Last in, Last out

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Historically, dentistry has been last in, and last out, of an economic recession. In terms of the current recession, there is some evidence to support that belief, but there are also conflicting views about whether that precedent will hold. For example, a February 2009 article in *Time* magazine quoted a report from Sageworks, a firm that tracks private company financial performances, which noted that dental offices had higher profit margins in 2008 than any other industry. In the same article, however, Dr. Roger Levin, CEO of the Levin Group, a dental management consultancy, noted that, traditionally, “it takes six to 12 months for economic trends to affect dental practice.”

More recently, a survey conducted by the Levin Group, in collaboration with *Dental Economics*, showed relatively modest dips in practice production and new patient visits through October 2009, whereas an informal poll of practicing dentists taken by the NYU College of Dentistry noted that dentists are reporting practice productivity down by between 10 and 15 percent, and some respondents claimed that productivity was down even further—by between 15 and 20 percent. Whether dentistry continues to hold its own despite the recession, or repeats historical patterns by recording longer and deeper cuts in productivity even as the economy recovers, I think that the

> Dentists who “only” do implants or veneers are subject to a wild ride of an investment that might function like a derivative or a leveraged stock purchase. You do great on the upside, but suffer on the downside. Alternatively, a more balanced “portfolio” of treatment services—especially those that emphasize that good oral health is essential to general health and wellness—might serve a practitioner well in the long term.
current economic climate provides an opportunity for practitioners to look ahead in ways that may help them not only to survive the current recession but also to minimize the impact of future recessions.

For example, one could think of a dental practice almost as an investment portfolio. In this scenario, dentists who “only” do implants or veneers are subject to a wild ride of an investment that might function like a derivative or a leveraged stock purchase. You do great on the upside, but suffer on the downside. Alternatively, a more balanced “portfolio” of treatment services—especially those that emphasize that good oral health is essential to general health and wellness—might serve a practitioner well in the long term. Bacteria associated with dental plaque have been linked in studies to cardiovascular disease, diabetes (see related article on p. 32), pneumonia, and preterm, low-birthweight deliveries. Bone loss in the lower jaws of post-menopausal women may occur prior to the skeletal bone loss associated with osteoporosis. Poor oral health directly affects an individual’s nutritional state. In all these instances, the dentist can play a role in providing in-office screening and testing, flu vaccinations, consultations, and referrals that can enhance the value of the practice. And while it won’t make a major difference now, it would assist practitioners when the next recession rolls around in seven or eight years.

In this issue of Global Health Nexus, we’re fortunate to offer opinions on the recession’s impact on dentistry from a number of distinguished thinkers, including Dr. Richard Valachovic, Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and Mr. Gary W. Price, Chief Executive Officer of the Dental Trade Alliance (DIA). We are also pleased to offer a list of top strategies for maintaining a dental practice in good times and bad from Dr. Larry Rosenthal, a distinguished alumnus and one of the most prominent and successful practitioners in Manhattan; the perspective of a recent graduate, Dr. Ruben Cohen, Class of 2002, on the recession’s impact on career opportunities and challenges; an article on nursing as a recession-proof profession; and an article by Dr. Jeannie Huang, an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California at San Diego, that speaks to the opportunities for dentists to add value to their practices by emphasizing the strong connections among oral health, diet, and nutrition.

This issue of Global Health Nexus also contains news of fascinating work being conducted at the College
by one of our newest recruits, Dr. Nicola C. Partridge, in the area of bone research, as well as studies examining less virulent HIV-2 for clues about HIV/AIDS; the use of a psychoactive agent to promote enhanced well-being for cancer sufferers; and a collaborative nursing/dental study that found that over 90 percent of people with periodontal diseases are at risk for diabetes.

In addition to continually advancing our research mission, one of NYUCD’s greatest points of pride is its global focus, which was recently on display during an academic conference held at NYUCD and cosponsored with the Associated Medical Schools of New York, the Association of Academic Dental Centers, and the nursing and public health schools in New York State to explore opportunities for collaboration in helping to address health problems that transcend national borders. You can read more about the conference on p. 44.

We have continued to move forward in increasing the level of our students’ performance on the National Board Dental Examinations (Part I), which now show an overall pass rate for NYU students of an amazing 98.6 percent, while at the same time continuing to expand and renovate our facilities to improve the teaching, learning, treatment, and work environment and also setting a record high last year in annual campaign contributions despite the poor economy.

A special area of collaboration of which we are very proud exists between NYU’s College of Arts and Science and its College of Dentistry. I doubt that any other dental school has the number and depth of collaborations with its university-affiliated college of arts and science as does NYUCD, and I think you’ll be very interested to learn about them in the story that appears on p. 78.

