NEW YORK, NEW YORK!

What Can This Great, Diverse City Teach Us About Health Care?
Global Health Nexus is produced in part through the generous support of the late Leonard Block, Mrs. Adele Block, and Richard and Peggy Danziger.


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The city…
this riddle in steel and stone is…

the perfect demonstration of nonviolence,
of racial brotherhood,…
home of all people and all nations,
capital of everything.

Here is New York, E. B. White, 1949
4  Message from the Herman Robert Fox Dean  
   Dr. Charles N. Bertolami

8  New York, New York! What Can This Great, Diverse City Teach Us About Health Care?  
   Creating a Magnet for Minorities in Math and Science  
   A Conversation with Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III

12  Diversity—Looking in the Right Places: Harlem Hospital Center’s Approach to Decreasing Oral Health Disparities  
   Dr. John M. Palmer et. al.

16  Latinos and Access to Dental Care: An Urgent Case for Diversity  
   Dr. Francisco J. Ramos-Gomez

20  Why Dentistry Needs to Contain Multitudes  
   Dr. Howard Bailit

24  Creating a Whole That is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts  
   Dr. Jeanne C. Sinkford

28  A Student Body That Mirrors New York’s Diversity  
   Ms. Amy J. B. Knowles

31  The Importance of Finding the Right Comfort Level  
   Dr. Michael P. O’Connor

34  Research in Focus  
   Twins Study Shows Flossing Significantly Decreases Gum Disease and Cavity-Causing Bacteria

36  PEARL Network Update

38  Cooperation Between Viruses Is a New Mode for HIV Replication, NYU Dental Research Shows

39  The NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center: An Update

44  NYUCD Study Links Immune Response to Common Mouth Bacteria to Alzheimer’s

45  National and International Recognition for Four DDS Students

46  Recruiting the Best

48  Promoting Our Own

51  NYUCD Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Part-time Faculty  
   Congratulations to Recently Promoted Part-time Faculty

52  International Partners in Health  
   International Dental Programs Hold First Global Reunion

53  NYUCD Sponsors International Symposium on Apatites and Correlative Biomaterials

54  Dominican Outreach Celebrates 13th Mission to Northern Dominican Republic with Dr. Lidia Kiremidjian-Schumacher

55  Fulbright Holder Is Visiting Scholar in Pediatric Dentistry
Focus on International Faculty
Dr. Nicolas Elian: NYU CD's Ambassador to the Middle East

Dr. Ross Kerr: Charting a Global Course for the Future of Oral Medicine

Grants and Philanthropy
Living the American Dream and Giving Back: A Major Gift from Dr. Jan Linhart, ’79, Establishes the NYUCD Linhart Continuing Dental Education Program

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NYUCD in the News

News from the College
NYUCD Outreach Team Gives Upstate New York Youngsters a Head Start on Good Oral Health

Clinical News Feature Added to Web Site

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DDS Student Retention Approaches 100 Percent; Board Scores Also Soar

MS Program in Biology/Oral Biology Welcomes First Class

Santa Fe Group's First Annual Meskin Symposium Held at NYUCD

Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing Ask: “Are You Green Enough?”

Elective in Teaching Skills Program Encourages Students to Become Dental Educators

Technology Briefs
Dentistry Lectures Go Online

Celebrating Our Community
NYU Names Dr. Dianne Rekow Senior Provost for Engineering and Technology

Nursing Dean Terry Fulmer Inducted to YWCA-NYC Academy of Women Leaders

NYUCD Faculty Represented in MedEdPortal

“A Dental Student Living in Harlem”: Third-year Student Ryan Lee’s Account of an Experience That Changed His Life

Staff Stars: Mentoring Program Nurtures Future Leaders

NYUCD Welcomes Future Doctors With Two White Coat Ceremonies

Introducing the Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program Team

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Adding to the Legend of Babe Ruth: NYU Dental Professors Find New Information About Babe Ruth’s Fatal Cancer and Final Days

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Honor Roll of Donors
Message from the Herman Robert Fox Dean

Given that the very survival of life on earth depends on biological diversity, I think it’s safe to say that diversity and the ability to thrive go hand-in-hand. And when it comes to diversity, no city in the world can equal New York.

New York’s extraordinary ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity is indivisible from its status as the world’s premier global city, a city in which all religions are practiced, all languages spoken, all ethnic foods eaten, all lifestyles embraced. Indeed, it is impossible to imagine New York’s energy and creativity without its diversity, the beacon continually drawing new talent and vitality from around the world.

In putting together this issue of *Global Health Nexus*, we found ourselves asking the question: “If diversity is key to New York’s evolution and success as a great global city, is there something that this city can also teach us about healthcare, and, specifically, about ameliorating the problem of a lack of diversity among healthcare professionals?”

With the US Census Bureau reporting that by 2023 more than half of all American children will be minorities, and the effects on health care of a lack of diversity becoming more apparent daily, the subject could not be timelier. Indeed, the 2004 Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce called the US “a nation at risk,” citing the lack of minority professionals as a direct cause of a national crisis of lower quality health care and higher rates of illness and disability among a growing number of residents, and particularly among people of color. Also lagging, according to the report, are the percentages of minority students enrolled in medical, dental,
and nursing programs, and the percentage of minority faculty at such schools.

Additional calls to action have been issued by The Institute of Medicine in its reports, Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health-Care (2002), and In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health-Care Workforce (2004). They all delivered a straightforward message: The lack of diversity in health care education is at the root of the problem of inequities in access to and quality of health care in the US.

At the NYU Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, we believe that diversity can and must be achieved. Our commitment to diversity is based on five tenets:

- **Diversity is a formal part of all our jobs.** It is a defining feature of higher education at its best and it encompasses the variety of personal experiences, values, and worldviews that arise from differences of culture and circumstance.
- **Openness to diversity flows from simple justice.** The population is extremely diverse and will become more so. Achieving the aspiration of NYU as a global-network university is impossible without embracing diversity.
- **In diversity there is strength.** This is a basic rule of nature and of life. The ability to call upon diverse people who embody different talents, perspectives, languages, cultures, and viewpoints lends agility and strength in responding to ever-changing circumstances.
- **Without diversity in the healing professions, it becomes impossible to fulfill our teaching mission.**
This transcends simply doing the right thing. It means that the education we provide will be inadequate unless all of our students understand, appreciate, and value at the deepest personal level the intrinsic importance and dignity of the human person—of all of the people they have committed their lives to serving.

- **Practitioners tend to return to practice in their communities of origin.** Training more minorities to become health care professionals will help to reduce the inequities in access to care that we now see.

Building on these principles, NYUCD is developing a multifaceted approach to increasing diversity, an approach that emphasizes mentorship within our academic community and partnerships externally with local educational institutions with large numbers of underrepresented students, with the goal of helping them become doctors.

In keeping with the concept that increased diversity in health professions education is doable and that New York City’s diversity exemplifies this principle, in this issue of Nexus we have invited a group of the most progressive thinkers in this area to consider what New York’s diversity can teach us about health care.

All of our distinguished contributors are formidable leaders in their fields. They include Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Dr. Jeanne Sinkford, Associate Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and Director of the ADEA Center for Equity and Diversity; Dr. John M. Palmer, Executive Director of the Harlem Hospital Center, and several of his colleagues; Dr. Francisco Ramos-Gomez, Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Pediatric Dentistry at UCLA Los Angeles School of Dentistry and President of the Hispanic Dental Association; Dr. Howard Bailit, Professor Emeritus, Department of Community Medicine, University of Connecticut School of Medicine; Ms. Amy Knowles, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions at the NYU College of Nursing; and Dr. Michael O’Connor, Executive Associate Dean for Administration and Finance at the NYU College of Dentistry.

In this issue of Global Health Nexus, you will also find news of the impressive achievements of our students, faculty, and staff in research, international affairs, philanthropy, outreach, and other areas. To give you an idea of the context in which their success is occurring, let me conclude with a brief overview of highlights of the past year:

- **In the area of student affairs, NYUCD continued to decrease its dependence on tuition.** As a source of the College’s operating funds, tuition dependence decreased from 72% just a few years ago to 58% today.
- **The applicant pool for the DDS curriculum remained robust and continued to increase.**
Indeed, while there was a 2.3% decrease in applications to dental schools nationwide in 2007-2008, applications to NYUCD increased by 3.4% last year.

- Academic outcomes continued to improve as evidenced by student performance on Part I of the National Board Examination in Dentistry. The April 2008 report showed a failure rate for NYU students of 1.7%, compared with a national failure rate of 3.7%. Moreover, the retention rate for DDS students is nearly 100%. (See related story on p. 82.)

- NYUCD also continued to improve its national research ranking among the nearly 60 dental schools in the nation, moving from 5th place to 4th place on the report published by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

- Both global and domestic outreach continued to thrive, and soon a nursing van program, Feeling Good in Your Neighborhood, will be initiated.

- The 2007-2008 year also saw significant capital improvements in the opening of three floors of the Dr. George and Ann Witkin Center for Clinical Excellence. In addition, major capital improvements will soon be made to the Anthony S. Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the Stanley N. Turetsky Emergency Care Unit, as well as to two group practices.

- Philanthropy at NYUCD is thriving. Because of NYUCD’s track record of success, the University increased our goal for 2007-2008 from the original target of $5M to a new goal of $6.2M. And thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, by the close of the academic year, on August 31, 2008, we had raised nearly $7M, thereby exceeding our goal!

- An added accomplishment of the past 12 months has been the development of a strategic plan to guide the direction of the College of Dentistry and its College of Nursing over the next five years, which we will share with you in a future publication.

None of this would have been possible without the philanthropic support and faith in the quality and potential of this institution shown by our alumni and friends. As you read this issue of Global Health Nexus, please know that we will do everything in our power to continue to merit your confidence.

“Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, by the close of the academic year, on August 31, 2008, we had raised nearly $7M, thereby exceeding our goal!”

Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. The large Russian community in Brooklyn supports the newly formed Russian American Dental Association, which includes many NYUCD graduates.
Dr. Hrabowski, a mathematician, received his MA (mathematics) and PhD (higher education administration/statistics) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at age 24. His research and publications focus on science and mathematics education, and he is coauthor of Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African-American Males and Overcoming the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African-American Young Women. He serves as a consultant to the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and universities and school systems nationally. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the first US Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. He has been President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), since 1992.

Creating a Magnet for Minorities in Math and Science

A Conversation with Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III

President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
Global Health Nexus (GHN):
US News & World Report has credited you with transforming UMBC from a struggling commuter school a decade ago to what it calls an educational “powerhouse,” with UMBC recognized today as the leading producer of African Americans going on to earn PhDs in science and engineering. What is the secret to this transformation?

Dr. Hrabowski: The most important factor in our success has been the role of the faculty, particularly the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) faculty (supported, of course, by academic administrators). It has been critical that tenured faculty have taken ownership of this issue. What we see on our campus are students of color in labs across the disciplines. Keep in mind that most of our faculty members are not of color, and that we are still trying to identify African-American and Hispanic faculty in most disciplines, with particular specialties, as we have openings for faculty positions. What we understand is that the academic performance of students of color in science and engineering is not a minority issue, but rather an American issue that we all must tackle.

GHN: Are other schools of science and engineering studying UMBC’s example as a model for improving their own educational programs?

Dr. Hrabowski: Yes, we have been working with a variety of institutions, agencies, and foundations.
in reflecting on lessons learned and best practices. Colleagues from a wide range of colleges and universities—from Williams and Harvard to LSU and the University of Michigan—have been working with us on these issues over the years.

**GHN:** Does UMBC prepare African Americans to pursue careers in the healthcare professions as well as in science and engineering?

**Dr. Hrabowski:** As you might expect, many of the students who come to UMBC with an interest in science also have an interest in becoming physicians and, in some cases, dentists. Because our funding comes primarily from NIH and NSF with the understanding that we are working to produce researchers, our top priority is to produce people who go on to earn PhDs, in addition to medical and dental degrees. A number of our graduates have completed MD/PhDs. Of course, some students decide that they are much more interested in clinical work than in research. The most important point is that helping students excel in science and engineering helps them to consider a variety of options in the healthcare professions because success in those programs requires strong scientific preparation.

**GHN:** You have emphasized the importance of mentorship and role modeling in enabling aspiring African-American scientists to excel academically, saying, "each group of students is responsible for the next." How does this strategy play out on your campus?

**Dr. Hrabowski:** First and foremost, it takes researchers to produce researchers. What’s important to remember is that most of my colleagues who have inspired these students to become researchers have been white faculty (male and female) who care about the students and are excited about their own research. Beyond the faculty, we have created a culture within the Meyerhoff Program* and in the STEM community generally at UMBC that includes group study and collaboration among students. Too often, STEM classes have an overly competitive environment in which people believe that one student’s success may mean another student’s failure. What we have learned from the Meyerhoff Program is that we can create a broad culture for students of all races in which they support each other, learn from each other, critique each other, and build on each other’s success.

NYC is home to the second-largest Indian population in the US.
**GHN**: What is the racial and ethnic composition of your faculty?

**Dr. Hrabowski**: Our faculty is primarily white, with a number of Asian faculty in engineering and computer science. We have been working to create a presence (meaning at least one faculty member) from underrepresented groups in each department. We have succeeded in biological sciences, physics, and in several other departments, but we still have a way to go. In fact, we are learning a great deal from our work being funded by an NSF ADVANCE grant for women scientists. I am serving as the Principal Investigator on that grant, which sends the message that we need more women faculty in STEM fields, and it’s encouraging that several of the faculty we have hired recently have been women of color.

**GHN**: How does this compare to the faculty composition at other schools of science and engineering?

**Dr. Hrabowski**: We probably are somewhere in the middle. Most research universities have very few underrepresented minority faculty in STEM areas. Unlike at professional schools, science and engineering faculties at research universities have very few people of color at present. Again, this is one of the areas in which we know we need to continue to make progress. The real strength of our story is that our faculty, in general, has become passionate about producing researchers of color in science, engineering, and the health professions.

**GHN**: Just as New York City is a magnet for people with ideas, energy, and entrepreneurship, is UMBC, because of its commitment to diversity, a similar kind of beacon for people of all races and ethnicities who wish to pursue careers in math and science?

**Dr. Hrabowski**: When you walk around our campus, you get the impression that you are at the Plaza of Nations at the UN. We have students from more than 140 countries, with almost half of the undergraduates completing degrees in science and engineering, and two-thirds of our PhDs in those disciplines. In fact, we have become such a hotbed for science and engineering that we now have more than 40 biotech and IT companies located on the campus in our Research and Technology Park (bwtech@umbc). Hundreds of our faculty and students have been working in these companies, and often we see applications from the companies used in our classrooms, including, for example, in our Chemistry Discovery Center.

While approximately one-third of our students are of color, students of all races are attracted to UMBC, and not only in science and engineering, but also across the arts, humanities, and social sciences because many students have interdisciplinary majors involving, for example, biology and philosophy, chemistry and ancient studies, biochemistry and computer science, visual arts and computer science. We are strong believers in encouraging students to connect science to other disciplines as they develop problem-solving skills and prepare for graduate and professional schools and ultimately, research careers.

> The real strength of our story is that our faculty has become passionate about producing researchers of color in science, engineering, and the health professions.

*The Meyerhoff Scholarship Program was established at UMBC in 1988 with an initial gift from the Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Foundation to address the shortage of African Americans, especially males, who successfully pursue careers in science and engineering. The program is open to all high-achieving students interested in pursuing advanced degrees and research careers in science and engineering and are also committed to the advancement of underrepresented minorities in these fields.*
The issue of a lack of diversity among our nation’s healthcare professionals has been gaining traction in recent years. Racial and ethnic minorities comprise 25% of the population of the United States, but only 9% of the country’s physicians and 2% of the country’s dentists. Latinos comprise 15% of the population, but only 4% of physicians and 4% of the country’s dentists. In 2004, the Sullivan Commission, led by former US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, summarized the situation as follows: “The problem is that the health care workforce does not adequately represent the population it is designed to serve, nationally or locally. This is true whether we are talking about physicians, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, or pharmacists.”
The problem is that the health care workforce does not adequately represent the population it is designed to serve, nationally or locally. This is true whether we are talking about physicians, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, or pharmacists.

*The Sullivan Commission*

**WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES DIVERSITY MAKE IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT?**

That same year, The Institute of Medicine report, “In the Nation’s Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health-Care Workforce,” made the case that when communication and language barriers are minimized and providers and patients share similar racial and ethnic characteristics, the result is improved patient satisfaction, increased access to care, and better compliance with treatment plans.

The report showed that minority patients experience greater satisfaction and feel greater trust when their healthcare provider shares their background and life experience. These feelings increase compliance with treatment, which leads to improved treatment outcomes. Moreover, access to care for minority patients was shown to expand in proportion to the number of physicians and dentists of color who are willing to be located in and to treat minority patients living in federally defined medical manpower shortage areas.

**UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF CULTURAL BIASES AND ETHNIC MORES IN HEALTH CARE**

In a large acute care public hospital, cultural proficiency and understanding of ethnic mores can mean the difference between a patient who receives adequate health care versus a patient who receives no care or whose illness is misdiagnosed.

Cultural biases and ethnic mores greatly influence our beliefs and values about illness, disease, and disability. They shape how we classify the seriousness of a health condition and help us explain why some illnesses exist. They also establish boundaries for our relationships with providers, and influence the types of healers and practitioners we consult.

As our nation grows more diverse, all the evidence indicates that any serious attempt to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes must focus on minimizing barriers to care, providing culturally proficient and ethically sensitive health care, and ameliorating the severe shortage of minorities in the health professions. But can diversity be achieved?

**THE HARLEM HOSPITAL CENTER–COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MODEL**

The model developed by the Harlem Hospital Center Department of Dentistry demonstrates that the answer is “yes.”

Harlem Hospital Center is a member of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

“In a large acute care public hospital, cultural proficiency and understanding of ethnic mores can mean the difference between a patient who receives adequate health care versus a patient who receives no care or whose illness is misdiagnosed.”

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*The Sullivan Commission*
and the Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network. The center has a clinical affiliation with Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, which enables it to deliver a consistently high level of health services to the community. Harlem Hospital Center is a Level I Trauma Center capable of treating patients with multiple illnesses. Last year, this 286-bed hospital provided nearly 300,000 outpatient visits, 76,000 emergency department visits, and had over 13,000 inpatient admissions.

Increasing the number of minority dentists has been a priority for the situation for the community, the Hospital, and the dental school, while simultaneously addressing a severely unmet oral health need.

The program proved to be a huge success, benefiting all stakeholders. It produced three periodontists, six prosthodontists, two orthodontists, three pediatric dentists, five endodontists, and two Master’s in Public Health professionals. All maintain their practices either in Harlem or other medical manpower shortage areas.

The program proved to be a huge success, benefiting all stakeholders. It produced three periodontists, six prosthodontists, two orthodontists, three pediatric dentists, five endodontists, and two Master’s in Public Health professionals. All maintain their practices either in Harlem or other medical manpower shortage areas.

The Department of Dentistry’s model confirms what many of us have known all along: Diversity can be achieved, when you look for qualified candidates in the right places and use effective models.

Can diversity be achieved? The model developed by the Harlem Hospital Center Department of Dentistry demonstrates that the answer is ‘yes.’

