarks between the ideal model and the current situation of the practice. In some cases, the best model is closely aligned with the practice, but in many other cases, it is significantly different. The farther apart the best model and the current practice model are, the more likely it is that the practice does not have ideal systems either for the business side of the practice or for the comfort level of the doctor and staff.

The development of best models can only occur after evaluating hundreds of dental practices and comparing the collected data. Certain common denominators are shared by the most successful practices, which form the basis of best models.
Thereafter, all practices can be benchmarked against them. The goal however, is not for every practice to adopt the ideal best model, but to customize the best model to the circumstances and goals of the individual practice. Best models create an opportunity to understand the best way of running any business. One example would be a franchise such as McDonalds or Starbucks. These businesses constantly refine their business models, and other businesses in similar fields replicate their highly efficient and effective operations in order to avoid wasting time and making errors.

CUSTOMIZATION

No method should be applied without understanding the unique conditions of each practice. For example, a practice could have many excellent systems in place but the doctor might still be working much too fast, feel rushed and believe that he or she is not producing the highest quality dentistry possible. The doctor might be physically and/or mentally fatigued, and also feeling bad about the overall quality of treatment being offered to patients. A simple procedural time study would likely reveal that the doctor needs a bit more time for certain procedures, which would allow the situation to be resolved.

Any ideal model has to be customized for each situation. Otherwise, the approach is merely a cookie cutter one that will not properly fit each individual practice. Following data collection, additional factors need to be taken into consideration. For example:

- Doctor’s vision for the practice
- Longevity of the practice
- Socioeconomic background of the patient base
- Competitive practices in the vicinity
- Associateships/Partnerships
The customization phase has to look at all the unique factors of each practice even down to the level of staff training and staff efficiency to understand what can be accomplished. This analysis will also reveal what areas are available for improvement. The customization phase is critical for each dentist to reach high levels of professional satisfaction.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Any method has a strong chance of failure unless it is implemented properly. That is why all methods should be developed with successful implementation as the final measurement of success. In the method described above, data is collected, a best model is built for the practice, significant customization of the model takes place based on key objectives for that practice and then the new systems comprising the method are implemented. The method is not about addressing one point here and one point there, but is rather a system-wide, overall approach to improving all or part of the practice. Dental practices should focus on methods that allow for specific systems to be replaced by more ideal systems that have been customized in areas such as:

- Scheduling
- Hygiene production
- Case presentation
- Practice financial management
- Patient financial options
- Customer service
- Staff hiring-training-motivation-retention
- Inventory control
- Budgeting

**THE BENEFITS OF A METHOD**

One of the major benefits of implementing a method is that it can be benchmarked against other practices as well as measured over time. Each system in the method should have a clear checklist of planned activities. Furthermore, the doctor will have the opportunity to review performance without resorting to micromanaging. The systems that are implemented using the method described above will be highly customized for that practice and will only break down if not followed by the doctor or team. While there are always exceptions to any system on any given day, it is important for the systems to be implemented using the described method and followed as closely as possible. Deviation from the systems will always reduce overall performance. Therefore, the higher the level of deviation, the lower the level of performance. Keep in mind that exceptions always want to become the rule because they are typically easier to implement even though they are less efficient and less effective over time.

A method approach to business or dental practice is more critical now than ever before. The method described above will allow the practice to implement new systems that are in the best interest of the doctor, team and patients. Only by following a method approach will the practice have the opportunity to achieve a comprehensive implementation of operational systems that allow it to operate with the lowest stress and highest production while maximizing quality of patient care.
NYUCD in the News
A sampling of recent media coverage of NYUCD:

**ABC-7 Eyewitness News**
promoted NYUCD’s first Oral Cancer Walk and the annual Oral Cancer Consortium free screenings in April with multiple features on oral cancer awareness and prevention, including interviews with NYUCD students and faculty, public service announcements and patient-care stories.

**ABC-7 Eyewitness News**
also interviewed Dr. Kenneth Magid, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, and Dr. John Calamia, Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, for a story on re-contouring periodontal tissue to improve a person’s appearance.

**Forbes**
reported on FDA approval of a time-release calcium-sulphate bone regeneration product developed by Dr. John Ricci, Associate Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics. The story also appeared in *Medical Industry Week*.

**Forbes**
also reported on a Phase III clinical trial of a mouth rinse for oral cancer detection being conducted at the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research. The story also appeared in *Dentistry Today, Drug Week, Yahoo Finance, and MarketWatch*.

**Newsday**
quouted Dr. Page Caufield, Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, in a story about tooth-decay fighting research on compounds that mimic the remineralizing benefits of saliva.

**Inside Dentistry**
has featured NYUCD in every issue since its launch last fall, including Dean Alfano’s contributions to a cover story entitled “The Crisis in Dental Education”; an interview with Dean Alfano on recent educational, research, and patient care developments at NYUCD; Dr. Timothy G. Bromage’s views on the sincerity of the smile as a function of the evolutionary history of facial expressions, and Dr. Eugene Hittelman on the psychological aspects of smile makeovers.

**New York Resident**
interviewed Dr. Parviz Edalat, Associate Professor of Periodontics and Implant Dentistry and Director of the Honors Program in Periodontics, for an article on the transmission of caries-causing bacteria through kissing.
Chicago Dental Society Review reported that Dr. John Evans, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and of Chemistry, acquired a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Atlantic City Press quoted Dr. Robert Glickman, Professor and Chair of the Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, in an article on the health risks faced by young adults who have not had their third molars removed.

Washington Parent quoted Dr. Neal G. Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, in an article on how parents can prevent cavities in infants and young children.

Parenting New Hampshire, Charlotte Parent and Southwest Florida Parent & Child also carried the story.

New York State Dental Journal reported on the mergers that created the Dr. Arthur Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, and on the appointments of Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow and Dr. Mark S. Wolff as the chairs, respectively, of those departments. The story also appeared in Practical Procedures & Aesthetic Dentistry.

New York State Dental Journal also reported that Dr. Amr Moursi had been named Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and that Dr. Dianne Rekow had been appointed Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology.

Web MD quoted Dr. Steven David, Clinical Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, in a story on people addicted to tooth whitening.

Egyptian National TV broadcast an interview with Dr. Denise Estafan, Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on oral cancer awareness and smoking cessation.

Best Life magazine interviewed Dr. Miriam R. Robbins, Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, for a story on the best all-around toothpaste.

Western Mail, a Wales UK newsletter, quoted Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of the MS Program in Clinical Research, on studies linking gum disease to an increased risk of both heart disease and premature birth.

Time Out New York Kids quoted Dr. Linda Rosenberg, Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, in an article on oral health care for young children.

Natural Pharmacy reported that research was being conducted at NYUCD on preventing gingivitis and improving overall gum health with oral rinses that contain botanical ingredients.
News from the College

Nursing Clinic to Open at NYUCD

The NYU College of Nursing (NYUCN) will help expand access to primary health-care services and improve the quality of life for medically-underserved New Yorkers with the opening this summer of a Nursing Faculty Practice at the College of Dentistry.

Initially, the Nursing Faculty Practice will target older adults. Over time, services for all age groups will be offered.

“The high prevalence of chronic illness in this age group puts older adults at risk for increased morbidity with resulting disability and decreased quality of life,” said Dr. Terry Fulmer, Dean of the College of Nursing. “The good news is that interventions that support and promote health, such as clinical preventive services, risk factor reduction and lifestyle behavior change, can reduce premature morbidity and mortality. Given that the traditional symptom-based, reactive approach has not proven adequate, it is time to move toward a more proactive, population-based, patient-centered approach to care. NYU nursing faculty will provide a core of services that address not only disease-based clinical management, but also health promotion and disease prevention.”

The Nursing Faculty Practice will be directed by Dr. Carolyn Auerhahn, ANP, GNP, who directs the Adult Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Programs at the NYUCN. The practice will also include Professors Caroline Dorsen, ANP, and Rose Knapp, ANP, with Robert Kennedy, MD, a long-time member of the NYU nursing faculty, as the collaborating physician.

When the NYU Nursing Program joined the College of Dentistry as a new College of Nursing within NYUCD in fall 2005, one of the stated objectives of the alliance was to seek new synergies through interdisciplinary health teaching education and research, as urged by the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences. Another was to address health-care challenges of the 21st century through innovative practice models and responsive, patient-centered care.

“It is obvious that there is a need for the development of comprehensive and effective forms of healthcare delivery to support and promote the health of an ever-increasing number of older adults,” said Dean Alfano. “By enabling dental and nursing faculty and students to collaborate on the development and implementation of a primary care model, the new Nurse-Practitioner Clinic at NYUCD is a step in that direction and also has the potential to help address barriers to primary health care.”

According to data from a 2005 survey of NYUCD patients, the majority of whom are either Medicaid-eligible or uninsured, one-third of all patients stated that they had experienced problems in accessing primary medical services due to their socioeconomic status and lack of health insurance. Most important, when asked if they would take advantage of primary care services if these were made available at NYUCD, 77 percent of survey participants responded “yes.”

Patients will be referred to the Nursing Faculty Practice by the professional and clerical
staff in the NYU dental clinics – who will be formally trained in appropriate referral procedure – and be seen by NYUCN nurse-practitioners. Patients who have a primary care provider will be offered health promotion services that complement the care they are already receiving. Those who do not have a primary care provider will be offered the option of receiving their primary care at the clinic.