You will also find stories reporting the very good news that we have continued to move forward in increasing the level of our students’ performance on the National Board Dental Examinations (Part I), which now show an overall pass rate for NYU students of an amazing 98.6 percent, while continuing to expand and renovate our facilities to improve the teaching, learning, treatment, and work environment for our students, faculty, staff, and patients, and at the same time setting a record high last year in annual campaign contributions despite the poor economy.

I hope that reading all of these varied articles is a wonderful reminder of what your support is helping to achieve. Thank you and please enjoy this issue.
Moving Dentistry Forward Despite the Recession

A national recession affects each branch of health sciences education differently. In terms of dental education, and the professions in general, there is always strong interest during times of economic stress, and that continues to be the case as we recover from this most recent economic downturn. The number of applicants to dental schools has been steadily increasing over the past decade as dentistry has become increasingly recognized and appreciated as a highly desirable profession among the current generation of college graduates who are the major source of applicants. In fact, we now have about three applicants for each first-year position in dental school. We also know that dental care is a service that people will sometimes defer during challenging economic times but, with the exception of some areas of the country that are particularly hard hit, practicing dentists seem to be doing well in general at this time.

There are a number of factors, which, in my opinion, differentiate the current recession from previous recessions and help to explain why, to date, dentistry continues to be viewed as an attractive profession that enables dentists to make a healthy living. For example, many people who were laid off as a result of this downturn had dental insurance benefits that they carried with them after their layoff, and even though the benefits might expire in a short period of time, people seemed to be using them while they lasted and many practicing dentists benefited from that. In addition, more than at any other time in our history, the value of health and appearance is an important

Richard Valachovic, DMD, MPH
Executive Director,
American Dental Education Association

ADEA
American Dental Education Association
factor in keeping a job or getting a new job in our more service-focused economy. It is hard to get even an entry-level job at a fast food restaurant if you don’t have an attractive smile.

Dentists have also benefited from the new federally funded dental benefits in the Children’s Health Insurance Program enacted in 2008. One other key factor that is unique to this economic situation is that access to dental care remains a compelling challenge, and so there is a pent-up demand for dental services that had not existed in previous downturns. But even if the full impact of this economic downturn may yet be ahead of us, before making dire predictions let’s see what happens over the next few months.

In assessing the particular character of this recession, I think it’s important also to note the role that the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is playing in helping both current and future dentists to prepare for economic downturns.

ADEA’s key role in addressing the economic downturn is to ensure that our basic curriculum enhances the ability of our current students to be caring healthcare providers and competent small business owners. We are finding a dramatic increase in interest by our dental schools in improving the quality and scope of their programs in practice management. More than 90 percent of all dentists are in private practice, and success requires skills in both the practice of dentistry and the business of dentistry.

Economic swings between great times and not-so-great times have been the norm throughout our nation’s history, and for our profession. Dentistry enjoyed great success for the decade leading up to the economic downturn in 2008. What I see now is that dentists are becoming much more aware of the costs related to their practices, the way that expenses impact their productivity and livelihoods, and the importance of continuing to foster understanding about oral and systemic links so that dentistry isn’t only about looks. Many dentists are being much more conscious of improving the efficiency and the comprehensiveness of the care that they provide. This will translate into practices that are better managed from a business perspective, better suited to treating the health of the whole person, and successful in keeping dental care more affordable and available for the large number of patients who will be needing and demanding dental care in the future.

Like other health sciences schools, dental schools must seek numerous innovative ways to meet the challenges of an economic downturn. In addition to ensuring a curriculum that is inclusive of business knowledge that dentists must have in order to grow their practices, ADEA seeks to help dental schools recruit and prepare individuals from diverse back-
grounds who will be able to attract patients who can identify with these practitioners. To put it another way, as our nation’s population becomes increasingly diverse despite the economy, the opportunity exists to expand access to oral health care for this population by increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the dental profession. It is an important path to follow toward both increasing diversity in the dental profession and improving the nation’s health regardless of the particular state of the economy.