Harlem Hospital Center Department of Dentistry for over 20 years. In the late 1980s, in response to an increased need for a more diverse workforce, the Department’s former director, Dr. James E. McIntosh, in partnership with former Dean of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Allan J. Formicola, established the Minority Dental Specialty Program to train minority specialists who would return to Harlem Hospital Center and/or serve in communities where oral health disparities are most prevalent. Dr. McIntosh and Dr. Formicola had the foresight and wisdom to know that this collaboration would create a win-win-win

In the late 1980s, in response to an increased need for a more diverse workforce, the Department’s former director, Dr. James E. McIntosh, in partnership with former Dean of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Allan J. Formicola, established the Minority Dental Specialty Program to train minority specialists who would return to Harlem Hospital Center and/or serve in communities where oral health disparities are most prevalent.
Dr. McIntosh also initiated successful recruitment strategies, such as visiting the campuses of historically black colleges, establishing volunteer opportunities for dental students, and implementing the highly sought-after Summer Dental Student Externship Program. These volunteer activities afforded dental students opportunities to learn and gain valuable clinical experience in a community healthcare setting, as well as exposure to the practice of general dentistry and oral surgery.

Collaborations were also established with two of the most prominent historically black colleges in the United States: Howard University and Meharry Medical College. Both institutions proved to be a rich resource for recruiting gifted and talented students of color. This collaboration continues to support the diversity goals of the Department of Dentistry.

**IF WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME**

The first step in creating meaningful change is to understand that change is possible. We have seen that an increase in the numbers of minority dentists, physicians, and nurses is possible when academic institutions partner with healthcare providers to explore various options, including reaching out to schools with a pool of minority students and implementing strategies for identifying talented students.

An effective diversity program also needs to include career ladder programs beginning in high schools, progressing through junior colleges, and proceeding into continuing education programs designed to develop stronger pipelines into the health professions. Successful diversity initiatives also need federal, state, and local leaders and health agencies to review educational funding models and determine their impact on the future of healthcare delivery based on changes in national demographics. In addition, commitments must be made to increase Medicaid reimbursement, Graduate Medical Education, tuition reimbursement, loan forgiveness, and expanded scholarship opportunities, as well as to devise incentives for professionals to practice in medically-underserved areas.

Finally, the expansion of public-private collaborations must be encouraged if we are to seriously address health professional disparities. Only through the identification and training of culturally competent professionals will we make it possible for the students of today to develop into talented providers of tomorrow.

“Experience has taught us that, in order to promote the potential for compliance, culturally competent care must include explaining the treatment plan in language the patient can understand.” Dr. Lawrence Bailey
Latinos have a disproportionate oral health burden and less access to dental care than most other ethnic groups. A recent national survey of children’s health indicated that only 65% of Latino children have “very good” health compared to 95% of white children. When rating the condition of Latino children’s teeth, more than 50% showed a “suboptimal” condition. The 2006 Smile Survey in California, where 44% of US Mexican immigrants reside, indicated that 72% of Latino kindergarten and third-grade children had experienced dental caries, and 26% had rampant dental caries. Importantly, oral health disparities present an array of medical problems for Latinos since oral health and overall health are inextricably linked. The urgency of the situation is indicated by the fact that some very low-income Latino households cannot even afford individual toothbrushes for each household member.

The factors that contribute to unmet dental needs among Latinos include lack of dental insurance, lack of education and poor health literacy, lack of diversity and cultural competency among dental providers, lack of English language ability, lack of transportation and time, and a lack of providers willing to accept Medicaid reimbursement rates, and thus to serve low-income populations.

While the large number of the uninsured in the US has become a big news story in recent years, little has been made of how the lack of health coverage also affects dental care. Latinos are the most uninsured ethnic group in the United States. They are more likely than other groups to have low-wage jobs without benefits, and unless these families have sufficient discretionary income, they cannot afford to buy private insurance, let alone pay for services out-of-pocket. Evidence also indicates that Latino parents are often unaware of their children’s eligibility for dental safety-net programs; indeed, a survey found that an estimated 4.7 million children were eligible but not enrolled nationwide. Moreover, even when enrolled in these programs, families experience difficulties in finding participating dental providers.

The lack of parental education has rendered even the most widespread preventive interventions ineffective. For
example, despite successful awareness campaigns to prevent baby bottle tooth decay, now called early childhood caries, interviews with parents conducted as part of the UCSF Center to Address Disparities in Children’s Oral Health have found that Latino mothers sometimes knew about the risk for tooth decay from a baby bottle but attributed the problem to the bottle’s nipple and not to the sugary liquid contents. Latino mothers don’t understand the connection between diet and tooth decay and often confuse dental caries with tooth stains. Children in some communities are also denied the benefits of community water fluoridation—one of the most equitable and cost-effective means of preventing tooth decay—because Latinos from countries where tap water is often a source of pollutants and pesticides tend to avoid drinking household tap water.

The situation is further exacerbated by the fear many Latino parents have that they will be penalized for taking time off from work to accompany a child on multiple dental visits. Loss of income and fear of dismissal from employment often cause parents to delay seeking treatment. Families working in agriculture or other seasonal occupations may postpone their children’s dental needs until “low season,” when their incomes are reduced and they are more likely to qualify for subsidized or free dental coverage. Add to this the willingness of fewer and fewer providers to accept Medicaid patients, the difficulty that many people experience in having their claims accepted, and the limits on the frequency and types of preventive care covered by Medicaid, and it becomes clear that California and other states with large minority populations are heading into or have already arrived at a “perfect storm” dental health crisis.

Much can be done and should be done immediately.

California and other states with large minority populations are heading into or have already arrived at a ‘perfect storm’ dental health crisis.
to change Latinos’ attitudes toward good oral health. On a state level, the myth of dangers in the public water supply needs to be debunked and fluoride varnishes should become standard and widely available. In order to ensure appropriate infant development during pregnancy, prenatal dental care during the first trimester is essential. Physicians and nurse-midwives should be promoting good oral hygiene practices during pregnancy and in the first years of life. Pregnant women tend to be more receptive to adopting health behaviors out of concern for their baby. All health professionals, not just dentists, should take advantage of this critical window by communicating the link between diet and oral health, and teaching expectant mothers how their own health directly affects the health of their baby.

Recent scientific investigations have demonstrated that dental caries (tooth decay)—the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood—is established before age two and linked to transmission of cavity-causing bacteria from mothers to infants. Consequently, meaningful preventive efforts must begin early and focus on children in the context of their families. Dental caries presents a particularly powerful example of how parents’ knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors interact to affect not only their own oral health and use of dental services, but also that of their children.

In particular, mothers’ oral health status, oral hygiene practices, diets and eating behaviors, attitudes toward dental care, and use of preventive modalities such as fluoride have substantial impact on children’s oral health and attitudes about dental services. Because many of these factors are heavily influenced by culture, efforts to improve oral health and dental care must be culturally sensitive and appropriate to families’ beliefs and circumstances.

**Of all the factors contributing to Latinos’ problems in accessing dental care, the lack of diversity and cultural competency among dental providers is perhaps the biggest barrier to care.**

Radio City Music Hall was designed to be “a palace for the people.”
Latino dentists in California make up 4.6% of the total state dental supply. This equates to one Latino dentist for every 9,446 Latino patients compared to one non-Latino dentist for every 950 non-Latino patients. In addition, while half of California's Latino adults report speaking English exclusively or "very well," the other half report "difficulty in speaking English" or less than "very well." This language barrier is magnified by the fact that fewer than 2% of non-Latino dentists speak Spanish.

In 2002, California's State Assembly introduced Assembly Bill 1045, which allows a limited number of Mexican-educated dentists and physicians to practice in extreme shortage areas in rural California. Although the bill was enacted into law, California's budget crisis prevented implementation.

One objective of Healthy People 2010 is to increase the national representation of Latinos in the health professions workforce to 12%. Nationally, and in California, this has been less than 5% for many decades. That goal is appropriate because Latinos comprise 12% of the US population.

The growing numbers of educated Latinos must be actively and aggressively cultivated by dental school recruiters in order to increase the number of Latinos who can help to fill future voids in dental provider diversity. But to meet the immediate needs of the Latino population, we need to start training our current dental students in cultural competency as well as in the correct protocols for handling young children under the age of six. Of the 56 US dental schools, 19 have adopted courses in cultural competency and mandate that students spend time in underserved communities; even fewer schools require hands-on training with pediatric patients.

One of the strengths of New York City is its immense cultural complexity, a complexity fostered by close physical proximity, which tends to promote cross-cultural acceptance and increased cultural understanding, sensitivity, and competency. Increased cultural competency allows dental providers to draw out relevant patient information, makes patients more willing to follow a dentist's recommendations, and less likely to postpone necessary dental treatment.

In California, programs like the California Pipeline Project offer dental students opportunities to work with Latino populations by placing students in clinics, such as La Clinica de la Raza in Oakland, CA, and other Latino health centers, such as the San Ysidro Community Health Center at the US/Mexican border. These programs are a good start towards promoting cultural sensitivity and educating future doctors about the relationship between diversity and disparities, but the urgency of the situation demands more. It demands that we recognize that it is crucial both to make Latino enrollment in dental schools a national priority and to make cultural competency a requirement for graduation.

12 Ibid., 231.
13 Ibid.
Why Dentistry Needs to Contain Multitudes

By Howard Bailit, DMD, PhD

Professor Emeritus
Department of Community Medicine
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

In his epic poem, “Song of Myself,” the great 19th century American poet Walt Whitman celebrated the genius of American democracy in general, and New York City’s uniqueness in particular, with the words, “I am large, I contain multitudes.” For Whitman, America’s strength is a direct result of its success in constructing a pluralistic, all-embracing, all-inclusive American identity.

Whitman’s vision of national greatness through diversity is even more relevant today. All health-care professions face serious public policy challenges related to large disparities in access to health care and a lack of practitioner diversity.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), under-represented minorities are defined as “those racial and ethnic populations that are under-represented in the healthcare professions relative to their numbers in the general population.” The three groups that are generally considered underrepresented are African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

With respect to dentistry, only 5.2 percent of practicing dentists are from underrepresented minority communities: African American (2.2%), Hispanic (2.8%), or Native American (0.2%). In contrast, these three populations now constitute about 28 percent of the US population, and by 2050 they are expected to make up 42 percent of the population. Are the healthcare professions in general, and dentistry in particular, prepared to care for this population?

THE ACCESS ISSUE

The heart of the matter is that the United States is becoming a more diverse country,
and dentistry and the other health professions need a workforce that reflects this diversity.

There are compelling arguments for this view, beginning with the appeal to social justice, which says that since few minority students were accepted into majority dental schools over the past 200 years, this is an opportunity to make up for past discrimination.

There is also a case to be made for greater diversity as a means of improving the educational experience for all students. There is substantial evidence that a "critical mass" of minority students in the class enables non-minority students to gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for access disparities and the importance of cultural issues in providing health care. In support of the argument that culturally competent graduates are better prepared to meet the health needs of the American people, it’s worth noting a relatively recent decision of the Supreme Court.

In 2003, the issue of giving any ethnic or racial group preference for positions in universities and professional schools reached the Supreme Court in a landmark case involving the University of Michigan Law School (Grutter v. Bollinger, 539 U.S. 306, 2003). The court concluded that the educational benefits of racial diversity — improving teaching and learning and enhancing civic values — were substantial and supported appropriately designed and implemented race-conscious admissions policies.

But perhaps the most compelling reason for a diverse student body is that access to care and diversity go hand-in-hand. Simply put, minority physicians and dentists are much more likely to care for minority patients than non-minority clinicians. Also, minority patients report higher satisfaction and better communication with clinicians of the same ethnic and language background—a greater "comfort level"—which increases the likelihood that minority patients will seek needed care and follow the advice of their doctor.

**WHAT NEW YORK CITY CAN TEACH US ABOUT HEALTH CARE**

New York is now, as it has been since the 1850s, a multicultural city, a global city, and the archetypal city
for our nation and world. Indeed, New York City is a laboratory for exploring human potential, and its history demonstrates that the more varied the cultures, the more exciting and successful the outcome.

And just as New York’s diversity lures people with its vitality and the promise of a better life, so will a more diverse workforce strengthen our nation’s healthcare system, making it more relevant and responsive to the needs of society.

Perhaps the most compelling reason for a diverse student body is that access to care and diversity go hand-in-hand.

STRENGTHENING DENTISTRY THROUGH DIVERSITY: THE PATH FORWARD

If we accept the idea that diversity is essential to dentistry’s ability to thrive, the question becomes: What must we do to achieve it? To find the answer, let’s look at diversity in dental education.

Figure I shows the trend in the percentage of underrepresented minorities in US dental schools. The percentage of underrepresented minority students increased slightly from almost 10 percent in 1984 to almost 12 percent in 2007.

But these percentages are misleading. Two dental schools, Howard University and Meharry Medical College, account for a large percentage of African-American dental students. If these two schools are omitted, only 9.6 percent of dental students in majority schools are from underrepresented minority populations.

Because of changes taking place in the larger environment, dental schools face a number of challenges in recruiting more underrepresented minority students. First, underrepresented minority recruitment programs are relatively expensive, and most dental schools are experiencing significant reductions in federal and state funds. To make up for these losses, most schools have raised tuition, leading to large increases in student debt and, in turn, to fewer students from lower-income families.

Second, the number and quality of applicants has increased substantially in the past 20 years, making it much more competitive to get into dental school; and third, most schools have relatively few underrepresented minority students or faculty and may not have a supportive internal environment for students of color.

To meet these challenges, dental schools need to have a clear mission statement that values diversity; formalizes a commitment to recruit minority students and faculty; and pledges to establish and support effective core recruitment programs.

FIGURE I
THE PERCENTAGE OF UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS IN U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS, 1984 TO 2007

Perhaps the most compelling reason for a diverse student body is that access to care and diversity go hand-in-hand.
SUCCESES

In terms of specific schools, Baylor University School of Dentistry has done an outstanding job in recruiting minority students. Close to 40 percent of Baylor’s entering class is made up of minority students. Other dental schools with exemplary minority recruitment records include the University of Michigan, University of Illinois-Chicago, the University of California at Los Angeles, and New York University. The records of these schools demonstrate that successful underrepresented minority recruitment programs require administrative leadership, supportive faculty, adequate resources, and effective management of core recruitment programs.

Although progress toward increasing diversity in dentistry has been slow, there is now a national effort underway to create a more diverse pool of applicants and dental school students. Importantly, this effort has the full support of the dental academic and practice communities. Moreover, America has never been more diverse, vibrant, and well positioned to take on this challenge. For all these reasons, I think it is fair to say that the prospects for a profession that looks increasingly like America have never been better.

Dental schools need to have a clear mission statement that values diversity; formalizes a commitment to recruit minority students and faculty; and pledges to establish and support effective core recruitment programs.
Several relatively recent major national reports* have emphasized the need for the health professions to become aligned with the increasing diversity of the US population. But in spite of increased national attention, major efforts, and promising successes, dental school enrollments continue to be out of sync with the growth of Underrepresented Minorities (URMs) in the US population. As a result, annual graduation rates of dentists barely replace those that are dying and retiring. This is creating a crisis in dentistry that especially affects underserved and minority groups.

At the present time, the US Public Health Service recognizes 3600 Dental Health Professions Shortage Areas (DHPSAs) in the US, where access to dental care is inadequate or lacking. Forty-six million Americans live in these shortage areas! At the same time, the American public is becoming increasingly aware of the relationship of oral health to general health as research documents the value of oral health to general health and treatment outcomes.

The role of dental schools both as “safety nets” for those who lack access to care in the private sector and as training environments for tomorrow’s dentists cannot be overestimated. With the changing demographic in the US population wherein, by 2050, the now majority is expected to be minority, it is imperative that we continue to make progress from lessons learned utilizing a variety of partnerships and strategies that support the diversity objectives of our dental education institutions.

*The Institute of Medicine’s reports, Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care (2002) and In the Nation’s Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health-Care Workforce (2004), and the Sullivan Commission Report, Missing Persons: Minorities in the Health Professions, A Report of the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce (2004), all indicate that diversity of the health professions is woefully inadequate and has severe consequences, including the promulgation of health disparities.
ADEA is taking the lead in assisting dental education institutions in their diversity and access strategies. A significant national effort is underway to improve the recruitment and retention of URM students in US dental schools. Partnerships continue to be sought that are necessary for continued progress toward this objective. Undergirding each of the successful recruitment ventures is an institutional culture that values diversity and a leadership that inspires, supports, and rewards diversity efforts.

**THE POWER OF DIVERSITY**

Diversity in dental education is essential to achieving equity in health care. But diversity also has the power to achieve excellence in health care; or to put it another way, the power to exceed the sum of its parts. This is the power that comes from including a range of perspectives in problem solving, the power that enables people with different backgrounds and life experiences to outperform groups of like-minded people.

New York City, the world’s capital of human diversity, teaches us this lesson: The more diverse the city and the more frames of reference people bring to situations, the greater the potential for sparking an exciting and dynamic cross-pollination of ideas. This is as true for dental education as it is for a great metropolis. To harness this power in dentistry, we have to go forward on many fronts, including the following.

**STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDING AND SUPPORT**

Health Career Professions Opportunity (HCOP) and Center of Excellence (COE) Grants. The Health Career Professions Opportunity and Center of Excellence grants are major federal programs that help schools build capacity through skills development, faculty development, and infrastructure development. These federally sponsored, Title VII grant awards have been reduced in recent years. Four dental schools have HCOP funding through 2008 (Baylor College of Dentistry, University of California San Francisco, University of Michigan, and University of Alabama). Two dental schools have COE funding through 2008 (University of Oklahoma and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry). Discontinued HCOP funding for schools such as Michigan is causing them to seek other resources to sustain their traditional commitment to diversity and inclusion.

New York’s Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, home to theater, jazz, classical music, opera, and ballet, fosters synergy and creativity among artists and audiences, awakening and heightening curiosity, and compelling us to think and act in different ways.
Pipeline Programs. These programs attempt to remove barriers that limit access and to enhance student performance. Since 2002, 15 US dental schools have participated in the Pipeline, Profession & Practice: Community-Based Dental Education (Dental Pipeline) program, supported collaboratively by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), The California Endowment, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. URM/LI (lower income) student recruitment has been a major objective of the Dental Pipeline program. Prior to the Dental Pipeline program starting in 2000, the national first-year URM enrollment was 499. In 2007, the URM first-year enrollment was 632 (27% increase).

Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP). ADEA is partnering with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on this $18.4 million grant from RWJF to attract undergraduate students to careers in medicine and dentistry. Twelve schools have been awarded grants for these summer programs. Nine of the grants include both medical and dental students. SMDEP is expected to increase the applicant pool of URMs in the future.

Academic Partnerships

Bridging the Gap (BTG). ADEA received developmental funding from the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation to create three pilot educational projects to implement a seven-year dental curriculum. BTG is expected to create academic partnerships between undergraduate colleges and dental schools that will expand the applicant pool of URM students to careers in dentistry. Three grants (Georgia, New Mexico, New York) have been awarded totaling $550,457. If successful, we will be able to reduce the length of time and cost of training that will boost URM recruitment without an expansion of the number of new dental schools.