Patient records will include both dental and general health information. This shared information will provide a more comprehensive health-care record than currently exists in other practice models.

“The NYU Nursing Faculty Practice affords an unprecedented opportunity for interprofessional communication and collaboration in the provision of healthcare services to people who have experienced problems in accessing primary care services,” said Dean Fulmer.

NYU nursing faculty will provide a core of services that address not only disease-based clinical management, but also health promotion and disease prevention.
Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing Launch Evidence-Based Practice Program

Dr. Carolyn Clancy is Keynote Speaker

Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was the keynote speaker at the College of Dentistry on February 2, for the launch of a new evidence-based practice program. The program, a collaboration of the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, seeks to improve the quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of patient care by teaching dental students and nursing students to integrate their clinical experience with the best scientific evidence.

Calling the opportunities presented by evidence-based practice “breathtaking,” Dr. Clancy explained that AHRQ, nicknamed “The Evidence Agency,” is building a foundation of scientific evidence and information that can help health-care providers understand which treatments work best, for whom, and with what risks. “The results,” she said, “will greatly enhance healthcare decision making at all levels and give consumers and patients the tools they need to become more involved in their own health care.” The Evidence-based Practice Program will utilize the various resources on evidence-based practice developed by AHRQ, including the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse and AHRQ-funded research.

“It is fitting that the NYU Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, with their long histories and traditions of excellence in research, education and practice, are launching this program,” said Dr. Clancy. “As producers, users and promoters for evidence, your program can make a significant difference in the quality, effectiveness and safety of healthcare services in this country.”

Dr. Joan M. Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, is coordinating the College of Dentistry’s participation in the program. “This program is a natural opportunity for the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing to work together,” said Dr. Phelan. “The College of Nursing has long embraced evidence-based practice and has made it a formal part of the curriculum. The College of Dentistry has also used this approach; in fact it is introduced during the first year of the curriculum, and it will become a pervasive component of the curriculum going forward. Our objective is to see how evidence-based practice best fits into our curriculum and patient care programs.”

Dr. Phelan’s counterpart at the College of Nursing, Dr. Judith Haber, the Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, added, “This initiative has the potential to develop a national model for collaborative, evidence-based practice that capitalizes on the research and clinical expertise of the dental and nursing faculties. What is most exciting is that, as we build a foundation of evidence and information that informs treatment decisions, our patients will be the beneficiaries.”
The inaugural Robert N. Eskow NYU Implant Dentistry Award was presented to Dr. P. I. Branemark, the world-renowned originator and developer of osseointegrated implants and of a variety of the components used in dental implants, at the annual NYU Implant Symposium in December. Dr. Branemark accepted the award via videoconference from Gothenburg, Sweden.

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

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

Commenting on the award, Dean Alfano said, “It is a privilege and a pleasure for NYUCD to present this award. Dr. Branemark is a giant in the field of implant dentistry. Largely because of his work, which is recognized as the “gold standard” in dental implants, implant dentistry today is a scientifically-validated, solidly mainstream dental procedure whose popularity continues to improve both functionally and esthetically. It is doubly meaningful that the award carries the name of Dr. Robert Eskow, an outstanding NYU faculty member, who has made substantial contributions to implant dentistry teaching and research at NYU.”

Dr. Branemark accepting his award via satellite video conference.
On Saturday, April 15, 2006, the NYU chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) led New York City’s first Oral Cancer Walk, which drew some 300 participants and raised over $20,000 to raise awareness of a disease that kills over 7,000 American men and women each year. Dr. Khadine Alston, ’06, the lead organizer, explained that in addition to calling attention to major risk factors for oral cancer and the importance of early detection in saving lives, the goal was to motivate fellow dental students across the nation – the future front-line specialists in screening for and detecting the disease at its earliest, most curable stages – to conduct their own walks at dental schools across the United States. “We must send the message,” says Dr. Alston, “that when the disease is detected early, the survival rate is 80 percent.”

The four-mile walk took place in Harlem to underscore the fact that oral cancer disproportionately affects African-American men, who have the highest rates of oral cancer in the nation. Free oral cancer screenings were available along the walk route, and 58 participants took advantage of the free screenings. Prizes were given for the most donations collected and the highest number of sponsors. Barbara Boland, a dental hygienist and oral cancer survivor, topped the list by collecting $5,000 for the cause. All proceeds went to The Oral Cancer Foundation.

The walk’s organizational cosponsors included The Oral Cancer Foundation, NYU College of Dentistry, the Oral Cancer Consortium of New York and New Jersey, the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation and ABC 7, which promoted the event in advance by interviewing two of the SNDA
student organizers on ABC 7 the morning of the walk and also providing live coverage of the event. Corporate and individual cosponsors included Colgate, Dr. Eric Studley and Associates, Dean Michael C. Alfano, Associate Dean Stuart M. Hirsch, Oral CDx, ViziLite Plus, SPOHNC, LED Dental Inc., Smile Savers Pedo LLC, CulinArt and Jet Blue Airways, which donated prizes of two tickets valued at over $1,000 each. Kudos to Class of 2009 students Aleksandr Baron, Dmitry Baron and Stacy Wolf for successfully soliciting the tickets.

In addition to Khadine Alston, the Oral Cancer 2006 Walk Committee consisted of Margaret Funny, ’06. Jocelyn Jeffries, ’07, Jasmine Nicolas, BS in Dental Hygiene Program Class of 2006, and Dr. Dionne Finlay, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’06. The students received guidance and support from their faculty mentor, Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Chair of the Oral Cancer Consortium; Mr. Brian Hill, Founder and Executive Director of The Oral Cancer Foundation; Dr. Evelyn Nelson, Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care; Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs Rita Startup; Mrs. Constance Turner, Administrator of the Smiling Faces, Going Places Mobile Dental Care Program, and Senior Director for Communications and Public Affairs Elyse Bloom.

The Oral Cancer 2006 Walk Committee wishes to express special thanks to the following individuals and organizations: Dr. Scott Benjamin, Barbara Boland, Joanne Castaneda, Dr. Gerald Deas, Dr. Elise Eisenberg, Darlene Hart, Marcus Johnson, Carmelita Maurentt, former Assistant Dean Novella Jones, Lauren Meyers, Elizabeth Powell, Alicia Samuels, Justin Seaman, Rameko Tompkins, Brendan Ward, Kevin Corbett and the NY Giants Football Team, Khalfani Walker and the SNDA Chapter at UMDNJ Dental School, Marvin Baptiste and the SNDA Chapter at Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, the NYU Chapters of SADHA and the South Asian Student Dental Association, the Class of 2009 Community Service Committee, and the 2005-2006 NYU Oral Medicine Honors Students. Planning is underway for the 2007 Oral Cancer Walk.
This April, for the eighth consecutive year, NYUCD and the 28 other members of the Oral Cancer Consortium – academic dental centers, hospitals and dental societies – hosted free regional oral cancer screenings throughout New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. This year NYUCD alone screened more than 300 people.

According to Dr. Ross Kerr, Chair of the Oral Cancer Consortium, “A good measure of credit for the large turnout is attributable to the extraordinary success of the NYUCD student-led oral cancer walk, which preceded the Consortium screenings by several days and led to heightened awareness of the importance of annual screenings. Equally important, the walk has fostered a movement by future dentists and hygienists to promote early detection and prevention to their patients as routinely as they do regular brushing and flossing. When more and more dentists and hygienists tell their patients to brush, floss, and get screened for oral cancer, all in one sentence, we'll know we’ve broken through.”
NYU Chapter of ASDA Issues a Call to Action on Oral Cancer: The Future is in OUR Hands

Four NYUCD members of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) made a presentation entitled “Oral Cancer: The Future is in Our Hands – What You Need to Know and Why,” at the ASDA Eastern Regional Meeting in January. Justin J. Seaman, ’08, ASDA Vice President at NYU, said, “It was a wonderful opportunity to talk to fellow students from schools throughout the Eastern United States about what current dental students can do to move the profession in the right direction with regard to oral cancer.”

In addition to Justin, NYUCD attendees included Deanna Barranco, ’08, Andy Young, ’09, and LeeAnn Clark, ’09. The students’ faculty mentor was Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor or Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, and Chair of the Oral Cancer Consortium.
An innovative collaboration between Steinhardt’s Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health and NYU’s College of Dentistry is bringing Steinhardt students into NYU’s pediatric dental clinic to educate children and their caregivers.

The graduate students in the clinical nutrition program are not only working with dental faculty to learn about nutrition and oral health, but participating with dental hygienists in community outreach, and working to raise awareness about the nutritional content in the foods that children eat.

“The collaboration grew out of an interest within the College of Dentistry to put more ‘nutrition’ in the dental curriculum,” said Lisa Sasson, internship director and Steinhardt clinical assistant professor.

“One thing that became clear is how closely related our two professions are because we are both working with food. It was just a natural pairing,” Sasson said.

Among the many benefits of the Steinhardt/College of Dentistry collaboration is that nutritionists and hygienists together are educating parents and caregivers from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds to think differently about the snacks they give to children. They are taught about the timing and frequency of snacking and how to combine food and beverages that are good for the teeth.

“We also focus on snacks and meals that help kids maintain a healthy weight and mouth,” Sasson said.