"What I see now is that dentists are becoming much more aware of the costs related to their practices, the way that expenses impact their productivity and livelihoods, and the importance of continuing to foster understanding about oral and systemic links so that dentistry isn’t only about looks. Many dentists are being much more conscious of improving the efficiency and the comprehensiveness of the care that they provide. This will translate into practices that are better managed from a business perspective, better suited to treating the health of the whole person, and successful in keeping dental care more affordable and available for the large number of patients who will be needing and demanding dental care in the future."
The Keys to Maintaining a Thriving Dental Practice in Turbulent Economic Times

Larry Rosenthal, DDS  
Class of 1972  
Founder and principal of The Rosenthal Group, a highly successful private practice located on the upper east side of Manhattan

Like all professions, dentistry is seeking innovative ways to survive and thrive in these turbulent economic times. Dentists are fortunate to be independent and our services remain sought after; but although we are not yet in a crisis mode, we cannot ignore economic realities that have produced lower productivity in many practices. To prevent practice productivity from trending further downward, I believe that we need to revisit and review not only how we conduct the business aspects of our practice, but also the quality of the product that we are delivering. To that end, I offer my top 10 strategies for creating a long-term practice philosophy based on reframing your practice’s value proposition. Quality and longevity are key, as is establishing personal connections with patients. Patients return to dentists (“brands”) they trust because they are not willing to experiment. I predict that implementation of the following components of this value proposition will work to your benefit over the long run.

- Revisit your practice’s recall system. This is a major effort, but it is extremely valuable. There are patients who have trusted you and have remained loyal to you over the years. The treatment you have provided for them in the past has built your "brand." Now is the time to burnish that brand by recalling them to schedule appointments to treat any new unmet needs.
- Purge your files. Patients who are in transitional treatment plans need to be rescheduled for a visit to your practice. Contact any specialists who
are still in the process of treating these patients to check their status. In addition, review old charts and re-examine dentistry that is over 10 years old. There is often a need to create new records for these patients.

- Review and re-evaluate existing treatment plans. Re-examine these treatment plans using sequential treatment if applicable. Often these patients were given a long, extensive plan that was overwhelming at the time. Perhaps these treatment plans can be sequenced in stages.

- Hold weekly staff meetings. You need to ensure that all office personnel are on the same page when it comes to providing “Five-Star Service” to your patients. Take advantage of weekly staff meetings to review the level of service you provide; evaluate existing protocols; and perhaps introduce new office protocols. Always remember that service is more important than ever before.

- Review your fees and adjust them accordingly—up or down. Even in uncertain economic times, there are procedure fees that can be reduced while others might need to be raised. These fees can be broken down for the patient if necessary. We prefer to give a total fee and provide a payment plan.

- Sign up for Care Credit patient financing or a similar plan. This affords a patient the opportunity to finance many restorative and surgical procedures over a period of months or years.

- Address the business aspects of your practice. This is often overlooked in the dental profession. You need to evaluate your overhead, including lab fees, staff salaries, office hours, and your fee for each procedure. After you do that, it may be worthwhile to work with a consultant or financial advisor to review the business pros and cons of your practice.

- Think comprehensive, complete care. Re-examine all emergencies, existing recall, and new patients as they come back into your practice. Spend time making certain that they understand the value of what you are presenting.

- Conduct staff one-on-ones. Privately ask your staff their views of your existing practice. Let them elaborate on both their positive and negative criticisms and ask them for their suggestions. They know your practice perhaps as well or better than you do.

- Be proactive—not reactive. Advise dental treatment according to need and not only want. Explain the benefit of treatment before it becomes a problem. Lastly, explain the benefits of a healthier, more beautiful smile, including increased self-esteem and better oral and total health.

I am confident that if you decide to follow these guidelines, your practice will become stronger than ever before. Good luck!
The current economic climate is causing many people either to postpone the treatment plans recommended by their dentists, or to put off dental visits altogether. Unfortunately, there are long-term health risks associated with postponing oral care. Indeed, the potential health risks of postponing oral health care can be significant, with more and more published research supporting the existence of a strong link between optimum oral health and overall well-being—especially in the area of periodontal disease. While this is obvious to all the members of the dental team, the public doesn’t always see the urgency of the need to make dental care a priority. That’s why, in a recession, it becomes especially important to keep the value of dentistry in the news.

In July 2009, the Dental Trade Alliance (DTA), a nonprofit trade association representing leading dental manufacturers, distributors, and laboratories, unveiled its “Oral Healthcare Can’t Wait™” (OHCW) awareness campaign. The objective of the campaign is to alert the public to the risks of postponing regular dental care.
checkups and recommended treatment. Our message is simple: The mouth is the gateway to the rest of the body and its overall health. If more people realized this, they would prioritize their discretionary spending accordingly. Choosing between undergoing periodontal disease treatment and buying a new cell phone would be a no-brainer.

The data supporting this initiative came from a spring 2009 survey of Americans conducted by the DTA and Oral Health America to get their views on a wide range of oral healthcare issues. A significant number of adults reported having an unmet dental need. Economic uncertainty seemed to play some role in a significant number of instances where individuals were not actively seeking treatment for dental health conditions. One out of every six people reported not going to the dentist because of uncertainty about their job and/or the economy. This was even more apparent among those with lower annual incomes; almost one-third of those with low incomes are delaying a visit to the dentist even though their needs are great.