New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC). This alliance, established in 1996, includes the five dental institutions in the state of New York: Columbia, New York University, Stony Brook, Buffalo and Rochester/Eastman. NYSADC was formally established to enhance the role of deans in state dental health policymaking through joint advocacy and cooperative working relationships that improve the health of all New Yorkers. Their collaborative activity involving minority faculty recruitment and community practice

New York City, the world’s capital of human diversity, teaches us this lesson: The more diverse the city and the more frames of reference people bring to situations, the greater the potential for sparking an exciting and dynamic cross-pollination of ideas. This is as true for dental education as it is for a great metropolis.
programs is currently supported with funding from W.K. Kellogg through ADEA. The collaborating schools, through their mentoring and community-based programs, have the potential for both underrepresented student and faculty recruitment.

**STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The cost of a dental school education, which currently exceeds $150,000, is a deterrent to the pursuit of a career in dentistry for URM/LI students. Financial resources are necessary to make dentistry an attractive career option and to lessen the inevitable debt burden. Surveys of dental practice conclude that minority practitioners tend to deliver services in minority communities and for minority patients. Increased scholarships for both need and merit have proven to be effective recruitment tools. Scholarships for disadvantaged students, similar to those for military, Indian Health Service and NIH Research Fellowships, are needed. Recipients of these funds have service and/or teaching obligations in return for funds received.

**REGIONAL RECRUITMENT AND WEB-BASED STRATEGIES**

*Regional Predental Advisors Workshop*. Since 1998, ADEA has sponsored seven Predental Advisors Workshops in tandem with the ADEA Annual Sessions. These regional workshops have created a forum for exchange among predental advisors, admissions, financial aid, student affairs and recruitment officers. Regional recruitment strategies build capacity by reaching larger numbers of interested parties who benefit from best practices, lessons learned, shared resources and values.

*Explore Health Careers (EHC)*. This recruitment strategy is funded by RWJF and implemented by ADEA. EHC is a Web-based recruitment tool that is intended to enhance student recruitment. It is a free, multidisciplinary, online, user-friendly career information network that now includes more than 100 health careers. Its content includes admissions, financial aid, mentoring, enrichment and other resource data. EHC has more than 1000 visitors to the site daily. EHC also has a free directory of more than 7000 academic programs in the US.

**REALIZING THE POWER OF DIVERSITY**

We continue to seek additional resources and new opportunities that will expand the applicant pool of qualified underrepresented students. These efforts will strengthen the organizational capacity and program sustainability of our dental schools and will produce an oral health work force that is greater, more productive, and more responsive to society’s needs.

While we continue to implement strategies with short-term outcomes, we are also guided by a vision that supports long-term goals aimed at overcoming existing barriers to diversity and inclusion. We will continue to increase the evidence base for the value of diversity and redefine meritocracy in the admissions process in support of whole-file reviews for applicants. These and other measures to increase recruitment of underrepresented students will continue to require multiple and sustained commitment strategies designed to demonstrate diversity’s ability to improve the health of the public we serve.
The New York University College of Nursing (NYUCN) has a long tradition of promoting and celebrating diversity in the nursing profession, and a strong commitment to the recruitment and retention of minority students. The College, which is “in and of New York City,” has as its goal to mirror the diversity of the citizens of the City through its diverse student body.

**OUR STUDENTS**

Of the currently enrolled NYUCN students in the baccalaureate nursing program, 6% are African American; 5% are Hispanic/Latino/Chicano; and .3% are Native American. In the graduate nursing programs, 16% of students are African American and 5% are Hispanic/Latino/Chicano. At the national level, 12.1% of undergraduate nursing students are African American, 5.4% are Hispanic/Latino/Chicano, and 0.7% are Native American. At the graduate level nationally, 11.3% of students are African American and 4.8% are Hispanic/Latino/Chicano.
NYUCN is committed to increasing diversity in the nursing profession by expanding the number of underrepresented students it enrolls, and providing these students with academic support systems, including the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which provides pre- advisement, academic advisement, personal counseling, tutoring, and educational workshops, and NYUCN’s recently created Office of Academic Advisement, led by Lesley Field, MS, RN. A native of Barbados, Ms. Field, who serves as Director of Academic Advisement, implements study programs within the College to ensure that students have the resources and tools necessary for success, and also works toward this goal in collaboration with The Learning Center at the NYU College of Arts and Sciences. Minority students are also encouraged to seek cultural and social activities through the University’s Center for Multicultural Education and Programs (CMEP).

Recruitment activities conducted by the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions include attending the annual National Black Nurses Association Conference and the National Hispanic Nurses Association Conference. In addition, certain high schools in New York City, such as the Young Women’s Leadership High School in Harlem, are targeted for minority recruitment. The Scholarship and Recruitment Officer for the College visits these high schools along with a College of Nursing faculty member to promote nursing as a profession to the students, who are subsequently invited to the College of Nursing for College Day, where they receive information on the application process and have the opportunity to view the nursing science labs and the human simulation labs.

The staff also participates in the University’s annual Diversity Open House each fall, when high school
students are invited to NYU’s Washington Square campus to learn first-hand about the opportunities available at NYU for minority students.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE US NURSING SHORTAGE AND NURTURE FUTURE LEADERS**

The College has recently been awarded funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to provide 15 scholarships, of $10,000 each, to minority students who hold a baccalaureate degree and enroll in the College’s 15-month accelerated program, which grants a baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing. This initiative aims to help alleviate the nation’s nursing shortage by expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated nursing programs.

The College is committed to seeking additional scholarships of this kind for its students.

The Leadership Institute for Black Nurses is a highly successful program led by Dr. May Dobal, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Dr. Yvonne Wesley, Adjunct Associate Professor of Nursing. The intent of the Institute, which is unique to NYU, is to prepare black nurses for positions of leadership in nursing.

Through education and mentorship, the Institute seeks to empower nurses to pursue career advancement in education, research, and administration. The fall 2008 enrollment of two graduates of the Institute in the College’s PhD program is an example of its effectiveness.

The NYU College of Nursing can claim a number of minority graduates and faculty who have gone on to become leaders in the profession, including Ms. Estelle Osborne, a former NYUCN faculty member, and Dr. Yvonne Wesley, a graduate of the College’s PhD program. Each February the College hosts the annual Estelle Osborne celebration, which honors a minority nurse leader who has made significant contributions to the profession. Recent honorees have included Jean Elizabeth Swinney, PhD, RN, Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts School of Nursing, and Phyllis Jenkins, MA, RN, a 1969 graduate of the NYU College of Nursing.

Through these and other activities, the College of Nursing aims to motivate currently enrolled minority students to aspire to greatness in their own lives.
As someone who has worked in healthcare administration, services, and delivery for nearly 30 years, I have developed a very strong viewpoint on the impact of diversity on access to care. One of the most important lessons I’ve learned—perhaps the most important lesson—is that patients are most comfortable dealing with healthcare providers they can identify with. Unless this comfort level is achieved, opportunities to improve community health are limited.

Let me give you some examples. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, I was actively involved in establishing the Harlem Prevention Center, a collaborative project of Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and the Harlem Hospital Center. Funded by the CDC, the program was designed to focus on alleviating the disproportionate health burden of people living in Harlem. Target areas for disease prevention and health promotion included asthma, addiction, cancer, safe sex practices, nutrition, oral health, teenage pregnancy, tobacco prevention, and smoking cessation.

Despite good intentions on the part of everyone involved, the program was initially met with skepticism by the community. And the reason soon became apparent. People in the community were not embracing the program because they could not relate to the program staff, primarily white doctors from Columbia University, with whom they did not share a common background and life experiences. Simply put, the community did not feel that the program leaders understood their health issues, mores, and culture, or that they could be trusted.

Given our nation’s history of abuse of minorities in medical research, it’s not difficult to understand the community’s lack of trust.

Realizing that if the program were to have a chance to succeed, it would have to be staffed by a much more diverse group of clinical professionals, we made a conscious decision to recruit top minority public health
leaders/educators from throughout the country to serve as role models and mentors, as well as healthcare providers. With the first recruit, a leading African-American physician who was eager to partner with us, the barriers began to recede. We recruited one of the leading community health educators from the West Coast, and established a senior level, Dean’s Office cabinet position (Associate Dean for Community & Minority Affairs) to ensure that the needs of both the Washington Heights and Harlem communities were better understood and addressed. It took nearly two years to achieve the level of diversity among the program’s leadership that we desired, but by working to get it right, we ultimately transformed the community’s perceptions of the program. To this day, the program continues to operate successfully with funding from the CDC; more importantly, it continues to make a major difference in the health status of Harlem residents.

Initially, the Harlem community did not feel that the program leaders understood their health issues, mores, and culture, or that they could be trusted.

A few years later, the Mailman School of Public Health partnered with a team of senior administrators at the Police Athletic League to develop a program of health screenings for adolescents in central Harlem. Once again, we faced the challenge of reaching out to the community, and it wasn’t until we brought in an African-American physician—a specialist in pediatric and adolescent medicine, who had grown up in Harlem and was a product of the community—that the program took off. As with the Harlem Prevention Center, the lesson learned was that you have to be open, listen, recruit the best talent for the task at hand, and understand what’s needed from the local community’s point of view.

The establishment of school-based clinics in Washington Heights in the early 1980s provides another example of a program that began to flourish once we staffed it with people who were effective at reaching the adolescent community—in this case, people who spoke Spanish and were of Latino heritage. Today

A major lesson learned was that you have to be open and try to understand what’s needed from a local point of view.

The annual Three Kings Day Parade in Harlem is a long-standing community tradition.
these school-based programs are models of excellence throughout the country.

New York City has the most diverse healthcare workforce in the nation, but we still have a long way to go. We need to become much more creative and assertive in providing opportunities for underrepresented minorities to enter health professions schools. While schools of public health and nursing schools have had somewhat better results in this area, we are not where we need to be.

Medical and dental schools need to begin much, much earlier to reach out to potential students. We need to become more aggressive, more open, and more welcoming than we have been in the past. We need to create pipelines beginning at the junior high school level and continuing through college to provide mentoring opportunities for students with an interest in science—in essence, a support system that will help them to understand and believe that they can become doctors. The greater challenge is to identify “Champions” of the initiative who are willing to take on the status quo and reallocate resources to ensure access and opportunity.

NYUCD’s approach to this challenge is guided by the belief that it is better for dental schools to “grow their own”—to identify and nurture existing students to become the faculty of the future—than to compete to recruit the relatively small number of top-ranking minority educators to their faculties. If we are successful, and other schools around the country take up similar initiatives, it could have what Dean Charles Bertolami calls “a hydraulic effect” in increasing diversity in the dental profession.

Of course, if you invest in “growing your own,” there’s always the chance that your investment will be recruited away from you. But that’s OK, because it spreads the investment around and, most important, it’s the right thing to do.
Twins Study Shows Flossing Significantly Decreases Gum Disease and Cavity-Causing Bacteria

NYU dental researchers Dr. Patricia Corby, Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, and Dr. Walter Bretz, Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, published a study in the *Journal of Periodontology*, “Treatment outcomes of dental flossing in twins: molecular analysis of the interproximal microflora,” which provides new data about the importance of a flossing regimen in addition to daily brushing of the surfaces of the teeth and tongue.

“The purpose of this study was to assess the effects of dental flossing on the microbial composition of interproximal plaque samples in matched twins. The study was a two-treatment, examiner-masked, randomized, parallel-group, controlled study,” note the authors.

Drs. Corby and Bretz studied 51 well-matched twin pairs (each set of twins was a case and a control), regarding their treatment responses to dental flossing over a two-week period. After the two-week study period, putative periodontal pathogens and cariogenic bacteria were overabundant in the group that did not floss compared to the group that performed flossing.

Additionally, note the authors, “Twins
who flossed had a significant decrease in gingival bleeding compared to twins who did not floss. Relative to baseline, bleeding scores were reduced by 38% over the 2-week study period in the flossing group of twins.”

The researchers conclude: “In a well-matched twin cohort, tooth and tongue brushing plus flossing significantly decreased the abundance of microbial species associated with periodontal disease and dental caries after a 2-week program.”

Because they live together and have similar dietary habits and health practices, twins are considered excellent subjects for research that compares periodontal diseases and dental caries (cavity) development in people of the same age from similar environments. This research stems from a five-year study, funded by a $1.7 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), which seeks to assess the relative significance of potential factors in caries development utilizing 500 pairs of twins.

Dr. Bretz and Dr. Corby have assembled a cohort of 1,100 twin pairs that include both male and female identical and fraternal twins up to 21 years of age living in disadvantaged neighborhoods in the northeastern Brazilian city of Montes Claros, where inadequate water fluoridation and inability to access dental care put residents at risk for cavities.
Clinical Research Is Key to My Success

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. PETER BLANCHARD, PEARL’S #1 RECRUITER

Dr. Peter Blanchard, a member of the PEARL Network*
Executive Committee and Practitioner Advisory Group, and his staff have recruited 142 subjects for PEARL clinical studies—more than any other practitioner-investigator. In this interview, Dr. Blanchard talks about the importance of clinical research to the Oral Health Center, his dental practice in suburban Boston.

*In 2005, NYUCD received a $26.7 million award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of NIH, to establish a regional practice-based research network, the PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning) Network.

PEARL: Why is clinical research so important to your practice?

Dr. Blanchard: The Oral Health Center’s mission is to create a model of cost-effective, evidence-based dental care. An evidence-based approach relies largely on scientific facts gathered from clinical research. Therefore, I rely on organizations, like the PEARL Network, that conduct clinical research on patient care problems routinely encountered in dental practice, to provide me with data that I can integrate with my clinical expertise and my patients’ treatment needs and preferences.

PEARL: How do you utilize evidence-based dentistry?

Dr. Blanchard: At the Oral Health Center, we use evidence-based protocols from the start of a patient’s evaluation through the completion of their treatment. We begin with a caries risk assessment—a protocol for evaluating the chance of getting caries according to scientifically proven risk factors, including oral health symptoms, such as dry mouth, and lifestyle characteristics, such as access to fluoridated water and snacking habits. Then, we develop a treatment plan that emphasizes hygiene and prevention to minimize risk.
**PEARL:** Where do you find evidence-based guidelines?

**Dr. Blanchard:** In the past, my major sources of information were the Cochrane Collaboration, a consortium providing clinical research reviews, and the ADA, which has provided protocols like the one we use for remineralizing lesions with chlorhexidine, xylitol (mints or gum), prescription toothpaste, and fluoride varnish as often as every three months for high-risk patients.

PEARL, which I joined in 2006, is becoming an important new source of scientific evidence that is specifically based on studies conducted in private practices. PEARL employs a professional data-analysis company, the EMMES Corporation, to gather and analyze data from practitioner-investigators like me, and to help disseminate those findings to the profession in a timely manner. To date, PEARL practitioner-investigators have published/presented in more than 20 scientific forums.

I was pleased to learn that data I collected for PEARL studies on post-operative hypersensitivity in occlusal restorations, and outcomes of endodontic treatment and restoration, were incorporated into presentations given by PEARL at the 2008 annual meetings of the American and International Associations for Dental Research. I am confident that many practitioners will find, as I did, that this kind of research helps build a practice that successfully uses scientific evidence to provide quality patient care.
Cooperation Between Viruses Is a New Mode for HIV Replication, NYU Dental Research Shows

Weak HIV viruses piggyback onto stronger ones, raising the possibility that the human body may harbor many more human immunodeficiency viruses capable of replicating and contributing to the development of AIDS than previously thought, a New York University College of Dentistry AIDS research team has found.

It’s widely known that only about one in every 100 HIV viruses can successfully complete the process of integrating its DNA with the DNA of the human cell—a step that every virus must successfully complete before it can reproduce. But a new study led by Dr. David N. Levy, an Assistant Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology at the NYU College of Dentistry, has revealed a mechanism that enables some of the other 99 percent of HIV viruses also to replicate and play a potential role in the development of AIDS.

“We’ve observed a new mode of HIV replication that involves cooperative interaction between viruses,” said Dr. Levy, who published his findings in July in BioMed Central’s open-access journal Retrovirology.

According to Dr. Levy, HIV functions as a community, with those viruses that successfully integrate with the DNA in human cells rescuing the viruses that fail to integrate by providing them with the proteins they need to reproduce. In fact, the viruses that were once thought to be lost because they don’t integrate may have an advantage over the others because they can skip several steps in their replication cycle and reproduce faster.

“Cooperation between different viruses is yet another one of the many tricks that HIV uses to survive, and raises the possibility that there are more active viruses in the body than was previously thought. Understanding how viruses interact with each other is a key to understanding how HIV evolves and survives the body’s immune responses, which we hope could ultimately lead to the development of new ways to treat HIV infection,” said Dr. Levy.
The NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center:

AN UPDATE AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF NIH FUNDING
FEATURING CLINICALLY RELEVANT FINDINGS

In 2001, as part of a national effort to redress disparities in our nation’s health, the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at NIH awarded an $8.3M, seven-year grant to the NYU College of Dentistry to establish the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP (Research for Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion) Center, one of five national Oral Health Disparities Centers funded by NIDCR/NIH. The four additional centers, which all focused on early childhood caries as their disease target, were at the dental schools at the University of California at San Francisco, University of Washington, University of Michigan, and Boston University.

The NYU RAAHP Center focused on oral cancer since, like many other diseases in the US, oral cancer takes a disproportionate toll on minorities. African-American males, a subgroup in the US, suffer both the highest incidence of and highest mortality from oral cancer with the next highest oral cancer rates being found in Puerto Rican males residing in Puerto Rico. The goal of the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center has been to provide information that will change the behavior of both the public and the profession with regard to lifestyle and healthcare habits that lead to oral cancer occurrence and death.

The project has also had the related goal of providing training and career development opportunities for scientists in underrepresented groups and others interested in establishing careers in oral cancer disparities research.

Since its inception, the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center has been engaged in a number of research initiatives that can properly be described as ‘firsts’:

☑ determining why minorities do not get oral cancer screening exams that might pick up the earliest signs of this deadly disease

By Ralph V. Katz, DMD, MPH, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion
NYU College of Dentistry

Emile Godfrey, MS, RD
Research Administrator
Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion
NYU College of Dentistry
by studies of the behaviors of both community residents and practicing dentists,

✓ studying whether there are differences in willingness to participate in both cancer screening exams and biomedical research studies among African-Americans, Whites, and Puerto Rican Hispanics (both on the US mainland and in Puerto Rico),

✓ using a dental practice setting to deliver effective smoking cessation interventions,

✓ conducting a “first-ever” study directly comparing the diagnostic capability of five currently available-to-dentists, non-invasive, oral cancer detection methods, to the gold standard of a tissue biopsy, and

✓ conducting the first comprehensive, in-depth study of risk factors both for the precancerous condition of oral epithelial dysplasia and for oral cancer in a Hispanic population.

The NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center has been led administratively by Dr. Ralph Katz, an oral epidemiologist who has served as Director since its inception, and Ms. Emile Godfrey, a Research Administrator with many years of prior experience coordinating NIH-funded, multisite clinical studies. The activities over the past seven years have involved investigators from 15 universities and agencies geographically spread from Puerto Rico to Boston, from New York to Texas.