The program began in 2005 and has been so successful that almost all of Steinhardt dietetic interns spend two weeks of their 26-week internship at the pediatric dental clinic.
NYUCD is now providing free dental IDs for all children screened at community outreach events as a way of safeguarding youngsters who might get lost, or worse, be abducted. To create the IDs, pediatric dental students and residents use a new technique that imprints the child’s bite on a soft silicon wafer. The wafer also collects DNA from saliva and saves the child’s scent. The wafer is then packaged and given to parents along with a Polaroid photo and a form listing vital information, such as hair and eye color.

“This is one way we can help parents keep kids safe, as well as healthy,” says Ms. Jill Fernandez-Wilson, a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry who coordinates the Pediatric Outreach Program. Dental IDs are also provided free-of-charge at the NYU Pediatric Clinic and on the Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental van.

Visit Our New Web Site

NYUCD has a new Web site, and we invite you to visit it at www.nyu.edu/dental. For news and events happening at the College of Nursing, please go to www.nyu.edu/nursing.
Public Funding, Private Orthodontic Care, Academic Peer Review: A Recipe for Success

Seventeen years ago, the New York City Bureau of Dental Health Services was facing a problem of crisis proportions in its Orthodontic Rehabilitation Program. The initiative, part of New York State’s Physically Handicapped Children’s Programs (PHCP), is mandated to expand access to orthodontic care for medically indigent youngsters. Any family with a child under 21 years of age may apply to the program. Each youngster is screened to determine eligibility and referred for treatment to local orthodontists, who are reimbursed for their services based on Medicaid fee schedules. Because of a lack of staff, a severe backlog of applications had developed, preventing the program from fulfilling its mandate.

Dr. Ruby Stern, who was then the Director of the Orthodontic Rehabilitation Program, came up with an ingenious solution to the problem: Form a partnership with academic dental centers. In addition to having the clinical staff, the competence and the infrastructure needed to get eligible youngsters into care in a timely fashion, Dr. Stern reasoned that dental schools could also provide academic peer review to ensure that youngsters were receiving quality care. Dr. Stern, a graduate of the NYU College of Dentistry, immediately thought of collaborating with her alma mater, as well as with other large dental education centers in the area.

Nearly a generation later, over 200,000 New York youngsters have benefited from a citywide orthodontic screening, referral and quality control program that also includes the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery and Montefiore Medical Center. As the largest of the three facilities, NYU screens and reviews the majority of applications, and also serves as a local provider of orthodontic care.

“This is one of New York’s great public-health success stories,” says Dr. George Cisneros, Professor and Chair of the NYU Department of Orthodontics. “When the program began, only about 2,500 children received care annually. But because bureaucracy has been minimized, access has become much easier over the years, and more lives have been improved as a result. This is a perfect example of how programs designed to address health disparities should be run.”

Adds Dr. Stern, “In addition to facilitating orthodontic care and treatment that enables youngsters to achieve healthy dentition and a positive self-image, one of the great things about partnering with an academic dental center is the assurance of clinical excellence because the quality of the screenings and the annual treatment reviews are all subject to strict academic standards.”

Eligible children receive treatment for a wide range of orthodontic conditions, including serious bone defects; e.g., cleft palate, abnormal jaw size, severe crowding of teeth, huge overbites, crooked teeth and large spaces between teeth and jaws. Some of these conditions, like cleft palate, have major medical significance and may cause current or future health problems. Most of them are also accompanied by social issues, like negative self-image. For society, the question becomes, “Do poor children deserve orthodontic care?” In the case of New York State, the answer is a resounding “yes.”

According to Dr. Hillary Broder, Acting Chair of the Department of Community Health at the
UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School and a coauthor with Dr. Cisneros of an abstract entitled *Oral Health-related Quality of Life Among Children Seeking Orthodontic Care*, “Our data indicate that children with untreated orthodontic needs, like severe overbite, spacing and crowding, also have a low quality of life. The development of an identity can be influenced by often-superficial social signals, and such children experience greater teasing, timidity and anxiety than children with good occlusal status. The good news is that when these children’s orthodontic needs are met, the quality of their lives improves.”

For the thousands of children and youth who are screened and referred for orthodontic care each year, the difference can be remarkable. One such youngster suffered from teeth that were crowded and misaligned, causing him severe pain as well as an unattractive, tentative smile. He had several teeth removed and orthodontic treatment to straighten his remaining teeth. His mother says the difference is remarkable. “Words cannot express the gratitude that my family feels for the positive attitude and the new lease on life this program has given my son.”

“NYU College of Dentistry is extremely proud to partner with New York City and New York State to bring the benefits of the Orthodontic Rehabilitation Program to youngsters who otherwise would not have access to these important services,” says Dean Alfano. “As an academic health center, NYUCD has an obligation to act in the public good, and helping to expand access to oral health care, including orthodontic care for all children, is part of that obligation. In transforming a child’s smile, we are performing both a medically and a socially responsive service that expands the boundaries of young lives.”
The *New York State Dental Journal* Looks for Diversity and Finds it at NYUCD

When the editor of *The New York State Dental Journal* (NYSDJ) needed a culturally diverse group of dental students, faculty and patients for a cover photo featuring current New York State Dental Association President and ADA President-Elect Candidate Dr. Mark Feldman, there was only one place she thought to call: NYUCD – the most culturally diverse dental institution in the nation – and we were happy to comply. The result, shown at right, was the cover of the December 2005 issue of the NYSDJ, which featured articles on cultural competency.

Quartararo Department of Endodontics Launches Online Curriculum Enrichment Course

In an effort to enrich the predoctoral endodontic curriculum for students, endodontics faculty, and general practice faculty who are interested in teaching endodontics, the Dr. Ignatius N. and Sally Quartararo Department of Endodontics has introduced an online, interactive course entitled *Diagnostic and Treatment Protocols in Endodontics*. The course is available at https://dentalcde.nyu.edu.

“Second-year students are required to take the course prior to their preclinical experience,” explained Dr. Paul A. Rosenberg, Professor and Chairman of the Quartararo Department of Endodontics. “The students are required to complete the online course and pass the self-assessment examination. Endodontic faculty and self-selected general practice faculty also complete the course. Third-year students are advised to complete the course, since 15 percent of their didactic examination will be drawn from it, and fourth-year students are strongly encouraged to take the course online as well.”

According to Dr. Rosenberg, the course aims to enrich, as well as standardize, the endodontic learning experience. “In the past,” says Dr. Rosenberg, “students entered the preclinical laboratory with minimal background in endodontic diagnosis and treatment planning and little understanding of the biological basis of the procedures. Putting the curriculum online enables students to learn at their own pace prior to actually entering the preclinical lab. All second-year students have completed the course, as well as all faculty supervising clinical endodontic procedures. The feedback has been extremely positive.”

In addition to Dr. Rosenberg, Dr. Frederick H. Kahn, Clinical Professor of Endodontics, and Dr. Tracy Ellen Kamens, Director of Professional Development and Special Projects, were instrumental in developing the course, which was funded by a grant from Dentsply Tulsa Dental. Plans call for the course to be widely shared with other institutions at home and abroad.
HBO’s *Sopranos* Shoots at NYUCD

The College of Dentistry’s high-tech simulation lab – where first-and second-year dental students learn clinical skills and decision making before they have actual patient contact – was the site recently of a scene for the HBO hit series, “The Sopranos.”

The scene called for Tony Soprano’s daughter Meadow, a student at Columbia University, to make an urgent phone call to her boyfriend Finn DeTruillio. Finn, a first-year dental student, had been attending the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, but became frightened when he found out about Tony’s mob connections and fled to a school in California.

To ensure that the look of the scene would be right, a *Sopranos*‘ location scout called NYUCD to ask about the setting in which first-year dental students learn. Since first- and second-year students attend lectures in the morning and learn in the ultra-modern simulation lab in the afternoon, we suggested that he take a virtual tour of the facility by visiting the NYUCD Web site, www.nyu.edu/dental. Minutes later he called back to say that he was “blown away by the production values.” As luck would have it, the lab was not in use on the particular afternoon that the crew wanted to film. So NYUCD’s sim lab became a sound stage for a day.

To raise the reality level even higher, the location scout invited a dozen NYU dental students to be extras in the scene, which was shown in March in episode two of “The Sopranos” new season.
Dr. Poul Erick Petersen, the Responsible Officer for Oral Health at the World Health Organization (WHO), visited NYUCD in March to discuss “Global Oral Health: Why Does It Matter,” the third in a series of Conversations on Global Public Health sponsored by the NYU Master’s Program in Global Public Health. The Master’s Program in Global Public Health is a collaboration of NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, Steinhardt School of Education, School of Social Work, College of Dentistry with its College of Nursing, and the School of Medicine.

Dr. Petersen discussed the World Health Organization’s vision of global public health and how this applies to oral health. His presentation highlighted the role of international institutions such as WHO, UNICEF, and the Global Forum for Health Research, and how they are bridging the health-care gap between developed and developing countries.

The program also included welcoming remarks by Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, Co-director of the Master’s Program in Global Oral Health, and Dr. Gustavo D. Cruz, Director of Public Health and Health Promotion at NYUCD, and introductory remarks by Dr. Neal Herman, Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Region II Head Start Oral Health Consultant.