We believe that this campaign can make a difference by mobilizing the dental profession to convince the public that although we face economic challenges on a national basis, the majority of Americans still have the ability to make continued and comprehensive oral health care an integral part of their lives. That’s what we mean by the slogan, “Oral Healthcare Can’t Wait.”

**THE CHALLENGE OF GETTING OUR MESSAGE OUT**

DTA was very lucky in the early development of the campaign to find a partner in the Lanmark Group, the dental industry’s largest advertising, marketing, and public relations agency. The Lanmark Group developed ads and marketing materials for the campaign, helped us with strategy and execution, and agreed to do all campaign work on a pro bono basis.

But despite the potency of our message, the challenge remains to communicate it to the public. In an ideal world, we would have abundant financial resources to buy the...
kinds of media that would ensure our ability to focus the public’s attention on the importance of their oral health, but national advertising campaigns cost hundreds of thousands of dollars that we don’t have.

To deal with this challenge, we have recruited major corporate and professional association partners to help us get our message out. We are grateful for the level of commitment we have received thus far from the entire dental industry, including manufacturers, trade publications, distributors, dental laboratories, and from dentists around the country. Special thanks go to the leading dental distributors, Benco Dental, Darby Dental Supply, Henry Schein, and Patterson Dental, and such major professional organizations as the American Dental Association, the National Dental Association, the Hispanic Dental Association, the American Dental Hygienists Association, the American Association of Dental Assistants, and Oral Health America. Many of these organizations have included information about the campaign in their newsletters and publications, and some have also provided links on their Web sites to the campaign Web site. Moreover, almost all of the major dental publications have agreed to run campaigns ads for free. To date, the ads have run in eight publications, for a total of more than 20 placements.

Because the roles of the dental practitioner and office staff are pivotal in communicating positive, compelling messages to patients about the importance of seeking and accepting recommended oral health treatment, we have created a special Web site, www.oralhealthcarecan’twait.com, to help dental professionals develop a sense of ease in communicating these messages. The Resource section of this Web site contains an extensive practice-level communications tool kit, which includes the following components:

- Letter templates to send to patients outlining the importance of continuing their care.
- Press release templates to send to local media outlining benefits of continuing oral health care and the risks of postponing treatment.
- Public service announcement templates for practices to distribute to their local radio stations.
- Patient education materials, such as brochures, posters, recall cards, etc., that can be taken to Kinko’s, Staples, etc., for printing.

We are using social media as well. In addition to our Web sites, we have established a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

We have also designed a Web site specifically for the public, www.visityourdentistnow.com, which will be promoted in press materials.

Although we face economic challenges on a national basis, dentists have an obligation as health professionals to communicate the importance of making continued and comprehensive oral care an integrated part of everyone’s life. Now, thanks to the resources provided by the “Oral Healthcare Can’t Wait™” campaign, they also have an operating manual for communicating the message that, despite the state of the economy, maintaining optimum oral health is important to everyone.

“We believe that this campaign can make a difference by mobilizing the dental profession to convince the public that although we face economic challenges on a national basis, the majority of Americans still have the ability to make continued and comprehensive oral health care an integral part of their lives. That’s what we mean by the slogan, Oral Healthcare Can’t Wait.”
A Recent Graduate’s Perspective on the Recession’s Impact on Career Challenges and Opportunities

When I was in dental school, all I could think about was graduating. Then I enrolled in a residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery, and sure enough, I couldn’t wait to finish the program and start practicing. Little did I know that being out of school and in the “real world” wasn’t as glamorous as it seemed. Unlike dental school, which gives you a place to practice, the equipment you need, and assigns patients to you, the real world requires you to secure a well-located, well-equipped office in an area with good potential for building a practice; demonstrate patient marketing skills; and develop the ability to look not just at immediate circumstances, but also at the big picture involving long-range planning.

I completed my residency in 2007, when the costs of purchasing and equipping office space were sky high. So rather than look into opening my own practice, I took a somewhat unconventional route, which has worked out quite well for me. I hope that my experiences—seen through the lens of the current economic climate—may be of interest to other young dentists.

Rather than join an established oral surgery practice or open my own practice, I chose to begin my professional life by practicing oral surgery in...
general dentists’ offices. In addition to not wanting to take on the financial burdens involved in opening my own office, I did not want to sign a non-compete clause, which I would have had to do if I had elected to join someone else’s oral surgery practice. As an independent contractor, I avoided having to sign an agreement that would have significantly restricted my future ability to practice in Manhattan. As it turned out, this was a good decision not only for me, but also for the dentists in whose offices I practice, since they were thrilled to be able to increase their productivity.