The Center included four major studies: 1) an epidemiologic study on environmental and genetic risk factors for Oral Epithelial Dysplasia in Puerto Rico (PI: Dr. Doug Morse, NYU College of Dentistry); 2) a dental practice-based smoking cessation Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) using Personalized Risk Feedback (PI: Dr. Jamie Ostroff, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, with Dr. Gustavo Cruz as the NYU-site Director); 3) a study of factors related to willingness to participate in oral cancer screening and in biomedical research studies (PI: Dr. Ralph Katz, NYU College of Dentistry); and 4) a clinical study directly comparing the screening and diagnostic validity of five current oral cancer detection technologies against the gold standard of surgical biopsy (PI: Dr. David Sirois, NYU College of Dentistry).

In addition to the Administrative Core, the Biostatistical Core (PI: Dr. Judy Goldberg, NYU School of Medicine) and the Informatics Core (PI: Dr. Titus Schleyer, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine) were critical resources for the investigators working within the RAAHP Center.

KEY FINDINGS

The following are the key findings to date with clear and direct clinical relevance from the four major studies conducted over the past seven years by the scientists at the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center.

If dentists were more aware of the need to take surgical biopsies, and/or if patients were more demanding of or receptive to getting oral lesions biopsied, the high mortality rate from oral cancers could likely be significantly reduced.
of practitioner-submitted precancerous lesions to cancer lesions was a very surprising: 1:4; i.e., for every one precancerous lesion (early lesion), there were 4 times as many cancer lesions (late lesions). [Notably, on the US mainland, this ratio was completely reversed with about six precancerous biopsies for each cancer lesion biopsy.]

This was especially surprising given that Puerto Rico is known to have high rates of oral cancer; i.e., Puerto Rico has an oral cancer incidence rate that is 30% higher, and a mortality rate that is 50% higher, than that found on the US mainland.

**Clinical Interpretation:** These data suggest that a significant factor in the 50% higher mortality rate is related to the simple observation that biopsies, in Puerto Rico, are not being done frequently enough by practitioners, and when they are done, they are being done only at advanced stages of disease. This leads to the conclusion that if dentists were more aware of the need to take surgical biopsies, and/or if patients were more demanding of or receptive to getting oral lesions biopsied, the high mortality rate from oral cancers could likely be significantly reduced.

A Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) on smoking cessation interventions on 929 patients who were heavy smokers with high nicotine dependence demonstrated that smoking cessation advice from dental office personnel proved to be effective in achieving clinically significant levels of smoking cessation and smoking reduction.

**Clinically Relevant Findings from the Smoking Cessation RCT**
*(PI: Dr. Jamie Ostroff and NYU-site PI: Dr. Gustavo Cruz)*

**Findings:** A Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) on smoking cessation interventions on 929 patients who were heavy smokers with high nicotine dependence demonstrated that smoking cessation advice from dental office personnel proved to be effective in achieving clinically significant levels of smoking cessation. Participants were randomized to one of three interventions: Arm 1) Standard Care only (SC) received standard care defined as dentist-provided smoking cessation advice, brief counseling, a nicotine reduction patch and follow-up; Arm 2) received standard care plus motivational smoking cessation counseling (SC + MC) provided by a trained dental hygienist; and Arm 3) received standard care and motivational counseling plus personalized risk counseling based on a tobacco-related oral exam (SC + MC + PTRC). After 1 year, the smoking cessation rates for the three intervention levels ranged from 18%-24%, and even subjects who did not cease smoking had similar levels of reduction in smoking; i.e., an average of 18 cigarettes/day down to 11 cigarettes/day (~66% reduction) for each of the three arms of the RCT.

**Clinical Interpretation:** These data suggest that dentists, within the context of their normal dental practice, can indeed be effective agents of change (acting either alone, or in partnership with reinforcement by their dental hygienist) to aid patients seeking smoking cessation, and thereby make a substantial contribution to the overall health of their patients and to protection against oral cancer.
Key Clinically Relevant Findings for the Willingness to Participate in Cancer Screening Exams and as Research Subjects

Study (PI: Dr. Ralph Katz)

I. Key Relevant Cancer Screening Findings

Of 10 site-specific cancers (e.g., lung, liver, skin, stomach, colon, prostate, breast, etc.), willingness to participate in community-based cancer screenings was lowest for oral cancer with about 70% indicating willingness to participate in oral cancer screenings, based upon 1,148 questionnaire interviews with randomly selected households in three US cities. Comparatively, the highest rated cancer screening rates were for breast and prostate cancer screenings (about 90% indicated willingness to participate), while the other site-specific cancers willingness levels ranged from 71-77%.

Clinical Interpretation: Even with willingness to participate in oral cancer screenings being the lowest among 10 site-specific cancers, 70% of respondents indicated a positive attitude toward participation in oral cancer screenings. Thus, active participation by dentists in dental society and/or community group-sponsored oral cancer screenings has the potential to be a valuable professional service to one’s community.

II. Key Relevant Racial Findings on “being a subject in a biomedical research study”

The phrase “legacy of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study” has been used to denote the widespread belief that Blacks are more reluctant than Whites to participate in biomedical research studies because of the infamous US Public Health Service’s Tuskegee Syphilis Study conducted on 399 Black sharecroppers from 1932-72. The Tuskegee Legacy Project Study conducted within the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center—the first to assess directly the accuracy of this belief within a multi-city, multi-racial, large-scale detailed random survey—found that: 1) Blacks self-reported to be as willing as Whites to participate in biomedical research, despite being more wary about such participation (as measured by the Guinea Pig Fear Factor Scale); and 2) there was no association between either awareness or detailed knowledge of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and willingness to participate in biomedical studies in either Blacks or Whites; i.e., the study found no support for the long and widely held belief in the so-called “legacy” of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

Societal Benefits Interpretation:

These clear-cut findings from the Tuskegee Legacy Project (TLP) Study, in which all findings were observed—and then confirmed and validated—Active participation by dentists in dental society and/or community group-sponsored oral cancer screenings has the potential to be a valuable professional service to one’s community.
—in repeat random surveys conducted in 7 US cities in two distinct surveys consisting of over 2,200 interviews, allow clinical researchers to focus on the development of active recruitment plans for the inclusion of minorities into biomedical studies that address the real issues involved in obtaining racially diverse study samples within biomedical studies, to ensure that those studies address the needs of our whole population, as mandated by the federal government since 1994.

Key Clinically Relevant Findings for the Comparative Diagnostic Capability of Non-invasive Oral Cancer Diagnostic Tests vs Biopsy Findings (PI: Dr. David Sirois)

Findings In-Development: The critically important findings from our other major study (which compared the diagnostic agreement between today’s gold standard of surgical biopsy with the five non-invasive oral cancer detection techniques readily available to all dental practitioners) having completed its data collection on the enrolled 270 patients, are currently in the data analysis stage. The five non-invasive oral cancer detection techniques were: 1) visual clinical examination; 2) salivary molecular markers for oral cancer; 3) application of toluidine blue; 4) oral speculoscopy; and 5) brush biopsy. The findings from this long overdue, comparative study (which surprisingly had never been investigated previously) will be published within the year, once the data analysis is completed.

Clinical Interpretation: These findings will inform dentists as to whether any of the five “non-invasive” oral cancer detection techniques, alone or in combination, are accurate enough (i.e., have a high specificity and high sensitivity) to replace the current gold standard of surgical biopsy with a high degree of confidence in the diagnostic accuracy. Being non-invasive, these techniques might well prove to be highly attractive to patients, as well as to dentists, as a diagnostic alternative for early lesions.

A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Since 2001, the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center has built a solid foundation for future research and implementation of successful clinical, research, and public health oral cancer initiatives in a community-based setting toward the goal of reducing oral health disparities. This is reflected in the scientific productivity of the NYU Oral Cancer RAAHP Center and its investigators over the past seven years, which has included to date, publication of 59 scientific articles and three book chapters on health disparities, plus 64 scientific abstracts presented at national or international scientific meetings, with more to unfold over the next two years as the latest data continue to be analyzed and interpreted.

In addition, the RAAHP Center has fulfilled its related goal of training the next cohort of health disparities researchers by providing support and productive training opportunities to eight NIH NRSA Postdoctoral Fellows and six junior faculty members. Finally, over the past seven years, the RAAHP Center funded and supported a total of 14 scientific and bioethics pilot studies related to the four major studies, including an innovative set of bioethics pilot studies via a partnership with Tuskegee University’s National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care. All together, these initiatives bode well for the creation in the near future of an oral cancer prevention and early detection model that can be replicated at the national level.
A new one-year study by NYUCD researchers led by Dr. Angela R. Kamer, an Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, has established a link between the body’s immune response to a common mouth bacteria and Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

Dr. Kamer’s paper, “Periodontal bacterial antibodies may help discriminate between Alzheimer’s disease and normal patients—A pilot study,” was presented at the Alzheimer’s Association’s International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease 2008, in Chicago. Dr. Kamer’s study examined 18 patients with probable AD and a control group of 16 who did not have the disease.

“Biological markers for AD are essential for early treatment intervention,” explains Dr. Kamer. “We hypothesized that AD patients have elevated antibody titers to periodontal bacteria compared to control subjects who do not have the disease,” said Dr. Kamer.

“Twice as many subjects with probable AD tested positive for antibodies in their plasma against a type of bacteria that is commonly found in the mouth, particularly if patients have periodontal infection,” said Dr. Kamer. “This pilot study supports a growing body of evidence that associates notable immune changes with a means of predicting and classifying Alzheimer’s disease.”

“Dr. Kamer’s work points to several candidate biological blood markers for AD. Her work has led to a panel of plasma markers that accurately discriminate patient and controls,” said Dr. Mony de Leon, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Center for Brain Health at the NYU School of Medicine (NYUSOM).

Ongoing longitudinal studies at the NYUSOM Center for Brain Health directed by Dr. de Leon are actively working to validate these new markers and test how early in the course of AD they can be found, explained Dr. Kamer.

The pre-symptomatic early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease is an essential step in developing strategies to prevent the disease. Effective early detection approaches will require low-cost, non-invasive tools to afford large-scale population testing and screening for treatment candidates. Because many treatments entail medical risks, accurate detection is vital. Together with other AD immune markers, the antibodies to these periodontal bacteria could serve to better explain the causes and mechanisms of AD.

Dr. Kamer and Dr. de Leon plan future studies with additional testing involving a larger group of subjects to corroborate this pilot study’s findings.

Dr. Kamer’s NYUCD collaborators include: Dr. Ronald G. Craig, Dr. R.G. Norman, Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, Dr. Robert J. Boylan, and Andrea Nehorayoff. Collaborators from the NYU School of Medicine include: Dr. de Leon, Dr. Lidia Glodzik-Sobanska, and Dr. Miroslaw Brys.
Four DDS students recently received national and international recognition for their research and scholarship:

**Ms. Christy Chu,** ’10, won an ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Award for a study that found that the ratio of oral bacterial levels of *Streptococcus mutans* and *Streptococcus sanguinis* may be a meaningful indicator of caries risk in children. Ms. Chu also received a grant from the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) to present the study last July at the 2008 General Session of the International Association for Dental Research. Ms. Chu’s mentor was Dr. Yihong Li, Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology.

**Ms. You-Na Kim,** ’10, received a grant from the AADR to present her study about premalignant oral cells at the IADR’s 2008 General Session. Ms. Kim’s finding that the naturally occurring compound curcumin inhibits the motility, or spontaneous movement, of premalignant cells suggests that chemopreventive regimens containing curcumin may play a role in controlling the progression of premalignant lesions. Ms. Kim’s mentor was Dr. Peter Sacks, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology.

**Ms. Lauren Mills,** ’09, was the second-place winner in the predoctoral student poster competition held at the 2008 annual session of the American College of Prosthodontists. Ms. Mills presented a literature review on the successful use of four unsplinted implants retaining a maxillary complete overdenture prosthesis. Ms. Mills was mentored by Dr. Kenneth Kurtz, Clinical Associate Professor of Prosthodontics and Associate Director of the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics.

**Dental Student’s Research Shows Dentists Can Play a Powerful Role in Smoking Cessation**

A study by NYU dental student **Ms. Sae Hee Kim,** ’09, has found that 70 percent of a group of 87 adolescent smokers in New York City would be motivated to stop smoking on the advice of a dentist. The finding, presented at the 2008 IADR General Session, illustrates the important role that dentists can play in smoking cessation. Ms. Kim’s mentors were Dr. Gustavo Cruz, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, and Dr. Ross Kerr, Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine.
Recruiting the BEST

**Ms. Erin M. Brent**, formerly Manager of Budget and Financial Planning in the Office of the Senior Vice President for Finance and Budget at NYU, has been appointed Senior Director of Budget Development and Strategic Initiatives in the Office of Administration and Finance. Ms. Brent holds an MPA from NYU’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

**Mr. William H. Eidtson**, formerly Acting Director of the Public Health Training Unit of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, has been appointed Director of the Faculty & Staff Development Center. Mr. Eidtson earned an MS degree in Educational Communications and Technology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is currently completing a doctorate in education at Columbia University.
DR. DAVID HERSHKOWITZ, formerly a Clinical Assistant Professor of General Dentistry and Director of Emergency Care at the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine, has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care. Dr. Hershkowitz earned a DDS degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine.

MR. STEVEN M. KAHN, formerly Administrator of the Department of Epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, has been appointed Senior Financial Analyst in the Office of Administration and Finance. Mr. Kahn earned an MBA degree from Long Island University.

DR. MARCI H. LEVINE, formerly an attending surgeon at Lenox Hill Hospital and at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, and an associate at the Center for Cosmetic and Corrective Jaw Surgery in New York, has been appointed a Clinical Instructor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Levine earned a DMD degree from the Harvard University School of Dental Medicine and an MD degree from the Harvard Medical School.
DR. ROBERT BOYLAN, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, has been named Interim Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. A nationally known scholar and educator who has been a member of the faculty for over 35 years, Dr. Boylan will lead the department during the search for a permanent chair to replace Dr. Dianne Rekow, who has been named Senior Vice Provost for Engineering and Technology at NYU.

(See related story on p. 88.)

DR. LEILA JAHANGIRI, formerly Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Prosthodontics. Dr. Jahangiri continues to serve as Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics.

MR. IRA BERESNOY, formerly Director of Clinic Operations, has been promoted to the newly created position of Senior Director for Clinic Operations and Extramural Programs. Mr. Beresnoy is responsible for directing all aspects of the centralized Clinic Management System, assisting in the development and oversight of extramural programs, and acting on behalf of the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs in his absence.
**Ms. Veronica Barlovic**, formerly Assistant Director of Financial Management & Business Operations, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Operations at the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research.

**Mr. Junior Bazzey**, formerly a Clinic Manager, has been promoted to Manager of Clinical Financial Management & Business Operations.

**Ms. Nicole Greco**, formerly an Instructor in Dental Hygiene, has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene.

**Dr. Igor Chikunov**, ’02, and Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, ’05, formerly a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, has been appointed a full-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics. Dr. Chikunov earned a DDS degree from the Dental School at Kharkov State Medical University in the Ukraine, and a certificate in maxillofacial prosthodontics from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center’s Maxillofacial Prosthodontics and Dental Oncology Fellowship Program.
MR. ANTHONY RICE, formerly an Outreach Coordinator, has been promoted to Clinic Manager in the group practice of Dr. Allan Solden & Associates.

DR. ANDREA S. SCHREIBER, formerly a Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, has been promoted to Clinical Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.

DR. WALTER J. PSOTER, formerly an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.
NYUCD Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Part-time Faculty

**Cariology & Comprehensive Care**
Dr. Cary Charlin, Instructor
Dr. Pamela Cheng, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Brian Fabb, Instructor
Dr. Arthur Goren, Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. Kenn Kakosian, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Sophia Khan, Instructor
Dr. Ellen Lee, Instructor
Dr. Peter Mychajliw, Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. Anat Raz-Mazafi, Instructor
Dr. Adam Travan, Instructor
Dr. Ying Wong, Clinical Assistant Professor

**Orthodontics**
Dr. Poorang Jahanshahi, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Neil O. Lawner, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Tom Lien, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Mary Eve Maestre, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Howard J. Ruderman, Clinical Assistant Professor

**Endodontics**
Dr. John E. Weise, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Joseph K. Spector, Clinical Associate Professor

**Periodontology & Implant Dentistry**
Dr. Mitra M. Astar, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Scott H. Froum, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Nikisha Jodhan, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Cherry E. Libramonte, Clinical Assistant Professor

**Prosthodontics**
Dr. Leonard I. Flug, Clinical Assistant Professor

**Epidemiology & Health Promotion**
Dr. Luisa N. Borrell, Adjunct Associate Professor

**Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine**
Dr. Silvia E. Spivakovsky, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

**Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology**
Dr. Eric Baker, from Adjunct Assistant Professor to Adjunct Associate Professor

**Periodontology & Implant Dentistry**
Dr. Stuart Segelnick, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

**Prosthodontics**
Dr. Stephen I. Hudis, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

Congratulations to Recently Promoted Part-time Faculty

**Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology**
Dr. Hsun-Chun Hsu, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Efim Rubinstein, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Andrew Schenkel, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

**Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine**
Dr. Silvia E. Spivakovsky, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

**Cariology & Comprehensive Care**
Dr. Hsun-Chun Hsu, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Efim Rubinstein, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Andrew Schenkel, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor
NYUCD’s Advanced Study Programs for International Dentists hosted its first global reunion last spring at Villa La Pietra, NYU’s famed Center for Study Abroad in Florence. The occasion was the 20th anniversary of the inception of NYUCD’s full-time continuing dental education programs for dentists who practice outside the US.

The reunion drew over 120 participants from nearly 30 countries, including Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela. The three-day program included a scientific session featuring 15 speakers, nine of whom are alumni of NYU’s Advanced Study Programs for International Dentists.
NYUCD Sponsors International Symposium on Apatites and Correlative Biomaterials

Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros, Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, was the principal organizer, and NYUCD was the principal sponsor, of the September 2008 Fourth International Symposium on Apatites and Correlative Biomaterials. The event, held in Manila, Philippines, was cosponsored by Wuhan University of Technology in China; Saitama University in Japan; the National University of the Philippines; the University of the Philippines Dental School; HiMED, Inc.; Biomatlante; and Colgate-Palmolive; and it featured presentations by graduates of NYUCD’s Advanced Education Program in Periodontics and MS Program in Biomaterials.

From left, Dr. Alex Kuo, graduate of both the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics and MS Program in Biomaterials; Dr. LeGeros; Dr. Miho Inoue, graduate of the MS Program in Biomaterials; and Dr. Yu Zhang, Assistant Professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics.
Dominican Outreach Celebrates 13th Mission to Northern Dominican Republic with Dr Lidia Kiremidjian-Schumacher

OUTREACH WILL CONTINUE TO OTHER PARTS OF ISLAND

From November 8 to 16, 2008, a 25-member NYUCD dental outreach team visited the town of Veragua, Dominican Republic, to examine and treat 596 adults and children. It was the college’s 13th outreach to this impoverished area on the island’s north coast since the program was founded 11 years ago by Dr. Lidia Kiremidjian-Schumacher, a Professor Emerita of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. Dr. Kiremidjian co-led the 2008 outreach with Dr. Roy Sonkin, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, who was in charge of the temporary clinic set up by the outreach team. The team provided 3,207 dental treatments—including sealants, fluoride varnishes, restorations, and prophylaxes—bringing the total number of treatments provided on all 13 missions to 36,634.