Global Oral Health: Why Does it Matter? A Conversation with Dr. Poul Erick Petersen

NYUCD Hosts LSU Students Displaced by Katrina

Drs. Joan Phelan and Miriam Robbins, Professor and Chair, and Associate Professor and Associate Chair, respectively, of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, arranged recently for two oral medicine residents from Louisiana State University School of Dentistry to come to NYUCD for three weeks of intensive clinical training that they couldn’t get at home because of the tremendous damage done by Hurricane Katrina to LSU’s New Orleans campus. Dr. George Sonbol and Dr. Jeevan Yenuganti, foreground, are shown with several of the faculty they trained with. Said Dean Alfano, “NYUCD offered a wide array of services and equipment to LSU after Katrina, and though most could not be accepted, it is gratifying that we had the opportunity to assist these two fine postgraduate students in some small way.”
NYU is First Dental School to Exhibit *Tomorrow’s Dental Office – Today!*  

Last December NYUCD became the first dental school to host *Tomorrow’s Dental Office – Today!* – a traveling exhibit created by the ADA and Sullivan-Schein Dental to demonstrate how lasers, digital imaging and other advanced technologies can streamline dental practice and enhance patient care and practitioner productivity. Shown here, bottom right, are some of the dozens of students who viewed the exhibit.

NYUCD Proud to Support “Emergency Preparedness: Responding to Catastrophes & Bioterrorism”

The poster shown at right, produced by the New York State Dental Association, provides up-to-date emergency response numbers for New York dentists to use in their offices. It is a companion to the Foundation’s forthcoming CD-ROM course, “Emergency Preparedness: Responding to Catastrophes & Bioterrorism.” NYUCD was pleased to assist in making both the course and the poster possible.
DR. JOAN A. PHELAN AWARDED UNIVERSITY’S HIGHEST TEACHING HONOR

Since 1987, New York University has honored selected members of the faculty each year with its Distinguished Teaching Award in recognition of the high quality of instruction and commitment to students they display. The Distinguished Teaching Award is NYU’s highest honor for teaching, a distinction attained only by the finest teachers. This year, Dr. Joan A. Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, was one of only three faculty members from the entire University to receive a Distinguished Teaching Award. Each award consists of a specially designed medal and a grant of $5,000.

Dr. Phelan is a leading authority in the field of oral medicine. She rejoined NYUCD in 2000, after serving as Chief of the Dental Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northport, New York, and Associate Professor of Oral Biology and Pathology at SUNY/Stony Brook. From 1980 to 1990, Dr. Phelan was a member of NYUCD’s Department of Oral Medicine and Pathology.

“Joan Phelan understands that the secret to success in teaching is not solely the effective communication of knowledge and expertise,” said Dean Alfano, “but also enthusiasm and passion for the subject together with respect for and a willingness to mentor all her students. Joan models and instills in her students the professionalism essential to those who pursue careers in health-care education.”

NYUCD congratulates Dr. Phelan on receiving this wonderful, well-deserved award in tribute to a master of the art of teaching.
MS. REGINA T. PEÑA AWARDED NYU’S HIGHEST ADMINISTRATIVE HONOR

Regina T. Peña, RN, Health & Immunization Services Manager for the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, has been awarded the prestigious 2005-2006 Distinguished Administrator Award presented by New York University in recognition of outstanding achievement as an administrator and dedicated service to students, faculty, and staff. The award is a special acknowledgement of the value NYU places on administrative excellence, and a way to formally honor the significant contributions of administrative and professional staff. The award includes a gift of $5,000. It was presented to Mrs. Peña at a dinner in April hosted by NYU Executive Vice President Jacob Lew.

Regina joined NYUCD in 2001 after serving for over 10 years as a nurse clinician in the NYU Medical Center Emergency Room and at the NYU Health Service. At NYUCD she is responsible for the medical compliance of all students, faculty, administrators and staff in accordance with New York State public health laws.

Noting that only six individuals from throughout the University received this distinction, Dean Alfano said, “The Distinguished Administrator Award brings great honor to NYUCD as well as to Regina, who is a terrific person and a most deserving recipient of this high honor. In every respect, Regina exceeds the qualifications required to be selected for the NYU Distinguished Administrator Award. Her leadership skills are exemplary; she is superb at relationship-building both within her unit and throughout the College; she is resourceful, innovative and a problem-solver; and she continually strives to promote the health and well-being of every member of our community.

“Also, in this, the first year of the alliance between the College of Dentistry and the College of Nursing at NYU, I think it is wonderful that we can honor someone at the interface of our two enterprises. I look forward to adding her name to the monolith in the lobby recognizing NYUCD University Distinguished Teachers and Administrators.”

MS. EMILIE GODFREY IS A GIVE A VIOLET AWARD WINNER

Emilie Godfrey, Research Administrator for the multi-center, NIH-funded, NYU Oral Cancer Research for Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion (RAAHP) Center, is the recipient of a 2005-2006 “Give A Violet Award.” The award recognizes NYU administrators and staff for their exceptional ability to give quality service within the framework of their jobs. These special awards reflect the appreciation that members of the NYU community feel for their colleagues. Winners are invited to a reception by President Sexton and are presented with a violet pin and a gift.

In nominating Ms. Godfrey, Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center, wrote: “At the time of her job interview in 2000, Ms. Godfrey already had a rich work history as a coordinator of multi-center health research studies in major medical centers in New York City, some as large as 300 collaborating sites.

Ms. Godfrey was so impressed by the energy and potential for research at NYUCD that she signed on for a much-lower paying position than she was accustomed to in order to join the team that was writing and preparing the major NIH-funded, seven-year, $8.3 million multi-center grant that was ultimately awarded to NYUCD to establish the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center. Few make this type of financial sacrifice. She is the true engine that drives all the administrative activities of the Center and, more than anyone else, is able to overcome all logistical hurdles in order to ensure the grant’s forward momentum. I can think of no one more deserving of this award.”
DR. DIANNE REKOW ELECTED AADR PRESIDENT

Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Director of Translational Research, was elected President of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) at the AADR/IADR annual meeting in March.

Dr. Rekow says that her objective as President is to capitalize on the creativity of researchers from multiple disciplines to develop approaches that will optimize collaborations, reenergize connections among research groups, and expand the dynamics of the AADR to match the needs of science and the membership.

“AADR is an exceptional organization of energetic and productive researchers,” said Dr. Rekow. “It facilitates the exchange of ideas and innovations among scientists from different disciplines in academia and industry. It creates opportunities for synergistic research leading to paradigm shifts and critical advances aimed at improving oral, craniofacial and systemic health. I am humbled and honored to serve in this leadership role, and hope that our new initiatives spur even more exciting advances.”

In March, Dr. Rekow presented testimony before Congress on behalf of the AADR-ADEA in support of government funding for oral health research being conducted by the NIH and the NIDCR; general and pediatric dentistry residency training programs; and access to dental care initiatives.

PROFESSOR JILL FERNANDEZ-WILSON COMPLETES 30 YEARS OF NAVAL SERVICE

Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry Jill Fernandez-Wilson recently completed 30 years of service in the United States Navy Reserves, retiring as Master Chief Dental Technician (Fleet Marine Force). Before an audience of 200 at a ceremony held at the National Naval Medical Center in Washington, DC, Professor Fernandez-Wilson received several medals, including her second Meritorious Service Medal, the highest non-combat award given to an enlisted person.

“My greatest reward,” said Professor Fernandez-Wilson, “has been working with such a fine group of Americans and serving my country.”
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY TO EXHIBIT DR. TIMOTHY BROMAGE’S “LUCY”

The American Museum of Natural History in New York will install a 45-foot-high enlarged reproduction of Dr. Timothy G. Bromage’s one-half-millimeter micrograph of the famed “Lucy” skeleton’s femur bone. Dr. Bromage, an Adjunct Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, used the world’s only portable confocal microscope, which he built himself, to analyze and photograph bone fibers below the surface of the 3.2 million-year-old partial skeleton (conventional microscopes can only illuminate such details after they have been ground into very thin sections).

Discovered in Ethiopia in 1974, “Lucy” is perhaps the best known specimen of *Australopithecus afarensis*, an early member of the genus Homo. Dr. Bromage is analyzing bone evolution by comparing “Lucy” with other early human species.

The installation is part of the Hall of Human Origins and will reopen on November 17th.

**Added Recognition for Dr. Bromage**

As if being exhibited at the American Museum of Natural History wasn’t enough, Dr. Bromage’s “Lucy” micrograph was also recently named the winner of an imaging contest sponsored by the Foundation for Advances in Medicine and Science. The prize is the cover of the journal, *Scanning.*

Above: A microscopic view of bone tissue taken from the “Lucy” skeleton
Right: Dr. Timothy Bromage
DELT A DEN TAL STUDEN T LEADERSHIP AWARDS GO TO FOUR FROM NYUC D

Four Class of 2006 DDS Program graduates have received prestigious Delta Dental Awards, which are given annually to graduating seniors who embody the traits of a strong leader and active member of the community, and who plan to enter general practice residency programs located in the same state as their alma mater. Each award carries a $2,500 stipend and a certificate of recognition.

Delta Dental established the Student Leadership Award program in 1977, in honor of Dr. F. Gene Dixon, the corporation’s first chief executive officer. Dr. Dixon was instrumental in developing Delta Dental Plans Association, a national system of Delta Plans that now covers more than 30 million Americans.

Dr. Charlotte C. Wiedeman of Delta Dental presented the awards to Drs. Khadine Alston, Brian Fabb, Jessica Figueroa, and Mike Nocerino.