As someone who had been in school nonstop since childhood, I found myself enjoying an interlude of relative freedom and the concomitant opportunities it provided for me to explore new interests. My experience as a freelancer also started me thinking that even dentists who own their own practices, and have all the responsibilities that ownership entails, can take heart by remembering that this recession will end, and that, in the interim, she or he can still maintain a comfortable income, seize the opportunity to explore new pathways to personal renewal, and also make necessary changes to jump-start future practice growth. Some suggested ways to go about this are discussed below.

Teaching, doing volunteer work, and getting involved in your community are all great ways either to supplement your income during a recession or to find personal renewal, while at the same time giving back to your community and the profession. In light of the shortage of dental faculty in dental schools and residency programs around the country, teaching in a local dental program is a wonderful way to augment your income and also make new contacts that can ultimately help build a practice.

Donating your professional services is also a great way to give back to your community and help those in need. There are a number of local organizations that provide free dental care to the needy. While you will not get paid for your services, you can talk to your tax advisor about writing off most of your expenses associated with donating your services.

There are also many opportunities for volunteering overseas. Having personally volunteered for such programs in Central America and Africa over the past few years, I can attest that this is probably one of the more rewarding experiences a healthcare provider can have. For more information on overseas programs, a good place to start is by contacting Health Volunteers Overseas at www.hvousa.org.

Volunteering for community activities, such as school fairs where you might talk to youngsters about the dangers of smoking, will also increase your visibility in your community and allow you to build goodwill and visibility for your practice. While it will not increase your income, spending time with your family and doing things you’ve always wanted to do but never seemed to have the time for offers another significant upside to finding yourself in a situation when office production may be lower than in previous years. Having a newborn at home, I
cherish every moment I get with her, and look forward to going home and spending a few extra hours with her everyday before she goes to sleep.

Finally, while it may sound counterintuitive to recommend starting a new practice or investing in new equipment during a recession, an economic downturn can offer excellent opportunities to establish or enhance a practice. I am living proof of that, having recently negotiated the price of a dental office space for almost 10 percent less than what I would have had to pay last year. Now that I have an office space picked out, I’ve started to look for promotions that dental equipment distributors are offering to increase sales. For example, the financial services division of Henry Schein, Inc., is offering dental professionals loans with unusually low interest rates to encourage equipment sales. While some may question whether this is the right time to spend money, I see it as an extremely opportune time to spend so that by the time the economy blooms again, my practice will be ready to take advantage of an increased demand for dental services. My path to opening my own practice has not been traditional, but it has been enlightening for me, both as a person and as a health professional. If you’d like to share your experiences as a recent graduate, please visit me on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-NY/Park-Avenue-Oral-Facial-Surgery-PC/271958469808.

While it may sound counterintuitive to recommend starting a new practice or investing in new equipment during a recession, an economic downturn can offer excellent opportunities to establish or enhance a practice. I am living proof of that, having recently negotiated the price of a dental office space for almost 10 percent less than what I would have had to pay last year. Now that I have an office space picked out, I’ve started to look for promotions that dental equipment distributors are offering to increase sales.
The Health and Obesity: Prevention and Education (HOPE) Curriculum Project

Dr. Jeannie Huang, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
University of California, San Diego

Dr. Huang is a pediatric gastroenterologist at the University of California, San Diego, who has developed a Web-based curriculum on the topic of pediatric obesity, which has become a national epidemic. As many dentists seek to discover new practice strategies to combat the current economic downturn, and given the strong interaction between oral health, diet, and nutrition, the following article suggests that dentists can help address the issue of obesity and also add value to their practices by providing parents and children with nutrition counseling, measuring Body Mass Index (BMI), and providing resources for improving diet and health.
CHILDHOOD OBESITY—THE REASON FOR HOPE

Approximately one in three children is affected by overweight and obesity, and childhood obesity is accordingly one of the nation’s most important health issues. Obese youth are at risk for hypertension, type 2 diabetes, liver disease, obstructive sleep apnea, and a lower quality of life. A recent CDC report estimates yearly health costs related to obesity at $147 billion. Childhood obesity is a significant predictor of adult obesity, and life expectancy can be reduced by as much as 20 years among obese youth who remain obese into adulthood. As a result, we are faced now with the reality that youth today may actually have a lower life expectancy than prior generations.