In spring 2009, NYUCD will send an outreach team to the capital city of Santo Domingo, on the southern coast, and the following fall a team will travel to Baní, also in the south.

“This was a very important experience for our students, who are not used to seeing such severe poverty,” said Dr. Kiremidjian-Schumacher. “They were able to bond with the patients and give them the attention and care they were seeking.”

“As the week went on, I saw many students’ clinical skills, decision-making abilities, and self-confidence increase,” she added. “The quality of care they provided was excellent.”

At the close of the mission, Dr. Kiremidjian-Schumacher was presented with a plaque in honor of her service. “We are extremely grateful to Dr. Kiremidjian-Schumacher for founding and leading the Dominican outreach missions,” said Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs & Development. “She has played an invaluable role in making each trip a success, and has been a tireless mentor to the dozens of students who have gone to the Dominican Republic in search of an opportunity to develop their clinical skills in a unique and challenging setting.”

In addition to Dr. Hirsch, Dr. Kiremidjian-Schumacher, and Dr. Sonkin, the members of the outreach team included Dr. Richard Weledniger, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care;
Dr. Martina Majstorovic, a Fulbright Scholar and Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Deputy Vice Dean for Education and Students at the University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine in Croatia, has been appointed a Visiting Scholar in Pediatric Dentistry for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Dr. Majstorovic earned a DDS degree, as well as an MS and PhD in pediatric dentistry, from the University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine, and completed a pediatric dental residency at the Clinical Hospital of Zagreb and the Children's Hospital of the Medical University in Zagreb. She is a certified member of the European Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Society for the Advancement of Anesthesia in Dentistry.

Dr. Majstorovic’s research focuses on behavior management and pain control in dentistry and on dental trauma in children. At NYUCD, she is collaborating with Dr. Amr Moursi, (above right), Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Neal Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, on research involving oral health care for anxious and uncooperative children.

Dr. Lily Lim, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Raid Sadda, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Ms. Rachel Hill, Program Administrator in the Office of the Associate Dean for International Programs & Development; Ms. Teresa Echavarria, a sterilization technician; Dr. Christina Abreu, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’09; Dr. Azi Ahmadi-Ardakani, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Chintan Gandhi, Advanced Program in Comprehensive Dentistry for International Dentists, ’09; Dr. Maria Cuevas, Advanced Program in Comprehensive Dentistry for International Dentists, ’09; and the following students from the DDS Program Class of ’09: Ms. Nancy Ajam; Ms. Boki Chung; Ms. LeeAnn Clark; Mr. Stephen DiBenedetto; Ms. Maria Luba; Mr. Jerame Hafen; Ms. Karima Daniel; Mr. Gene Lee; Ms. Vanessa Lugo Hart; Ms. Luisa Perez; Mr. Ecio Pozzi; Mr. Zachary Sonkin; and Ms. Marianela Torres Ricart.

As in the past, the outreach mission was cosponsored by the Dominican Air Force and Cabaret Palm Beach Condos.
When Dr. Nicolas Elian arrived in his hotel room in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on March 20, 2003—the day after the United States entered Iraq—he found an urgent note directed to all Westerners visiting the Saudi capital.

“Leave the country and return home for your safety,” warned the message, which had been taped to the inside of his hotel room door.

But Dr. Elian chose to remain. “The purpose of the trip,” recalls Dr. Elian, a native of Lebanon who joined NYUCD’s faculty in 1991 and who is an Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Director of the Fellowship Program in Implant Dentistry, “was to forge closer ties between NYUCD and leaders of the Saudi dental community. The Middle East has the potential to become a major center for health care—not only for its own people, but also for neighboring countries in Africa and Asia—and NYUCD, with its focus on advanced education for international dentists, can contribute greatly to the development of oral health care in the region. I was determined to stick to my mission and deliver this message.”

Dr. Elian, a graduate of NYUCD’s DDS program, postgraduate program in prosthodontics, and Fellowship Program in Implant Dentistry, has made numerous trips to the Middle East to meet with government health officials, dental school administrators, and prospective students to promote NYUCD’s Advanced Programs for International Dentists, which offer students exposure to the latest technology and the chance to treat a uniquely diverse patient population.

Those close contacts have paid off. “Since we began reaching out to the region, we’ve attracted students from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates. Today, about one in every 10 students in the Advanced Programs is from the Middle East, and NYUCD alumni who have returned to the region have attained a high degree of success as private practitioners, government health officials, and dental school faculty and administrators.”
When Dr. Ross Kerr isn’t teaching, seeing patients in the oral mucosal disease service, running his research studies at NYUCD, or caring for patients at the NYU Dental Faculty Practice, chances are he’s helping to plan the Fifth World Workshop on Oral Medicine, which will convene experts from around the world in London in September, 2010, to explore the current status and future direction of the field of oral medicine.

A native of Toronto, Canada, who grew up in London, Dr. Kerr is one of the co-organizers of the Workshop, which was founded in the mid-1980s by faculty members from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and Glasgow Dental School.

Dr. Kerr, an Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, was chosen to serve on the organizing committee for the London meeting following the success of the Fourth World Workshop in 2006, which overlapped with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Oral Medicine, whose scientific program he organized.

The early detection and prevention of oral cancer has always been a focus of Dr. Kerr’s research, taking him on several occasions to the Indian subcontinent, where the use of smokeless tobacco in various forms (including mixtures with the areca nut as paan and gutkha) is very popular—habits that have led to the development not only of oral cancer but also of oral submucous fibrosis, a painful, precancerous condition rarely seen in the West. Oral submucous fibrosis will be one of the topics covered at the Fifth World Workshop.

Closer to home, Dr. Kerr is a past chairman of the Oral Cancer Consortium, a partnership of 29 academic dental centers, hospitals, and dental societies throughout New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, which hosts free regional oral cancer screenings for thousands of people annually.

In his spare time, he also mentors students in the NYUCD chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), who, together with students at other SNDA chapters and with NYU dental hygiene and nursing students, organize and lead an annual New York City Oral Cancer Walk.

“The London meeting,” says Dr. Kerr, “will bring together an outstanding group of experts from more than a dozen countries and a variety of oral health and medical specialties to tackle a number of important issues in the field of oral medicine, including the development of international educational standards and practice models, electronic tools and platforms to facilitate practice and multicenter research, and international research collaborations.”
Living the American Dream and Giving Back: A Major Gift from Dr. Jan Linhart, ’79, Establishes the NYUCD Linhart Continuing Dental Education Program

During World War II, Dr. Linhart’s mother, now in her 90s, whom he calls the “ultimate survivor,” had been imprisoned at Auschwitz; his father, a physician, had been conscripted into military service in Hungary.
Dr. Jan Linhart has lived the American dream. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, he emigrated to the US at age 13 with his family, who were fleeing both a communist regime and memories of life under the Nazis. During World War II, Dr. Linhart’s mother, now in her 90s, whom he calls the “ultimate survivor,” had been imprisoned at Auschwitz; his father, a physician, had been conscripted into military service in Hungary. Once in America, the Linhart family settled in Brooklyn, and Jan Linhart began the kind of upward trajectory that can only happen in America.

After graduating from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he was a biochemistry-Russian double major and an avid hockey, lacrosse, and squash player, he returned to New York to attend the NYU College of Dentistry, from which he graduated in 1979. The following year he married his wife, Ellen, who is the Chief Marketing Coordinator for his highly successful practice located in the landmark 1926 Helmsley Building on Park Avenue in Manhattan.

In the early years of the practice, the surroundings were considerably less grand. Just out of dental school, Dr. Linhart began to practice in a small office with one dental chair and no support staff. Over the years, the practice has evolved to become a 4,000-square-foot, top interdisciplinary specialty practice with a large staff, who treat people from all walks of life and from all over the world, including many celebrities.

Since graduating from NYUCD, Dr. Linhart has consistently demonstrated his gratitude to the College for giving him the opportunity to pursue dentistry by supporting the Annual Fund. But it was when his son Zach, now in his second year, decided that he wanted to attend NYUCD, rather than any of the other schools to which he had been accepted, that Dr. Linhart experienced a renewal of his bond with the College. That experience, combined with his passionate belief in the importance of continuing dental education, motivated him to take his philanthropy to a new level, which he did by signing the gift agreement to establish the NYUCD Linhart Continuing Dental Education Program on his 55th birthday. “The best birthday gift imaginable,” he says.

“I choose to make a major gift to support the NYUCD Continuing Dental Education Program because I believe that it is not possible to have a quality practice without constantly improving your education.”

“Dentistry is changing at exponential speed,” says Dr. Linhart. “Procedures that were inconceivable five years ago are the norm today. Moreover, today’s patients are extremely intelligent, sophisticated, well-read consumers. If a dentist is not staying ahead, his or her practice will suffer. Dentists can use the NYUCD Linhart Continuing Dental Education Program not just to keep up, but to stay in the forefront of advances in the profession.

“Moreover, because my international patients give me a window onto dental care around the world, I know first-hand that NYUCD provides fabulous and sophisticated care that is far superior to what is
available in other countries. Dentists from all across the globe need and want what NYUCD has to offer. It is therefore extremely important that the program expand globally, both by bringing international dentists to NYUCD for continuing education and by bringing NYUCD to international dentists. NYUCD is doing both, making it a very exciting time to be involved.

“Jan and Ellen Linhart have demonstrated exemplary commitment to NYUCD,” said Dean Charles N. Bertolami. “Jan’s story, of an immigrant’s successful rise to prominence through higher education, is at the core of the American dream, as is his determination to give something back. By investing in continuing education at NYUCD, the Linharts are keeping the dream alive. We are extremely grateful for their generosity and their faith in NYUCD’s future.”

In addition to Zach, the Linharts have another son, Alexander, an investment banker. The family, including Dr. Linhart’s mother, live in Purchase, New York.

“NYU College of Dentistry is one of the elite dental schools in the country. It is a huge honor to support its CDE program.”

Dr. Linhart
College of Dentistry Receives $600,000 Grant from Susan G. Komen Foundation

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has awarded an NYU dental research team a three-year, $600,000 grant to study whether nutrients and antioxidants found in broccoli, grapes, and other naturally occurring compounds could prevent breast cancer.

The study’s principal investigator, Dr. Joseph Guttenplan, a Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, is testing multiple formulations of a half-dozen nutrients and antioxidants to determine which formulations could most effectively prevent the mutations that can lead to cancer.

Dr. Guttenplan and his coinvestigator, Dr. Peter Sacks, also a Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, are testing the formulations in vitro in rat mammary cells that have been exposed to carcinogens. The cells are genetically engineered to make any resulting mutations easy to detect.

“There is evidence to suggest that taking very high doses of each of these antioxidants could prevent cancer, but those doses might be toxic,” explained Dr. Guttenplan. “By combining these compounds, we hope to devise more potent formulations that could be safely ingested as dietary supplements in a natural preventive regimen.”

Dr. Peter Sacks, left, with Dr. Joseph Guttenplan.
Gary and Alyse Ruth Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Wing Dedicated

The Gary and Alyse Ruth Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Wing was officially dedicated on November 1, 2008, at an elegant reception at the College hosted by Dean Charles N. Bertolami.

“Gary and Alyse Ruth’s extraordinary generosity enables us to build the oral and maxillofacial surgery wing of our dreams,” said Dean Bertolami, who, like Dr. Ruth, is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon. “The Ruths could have chosen any dental institution to support,” he continued, “but they chose NYU as their legacy because of their faith in the quality and humanity of this institution, and in the dedication that faculty and staff bring to relieving pain and suffering.”

Dr. Robert Glickman, Professor and Chair of NYU’s Dr. Anthony S. Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, noted that Dr. Ruth, a graduate of the University of Washington School of Dentistry and the Cornell Medical Center’s oral and maxillofacial surgery program, had chosen to make his gift to NYU because he was so impressed by the Mecca Department’s leadership in the field. “The faculty and staff are utterly committed to ensuring NYU’s continuing ability to make oral and maxillofacial surgery all that it can be,” said Dr. Glickman.

“Alyse and I saw the work that NYU faculty are doing in such areas as endoscopic surgery for salivary gland disease, pediatric cleft lip and cleft palate treatment, sleep apnea, reconstruction after oral cancer surgery, and TMD treatment, and we became convinced that only NYU would be capable of creating an infrastructure commensurate with the advances taking place in the field,” said Dr. Ruth. “We know that our faith is well placed.”

Dr. Larry Rosenthal, ‘72, himself a major donor to NYUCD and the person for whom the Rosenthal Institute for Aesthetic Dentistry is named, paid tribute to his long-time friends, Gary and Alyse Ruth, by calling them “true humanitarians, because they want everyone to have equal access to the highest-quality health care.”
“Alyse and I saw the work that NYU faculty are doing in such areas as endoscopic surgery for salivary gland disease, pediatric cleft lip and cleft palate treatment, sleep apnea, reconstruction after oral cancer surgery, and TMD treatment, and we became convinced that only NYU would be capable of creating an infrastructure commensurate with the advances taking place in the field.”
Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros Awarded $3.23 Million from the NIH to Continue Osteoporosis Research

Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros, a professor of Biomaterials and Biomimetics and the Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, has received a five-year, $3.23 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue her study of innovative compounds that will be safe, affordable, and effective for the prevention and reversal of bone loss caused by osteoporosis.

"Results from the proposed studies could lead to the development of safe and affordable therapy that will target both prevention and reversal of bone loss due to osteoporosis and other bone-deficient diseases," said Dr. LeGeros. "These results will greatly impact public health and alleviate the tremendous socioeconomic burden associated with osteoporosis."

In her previous work, "Effect of Mg/Zn/F-CaP Supplements on Bone Properties: Phase 1" (October 2007), Dr. LeGeros describes the initial results of her research which showed that calcium phosphate-based formulations administered as a dietary supplement or by injection—even at low concentrations—significantly improved bone strength and thickness, and prevented bone loss induced by mineral deficiency without the side effects of many current drug treatments.

Current FDA-approved pharmaceutical-based osteoporosis treatments, such as bisphosphonate drugs and hormone therapies, do not effectively

"These results will greatly impact public health and alleviate the tremendous socioeconomic burden associated with osteoporosis."
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 osteonecrosis of the jaw, delayed fracture healing, heart disease, strokes, and breast cancer.

Dr. LeGeros’s coinvestigators are Dr. Mani Alikhani, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics; Dr. Yu Zhang, Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Timothy Bromage, Adjunct Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics and of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. John LeGeros, Adjunct Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Dindo Mijares, Assistant Research Scientist in Biomaterials & Biomimetics, all at NYUCD; and Dr. Jennifer MacLeay, Associate Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University.

Three views of a rat’s femur produced by scanning electron microscopy (top row) and microcomputer tomography (bottom row) show, from left, the effects of a normal diet, a mineral-deficient diet, and a mineral-deficient diet supplemented with a calcium phosphate-based formulation.
The National Geographic Society has awarded NYUCD a one-year grant to support a study on tooth and bone development in African mountain gorillas that could provide insights into how to protect the 700 remaining members of this endangered species.

NYUCD’s principal investigator, Dr. Timothy Bromage (second from left above), an Adjunct Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, and the research team will analyze the remains of 72 Rwandan gorillas for clues about how environmental changes have affected the animals’ development.

“We know that teeth and bones grow incrementally, a bit every day,” Dr. Bromage explained, “and that environmental stressors can alter that growth. Rainy seasons in east-central Africa may be lasting longer than usual because of global climate change. Using high resolution microscopy, our team will analyze teeth and
Dr. John Ricci, an Associate Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, and Ms. Elizabeth Clark, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, have been awarded a one-year NYU Challenge Fund grant to study the effectiveness of three-dimensional bone tissue scaffolds in regenerating long bone in the arms and legs. The study involves a three-dimensional bone tissue scaffold printer that could produce tissue strong and flexible enough to be implanted in the arms and legs of cancer and trauma patients without additional support from metal rods. NYUCD is believed to be the only dental school testing the printer for bone regeneration.

The NYUCD team earlier received grants from the Academy of Osseointegration and the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology to support research on 3-D tissue scaffolds for regenerating missing sections of skull.

“The Challenge Fund Grant will enable us to create scaffolds that combine the best elements of the earlier design we used for skull regeneration with additional biomechanical features appropriate for long bones,” explained Dr. Ricci.

Dr. Ricci and Ms. Clark are collaborating on the grant with Dr. Stephen Warren, an Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at the NYU School of Medicine, and Dr. Jim Smay and his graduate student Cornelia Vasiliu at Oklahoma State University.
NYUCD paid tribute to alumni and friends who made gifts of $1,000 and more to the College over the past year at a gala reception in June at Manhattan’s Rubin Museum of Art (RMA), the premier museum of Himalayan art in the Western world.

More than 100 guests were wined and dined against a backdrop of over 2,000 works of art featuring diverse themes ranging from female Buddhas, divine madness, and flying mystics, to the origins of ancient Himalayan religions. A team of knowledgeable and professional guides were available on the gallery floors to answer questions, engage in conversation, and help explore a stunning range of Himalayan paintings, sculpture, textiles, ritual objects, and prints spanning a period from the 2nd century to the 20th century.

“NYUCD has hosted events in many extraordinary settings,” said Dean Charles N. Bertolami. “But nothing compares to the Rubin Museum. It’s exciting and appropriate to be able to recognize our wonderful donors in a setting of such grandeur.”
Ganesha, India, 11th century, sandstone
Dr. Leonard V. Settembrini, Jr., ’88, Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, was honored at a reception in July celebrating the official naming of the Dr. Leonard V. Settembrini, Jr., Instructional Dental Technology Station.

Located in the College’s simulation laboratory, the new facility provides a high-tech platform for predoctoral clinical instruction.

In dedicating the Dr. Leonard V. Settembrini, Jr., Instructional Dental Technology Station, Dean Bertolami said, “It is always a very special occasion when we are able to honor the loyalty and generosity of someone who is both an alumnus and a faculty member. Leonard Settembrini, Jr., who is both, decided that he wanted to do something to benefit today’s students, and he has done so very impressively with the Instructional Dental Technology Station named in his honor. NYUCD is exceptionally fortunate to have his friendship and support.”

“It is always a very special occasion when we are able to honor the loyalty and generosity of someone who is both an alumnus and a faculty member.”
With family and friends looking on, Harold and Sheila Litvak joined Dean Charles N. Bertolami last June to cut the ribbon that officially dedicated the Harold and Sheila Litvak Prosthodontics Wing.

“The name Harold Litvak is synonymous with excellence in prosthodontics,” said Dean Bertolami. “It is therefore a pleasure and a privilege for the NYU College of Dentistry to have the Litvak name permanently associated with our institution.”

The Litvak Wing, housed on the outh floor of the George and Ann Witkin Graduate Center for Clinical Excellence, honors Dr. Litvak’s nearly 40 years of leadership in postdoctoral prosthodontics education and practice. Funding for the Litvak Wing came from a generous leadership gift from Dr. and Mrs. Litvak, as well as from gifts from friends and colleagues of the couple.