Dr. Alston, the Co-President of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) was recognized as the lead coordinator of the first New York City Oral Cancer Walk, which was held in April (see related story on page 62). The walk drew over 300 participants and raised over $20,000. Dr. Alston is doing a General Practice Residency (GPR) at Wyckoff Hospital in Brooklyn.

Dr. Fabb, President of the NYUCD Student Council, was recognized for his leadership of the Student Council and for his service as President of the Student Emergency Response Team and Class Representative for the College’s Ethics and Professionalism Committee. Dr. Fabb is doing his GPR at Long Island Jewish Hospital.

Dr. Figueroa, President of the Hispanic Student Dental Association, is doing her GPR at Jamaica Hospital in Queens. She was recognized for leading numerous community service outreach activities.

Dr. Nocerino, the two-term president of the Italian Student Dental Association, member of the Senior Formal Committee and the Yearbook Committee, is doing his GPR at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx.

Delta Dental is a nonprofit, dental service corporation that provides managed fee-for-service and PPO dental programs, as well as HMO dental programs.
DENTISTRY PROFESSOR TEACHES ETHICS TO ARTS AND SCIENCE STUDENTS

In the fourth week of the ethics seminar he teaches each fall at the NYU College of Arts & Science, NYUCD Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion Dr. Frederick G. More presents his students with a dilemma. Walking to the front of the classroom after a screening of Shattered Glass, a movie depicting how journalist Stephen Glass was exposed for fabricating articles in the New Republic in the late 1990s, Dr. More asks his students, “How would you react if you discovered that Mr. Glass had gone on to law school, passed the bar exam, and applied for a license to practice law in New York State? If you were to advise the New York State Bar Association, which is considering the ex-reporter’s application, would you say Mr. Glass – charged with unprofessional conduct, yet never convicted of a crime – should be allowed to practice law?”

In fall 2004, after a very successful experiment the previous year in which Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chair of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, presented a course in the Freshmen Honors Seminar Series of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Dr. Matthew Santirocco, Dean of CAS, invited Dean Alfano to nominate another senior faculty member to offer an additional Freshman Seminar. Dean Alfano nominated Dr. More to participate in the program designed to increase the number of senior professors teaching CAS freshmen. Based on Dr. More’s reputation among dental and master’s degree students at NYUCD for enlivening ethics instruction, sometimes by using Hollywood films to highlight real-world ethical dilemmas, Dean Alfano felt that Dr. More was well suited to teach in the CAS Freshmen Honors Seminar series and asked him to submit a proposal to the CAS curriculum committee, which approved it.

The course that Dr. More designed is: Making Choices in Contemporary America: Dedication, Deals, and Deception. “I use popular culture in my lessons because this is a great way to encourage young adults to think about moral issues they will face in their personal and professional lives,” says Dr. More. “By portraying how cheating and fabrication ruined a career, Shattered Glass helped me take discussions on certain dishonest, questionable, or controversial practices beyond the ‘everybody does it, so why should I care?’ reactions one often hears. For example, students were inspired to think about what action they would take if they discovered a colleague was abusing drugs and alcohol on the job.”

Similarly, Dr. More sparked debates about sensitive ethical issues facing clinical trial investigators when he showed his MS in Clinical Research students Wit, a movie about a late-stage cancer victim whose doctors kept her enrolled in a drug study even as she appeared to be dying from the effects of the medication. The screening was followed by intense discussion about how clinical trials are portrayed to potential subjects, as well as the question of when and how to remove a dying subject from a trial.

Whether using traditional or unconventional teaching approaches, Dr. More strives to keep his presentations relevant. Instead of lecturing second-year dental students about the implications of over-billing and fraud, he invites local practitioners, recruited from the New York Academy of Dentistry, to present hypothetical case studies relating to professional conduct. “My whole emphasis is not on which way is right or wrong,” he explains, “but on getting students to reflect on a dilemma, analyze how others have dealt with it, and consider a course of action. Ultimately, each individual must make his or her own decisions.”

Dr. Frederick G. More
NYUCD IS A DOUBLE FIRST-PLACE WINNER IN ADEA OPEN MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

NYUCD placed first among dental schools in two categories during the American Dental Education Association’s (ADEA’s) Open Membership Challenge in January. The program challenged dental schools across the nation to compete to see which school could enroll the highest number of students, faculty and staff in the ADEA during a free, one-month open enrollment period. Prior to the introduction of the open enrollment period, individuals wishing to join the ADEA paid dues of $125 each year.

The schools competed in four categories for 12 complimentary registrations at the Annual Session in Orlando in March. Between January 2nd and January 31st, the competition produced a total of 5,407 new ADEA members. NYUCD achieved the highest total number of new student members (802) and new faculty and staff members (392).

NYUCD’s participation in this initiative was coordinated by Dr. Elise S. Eisenberg, Director of Dental Informatics & Digital Support Services, and Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

“Open membership is a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff to come together under the ADEA umbrella to advance dental education and take advantage of special programs and services, leadership training and networking opportunities,” said Dean Alfano. “I’m proud that NYUCD contributed so significantly to the impressive increase in ADEA membership.”

NYU TEAM LOBBIES CAPITOL HILL ON DEANS’ ADVOCACY DAY

An NYU team joined other deans and faculty from across the nation in April to lobby Congress for legislative support for dental education, research and care issues.

The team, led by Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, also included Dr. Kenneth L. Allen, Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, Dr. Anthony Palatta, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions; and Mr. Steve Heuer, Assistant Director for the NYU Office of Federal Policy.

“There is growing concern among legislators about the continued availability of funding for dental education, research and clinical care needs,” said Dr. Spielman. “Our presence in Washington ensures that the focus stays on these needs.”
A round of ADEA distinctions for NYUCD faculty and administrators

A record number of NYUCD faculty and administrators were elected to leadership positions within the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) at the 2006 ADEA Annual Session and Exhibition, which was held jointly with the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida in March. In addition to the nine individuals featured below, Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, was elected President of the AADR. A story on Dr. Rekow’s election appears on page 76. The nine are:

- Assistant Dean for Dental Hygiene Programs Cheryl Wesphal elected Vice President for Allied Dental Program Directors, a Delegate to the ADEA House of Delegates, and a member of the Board of Directors;

- Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, elected to the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (2010), Secretary of the Oral Biology Section, and Secretary of the Educational Research/Development and Curriculum Section; and appointed a Site Visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the ADA for the 2006-07 academic year;

- Dr. Kenneth L Allen, Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, elected Secretary of the Clinical Simulation Section;

- Dr. Elise S. Eisenberg, Director of Dental Informatics & Digital Services, elected Councilor for the Dental Informatics Section (Delegate) and NYUCD Representative – Women’s Liaison Officer, Council of Sections Task Force on Competencies & Foundation Knowledge;

- Former Assistant Dean for Admissions Novella Jones elected Chair of the Dental School Admissions Officers Section and a Delegate;

- Dr. Ivy D. Peltz, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, elected NYUCD Representative to the Council of Faculties and a Delegate;

- Dr. Richard I. Vogel, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Programs, appointed a Site Visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the ADA for the 2006-07 academic year;

- Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations Rita Startup elected Secretary of the Development, Alumni Affairs & Public Relations Section;

- Dr. Mark S. Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, elected Councilor for the Oral Biology Section (Delegate) and member, Council of Sections Task Force on Membership.

NYUCD congratulates all of these individuals and thanks them for their successful efforts to increase NYUCD’s profile within the national dental education community. This recognition is particularly impressive considering that, in 2003, only two NYU dental faculty members were active in the organization. Way to go!
Over one hundred full- and part-time faculty members, administrators, and staff were honored recently at NYUCD’s annual Longer-Term Service Awards Program, which recognizes individuals for a job well done over an extended period of time. College of Nursing faculty and staff were also recognized at the ceremony.

“These people have displayed exemplary dedication and play an important role in our continued success,” said Dean Alfano. “We are tremendously grateful to them all and salute their commitment to the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing.”

The NYUCD Longer-Term Service Awards appear below. The nursing awards may be seen at www.nyu.edu/nursing.