THE ROLE OF ORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Dentists have a tremendous amount of contact with youth, with the greatest contact among children six to 18 years of age. With this access comes the ability to influence families’ awareness of obesity as a health concern and to offer families guidance on pursuing healthful dietary habits and regular physical activity. However, oral healthcare visits represent a yet untapped opportunity to address and discuss weight-related issues with youth and their families. Although a direct link between obesity and poor oral health has yet to be demonstrated, obesity has been shown to be associated with periodontitis and early loss of teeth. Obesity and oral health issues often coincide in similar populations and both diseases have common modifiable risk factors, including diet and physical activity. Therefore, there are shared reasons for both oral health and medical personnel to intervene on this important public health issue.

As many dentists seek to discover new practice strategies to combat the current economic downturn, and given the strong interaction between oral health, diet, and nutrition, dentists can help address the issue of obesity and also add value to their practices by providing parents and children with nutrition counseling, measuring Body Mass Index (BMI), and providing resources for improving diet and health.

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) advocate increased clinician involvement in recognizing children at risk for obesity-related morbidities and counseling patients on how to live healthier lifestyles. Identified barriers to clinician involvement include insufficient clinician confidence, knowledge and counseling skills, as well as lack of time and resources. However, no standardized mechanism currently exists to train clinicians on how to incorporate weight status screening techniques into their practices, how to effectively counsel patients on healthy weight and lifestyles, and how to advocate for necessary policy and environmental changes to promote a healthy lifestyle.
OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The HOPE project is a Web-based, multidisciplinary, healthy living and counseling curriculum that educates clinicians and clinicians-in-training on how to recognize children at risk for obesity and its co-morbidities and how to promote healthy dietary choices and increase physical activity among children and their families. The curriculum instructs clinicians about the health consequences of childhood obesity, screening techniques to identify children and families at risk, the current evidence for health intervention recommendations, and reviews the theoretical rationale and art of constructive weight counseling for behavioral change. An interactive practicum has been incorporated into the curriculum, which allows trainees to practice counseling skills and use role-plays based on sample patient output. In addition, cultural competency is a major focus of the curriculum and HOPE provides important insight regarding how to approach weight management in a culturally sensitive manner among communities of color, which are disproportionately affected by the pediatric obesity epidemic. The Web-based HOPE curriculum has been distributed to both medical and dental training programs throughout the United States, and has been made available to currently practicing physicians and dentists for continuing education credits as of winter 2009.

CURRICULUM FORMAT, MODULES, AND RATIONALE

The HOPE curriculum addresses the prevention, assessment, and management of pediatric obesity via seven main modules. Module materials have relevance to clinical practice as a whole, independent of dental or medical specialty. An important goal of the HOPE project is to highlight and outline the collaborative framework within which each specialty can contribute to the public health effort of reducing pediatric obesity and to improved communications between specialties. Relevance to each specialty has been highlighted in each module, and the modules have been piloted to both pediatric medical and dental clinicians in training with positive reviews.

MODULE TOPICS

Epidemiology and Etiology of Pediatric Obesity. Cases of overweight and obesity among children and adolescents have significantly increased over the past three decades. Awareness of this public health issue and contributing factors is an important step toward prevention and treatment of this epidemic.

Review of the 2007 Expert Committee Obesity Guidelines. The 2007 AAP guidelines codify the recommendations on the prevention and treatment of pediatric obesity from an Expert Committee representing 15 national healthcare organizations that serve children and/or have expertise in obesity and obesity-related conditions, including the American Medical Association, the Health Resources and Service Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control. Clinicians who treat children should be aware of these clinical guidelines for their practice of weight management.

Oral Health and Obesity. Similar to other medical professionals who serve children, oral health clinicians have daily access to children with weight issues. Given an already accepted role in discussing dietary issues, there is a notable role for dentists and other oral health practitioners in healthy weight management among children. Collaboration among healthcare providers will
be essential if we are to reverse the growing epidemic of obesity among youth.

**Behavioral Counseling for Effective Dietary and Physical Activity Change.** Clinicians need to be proficient in effective behavioral counseling techniques and methodologies (such as motivational interviewing) to promote healthy weight in their patients. In addition, an advanced parenting module provides helpful tips that providers may recommend to parents who are dealing with an overweight child.

**Cultural Sensitivity.** Obesity occurs disproportionately among children and communities of color. Understanding and addressing the patterns and causes of prevailing disparities in childhood obesity is a prerequisite to effectively addressing them. Clinicians should be familiar with cultural issues when engaging in healthy weight management for children. Four separate video modules address issues of the Hispanic American, African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and Native American cultures.

**Systems.** Clinicians must be familiar with systems-based practice and quality improvement models in order to translate the Expert Committee obesity guidelines into practice. Well-constructed systems can provide necessary resources and allow providers to spend more time on obesity prevention and counseling, as well as improve physician and dentist self-efficacy for healthy weight management.