Dr. Jonathan Ferencz, Clinical Professor of Prosthodontics and a long-time friend of the Litvaks, who, together with his wife, Maxine, made a major gift several years ago to establish the Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, said, “Harold Litvak is dedicated to postdoctoral education, and has taught, influenced, and inspired legions of NYU prosthodontics specialty program graduates. Now, with the creation of the Litvak Prosthodontics Wing, NYUCD has an enormous opportunity to further advance prosthodontics education, research, and patient care.”
The National Science Foundation has awarded Dr. Yu Zhang, an Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, a three-year, $120,000 grant to develop design principles for formulating composite materials in layers that gradually evolve from the surface to the interior, a process known as functional grading. These materials could be used to increase load-bearing capabilities in a variety of medical, dental, and industrial applications.

Dr. Zhang’s research is related to a three-year study that he began last year with the help of a $1.2 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research/NIH to reformulate zirconia as a glass-ceramic composite to increase its fracture resistance. This composite will have a predominantly glass surface with underlying layers that gradually become more densely packed with ceramic. Dr. Zhang predicts that a composite with glass-rich surfaces will be less susceptible to top-to-bottom fractures from direct contact with hard food as well as to ruptures that occur when the bottom of the restoration buckles under pressure, and that it will have aesthetics comparable to a porcelain-veneered zirconia restoration.

In the new, NSF-funded study, Dr. Zhang will look at the feasibility of applying design principles from the zirconia-glass composite to other kinds of functionally graded composites, metal-ceramic, ceramic-polymer, and multi-ceramic, among them. Using computer modeling as well as a load-bearing simulation machine to test prototype materials, he will develop a set of biomechanical guidelines that show, for example, how to make a support beam stronger through gradually adjusting the thickness of its surface and core. Ultimately, his findings could influence the design of items as small as a dental crown and as large as a construction support beam.
Nobel Biocare Awards Go to Dr. Christian Stappert to Study Long-term Predictability of Ceramic Restorations

Dr. Christian Stappert, an Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, has been awarded seven grants totaling $310,000 from Nobel Biocare for research that will help predict the clinical performance of alumina and zirconia ceramic restorations. Dr. Stappert is the principal investigator on all seven grants.

Although more aesthetically pleasing than restorations made from metal, alumina and zirconia restorations are more prone to fracture, specifically by chipping of the veneering porcelain, motivating Dr. Stappert to investigate in greater depth.

Fundamental research on ceramic materials for crown restorations was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Senior Vice Provost for Engineering and Technology at NYU, and Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, coprincipal investigators on a $5.9 million NIH grant that examined the causes of ceramic fractures. Based on that research, Dr. Stappert uses accelerated life testing, a process that simulates oral fatigue by chewing, to develop lifetime predictions on the clinical successes of all-ceramic, implant-supported abutments, crowns, and three-unit bridges made from alumina and zirconia veneered with various porcelains.

"Accelerated life testing uses a mouth-motion chewing simulator to apply varying levels of repeated loads on the specimens until cracks develop," explained Dr. Stappert, who aims to link his findings with a subsequent clinical trial involving NYUCD patients.
NYUCD in the News
A SAMPLING OF RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

The New York Times

*The New York Times* reported on a study by Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, which found a link between pregnancy and tooth loss. The story was also reported by NBC, CBS, Fox, and CW network television news programs in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Dallas; and by *The New York State Dental Journal*, *Reuters*, *New York Post*, *Journal of the California Dental Association*, RDH Registered Dental Hygienist, *The Express (UK)*, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, and *Dentistry Today*.

USA Today quoted Dr. Mark Wolff for a story about the efficacy of OTC tooth whitening products. The story was also carried by *Allure* magazine and the *Livingston County (MI) Daily Press*. *Shape* magazine also interviewed Dr. Wolff for a story about whether or not OTC tooth whitening products eat away at dental enamel.

BusinessWeek interviewed Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Development, for a story on “dental tourism”—Americans going abroad for high-quality, low-cost dental care.

Inside Edition interviewed Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, for a story about the controversy surrounding the age of Chinese gymnasts at the 2008 Summer Olympics. *The New York Times* also interviewed Dr. Moursi on this subject.
NBC News mentioned NYUCD in a report about finding affordable dental care at dental schools.

NBC News also featured NYUCD Clinical Assistant Professor William Maloney in a report on his research into the causes of Babe Ruth’s death. WCBS Radio, Cancer Weekly, Sporting News, and numerous other media outlets also reported the story.

NBC News mentioned NYUCD

WCBS Radio interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, for a story about finding affordable dental care at dental schools. AM New York also interviewed Dr. Wolff on this topic. Woman’s Day interviewed Dr. Wolff about mercury amalgam use.

NBC News

Doctor Radio, a Sirius satellite radio channel sponsored by the NYU Langone Medical Center, featured a series of interviews with NYUCD expert faculty. Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Neal Herman, Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, provided advice for parents about children’s oral health; Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, spoke about the oral health of pregnant women; Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs and Development, spoke about general oral health care, oral cancer, and the link between oral and systemic health; Dr. Robert Glickman, Professor and Chair of the Mecca Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, spoke about advances in oral surgery; and Dr. Donna Shelley, Director of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice, spoke about smoking cessation.

Fox 5 TV featured an interview with Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, on over-the-counter tooth whiteners.

The Independent, a newspaper in upstate New York, reported on NYUCD’s first outreach to Hudson, New York, in Columbia County. (See related story on p. 78.) The only other community that NYU dental students travel to in the US is in Kasigluk, Alaska.

Boston Business Journal featured Dr. Frank Celenza, formerly Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics, for a story entitled “Dental Implants Effective for Orthodontic Treatment.”

Applied Radiology Online featured Dr. Kenneth Fleisher, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, in a story on the use of MRIs in treating temporomandibular joint disorders.
Dentistry Today reported on a study led by Dr. David Levy, Assistant Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, which found that the human body may harbor many more HIV viruses capable of replicating and contributing to the development of AIDS than previously thought. The story was also reported by Health & Medicine Week, ScienceDaily.com, FirstScience.com, Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News, Journal of the California Dental Association, and the New York State Dental Journal. (See related story on p. 38.)

Medical News Today reported on a study led by Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of the MS and Certificate Programs in Clinical Research, which found evidence of periodontal disease leading to gestational diabetes. The story was also reported by NewsRx.com; Health & Medicine Week; Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week; and Pharma Business Week.

National Geographic reported on a discovery by Dr. Timothy Bromage, Adjunct Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, of a biological clock linking tooth growth to other metabolic processes. The story was also reported by the Toronto Globe & Mail, in the online science bulletin of The American Museum of Natural History, and by Medical News Today and Physorg.com.

New York Observer interviewed Dr. Vasiliki Karlis, Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, on bruxism.

Access reported on the third annual Oral Cancer Walk, which was led by students from NYUCD/NYUCN.

Scientific Blogging News reported on research by Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and others, on how knowledge of skin’s “odor profile” may lead to early and noninvasive skin cancer detection and diagnosis. The report was also carried by EurekaAlert, MedCompare, Health News Digest, and Science Daily.

Pharma Business Week reported on a study led by Dr. Patricia Corby, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry and Assistant Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, on treatment outcomes of dental flossing in twins. The study was also reported in Obesity, Fitness and Wellness Week. (See related story on p. 34.)
NOVA interviewed Dr. Timothy Bromage, Adjunct Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, for a PBS documentary, “Alien From Earth,” about a key chapter in the human evolutionary story. The Planet Human, a Discovery Channel program about microbes in the human body, interviewed Dr. Page Cautfield, Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, for a story on oral bacteria.

Clinical Laboratory News quoted Dr. Daniel Malamud, Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program, in an article about saliva diagnostics.

Alaska News reported on an NYUCD outreach mission last February to the remote Alaskan village of Kasigluk.

Dental Products Report featured an interview with Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, on minimally invasive surgery.

TopNews Health reported on a study led by Dr. Angela Kamer, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, linking immune response to Alzheimer’s. (See related story on p. 44.)

Southern Medical Journal reported on a study by Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, which found that Black Americans are equally as willing as white Americans to participate in biomedical research studies.

Food Sleuths/ Food Network TV, interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, for a story about foods that stain teeth.
NYUCD Outreach Team Gives Upstate New York Youngsters a Head Start on Good Oral Health

Ella Mediodia, age 3, of Hudson, New York, a town in Columbia County in upstate New York, saw a dentist once—but only for a quick check-up. “The nearest pediatric dentist is 60 miles away, and we don’t have a car, so we’ve never been able to give Ella the kind of preventive care we’d like her to have,” says Ella’s mother, Ieva, expressing a common concern among the town’s low-income families, who make up the majority of the 8,000 people living in Hudson, two hours outside of New York City.

NYUCD was invited by a local advocacy group, the Columbia Healthcare Consortium, to help put Head Start children and their families on the path to improved oral health. After successfully navigating New York State’s many challenging requirements, on October 19, a 25-member team accompanied the Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental van to Hudson, carrying with them all the supplies and dental equipment needed to set up a temporary clinic at a local community center, where they remained for one week. On Sunday, the day of arrival, the team provided an oral hygiene education session for approximately 200 parents; the next day they began providing dental exams, prophylaxes, fluoride varnishes, sealants, and oral hygiene instruction to 190 children, ages 3 to 5, from nine Head Start programs in Columbia and nearby Greene County. More than half of the children needed extractions and restorations. In addition, emergency care was provided to nearly 200 siblings and adult family members.

The team, led by Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs and Development, included Sherwin Benlevi, Nausheen Ekram, education session for approximately 200 parents; the next day they began providing dental exams, prophylaxes, fluoride varnishes, sealants, and oral hygiene instruction to 190 children, ages 3 to 5, from nine Head Start programs in Columbia and nearby Greene County. More than half of the children needed extractions and restorations. In addition, emergency care was provided to nearly 200 siblings and adult family members.
Jennifer Frangos, Jennifer Hardesty, Brian Rooney, and Tatyana Vazemiller, all of the Class of 2009; Vincent Wong and Joseph Padula of the Dental Hygiene Program Class of 2009; pediatric dentistry residents Dr. Ryan Owaski, Dr. Jane Yu, Dr. Angela Lee, and Dr. Nicky Treesh; Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Richard I. Vogel, Executive Vice Dean of NYUCD; Dr. Maurice Edwards, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Ms. Jill Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Charlie Larsen, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Ms. Rachel Hill, Program Director, Office of International Programs and Development; and Ms. Lauren Meyers, Director of International Programs.

“Because the rates of tooth decay here are about double those we’ve seen in New York City children, Columbia County seemed a logical choice for our first outreach in New York State outside of the New York City metropolitan area,” said Dr. Moursi, who attributed the high rate of decay primarily to an absence of fluoride in Columbia County’s water supply.

“Since these children are so young, and tend to be apprehensive about dental treatment,” added Dr. Moursi, “we treated only those with the more advanced cases of decay. For the rest of the children, whose decay is not yet serious, the fluoride varnishes we’re providing will arrest the process of decay until they’re older and less fearful of treatment.”

NYUCD will conduct follow-up visits to reapply the varnishes approximately every three months for a year. “This plan roughly follows the model we created for the remote, underserved village of Kasigluk, Alaska, which we first visited on an outreach mission last February,” said Dr. Hirsch.

“Kasigluk and Hudson have comparable rates of decay, and, in both places, we are returning to reapply fluoride varnishes with the goal of reducing decay rates by at least 50 percent in one year.”

The outreach mission was cosponsored by the Columbia County Head Start program and Columbia Memorial Hospital. The Crosswinds at Hudson housing development provided its community center for the mission.
Clinical News Feature Added to Web Site

The NYU College of Dentistry recently added a new feature to its Web site, a Clinical News section designed to share news of NYUCD clinical developments with the practicing community and the public. To reach the site, go to www.nyu.edu/dental and click on “Clinical Updates” in the lower left hand corner for information on new dental procedures, diagnostic methods, and patient services and programs, several of which are summarized below.

Tobacco Cessation Programs for Individuals and Groups

Tobacco cessation programs for both individuals and groups are now available at the NYU College of Nursing Faculty Practice located at the College of Dentistry. For more information, contact Ms. Madeleine Lloyd, Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Director of the Nursing Faculty Practice, at 212.998.9420.

Sleep Apnea Sufferers Benefit from Advanced Surgical Technique

An advanced surgical technique for treating sleep apnea could become the first reliable approach to relieving the condition’s symptoms, reducing complications, and eliminating side effects. The technique was developed by Dr. Kenneth Fleisher, an Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the NYU College of Dentistry. Dr. Fleisher combines a modest surgical approach with a tongue suspension, a process of creating additional space around the upper airway. For more information, call 212.998.9329.
Jaw Orthopedics: A New Paradigm for TMD Treatment Helps People Lead Pain-free Lives

The NYU College of Dentistry is offering a new treatment called “jaw orthopedics,” which allows people suffering from TMD (temporomandibular disorder) to lead pain-free lives. Until recently, treatment was limited to removal of the joint without reconstruction. But the past several years have seen a refinement not only of imaging technologies, but also of reconstruction materials that has made the kind of treatment that NYU offers the standard of care for adults.

To create a joint prosthesis that fits perfectly, the NYU team uses the latest CT-scan imaging. A very accurate computer-designed, custom-made prosthesis is constructed from that imaging. The prosthesis has an estimated lifespan of between 20 and 30 years. For more information, call 212.998.9329.

2008 SUMMIT ON ORAL HEALTH CARE, HIV, AND AIDS COSPONSORED BY NYUCD

On October 3, 2008, NYUCD cosponsored a full-day conference aimed at improving the oral health of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The conference was sponsored by the New York State Dental Foundation, in partnership with the New York State Dental Association, NYU College of Dentistry, New York/New Jersey AIDS Education and Training Center, Penn Well Corporation, and Delta Dental.

NYUCD faculty speakers included Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology, & Medicine, and Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology, & Medicine, who copresented a lecture entitled “HIV, Smoking, and Oral Lesions.”

Information on oral-based, rapid HIV testing was presented by Dr. Jennifer Cleveland of the Division of Oral Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. David Reznik, President of the Web-based HIV information service, HIVdent.

A pilot study is currently underway at NYUCD to determine the feasibility of offering HIV testing to patients on a routine basis.
In the past several years, NYUCD has increased its DDS student retention rate exponentially, with the current retention rate for NYU dental students at nearly 100 percent. To put this in context, while the national attrition rate is between three and four percent, NYUCD’s attrition rate is well under one percent. What makes this so amazing is that there are approximately 1,300 students in the D1 through D4 classes.

That’s not all. While the national failure rate on Part I of the National Board Examination in Dentistry in April 2008 was 3.7 percent, NYU students showed a failure rate of 1.8 percent. This is another incredible achievement, inasmuch as the NYU College of Dentistry student body is four to five times that of a typical dental school—suggesting that board scores would be expected to regress toward the national mean. Instead, the data show that NYU students are raising the bar on performance standards.

But statistics tell only part of the story. The engine that drives these outcomes is fueled by our wonderful faculty and by the talented and dedicated administrators in the Offices of Academic Affairs, Admissions, and Student Affairs, who have created powerful partnerships dedicated to providing meaningful and timely assistance and support to students. It’s an unbeatable combination—superb, highly motivated students, and faculty and staff with the vision, skill, and commitment to make certain that they succeed.
MS Program in Biology/Oral Biology Welcomes First Class

NYUCD hosted a welcoming ceremony for the first class enrolled in the MS degree program in biology/oral biology, a collaboration of NYUCD and the Department of Biology at NYU’s Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS). The incoming class consists of six students from the United States, India, and Korea.

Standing, from left, are Mr. Kyungsik Yang and Dr. Aparna Durve (incoming students); Dr. Peter Sacks, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Graduate Coordinator of the program at NYUCD; Ms. Hai Yan Gaw (incoming student); Dr. Page Caufield, Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of the program at NYUCD; and Mr. Christensen Martin (incoming student). Seated, from left, are: Ms. Myriam Rodriguez, Administrative Aide in the Department of Biology at GSAS; Dr. Christine Rushlow, Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the program for the GSAS Department of Biology; Ms. Laura Gart and Ms. Amanda Silverman (incoming students).
Santa Fe Group’s First Annual Meskin Symposium Held at NYUCD

The Santa Fe Group’s first annual Meskin Symposium, dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Lawrence H. Meskin, a founding member of the Santa Fe Group (SFG), was held at NYUCD in June. The two-day symposium, “Expanding Access to Primary Care: New Oral Health Workforce Models,” was presented in partnership with the New York Academy of Medicine, the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU, and the Center for Health Professions at the University of California at San Francisco. SFG is a public health think tank focused on critical issues in health, especially oral health.

Topics included “New Models for Health Care Delivery in Dental Practice,” “Ethical (and Other) Issues Related to Improvement of Access to Oral Health Care,” and “The States’ Role in Workforce Policy: Battlefield or Playground?”

The event drew nearly 70 leaders in dentistry, other healthcare professions, public policy, and the corporate sector for a discussion of possible strategies and potential solutions to the issue of the adequacy of the current workforce to meet present and future challenges of primary healthcare delivery.

According to Dean Charles N. Bertolami, a member of SFG, “Identifying methods to increase the oral health workforce to improve the health of the public is a complex and global issue that is at the heart of the SFG project, which began in 2000, when eight health professions leaders met to share their common concern for the health of the American people, especially the often overlooked area of oral health. NYUCD is honored to have been selected to host the first Meskin Symposium, which pays tribute to a leader whose vision and commitment were key to SFG’s growing success over the years.”
Are you green enough? That was the question raised at “Greening Day,” an event sponsored by the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing on September 18 to motivate both communities to think about their impact on the environment and begin to change behavior and mindset toward more socially responsible, environmentally sustainable actions.

Nearly 400 students, faculty, and staff came together on the Alfano Commons at the College of Dentistry to learn how to recycle and conserve energy both in the workplace and at home. The event featured “green” office products, such as nontoxic cleaning materials; a raffle drawing for free “Are You Green Enough?” T-shirts emblazoned with an enormous green frog; subscriptions to National Geographic’s Green Guide magazine; and meal vouchers donated by CulinArt, the dental school’s food service vendor, which served organic cuisine at the event.

NYUCD Executive Associate Dean for Finance and Administration Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, a cochair of the joint NYUCD/NYUCN Greening Committee, said, “All the members of the Greening Committee are volunteers, who are motivated exclusively by a commitment to and a passion for the environment. As the number of people involved in sustainability programming grows through recruitment of additional students, faculty, and staff volunteers to oversee energy conservation and recycling in individual academic, administrative, and clinical departments, I predict that the Greening Committee will become a major force on campus.”
In 2003, NYUCD recruited 13 third-year students to participate in an experimental program, the elective in Teaching Skills Program, which is designed to provide opportunities for students to serve as teaching assistants (TAs) helping first-year students with their preclinical requirements. The students were selected on the basis of their performance in first-year preclinical courses and their standing in the top half of their class.

All TAs are trained in peer-teaching techniques, and spend one session per week in the simulation laboratory assisting first-year students with activities such as creating wax models of teeth and learning proper instrument use.

The program has been a great success, as evidenced by the fact that former TAs Dr. Brian Fabb and Dr. Adam Travon, Class of 2006, have joined NYUCD’s faculty as Instructors in Cariology and Comprehensive Care. Currently, there are two dozen third-year students working as TAs.

In September, NYUCD began building further on the program’s success by adding nine fourth-year TAs to help third-year TAs with treatment planning and routine procedures.

“By giving TAs a taste of what it is like to teach, the elective in Teaching Skills Program has motivated several of them to consider careers in dental education,” said program director Dr. Maureen McAndrew, a Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care.