### 35-Year Service Awards
- **Cariology & Comprehensive Care**
  - Dr. Irwin Kaplan
  - Dr. Alvin I. Orlian

- **Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery**
  - Ms. Shirley B. Thompson
  - Dr. Gerald M. Barrack

- **Patient Accounts**

### 30-Year Service Awards
- **Academic Affairs**
  - Dr. Carolyn S. Fuss
- **Development & Alumni Relations**
  - Ms. Rita A. Startup
- **Epidemiology & Health Promotion**
  - Dr. Donald B. Giddon
  - Prof. Eugene Hittelman

### 25-Year Service Awards
- **Cariology & Comprehensive Care**
  - Dr. Irwin Kaplan
  - Dr. Irwin Kaplan
  - Dr. Irwin Kaplan

- **Clinical Operations**
  - Dr. Elie C. Czaykowski

- **Dental Hygiene**
  - Ms. Lorilei D. Kirby

- **Prosthodontics**
  - Dr. Irena F. Mausner

- **Student Affairs & Admissions**
  - Ms. Novella L. Jones

### 20-Year Service Awards
- **Business Office**
  - Ms. Renee Kleinman

- **Cariology & Comprehensive Care**
  - Dr. Eileen B. Kronenberg
  - Dr. Warren I. Scherer
  - Dr. Daniel J. Yen

- **Clinical Operations**
  - Ms. Lillian E. Morales

- **Epidemiology & Health Promotion**
  - Dr. Rima Bachman Sehl

- **Human Resources & Operations**
  - Ms. Tamu Al-Islam
  - Ms. Kathy Gray

- **Periodontology & Implant Dentistry**
  - Dr. Patrice M. Buonocore
  - Dr. Bruce K. Davidson
  - Ms. Marilyn Quiles

- **Orthodontics**
  - Dr. Harold G. Edwards
  - Ms. Lourdes Roman-Negron

### 15-Year Service Awards
- **Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology**
  - Dr. Richard G. Cotty
  - Dr. Joseph A. Hirsch
  - Dr. Phyllis A. Slott

- **Cariology & Comprehensive Care**
  - Dr. Robert G. Castracane
  - Dr. Gerald Green
  - Dr. James D. Hudson
  - Dr. Munzer B. Kara
  - Dr. Stanley Markovits
  - Dr. Arthur A. Sonnenblick
  - Dr. Daryl Synder

- **Central Dental Laboratory**
  - Ms. Annmarie Spaulding

- **Clinical Operations**
  - Ms. Brenda A. Bendigo
  - Ms. Klavdiya Tumanov

- **Dental Hygiene**
  - Dr. Michael Levandowsky
  - Dr. Lilly Newman
  - Ms. Arkalga Rao-Shantha-Korkantzis

- **Endodontics**
  - Dr. Alan B. Rosenthal
  - Dr. H. Lee Adamo

- **Epidemiology & Health Promotion**
  - Dr. Frederick G. More

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Recipients of 30-Year Longer-Term Service Awards
Health Services
Ms. Joan C. Barber

Informatics
Dr. Elise Eisenberg

Information Systems
Mr. Donald Joyner

Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Ms. Judith Vega

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Ms. Vielka Clavijo
Ms. Anula I. Perera

Orthodontics
Dr. Mladen Kufinec
Dr. Eric J. Ploumis

Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Dr. Holger Burkel
Dr. Brian I. Chadroff
Dr. Peter Cornick
Ms. Helen D. Samuels
Dr. Gary M. Stein
Dr. Mea A. Weinberg

Prosthodontics
Dr. Bharat C. Joshi
Dr. Jyoti P. Srivastava

10-Year Service Awards
Basic Science
Ms. Nancy A. Richardson

Biomaterials & Biomimetics
Dr. Dindo Q. Mijares

Clinical Operations
Mr. Junior Bazzey
Mr. Ira Beresnoy
Ms. Charita Krasnopolskaya

Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Fred Dubrowsky
Dr. Kalmen D. Einbinder
Dr. Paul Friedman
Dr. Robert H. Friedman
Dr. David T. Kim
Dr. Meir Kozloovsky
Dr. Zitta Royzman
Dr. Steven Silberg

Dental Hygiene
Ms. Sylvia Felendler
Ms. Vilma E. Poyser
Ms. Theresa J. Nitzling
Ms. Fern S. Shulman-Dembner

Development & Alumni Relations
Ms. Lauren Siegel

Epidemiology & Health Promotion
Dr. Alan Levy

Human Resources & Operations
Ms. Teresa K. Johnson

Information Systems
Ms. Rosie Domenech-Kirby
Ms. Isabella Pellicciari

Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Dr. Henry Young

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Ms. Shantaneik Fletcher
Dr. Alexander Kordonsky

Patient Accounts
Ms. Maria A. Holguin

Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Emanuela F. Corielli

Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Dr. Leslie G. Batnick
Dr. Anthony Classi
Dr. Robert Davidson
Dr. Dominic A. Galasso
Dr. Cheryl Goren Robbin
Dr. Kenneth W. Judy
Dr. Zev Kaufman
Dr. Robert A. Horowitz
Dr. Kathleen Salus
Ms. Valerie Sternberg-Smith

Prosthodontics
Dr. Touradj Ameli
Dr. Mitchell J. Bloom

Recipients of 10-Year Longer-Term Service Awards
NYUCD STUDENTS RECEIVE PRESIDENT’S SERVICE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PRESIDENT’S SERVICE AWARDS

Each year NYU President Dr. John Sexton presents a series of President’s Service Awards to very special NYU students who demonstrate exemplary leadership skills, display outstanding commitment to volunteerism, and create unique and successful programs. Students are recognized in the areas of Volunteerism, Leadership, and Programming. This year NYUCD was the recipient of six awards – five to individual students and one to a student group, in the following categories:

Volunteerism

Michael Villacarlos, ’07, recognized for his contributions and commitment to help the needy at events including “New York Cares Day,” “Give Kids A Smile Day,” and “Build A Bear Workshop,” and for being a mentor and teaching preteens at the Salk School of Science.

Leadership

Brian Falb, ’06, recognized for outstanding leadership as President of the NYUCD Student Council. Brian, a strong and active voice for NYUCD’s diverse student population, organized programs designed to instill a sense of camaraderie and fun among students, and demonstrated unwavering dedication to fulfilling the responsibilities of his position.

Jared Percyz, ’07, recognized for two years of outstanding leadership as President of the Class of 2007. Jared’s dedication, professionalism, and respect for his colleagues have earned him the support and admiration both of his fellow students and the NYUCD administration.

Aura Caldera, ’08, and Tammy Chen, ’08, recognized for their leadership, vision, and commitment in organizing the first annual NYUCD outreach to a needy population in Nicaragua.

Programming

“The Drillers,” NYUCD’s All-University Games Team, recognized for their exuberance, spirit, and pride exhibited in the 2006 NYU All-University Games, where they won second place and brought home a silver medal to NYUCD.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Helena Oliveira Francisco, a student in the Advanced Study Program in Periodontics for International Dentists, has received the NYU Office for International Students and Scholars International Student Leadership Award. The award recognizes her commitment to her studies and profession, her achievements and scholarship, and her involvement in research at NYUCD. Dr. Francisco received her dental degree from the Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde-Sul in Caparica, Portugal.

NYUCD is extremely proud of all of these students’ accomplishments and of their recognition at the all-University level.
On May 8, the NYU College of Nursing (NYUCN) held its first-ever graduation ceremony after nearly 75 years as a division of the Steinhardt School of Education. Elevated to the stature of a College within the NYU College of Dentistry in September 2005, the graduation saw Dr. Antonia Novello, the New York State Health Commissioner, deliver the graduation address. Mrs. Judith Giuliani, a registered nurse and the wife of the former Mayor, received the NYUCN Humanitarian Award in recognition of her outstanding efforts on behalf of New Yorkers following the September 2001 terrorist attacks. The ceremony was held at the New Amsterdam Theatre in mid-town Manhattan. Of the 289 graduates, 175 received bachelor’s degrees, 97 received master’s degrees, nine received doctoral degrees and eight received advanced certificates.

Days later, on May 11, NYUCD celebrated its own graduation at The Theater at Madison Square Garden with Dr. Jonathan L. Ferencz delivering the keynote address. Dr. Ferencz, an alumnus of the College and a faculty member, also serves as a Special Assistant to the Dean and a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council. Dr. Ferencz received the David B. Kriser Medal in recognition of his contributions and commitment to postgraduate prosthodontic education at NYU and the future of the dental profession.

Three-time Emmy Award winner and oral cancer survivor Jack Klugman received the Dr. Harry Strusser Memorial Award. Mr. Klugman, who created the indelible characters of Oscar Madison in “The Odd Couple” and Quincy in “Quincy, M.E.”, was recognized for his nationally-televised public service announcements educating the public about the importance of early detection of oral cancer.

The College presented 44 Advanced Education Program certificates, three certificates in clinical research, 10 master of science degrees in clinical research, five master’s degrees in biomaterials, 66 associate in applied science degrees in dental hygiene, three bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene, and 326 DDS degrees.

From left: Commissioner Novello, Dr. Susan-Bowar Ferres, recipient of the NYUCN Distinguished Alumnus Award, Dean Fulmer, Mrs. Giuliani.
An implant dentistry student in the Advanced Program for International Dentists didn’t have to look very far for information when she began work on a poster that took first prize at the spring 2006 annual meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration.

When Dr. Ayako Zenitani, a first-year student from Japan, wanted to develop her presentation on the relationship between sinus morphology and vital bone formation in patients who have had maxillary sinus augmentation, she searched a computer database that exhaustively documents hundreds of cases handled by the Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry since 1995. The database, developed by Dr. Stuart Froum, a Clinical Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Director of Implant Dentistry Clinical Research, and Dr. Sang-Choon Cho, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Associate Director of Clinical Research, documents every procedure performed in the clinic – right down to the diameter and length of every implant (while maintaining patient anonymity).

“Our database contains notes on the benefits and limitations of every kind of implant,” says Dr. Cho, “with every student and faculty member required to describe specific details, such as the type of abutment, occlusal surface and prosthetic anchorage.”

Dr. Zenitani located notes in the database on more than a dozen sinus augmentation patients, analyzed vital bone formation in nine of those cases, and compared her findings with reports on dozens of other cases she unearthed in a literature review. Her analysis led her to determine that there was less vital bone formation six to eight months after surgery in wider sinuses than in narrower ones – a conclusion suggesting clinicians should wait longer before placing implants in patients with wider sinuses, to allow more time for the bone to develop.