**Advocacy.** The etiology of the obesity epidemic is multi-factorial and includes societal, commercial, financial, and community factors. Similarly, effective weight management requires participation from not only the healthcare sector but also from schools, the local environment, and society at large. Clinicians must therefore learn how to become effective advocates for policy and environmental changes in their communities to combat the obesity epidemic.

**FORMAT**

Each curriculum module presents topics via a dual-screen format projecting a video file of the lecturer accompanied by a simultaneous, self-advancing PowerPoint slide set. In addition to the dual-panel presentation, a supplementary materials bar is displayed where participants can select reference materials to view at any point during the program. Supplementary HOPE program materials have been developed according to the needs identified in the focus group sessions and comprise reference materials such as key articles and clinical toolkits. Clinical toolkits adapted from materials currently available from public and professional sources provide participants with the necessary instruments to implement suggested guidelines in clinical practice and include clinical algorithms, clinical intake forms, poster displays, and patient information handouts. Lists of regional (i.e., according to geographic location within the United States) resources are available for clinicians to distribute to patients as needed; the HOPE team will update these resources quarterly in order to ensure their reliability and utility. Role-play scenarios have been developed for case-based learning. This format provides a multi-resource, Web-based format that will satisfy various learning styles.

**CONCLUSION**

The HOPE project provides a fully developed, multidisciplinary curriculum empowering dental clinicians to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy weight among youth. This standardized educational series, grounded in an understanding of relevant sciences, literature, and research methods, will unify the approach to weight management among not only oral health and medical practitioners but also future and current clinicians.

**For more information, please contact the HOPE project team via email at hopeproject@ucsd.edu.**
Second-Career Nursing Students Stare Down the Economy While Gaining Satisfaction in Their New Careers

by Barbara Kancelbaum

For Katrina Millard, 43, the “Aha” moment came while she was driving home from the pharmacy, talking with her husband about the state of health care. “I think I’ll become a nurse,” Millard recalls saying.

In reality, the decision had been long in coming. Ms. Millard, formerly a graphic designer, had been seeking a greater sense of career and financial stability since 9/11. The collapse of the twin towers affected her both directly—she and her family could not return to their soot- and glass-strewn apartment for six weeks—and indirectly, as her design business hit a slump.

“I lost a sense of security, like so many others,” she says. Even during their most successful years as designers, Millard and her husband agonized over the uncertainties of the economy and high cost of health insurance for a family of four. She also missed the human contact and connection to science that she had found in her first job out of college, as a park ranger in California and Utah. When a teenage niece was hospitalized with an osteosarcoma—a malignant bone tumor—Millard found herself closely following her niece’s treatment and was surprised by how motivated she was to learn all about the condition. After watching friends earn advanced degrees over 20 years, Millard finally felt that she had found a career that motivated her.

Now, as a 15-month accelerated bachelor’s degree student and Hillman Scholar at the NYU College of Nursing, Millard is the envy of some of her friends. “The first thing people say is, ‘You’ll always have a job,’” she says. Accelerated bachelor’s students carry a heavy, full-time workload, but Millard—who does her homework with her middle-school children, Pedro and Hazel—says that it’s great to be back in school.

The College of Nursing’s 15-month accelerated degree program was tailor-made for students like Millard and many of her classmates, who turned to nursing after careers that may have been successful but were not as secure or satisfying. Nursing has been a notable standout as a safe job in a year when so many people have become unemployed. Nurse practitioner ranked fourth on Money’s list of the Top 50 Best Jobs in America, published in November 2009, and The New York Times recently noted that healthcare employment increased during the recession, with nurses continuing to be hired.

Not surprisingly, applications to the College of Nursing’s 15-month accelerated degree program have nearly tripled in four years, according to Amy Knowles,
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions. Applications to all the College’s combined degree programs doubled in the past four years, from 730 in fall 2005 to 1,423 in fall 2009. Enrollment has also doubled, to 297 this past fall, in keeping with the College’s target for planned growth.

Knowles notes that three open houses held in fall 2009 were packed, and her office is fielding a strong increase in inquiries from prospective students.

“The groundswell of interest in the College of Nursing clearly reflects the view of nursing as a career that can ride out fluctuations in the economy,” says Knowles. She notes that recent positive depictions of nursing on television have also added to nursing’s appeal.

The growth of the 15-month degree program has been aided by support from the Alex Hillman Family Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, both of which established scholarships to help ease the nursing shortage. Supporting 10 and 15 students a year, respectively, these programs have gone a long way toward enabling the College to expand to meet the need.