Dentistry Lectures Go Online

NYU dental students may never again have to worry about missing a word of lectures. As of September 2008, when College of Dentistry professors present lectures, the lesson is automatically recorded digitally and uploaded to the iTunes U section of the iTunes music store. The lectures are available only to NYU College of Dentistry students and faculty.

NYUCD is the first school at NYU to offer students this new technology. “What we’ve done at NYUCD is a model, in both the physical infrastructure and the faculty/student workflow,” says Dr. Elise S. Eisenberg, Director of Dental Informatics and Digital Services at the College. “I predict that this will expand to become the norm across all schools at NYU.”

Created in 2006, iTunes U is a software program specifically geared toward assisting the academic development of students through the provision of podcasts and transferable audio files. As the program evolves, more universities are using it as a tool to supplement classes. The digital information network of iTunes increases students’ familiarity with class material by enabling them to replay audio clips from previous lectures and upload podcasts directly to their iPods.

“I believe that we can increase interactivity with students during class time by providing material ahead of time for students to review,” says Dr. Eisenberg.

Adds Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, “It is my firm belief that digital recording of lectures, sound, and video will be the way all education is delivered in the near future. Classrooms will become virtual and asynchronous; iTunes U is a first step in that direction.”

NYUCD is the first school at NYU to offer students this new technology.
Dr. Dianne Rekow, formerly Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, has been named NYU’s Senior Vice Provost for Engineering and Technology. In her new position, Dr. Rekow is leading three major initiatives.

She is responsible for completing the consolidation of NYU and Polytechnic University, which became affiliated with NYU in July 2007, and is now known as the Polytechnic Institute of NYU. Once the two institutions are fully integrated, Polytechnic is expected to become a school within NYU. Dr. Rekow began working on the NYU-Polytechnic consolidation in the fall of 2007, when she was appointed Special Adviser to the President and Provost on Engineering at NYU. Her significant involvement in fostering the relationship between NYU and Polytechnic, and her expertise as a scientist and engineer, led to her appointment as Senior Vice Provost for Engineering and Technology.

Dr. Rekow will also lead development and implementation of an engineering curriculum for NYU’s new campus in Abu Dhabi. This effort offers a special opportunity for closer integration of science, technology, and liberal arts.

The third initiative is to build new research teams across schools and disciplines, both within NYU, and between NYU and Polytechnic.
Already a number of research collaborations are underway that include the College of Dentistry:

- An NSF-funded Materials Research Science and Engineering Center headed by Dr. Michael Ward of NYU’s Department of Chemistry and Dr. David Pine of the Department of Physics includes researchers and collaborators from NYU’s Departments of Chemistry and Physics, the College of Dentistry, and Poly.

- A Gates Foundation-funded collaboration on gaming includes NYUCD and Poly investigators.

- Many additional relationships are evolving, particularly between NYUCD’s Biomaterials and Biomimetics faculty and Poly faculty.

- 38 proposals for new Provost-funded seed funds were received in November. These have one principal investigator from Poly and one from NYU. Review is now underway, and $1 million on new joint initiatives will be funded during calendar year 2009. The first round of funding will be announced on February 1.

Because of the demands of her new administrative post, Dr. Rekow has relinquished her position as Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. Dr. Robert Boylan, Associate Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, has been named Interim Chair while a search is conducted to find a permanent replacement for Dr. Rekow. (See related story on p. 48.) She will retain her faculty appointment as a Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology.

An NSF-funded Materials Research Science and Engineering Center headed by Dr. Michael Ward of NYU’s Department of Chemistry and Dr. David Pine of the Department of Physics includes researchers and collaborators from NYU’s Departments of chemistry and physics, the College of Dentistry, and Poly.
The YWCA of the City of New York has inducted Dr. Terry Fulmer, the Erlene Perkins McGiff Professor and Dean of the NYU College of Nursing, into its Academy of Women Leaders. Dean Fulmer joins more than 3,000 women inducted by the YWCA since 1974 for their outstanding professional achievements, civic commitment, and demonstrated leadership. She was honored at the YWCA’s Salute to Women Leaders Lunch at the New York Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan on November 17.

“Terry’s induction into the Academy of Women Leaders is a tribute to her professional achievements in nursing education, research, and clinical care, and to her contributions to improved public health,” said Dean Bertolami. A New York Times ad, right, celebrated Dr. Fulmer and the other women leaders inducted into the Academy in 2008.
The American Association of Medical Colleges’ MedEdPortal has accepted a submission from Dr. Marjan Moghadam, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics and Codirector of the Fixed Prosthodontics Clinic, and Dr. Bijan Khaknegar-Moghadam, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics and Preclinical Course Director in Removable Prosthodontics. The editor was so impressed with the submission that she subsequently invited Dr. Moghadam and Dr. Khaknegar-Moghadam to submit NYUCD’s entire Preclinical Manual for Removable Prosthodontics, which they also coauthored.

MedEdPortal is a central repository of high-quality, peer-reviewed, online educational resources that was launched by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) in 2006. Last spring, the AAMC and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) formed a partnership that allowed the AAMC to expand its MedEdPortal teaching tools to include submissions from dental professionals. This initiative has been strongly supported by Dean Bertolami in his role as ADEA President.

“I hope that Dr. Moghadam and Dr. Khaknegar-Moghadam will be an inspiration to others considering the submission of their teaching materials to MedEdPortal,” said Dean Bertolami. “This invaluable storehouse of knowledge and tools, contributed to by faculty and students throughout the world, is available free to other educators and learners, thereby diminishing the need to duplicate valuable and expensive-to-produce resources. While it’s widely recognized that educators have long invested time and intellectual capital creating tools with which to teach, they do not always receive recognition for doing so. By submitting to MedEdPortal, they receive rigorous peer review and feedback. If the materials are accepted for publication in MedEdPortal, educators receive recognition for their scholarship, which may be used to support promotion and tenure decisions.”

Last spring, the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) formed a partnership that allowed the AAMC to expand its MedEdPortal teaching tools to include submissions from dental professionals.
June 16, 2008, article in the “Viewpoint” section of the ADA News by NYUCD student Ryan S. Lee, Class of 2010, and president of the NYU chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), has ignited discussion throughout the profession about how dentists see themselves and how they are willing to be viewed by the larger community.

“A Dental Student Living in Harlem” recounts a period in Ryan’s life that led him to re-examine his reasons for becoming a dentist. Although he says he was motivated to move to Harlem by a “shameless search for cheaper rent,” his surroundings had the unintended consequence of provoking him to reflect on how the lure of “immense financial success as future dentists”—epitomized for him by the possibility of owning a Maserati—can make “the humanitarian needs around us easy to miss.”

As Ryan began to register the impact of the lack of amenities and conveniences in his Harlem neighborhood—such as nearby supermarkets, taxis, after-school programs, and Kaplan SAT Centers, as well as accessible health care—he realized that he had embarked on a journey of self-discovery, or, as he put it, “a path of fascinating lessons and newfound passions I never would have encountered elsewhere.” With his feelings of entitlement challenged, Ryan committed himself to trying to close some of the gaps in his neighborhood’s needs. He ran for and was elected to the local community board, contacted local politicians to arrange for free volunteer dental care for several thousand residents in his apartment complex, and began free SAT mentoring for local teens on weekends.

Ryan concludes with a challenge to fellow students that is leavened with humor. “If your future vision includes a Maserati,” he says, “make sure to park it in Harlem every once in a while.”

By showing us the impact on real people of a lack of basic needs, including access to dental care, and by giving us a bird’s-eye view of one student’s struggle with the ethical and moral issues encountered on the path to becoming a doctor, Ryan has made an indelible mark on his profession, and NYUCD salutes him on his achievement.
The Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing have launched a new initiative, “Staff Stars,” a year-long program designed to prepare clinical and administrative staff for supervisory positions.

“The Staff Stars program enables us to develop a pool of staff members who have the necessary skills to step in when a supervisory position opens up,” said Dr. Lisa Biagas, Senior Director for Human Resources and Faculty Services, who cofounded the program with Mr. Ira Beresnoy, Senior Director for Clinic Operations and Extramural Programs.

Fifteen staff members were selected to participate in the first program. They attend monthly skill-building workshops led by Dr. Biagas and facilitated by guest speakers, among them Dean Bertolami; Dr. Michael O’Connor, Executive Associate Dean for Administration & Finance; and Ms. Myrna Sobel, an instructor in the Leadership and Human Capital Management program at NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Workshop topics include supervision and team building, conflict resolution, and business-writing skills.

Stars were nominated by their supervisors and selected on the basis of a short essay describing their career plans and the skills they hoped to acquire. The 15 initial Staff Stars are: Veronica Burden, Patient Account Aide, Office of Financial Management and Business Operations; Tyrone Pearson, Sterilization Technician, Central Sterilization; Seth Yeboah, Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations; Ruthie Davis, Lead Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations; Russell Carre, Supply Assistant, Clinic Operations; Robin Elliot, Lead Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations; Richard Anchundia, Administrative Aide, Office of Student Affairs and Admissions; Maritza Gordian, Surgical Technician, Clinic Operations; Lionel Dawkins, Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations; Dina Figueroa-Bell, Administrative Aide, Health Screening Unit; Cynthia Ruiz, Dental Imaging Technician, Office of Information Systems; Carmelita Maurentt, Senior HR Assistant, Office of Human Resources and Faculty Services; and Alicia Hudson, Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations, all at the College of Dentistry; and Jacqueline Johnson, Administrative Aide, Office of Student Affairs and Admissions, and Donna Francis, Administrative Aide, Office of Administration, Finance and Planning, both at the College of Nursing.
NYUCD’s tradition of welcoming incoming students with a White Coat Ceremony expanded in fall 2008, with the addition of a separate, formal White Coat Ceremony for students in the Advanced Placement DDS program, who begin their classes in June. The Advanced Placement Program is designed for internationally trained dentists who want to practice dentistry in the United States.

“The White Coat Ceremony symbolizes the commitment of our faculty to be with students every step of the way from day one,” said Mr. Steve Bolan, Director of Student Affairs. “In order to deliver this message to all of our students as soon as possible upon their arrival at NYUCD, we have decided to hold separate White Coat Ceremonies each year for the incoming advanced placement and DDS program classes.”
Following the White Coat Ceremony for Advanced Placement students in July, the DDS Program Class of 2012 was welcomed in September with its own White Coat Ceremony. Both ceremonies featured welcoming remarks by Dean Bertolami, recitation of a Student Pledge affirming commitment to professionalism, humanism, integrity, and ethics, and, most dramatically, the donning of white coats by students for the first time.

INTRODUCING THE MANHATTAN TOBACCO CESSATION PROGRAM TEAM

The Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program (MTCP), which moved from Columbia University to NYUCD last spring, is headed by Dr. Donna E. Shelley, Director of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice, second from left, shown here with team members Ms. Andrea Aldana, Administrative Assistant in the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Ms. Ashley Mevi and Ms. Jennifer Cantrell, Research Scientists in the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.
More than 90 students from 23 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and North and South America joined faculty from the Advanced Program for International Dentists at the start of the 2008-09 academic year for a welcoming boat cruise around Manhattan and a cocktail reception at the Manhattan Penthouse, a Fifth Avenue loft offering panoramic views of New York City.

“This year’s incoming class of 95 students is the largest and most diverse ever,” said Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs and Development.

The Advanced Program for International Dentists offers full-time, postgraduate-level continuing education courses varying in length from one to two years for dentists who practice outside the United States.
Last spring, the American Dental Association invited leading practitioners and dental educators from around the country, including three professors from NYU, to participate in a series of nationwide initiatives designed to promote the use of an evidence-based approach to dental practice.

Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, and Dr. Silvia Spivakovsky, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, were selected to be part of a group of 127 practitioners who are serving as Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) Champions, or advocates for EBD in their local communities. The Champions help to promote and implement the scientific principles and merits of EBD to support the timely transfer of clinically relevant knowledge among their peers and colleagues through various dissemination mechanisms. Applications are currently available for the 2009 Champions Conference on the ADA’s Web site (www.ada.org).

“The goal,” said Dr. Wolff, “is to replace the long-standing paradigm of following tradition and authority in healthcare decision making with an emphasis on critical thinking.”

Added Dr. Spivakovsky, “I teach my students how to formulate a question for a literature search and how to evaluate evidence from different sources, based on such factors as whether a particular scientific study was appropriately designed to answer the question that the student posed.”

The ADA also selected Dr. Analia Veitz-Keenan, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, to join a second group of 21 practitioners who are responsible for distilling systematic reviews into one-page, easy-to-read summaries. The Journal of the American Dental Association will publish a selected summary each month beginning in 2009. All summaries will be posted on a new Web site devoted to EBD that is scheduled to debut in spring 2009.

NYUCD featured in ADA video on innovations in dental education

NYUCD’s 11th floor simulation laboratory, the VitalBook digital curriculum, and plastinated anatomy specimens were featured in a video presentation on innovations in dental education that was shown in October at the opening ceremonies of the American Dental Association’s 2008 annual session in San Antonio. The video was commissioned by the ADA’s philanthropic and charitable arm, the ADA Foundation.

“More than half of all the video footage was shot at NYUCD,” said Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who was NYUCD’s point person for the project. “This is a tribute to NYUCD’s leadership and commitment to innovation in dental education.”
Who has not been moved by the 1948 photo of a frail Babe Ruth in his Yankee pinstripes bidding farewell to his fans in Yankee Stadium? Two months later, at age 53, he died, reportedly of throat cancer brought on by a fondness for tobacco and liquor.

But that’s all wrong, according to an article published in the July 2008 _Journal of the American Dental Association_, in which Dr. William J. Maloney, ’02, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Dr. Mea A. Weinberg, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, report previously unknown information about Babe Ruth’s fatal disease and the Yankee star’s final days.

According to Drs. Maloney and Weinberg, Babe Ruth did not die of throat cancer as long believed, but rather of a very rare cancer, nasopharyngeal carcinoma.
willingness to take part in an experimental treatment that might someday help others.

According to Drs. Maloney and Weinberg, despite biographers’ claims that Babe Ruth died of throat cancer as a consequence of heavy drinking and smoking, he actually died of a very rare cancer, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, which causes less than one percent of deaths in the US, though the cancer is far more prevalent in parts of Southeast Asia and northern Africa. What Drs. Maloney and Weinberg also discovered was that Babe Ruth was the first person to try a new chemotherapy drug developed by oncologist Richard Lewisohn, over the objections of colleagues who said it was too unproven to try on humans.

The use of the new drug, teropetrin, worked well for Ruth for a short time. It also laid the groundwork for a whole range of more successful chemotherapy treatments.

The JADA article came to the attention of Babe Ruth’s granddaughter, Linda Ruth Tosetti, who says she was pleased to learn that her grandfather had taken part in an experimental treatment without any promise of success.

“I was stunned,” says Ms. Tosetti. It was the first I was reading that my grandfather did not have throat cancer and that he had volunteered for early cancer research trials. I want people to know that he was a humanitarian as well as the greatest slugger in baseball history. He followed his heart, not what people told him to do, but what was right. He gave to the very end.”
Hundres of friends, colleagues, students, family members, and patients of the late Dr. Jonathan A. Ship came together on October 26, 2008, to celebrate the memory of a great teacher, mentor, scientist, clinician, family man, and beloved friend, who passed away in April. The program honored Jon’s family: his wife, Shari; his children, Nina, Zach, and Max; his mother, Gabriella; his brother, Jordan; and his sister, Sara.

Dr. Louis Terracio, Associate Dean for Research, welcomed guests and introduced a video of Jon’s life that exemplified his leadership, humanity, humor, and joy in living.

Dean Charles N. Bertolami called Dr. Ship a “hero,” a word that perfectly captured Jon’s spirit.

“A hero,” said Dean Bertolami, quoting Time magazine writer William C. Adriaanse, “is a person who does something for others that they cannot do for themselves in times when others would not do it.”

Speakers came from around the country and around the world to celebrate Jon’s life and legacy. They included Dr. Bruce Baum, Chief, Gene Transfer Section, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)/NIH; Dr. Lawrence Tabak, Director, NIDCR; Dr. Peter J. Polverini, Dean, University of Michigan School of Dentistry; Dr. Joan A. Phelan, Chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, NYUCD; Mr. Rene Lopez, former administrator of NYUCD’s Bluestone Center for Clinical Research; Dr. Angus W.G. Walls, Professor, Restorative Dentistry, Newcastle University School of Dental Sciences; Dr. A. Ross Kerr, Director, Oral Mucosal Disease Service, NYUCD; Dr. David A. Sirois, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, NYUCD; Dr. Eric D’Hondt, former student, University of Michigan School of Dentistry; Dr. Martin S. Greenberg, Professor and Chair, Oral Medicine, and Associate Dean, Hospital Affairs, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine; Dr. Ron Craig, PEARL Network Executive Management Team and Director, Information Dissemination Core, NYUCD; and, by video, Dr. Michael C. Alfano, Executive Vice President of NYU and former Dean of NYUCD; and Dr. Michael A. Siegel, Professor and Chair, Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine.

The program concluded with a moving musical tribute performed by Jon’s nephew, Will Levenson, accompanied on the piano by Andrew Hertz, and the presentation to Mrs. Shari Ship of a book dedicated to Jon’s life and memory that had been compiled by Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. To view a video of the memorial service, please go to http://www.nyu.edu/dental/shipmemorial/
The International College of Dentists (ICD) has awarded its 2008 Platinum Pencil Journalism Award to Global Health Nexus. The award recognizes the excellence of our spring 2007 issue, “Dentistry’s Role in Primary Health Care,” and our fall 2007 issue, “Mentoring: Getting the Inside Scoop.” Dean Bertolami called the award “another example of Global Health Nexus’s impact both nationally and internationally and of NYUCD/NYUCN’s commitment to effective communication across our campus and around the world.” He also congratulated GHN editor, Elyse Bloom, on her exceptional success in directing this publication and on the influence it has exerted in the dental community. GHN was founded in 1999 by former Dean Michael C. Alfano.
Dr. Herbert H. Frommer, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, retired in August 2008, after nearly 40 years as a professor and director of radiology at NYUCD, and was conferred the title of Professor Emeritus of Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, in recognition of his scholarly contributions and service to the University and its College of Dentistry.

“Dr. Frommer probably trained more dentists in radiology than anyone else in the country,” said Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of Pathology, Radiology & Medicine. “His legendary impact as an educator is equaled only by his wisdom and compassion as a human being,” she added.

A recipient of NYU’s prestigious Distinguished Teaching Award, NYU’s highest honor for teaching, Dr. Frommer is an author of the classic text *Radiology for the Dental Professional*, now in its eighth edition. An exemplary citizen of the University, he served for many years as NYUCD’s representative to the University Senate.

“Dental students must have excellent role models in order to develop properly and fulfill their potential both personally and professionally,” said Dean Bertolami. “Herb Frommer is one such role model. Herb has always been committed to personal and professional excellence and has been satisfied with nothing less from his students and colleagues. We wish him the best of health and happiness in his retirement.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Dr. R.G. “Wick” Alexander, Clinical Professor of Orthodontics, on authoring an article entitled “Space Closure in Patients With Missing Mandibular Incisors” for the Journal of Clinical Orthodontics.