Dr. Zenitani is one of a growing number of Advanced Program in Implant Dentistry students whose research has been accepted for presentation by the Academy in recent years. In fact, in the past five years, NYUCD students have presented more than 50 posters – about one out of every 10 poster presentations at the meeting, an event which attracts thousands of dentists.

According to Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, Professor and Chairman of the Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, much of the credit...
for this development goes to three faculty members: Dr. Froum, Dr. Elian, and Dr. Cho.

In 2000, Dr. Elian, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and the Director of the Advanced Study Program in Implant Dentistry, instituted a mandatory student research requirement. Recognizing the usefulness of the computer database for evidence-gathering, Dr. Elian directed every student to undertake a retrospective study of a particular device or technique, using the database as their primary resource. “I made research a requirement,” Dr. Elian says, “because understanding how it is conducted, and learning how to evaluate it critically, are essential for keeping up to date in this fast-changing field.”

Students work on this project throughout their first and second years under the direction of Dr. Froum, who has authored hundreds of articles on implant dentistry. “Many of the students haven’t done research before,” says Dr. Froum, “so we work together to revise their presentations and focus on what is most significant. It can be a painstaking process, but when it’s over, they are usually gratified that they could produce research good enough to present at a major international meeting.”
Designing and implementing a meaningful community service program requires creativity and persistence. Below are two examples of innovative community service student activities that show NYUCD volunteerism at work.

**Operation Dental Success**

How do you inspire eighth graders to consider a career in dentistry? One way is to present it in a context that youngsters can relate to. Last fall, NYUCD Community Service Committee volunteers began a presentation at Manhattan’s Salk School of Science by showing photos of rap music stars flaunting one of today’s hottest youth status symbols: a mouthful of silver and gold teeth. Having captured the youngsters’ attention, the NYUCD students went on to present more mainstream aspects of dentistry: they discussed prevention to help teeth last a lifetime; addressed the links among smoking, drug use, and oral health problems; and demonstrated how to take tooth impressions.

Their Salk School visit marked the kickoff of *Operation Dental Success*, a program designed by NYU dental students to encourage underrepresented New York City public school children to pursue dentistry as a career. The program was organized by Marcus Johnson, ’08, co-founder of the Student Community Service Committee, and Michael Villacarlos, ’07, Chair of the American Student Dental Association’s (ASDA’s) NYUCD Outreach Committee. “It’s never too early to start talking to young people about their professional future,” says Marcus, who in 2004 won a Dr. Gerald W. Deas Scholarship, which provides support for underrepresented young people to pursue dental studies at NYU. He and Michael are working with ASDA and the American Medical Student Association Foundation to expand the program to other area schools.

**Build a Bear, Make Kids Smile**

Awakening to a major blizzard last February, Michael Villacarlos feared he’d have to cancel that morning’s teddy bear-stuffing party for children from the Ronald McDonald House – a home away from home on Manhattan’s Upper East Side for families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals. The party was scheduled for a Midtown Build-a-Bear® store, where NYUCD student volunteers planned to demonstrate oral hygiene using oversized toothbrushes on the stuffed animals – a program that Michael had conceived and funded with $1,500 in donations from fellow students. But early that morning, Ronald McDonald House management called to say that, because of the weather, none of the 50 children would be able to travel to the event. Undaunted, Michael assembled 17 student volunteers at the store, and in less than two hours, they stuffed 50 bears and delivered them to Ronald McDonald House, along with oral health literature and oral hygiene supplies.
DR. MICHIÈLE LANDOLT IS EIGHTH ANNUAL LITVAK FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Dr. Michèle Landolt, a second-year student in the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, has become the eighth recipient of the annual Dr. Harold Litvak Junior Fellowship in Prosthodontics.

Dr. Landolt received a DMD degree in 1999 from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, School of Dentistry, and graduated in 2004 from the NYU Advanced Program for International Dentists in Implant Dentistry. She plans to pursue a dual career in private practice and teaching after completing her specialty training.

“Dr. Landolt was awarded the fellowship because of her ability to excel academically, in patient satisfaction, and in her interaction with faculty and peers,” said Dr.

Farhad Vahidi, Director of the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics.

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

NYUCD STUDENTS PLACE SECOND IN ALL-UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC GAMES

“The Drillers”, NYUCD’s All-University Games Team, brought home a Silver Medal (see story on page 84).
TWO WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE ARE RETIRING: ASSISTANT DEAN NOVELLA JONES AND DR. STAN DAWKINS

Two of the most consistent contributors to the College, Assistant Dean Novella Jones and Dr. Stan Dawkins, have announced their retirements. But we couldn’t let them go without proper acknowledgment.

Novella Jones has been Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs since 2001. She is a recipient of NYU’s Distinguished Administrator Award and was recently elected a Delegate to the ADEA and Chairman of the ADEA section on Dental School Admissions Officers.

“Novella has given 25 years of remarkable service to the University, first in Human Resources and in recent years as Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs,” said Dean Alfano. “She has been instrumental in fostering the increasing diversity of our student body and very helpful in improving both the quantity and quality of our applicants. The College owes her a debt of gratitude, and we wish her well as she embarks on a new phase in her life.”

Dental students must have excellent role models in order to develop properly and fulfill their potential both professionally and personally. Dr. Stan Dawkins, who is retiring after more than 40 years at NYUCD, is one such role model.

Dr. Stan Dawkins

“Beginning his career as an Olympic athlete,” said Dean Alfano, “and continuing on through a successful career in dentistry and education, including outstanding service as an Associate Professor, a Group Practice Director and Director of the Advanced Education Program in General Dentistry, Stan has always been committed to personal excellence and has demanded nothing less from his students and colleagues. As Chair of the college-wide task force on diversity early in my deanship, he helped set the stage for the progress we have made in this critical area. We wish him the best of health and happiness in his retirement.”

Global Health Nexus joins Dean Alfano in wishing both Dean Jones and Dr. Dawkins the best of everything.
Congratulations to:

**DR. ELISE S. EISENBERG**, ‘84, on graduating from the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. Dr. Eisenberg was one of only 45 senior women faculty from U.S. medical and dental schools to be selected for the 2005-2006 program.

Congratulations to Dr. Eisenberg also on co-presenting an abstract entitled “PDAs in Didactic and Preclinical Education – Student Access to Information,” at the AADR/IADR annual meeting, with Dr. Kenneth L. Allen, ‘73, Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, and on coauthoring an article entitled “What Do Dental Students Think About Mandatory Laptop Programs?” for the Journal of Dental Education.

**DR. MICHAEL C. ALFANO**, Dean of NYUCD, on coauthoring a paper entitled “Teaching Implant Dentistry in the Predoctoral Curriculum: A Report from the ADEA Implant Workshop’s Survey of Deans” for the Journal of Dental Education. Dean Alfano’s coauthors included Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, ‘72, Professor and Chair of the Ashman Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry. Dean Alfano also lectured at the International Life Sciences Institute in Puerto Rico on “The Future of Dental Education,” and to the development officers for dental schools at the March 2006 ADEA annual meeting on “Fund-Raising Strategies”; he was cited in an editorial entitled “Readiness and Response: The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon’s Role in Disaster,” in the Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; he was a panelist participating in the NYU Faculty Senators Council-sponsored forum on medical and dental benefits, and he participated in a Diversity Leadership Forum sponsored by the New York County Dental Society.

**DR. KENNETH L. ALLEN**, ’73, Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting an abstract entitled “Measuring Predoctoral Clinical Productivity: Are There Academic Predictors,” at the AADR/IADR annual meeting. Dr. Allen’s coauthors included Dr. Ivy Peltz, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Mr. Ira Beresnøy, Director of Clinic Operations.

**DR. KHADINE ALSTON**, ’06, on receiving the Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit Award for Dedication to Health Issues. The award was presented by the NYU Office for African-American, Latino, and Asian-American Student Services. Dr. Alston was the lead organizer for the first New York City Oral Cancer Walk (see related story, page 62).
MR. RICHARD ANACHUNDIA, a member of the Central Staff, on receiving a JD degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.

MS. SU-YAN L. BARROW, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, on being awarded an NYU Office of Community Service grant award for a project entitled “Dental Hygiene Community Health Project.”

DR. SONIA MARTINEZ CABALLERO, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, on being awarded the Biophysical Society’s Young Bioenergeticist Award.

DR. JOHN R. CALAMIA, Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on being re-elected a Director of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

DR. PAGE CAUFIELD, Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting an abstract entitled “Diversity of Lactobacilli from Saliva of Caries-Active Mothers,” at the AADR/IADR annual meeting. Dr. Caufield’s coauthors were Dr. Yihong Li, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Director of International Research Collaboration; Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of the MS and Certificate Programs in Clinical Research; and Dr. Deepak Saxena, Adjunct Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology.

DR. STEPHEN J. CHU, Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, on being appointed Section Editor of the Prosthodontics Division of Practical Procedures & Aesthetic Dentistry.

DR. GEORGE CISNEROS, Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthodontics, on presenting an abstract entitled “Oral Health-Related Quality of Life Among Children Seeking Orthodontic Care,” at the AADR/IADR annual meeting. His coauthors included Dr. Stanley Gersch, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthodontics.

DR. GUSTAVO D. CRUZ, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of Public Health & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “Community-Based, Culturally Appropriate Oral Health Promotion Program for Immigrant Pregnant Women in New York City,” for the New York State Dental Journal. Dr. Cruz’s coauthors included Dr. Diva I. Puerta, ’06, and Dr. Christian R. Salazar, a Junior Research Scientist in the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

MS. WINNIE FURNARI, Instructor in Dental Hygiene, on winning the American Dental Hygienists Association Pfizer Award for outstanding accomplishments that impact the practice and future of the dental hygiene profession.

DR. MOREY J. GENDLER, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting a lecture entitled “Dentistry as a Career Choice” at Career Day at the Milton L. Olive Middle School. His co-presenters included Dr. Breyn Peters, ’06, Dr. Narmin Girgis, ’06, and Hahid Skiekh, ’07.

DR. DONALD B. GIDDON, Clinical Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on authoring a “Perspectives” column entitled

DR. ROBERT S. GICKMAN, Professor and Chair of the Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on being named a Vice Chair of the NYU School of Medicine Institutional Review Board.

DR. DAVID L. GLOTZER, ’58, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on coauthoring an article entitled “The Medical Reserve Corps: An Opportunity for Dentists to Serve,” for the New York State Dental Journal. Dr. Glotzer’s coauthors included Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, and Dr. Walter J. Psoter, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion. Dr. Glotzer also coauthored an article entitled “Introducing a Senior Course on Catastrophe Preparedness into the Dental School Curriculum,” for the Journal of Dental Education. His coauthors included Dr. Rekow; Dr. Psoter; Dr. Frederick G. More, Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology, and Medicine; Dr. Robert Boylan, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Miriam Robbins, Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine; Dr. Benjamin Godder, ’85, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care; and Dean Michael C. Alfano. Dr. Glotzer also authored an article for the Journal of Emergency Management entitled “Disasters and the Surge Environment” with Dr. Psoter.

DR. BENJAMIN GODDER, ’85, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting an abstract entitled “Clinical Placement and Blind Evaluation of Microhybrid Composite Resin” at the AADR/IADR annual meeting. His coauthor was Dr. James T. LoPresti, ’78, Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care.

MR. DEREK GRIMES, Executive Administrator of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, on presenting a lecture entitled “Practical Payment Terms” at the 17th International Contracting & Negotiating Clinical Trials Conference.

MS. DANIELLE JEAN-LOUIS, a member of the Central Staff, on earning a BA in sociology, with honors, from NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Danielle also made the national Dean’s List.

DR. LIDIA KIREMIDJIAN-SCHUMACHER, on being designated a Professor Emerita of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology.

DR. RACQUEL Z. LегEROS, Leonard I. Linkow Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, on presenting a lecture entitled “Calcium Phosphate-Based Biomaterials: An Update” at the Third International Symposium on Apatite and Correlative Biomaterials in Wuhan, China. Dr. LeGeros is a member of the organization’s scientific program committee.

DR. YIHONG LI, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Director of International Research Collaboration, on presenting an abstract entitled “Knowledge, Values and Practices of Chinese Parents Regarding Childrens’ Dentition” at
the AADR/IADR annual meeting.

**DR. LOUIS M. LIN**, Professor of Endodontics and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Histological Study of Periradicular Tissue Responses to Uninfected and Infected Devitalized Pulps in Dogs,” for the *Journal of Endodontics*. His coauthors included Dr. Peter M. DiFiore, ’66, Associate Professor of Endodontics, and Dr. Paul A. Rosenberg, ’62, Professor and Chair of the Dr. Ignatius N. and Sally Quartararo Department of Endodontics.

**DR. DANIEL MALAMUD**, Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program, on authoring a guest editorial entitled “Salivary Diagnostics: The Future is Now,” for the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

**DR. MAUREEN MCANDREW**, ’83, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting an abstract entitled “Domestic Violence: New People, New Protocols,” at the Greater New York Dental Meeting. Her coauthor was Dr. Jan M. Levy, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care.

**DR. FREDERICK MORE**, Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and of Pediatric Dentistry, on being named Vice Chair of the NYU School of Medicine Institutional Review Board.

**DR. DOUGLAS E. MORSE**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “Disparities in Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer Incidence, Mortality and Survival Among Black and White Americans” for the *Journal of the American Dental Association*. His coauthor was Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Director of the Oral Mucosal Disease Service.

**DR. ANA MARIA MUNOZ**, ’95, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, on authoring an article entitled “Correction of a Class II Deep Overbite Skeletal and Dental Assymetric Malocclusion in an Adult Patient,” for the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*; and on being named Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year by the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics Class of 2005.

**DR. IVY D. PELTZ**, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting a poster entitled “Battleground – The High Road vs. The Bottom Line,” at the ADA annual meeting. Dr. Peltz’s coauthor was Dr. Eric S. Studley, ’85, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care. Added kudos to Dr. Peltz on being inducted into the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

**DR. PAUL A. ROSENBERG**, ’62, Professor and Chair of the Dr. Ignatius N. and Sally Quartararo Department of Endodontics, on authoring a chapter...
entitled “Case Selection and Treatment Planning,” for the Ninth Edition of Pathways of the Pulp; and on guest lecturing at the University of Zagreb School of Dentistry and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

DR. STEFANIE RUSSELL, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on presenting an abstract entitled “Socioeconomic Position Measures and Tooth Loss Through the Adults Years,” at the AADR/IADR annual meeting.

DR. ANTHONY VERNILLO, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, on earning an MS degree in Bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Vernillo also represented NYUCD at the NYU Medical Center health forum on “Living with Diabetes.” Dr. Vernillo’s co-representative was Dr. Lidia Simeonova, Class of 2005.

PROFESSOR CHERYL M. WESTPHAHL, Assistant Dean for Allied Health Programs, on coauthoring an article on water fluoridation entitled “Not in My Water Supply,” for the Journal of Practical Hygiene. Her coauthor was Ms. Rosemary D. Hays, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene.

DR. IRA ZINNER, ’63, Clinical Professor of Prosthodontics, on receiving the Ernest Granger Award from the American Society of Master Dental Technologists. Dr. Zinner was also awarded Life Member status in the society.

Focus on Alumni

Congratulations to:

40’s
DR. ROBERT B. SLOANE, Class of 1941, on having his paintings exhibited at the National Arts Club.

60’s
DR. JAY S. ORLIKOFF, Class of 1969, on receiving the Dr. Robert Raskin Meritorious Service Award from the Suffolk County, New York, Dental Society.

80’s
DR. LOUIS F. DESANTIS, Class of 1984, on being named a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, and on being elected to the board of the Alice Austen House Museum in Staten Island, New York.

90’s
DR. PHYLLIS G. MERLINO, Class of 1994, on being named a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. Dr. Merlino was sponsored by Dr. Isabel Whitehill-Grayson, Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics.

DR. FABIOLA MILORD, Class of 1994, on being named Dental Director of the Dental Services Program for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rockville Center, New York.

00’s
DR. YAKIR A. ARTEAGA, Class of 2000, on receiving the 2005 New Dentist Leadership Award from the New York State Dental Association Council on the New Dentist.

DR. CRISTIAN MORAZAN, Class of 2000, on working with Hurricane Katrina relief workers in New Orleans as part of the U. S. Public Health Service effort.
In Remembrance

Dr. Edward G. Kaufman, Dean Emeritus

Dr. Edward G. Kaufman, Dean Emeritus of the College of Dentistry, passed away in May. He was 86.

Dr. Kaufman served as dean of the NYU College of Dentistry from 1985 to 1998. He was associated with NYUCD as a student, faculty member and administrator for over 50 years.

Born in Bayonne, New Jersey, Dr. Kaufman was educated at UCLA and NYU’s Washington Square College (now the College of Arts and Sciences). He received his DDS degree from NYU in 1943. Following service in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, he returned to NYU, where he joined the dental faculty in 1946.

As dean of the nation’s largest dental school, Dr. Kaufman proved himself an innovator during a decade when a significant number of other dental schools were closing their doors. He raised NYUCD’s admissions standards; increased the College’s endowment and research grants; and enacted numerous community outreach programs to help the less fortunate. In his more than half a century of service to NYUCD, Dr. Kaufman introduced major curriculum initiatives in the basic and clinical sciences, including a comprehensive care approach to dental education, business-management training and computer-assisted learning for students. He increased the number of women and minority students on campus, and he dramatically expanded the College’s international studies programs.

Ed Kaufman was consistently guided by a commitment to academic excellence, improved access to care for New York’s poor, and increased resources for dental education. For his dedication to quality and the highest standards of patient care; for his immense loyalty and devotion to NYU, its College of Dentistry and the dental profession; and for the impact he made on so many lives, Ed Kaufman’s memory is insured a lasting place of honor at the NYU College of Dentistry.
Dr. Abraham Kobren

A former Assistant Dean for Admissions at NYUCD, Dr. Kobren was also President of the American Dental Association from 1985 to 1986 and is widely considered to be one of the finest gentlemen to ever enter the profession of dentistry.

Dr. Herbert Schilder, Class of 1953

A renowned endodontist, Dr. Schilder received the NYU College of Dentistry Alumni Achievement Award in 1991. He had a long and distinguished career at Boston University and a highly-successful private practice. He was the inventor of a widely-used technique in endodontics which bears his name.

Also Remembered

John T. Breslin, Class of 1960
Leo Rothstein, Class of 1933