Dr. Kenneth Allen, ’73, Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on authoring an article entitled “The Effect of Chewing Gum on Learning as Measured by Test Performance” for Nutrition Bulletin, with Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

Dr. Arthur Ashman, Clinical Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on receiving the Isaiah Lew Award, a lifetime achievement in research award, presented by the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

Dr. Gary S. Berkowitz, ’76, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on becoming a Group Practice Director.

Dr. Charles N. Bertolami, Herman Robert Fox Dean, on presenting the Mermelstein Lecture on Ethics at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry.

Ms. Madiha Bhatti, on joining NYUCD as Student Affairs Administrator. Ms. Bhatti will be responsible for overseeing NYUCD’s student clubs and organizations and promoting student leadership skills and diversity initiatives.

Ms. Annie Cella, a licensed clinical social worker, on joining the Clinical Affairs team as a Social Worker and Patient Advocate.

Dr. Stephen J. Chu, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on authoring an article entitled “Range and Mean Discordance of Individual Tooth Width of the Mandibular Anterior Dentition” for PPAD Practical Procedures & Aesthetic Dentistry.

Dr. Patricia Corby, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry and Assistant
Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, on coauthoring an article entitled “Treatment Outcomes of Dental Flossing in Twins: Molecular Analysis of the Interproximal Microflora” for the *Journal of Periodontology*.

**Dr. Frederick A. Curro,** Clinical Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and member of the PEARL Executive Management Team, on authoring an article entitled “Gum Chewing as an Adjunct to Use of Medications” for the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

**Dr. Renata Dias,** of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on being appointed a Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**Dr. Elise Eisenberg,** ’84, Clinical Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and Director of Informatics & Digital Support Services, on being appointed to represent ADEA on the steering committee for an academics informatics proposal being developed by the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

**Ms. Jill B. Fernandez,** Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “A Unique Role for Dental School Faculty: Telephone Triage Training and Integration into a Health Department’s Emergency Response Planning” for the *American Journal of Disaster Medicine*, with Dr. David L. Glotzer, ’58, Clinical Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Dr. Walter J. Psoter, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

**Dr. Michael B. Ferguson,** Clinical Associate Professor of Prosthodontics, on being named Codirector of predoctoral fixed prosthodontics clinics, and on authoring a review article entitled “All Eyes Are on the New Flashlite Magna LED Curing Light” for *Inside Dentistry*.
Dr. Stefan Fickl, of Munich, Germany, on being appointed a Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Dr. Gene S. Fisch, Research Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on authoring an article entitled “ Syndromes and Epistemology II: Is Autism a Polygenic Disorder?” for the American Journal of Medical Genetics.

Ms. Shellie D. Fizer, on being promoted to Program Administrator of the Continuing Dental Education Program.

Dr. Kenneth Fleisher, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on coauthoring an article entitled “ MRI of Temporomandibular Joint Disorders” for Applied Radiology Online, and on coauthoring an article entitled “ Tetracycline-Guided Debridement and Cone Beam Computed Tomography for the Treatment of Bisphosphonate-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw: A Technical Note” for the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, with Dr. Shailesh Kottal, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; Dr. Robert G. Norman, Research Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; and Dr. Robert S. Glickman, Professor and Chair of the Mecca Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.

Ms. Sonia Forbes, on being promoted to Administrator in the Department of Prosthodontics.

Ms. Winnie Furnari, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene and a member of the NYUCD Council on Ethics and Professionalism, on being elected to the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Committee on Ethics.

Dr. David L. Glotzer, ’58, Clinical Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on authoring an article entitled “ Bioterrorism Update—Information for the Dentist” for the Academy of General Dentistry Online Library. Dr. Glotzer’s coauthors included Dr. Walter J. Psoter, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, and Dr. Robert J. Boylan, Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology. Added kudos to Dr. Glotzer for coauthoring “ A Modest Proposal: Helping to Meet the Surge Environment in a Disaster,” a chapter in Emergency Medicine Research Advances published by Nova. Dr. Glotzer’s coauthors included
Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Benjamin Godder, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care; Dr. Miriam Robbins, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; and Dr. Psoter.

Dr. Gary Goldstein, ’69, Professor of Prosthodontics, on coauthoring an article entitled “Clinical Recommendations for Avoiding and Managing Surgical Complications Associated With Implant Dentistry: A Review,” for the Journal of Periodontology, with Dr. John Cavallaro, Clinical Associate Professor of Prosthodontics; Dr. George Romanos, Clinical Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry; and Dr. Dennis Tarnow, ’72, Professor and Chair of the Ashman Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry. Added kudos to Dr. Goldstein for coauthoring “Immediate Complete Denture for Lichen Planus Site” for Dental Abstracts. Dr. Goldstein’s coauthors included Dr. Michael Bral, Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry.

Ms. Cara Gustman, on being promoted to International Programs Administrator in the Office of International Programs.

Dr. David Hirsch, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, on being inducted into the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Leila Jahangiri, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, on coauthoring articles entitled “A Model for an Integrated Predoctoral Implant Curriculum: Implementation and Outcomes” for the Journal of Dental Education, with Dr. Mijin Choi, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, and “Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness in US Dental Schools and the Value of Triangulation” for the Journal of Dental Education, with Dr. Thomas Mucciolo, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics; Dr. Choi; and Dr. Andrew Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Vasiliki Karlis, Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, on being inducted into the American College of Surgeons.
Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring the following articles: “The Legacy of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study: Its Impact on Willingness to Participate in Biomedical Research Studies” for the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, and “Willingness to Participate in Cancer Screenings: Blacks vs. Whites vs. Puerto Rican Hispanics” for *Cancer Control*, with Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Director of the Oral Mucosal Disease Service, on coauthoring an article entitled “Adjunctive Techniques for Oral Cancer Examination and Lesion Diagnosis” for the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

Dr. Mitchell J. Lipp, ’87, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, on authoring an article entitled “An ‘Objectified’ Competency-Based Course in the Management of Malocclusion and Skeletal Problems” for the *Journal of Dental Education*.

Ms. Kerry Longobardi, on joining NYUCD as a Human Resources Generalist in the Office of Human Resources & Faculty Services.

Dr. William J. Maloney, ’92, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on coauthoring with Dr. Mea A. Weinberg, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, an article entitled “A Comprehensive Analysis of the Head and Neck Cancer of Babe Ruth” for the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, and “Implementation of the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Physical Classification System in Periodontal Practice” for the *Journal of Periodontology*. Added congratulations to Dr. Maloney on receiving a Certificate of Recognition presented by the ADA and the *Journal of Evidence-based Dentistry*.

Dr. Martine R. Mandracchia, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on becoming a Group Practice Director.
Mr. Kent M. Mark, on joining NYUCD as Web Manager in the Office of Dental Informatics.

Dr. Marjan Moghadam, ’02, Clinical Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, on being appointed Codirector of predoctoral fixed prosthodontics clinics.

Dr. Douglas Morse, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on authoring an article entitled “Detection of Very Early Oral Cancers in Puerto Rico” for the American Journal of Public Health, with Dr. Walter Psoter, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, and Dr. Gustavo Cruz, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, on presenting the 2008 OKU Distinguished Lecture at NYUCD on “The Age of Innocence and Early Intervention: Oral Health Care for Our Youngest Patients.”

Ms. Topaz Murray, on being appointed an Assistant Clinic Manager in the Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry.

Dr. Brendan O’Connor, Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, on being profiled by the Irish Voice.

Dr. Ivy D. Peltz, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on becoming a candidate in the PhD program in Higher Education Administration at the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development.

Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, on copresenting a lecture at the Summit on Oral Health Care, HIV and AIDS entitled “HIV, Smoking and Oral Lesions,” with Dr. Ross Kerr, Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Director of the Oral Mucosal Disease Service.

Dr. Walter J. Psoter, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “National Emergency Response Programs for Dental Health Care Professionals” for the Journal of the American Dental Association, with Dr. Robert J. Boylan, Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Douglas E. Morse, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; and Dr. David L. Glotzer, ’58, Clinical Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Seung-Hee Rhee, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology
Ms. Theresa Rinaldi, on being promoted to Alumni Outreach Coordinator in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

Ms. Jane Rosenthal, Assistant Director for Student Retention & Academic Advising, on being invited to speak about the great success of NYUCD’s student retention program at conferences in Ireland and Toronto in 2009 and at three conferences at the 2009 ADEA meeting.

Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on authoring an article entitled “Exploring Potential Pathways Between Parity and Tooth Loss Among American Women” for the American Journal of Public Health, and on coauthoring an article entitled “Beliefs of Women’s Risk as Research Subjects and Relationship to Knowledge of DES and Thalidomide: Differences by Sex and by Race/Ethnicity” for the Journal of Women’s Health, with Dr. Ralph Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

Dr. Deepak Saxena, Adjunct Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on coauthoring an article entitled “Genetic Classification of Severe Early Childhood Caries by Use ofSubtracted DNA Fragments from Streptococcus mutans” for the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, with Dr. Page W. Caufield, Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Dr. Yihong Li.

Dr. Miriam Robbins, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, on completing a yearlong fellowship as part of ADEA’s Leadership Institute; on becoming a Diplomate of the Board of Special Care Dentistry; and on receiving a D3 Student Appreciation Award.

GlobaL Health
Dr. Andrew Schenkel, ’82, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Group Practice Director, on receiving his MS in Biomaterials Science from NYU.

Dr. Donna Shelley, Director of Interdisciplinary Practice and Research, on the electronic publication of her work, “Increasing Access to Evidence-Based Smoking Cessation Treatment: Effectiveness of a Free Nicotine Patch Program Among Chinese Immigrants” in the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health.

Dr. Robert Schoor, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Gingival Enlargement as a Manifestation of Tuberous Sclerosis: Case Report and Periodontal Management” for The Journal of Periodontology, with Dr. Veena Nanda, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, and Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine.

Dr. Stuart Segelnick, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Recognizing Doxycycline-Induced Esophageal Ulcers in Dental Practice” for the Journal of the American Dental Association, with Dr. Mea A. Weinberg, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry.

Dr. Howard Silbersher, ’63, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on being featured in an ADA News article about dentists who perform community outreach.

Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, on becoming a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Dr. Christian Stappert, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on authoring articles entitled “Effect of Mouth-Motion Fatigue and Thermal Cycling on the Marginal Accuracy of Partial Coverage Restorations Made of Various Dental Materials” for Dental Materials; “Masticatory Fatigue, Fracture Resistance, and

Dr. Stappert also coauthored articles entitled “Midterm Results of a 5-Year Prospective Clinical Investigation of Extended Ceramic Veneers” for Dental Materials, and “Effect of Water Storage Time and Composite Cement Thickness on Fatigue: A Glass-Ceramic Trilayer System” for the Journal of Biomedical Materials Research Part B: Applied Biomaterials, with Dr. Nelson Silva, Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics; Dr. Dianne Rekow, Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology; and Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics.

Ms. Lisa Stefanou, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “Brown Bag It for Better Product Recommendations” for RDH magazine.

Dr. Cristina Teixeira, Associate Professor of Orthodontics and of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on being elected Director of the Craniofacial Biology Group of the International Association for Dental Research; on presenting a lecture entitled “Engineering Bone that Grows” for the Rising Stars Speakers Program at the Annual Session of the American Association of Orthodontists; and on copresenting lectures entitled “Engineering Growing Bone,” “Osteogenic Effect of High Frequency, Low Magnitude Forces on Alveolar Bone,” and “Role of Inflammation on the Rate of Bone Remodeling and Tooth Movement” at the Fourth Biennial Conference on Orthodontic Advances in Science and Technology, with Dr. Mani Alikhani, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics; Dr. Jade Tran, ’06; and Dr. Edmund Khoo, a Research Fellow in Orthodontics.

Dr. Michael Turner, Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, on being inducted into the American College of Surgeons.

Ms. Janet Tuthill, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “The Safety of Sealants: Understanding the Risk of Bisphenol-A that Appears in
Some Dental Composites Resins and Pit and Fissure Sealants” for Dimensions of Dental Hygiene.

Ms. Gabriela M. Vaca, on being appointed a Human Resources Administrator in the Office of Human Resources & Faculty Services.

Dr. Anthony Vernillo, Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, on authoring articles entitled “Neuroethics is not Hyperbole” and “Preventive Ethics and Rural Healthcare: Addressing Issues on a Systems Level” for the American Journal of Bioethics.

Dr. Mea A. Weinberg, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Migraine: Its Recognition and Treatment” for U.S. Pharmacist, with Dr. William J. Maloney, ’92, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.

Mr. Cory Welch, on joining NYUCD as Special Events Coordinator in the Office of International Programs.

Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, on coauthoring an article entitled “Subantimicrobial-Dose Doxycycline Modulates Gingival Crevicular Fluid Biomarkers of Periodontitis in Postmenopausal Osteopenic Women” for the Journal of Periodontology. Added kudos to Dr. Wolff on recent international presentations as follows: “The Dental Biofilm in Caries and Managing the Dental Biofilm” at the Association of Brazilian Preventive Dentistry in Sao Paulo, Brazil; “Clinical Research and Technology Transfer in an Age of Evidence-based Dentistry” at Centro Escolar University in Manila, Philippines; and “Caries Management from a Public Health and Practitioner’s Perspective” at the Southeast Asian International Association for Dental Research, in Manila, Philippines.

Dr. Miles Yacker, ’02, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on authoring an article entitled “Dental Health Watch” for the Five Towns Jewish Times.
Alumni Association Celebrates Quinquennial Classes ‘53 to ’03, Installs New Officers

The new Alumni Association Officers for 2008-09. Seated, from left: Dr. Ralph Cunningham, ’72, Vice President; Dr. Elise Eisenberg, ’84, Treasurer; Dr. Lucy Troncoso, ’94, President; Dr. Maura Maloney, ’92, President-Elect; Dr. Eric Studley, ’85, Secretary. Standing, from left: Dr. Benjamin Godder, ’85, Director; Dr. Bozena Plawner, ’81, Director; Dr. Gerald Kaczany, ’86, Past President Director; Dr. William Maloney, ’92, Director; Dr. Robert Castracane, Past President Director and Honorary Member; Dr. Maureen McAandrew, ’83, Director; Dr. Ivy Peltz, ’83, Past President Director and Honorary Member; Dr. Kenneth Allen, ’73, Past President Director and Honorary Member.

The NYUCD Alumni Association partnered with the Classes of ’53, ’58, ’63, ’68, ’73, ’78, ’83, ’88, ’93, ’98, and ’03 in September to honor graduates of those classes and to celebrate the installation of alumni officers for 2008-09. The combined event, which drew more than 300 people, was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan. Special recognition was given to the Class of 2003 for making the largest gift to the reunion event, and to the Class of 1983 for having the largest percentage of donors and class members in attendance.

Top: Members of the Class of 1983
Middle: Members of the Class of 2003
Bottom: Members of the Class of 1943. Standing at left is Dr. Merrill Stern, who organized the event.
NYUCD is pleased to join the American Dental Association (ADA) and other leading dental organizations and associations in endorsing the Donated Dental Services (DDS) project, an initiative designed by dentists, for dentists, to provide aid to our nation’s most vulnerable citizens. DDS currently operates in 38 states, with nearly 13,000 volunteer dentists, and this year will provide $18.5M in comprehensive care to elderly, disabled, and medically compromised individuals. The program is operated by the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (NFDH), the charitable arm of the ADA.

Dr. Kay T. Oen, a member of the PEARL Practitioner Advisory Group, who serves as Chair of the DDS Leadership Council, says, “The DDS Program is unique, in that it allows dentists to provide the services in their own offices. DDS dentists typically volunteer to treat one or two patients per year. Information about an applicant is sent to the dentist in the form of a patient profile. All DDS patients are screened for eligibility to assure that the patient truly qualifies for assistance.”

“The DDS project is a vital and socially commendable initiative, which provides essential health care for our neediest citizens, rewarding experiences for volunteer dentists, and a highly visible way to demonstrate that dentists really do care and are community-focused,” says Dean Bertolami.

Faculty and alumni who wish to volunteer to see a DDS patient should go to www.nfdh.org and click on “volunteer now.”

SAVE-THE-DATE: REUNION 2009

A Reunion Gala for the Classes of ‘54, ‘59, ‘64, ‘69, ‘74, ‘79, ‘84, ‘89, ‘94, ‘99, and ‘04 will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan. For details, please visit the Reunion Web site, www.nyu.edu/dental/reunion/; or contact Denean Paulik at (212) 998-9824, or Denean@nyu.edu.

NYUCD ALUMNI ON FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook, you can now find your fellow alumni there. Just click on “Groups,” and type in “NYUCD Alumni Association.”
‘40s
DR. SHELDON BAUMRIND, Class of 1947, on receiving the 2008 Craniofacial Biology Research Award from the International Association for Dental Research.

‘60s
DR. HERBERT J. BADER, Class of 1961, on authoring “Inflammatory Suppression: Rationale and Implications for the General Practice” for Dentistry Today.

DR. STANLEY F. MALAMUD, Class of 1969, on authoring “Modern Dental Pain Control” for Dentistry Today.

‘70s
DR. G. KIRK GLEASON, Class of 1970, on receiving the 2008 Pierre Fauchard Academy Distinguished Service Award presented by the New York Section of the Academy, and on receiving the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to NYSDA.

DR. JOHN LITTLE, Class of 1972, on receiving the Academy of General Dentistry Mastership Award.

‘80s
DR. DEAN C. VAFIADIS, Class of 1989, on racing in the Nautica 2008 NYC Triathlon for Children in Need; on being appointed Program Director of NYU’s continuing dental education course on full-mouth rehabilitation; and on speaking at the AAID Annual Meeting on Dental Implantology and at the Technical Forum at the ACP Annual Meeting.

‘90s
DR. JOSEPH C. D’AMORE, Class of 1999, on being awarded Associate Fellowship in the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

DR. FABIOLA MILORD, Class of 1994, on being named to the New York State Dental Association’s Task Force on Public Health Dentistry and Access.

DR. ANDREW MOSKOWITZ, Class of 1997, on receiving a Fellowship Award from the Academy of General Dentistry.

‘00s
DR. AEKLAVYA PANJALI, Class of 1994, on receiving a Fellowship Award from the International Congress of Oral Implantology.

DR. RUBEN COHEN, Class of 2002, on participating in an international outreach to Tosamaganga, in a remote part of Tanzania. The team consisted of two plastic surgeons, two anesthesiologists, and two oral and maxillofacial surgeons, one of whom was Dr. Cohen.

DR. JAMES R. KEENAN, Class of 2002, on appearing in the “Member Spotlight” column of the Second District Dental Society Bulletin, and on receiving a Fellowship Award from the Academy of General Dentistry.

DR. MICHAEL F. LEIFERT, Class of 2002, on receiving the 2008 New Dentist Leadership Award presented by the New York State Dental Association. Given annually, the award recognizes a dentist less than 10 years out of dental school who is actively involved in organized dentistry and the community.

In Remembrance
Dr. John E. Baldoni, Class of 1975
Dr. George L. Bergofin, Class of 1964
Dr. Daniel Bukantz, Class of 1943
Dr. Paul Goldhaber, Class of 1948
Dr. Abraham Helfenbein, Class of 1953
Dr. Arthur Marks, Class of 1944
Dr. Bernard Pepper, Class of 1942
Dr. Leon Schertzer, Class of 1953
Dr. J. Bernard Stier, Class of 1953
Dr. George J. Witkin, Class of 1942
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