A Robert Wood Johnson Scholarship—targeted toward underrepresented groups in the nursing profession—is helping John Campbell, 28, to embark on a career in nursing just five years out of architecture school. After trying his hand at architecture, Campbell quickly realized that he was not cut out for a desk job and returned to a prior career, as a whitewater rafting guide on the White Salmon River in Washington’s Columbia River Gorge.

To progress as a river guide, Campbell had taken first aid, CPR, swift-water rescue, and wilderness emergency medical technician courses. It isn’t hard for him to name the moment when he realized that he could be well suited for a career in health care. A raft had flipped over in a waterfall, and people, paddles, and other equipment were scattered all over the river. While no significant injuries occurred, it was no small effort to make sure everyone was safe and to respond to their anxiety. That day, Campbell knew he had found his calling.

While researching the nursing field, Campbell worked on an ambulance as an EMT, an experience that cemented his decision. Moreover, he strongly identified with nursing’s emphasis on treating each patient as a whole person, rather than a collection of symptoms, because it directly paralleled his training in architecture, which

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John Campbell as a river guide

stresses an understanding of the overall context in every building project. Campbell did not anticipate the recession when applying to nursing school; however, he feels very fortunate to be studying to be a nurse today. In the past year, he has seen friends laid off, and architecture jobs have become very hard to come by.

"Architecture is a profession that is very susceptible to the ups and downs of the construction industry," Campbell says. "The fact that health care will always be in demand is very attractive to me."

Like Campbell, Neville Lewis, '09, at the age of 41 has seen his former profession deeply scarred by the recession and friends trapped by very limited job choices. He spent more than a decade in the workforce before enrolling at the NYU College of Nursing.

For the most part, Lewis enjoyed his work in the finance industry as a stock-transfer analyst and bonds service representative; yet, he nurtured the goal of going to law school. As Lewis came closer to making a change, he was increasingly concerned that a legal career would mean more of the things he liked least about finance: the rigid schedule, the cubicle culture, and less time with his six-year-old son, Mekhi.

Lewis’s “Aha” moment came during a long weekend in South Florida for the annual West Indian Carnival with his nephew and a friend who is a registered nurse. The friend teased that, while Lewis was burning up vacation days, he simply had days off, as a result of a more flexible schedule.

“It hit me that I hate the 9 to 5,” says Lewis, “and I love interacting with people. So, the question was, how could I have an impact on people and make a difference?” Lewis had to overcome a final hurdle to nursing: an aversion to seeing blood. But his wife, also an RN, and his friend thought psychiatric nursing might be the way to go.

Lewis quickly realized that health care is about much more than drawing blood. After his second semester at the College of Nursing, his father, who lived in Antigua, became ill. His right leg was amputated, and he died of
a stroke a month later. By communicating with the
attending physician and nursing staff, Lewis saw first-
hand the advantage to a patient of having a healthcare
advocate who can ask the
right questions. Still, he
has harbored the fear that
his father might not have
received the most aggres-
sive care because of his
advanced age.

“Since then, I’ve become
even more passionate
about helping people who
are in critical need,” he
says. “Thankfully, here in
the United States, there is
much more of an effort
made to give the elderly the care they need.”

While progressing through his nursing rotations,
Lewis has had a number of transformative experiences
as a caregiver, establishing bonds with patients who
were having extreme difficulty communicating, eating,
or accepting care. Those intensely personal interactions
have left no doubt that Lewis made the right choice.

“Unlike sitting at a computer and getting a bond set-
tled or having an angry client on the phone, I feel like
I’m having a direct impact on people’s lives,” he says.

Glad to have left finance before the meltdown, Lewis
is studying for nursing licensure, job hunting, and
thinking about continuing on to his master’s degree.
Most important, he says, he has realized that his aver-
sion to seeing blood extended only to his own!

For John Campbell, becoming a nurse has yielded
numerous benefits, beginning with the close friends he
has made in the 15-month program. “I feel like I’m part
of a new movement, as a guy, which is refreshing,” he
says. “I feel a responsibility to do my best and set a
good example, making sure I’m representing men in
nursing.” Along with several fellow students, Campbell
is helping to start a new student organization dedicated
to men entering nursing.

The Oklahoma native, who had never set foot in
New York City before enrolling at NYU, says that the
skills he learned on the river—like being very self-
sufficient—are useful in the urban environment, which
can be equally overwhelming. Still, he looks forward to
taking full advantage of the Hudson Valley wilderness in
his time away from school.

For Millard, understand-
standing the philosophy
and theory of nursing
has been more rewarding
than she anticipated. “It
has been so pleasant to
exercise my intellectual
capacity, especially after
having kids. I’m a much
better student than I was
20 years ago,” she says.
Millard, who plans to
complete her master’s
degree and nurse practi-
tioner certification, has found that being able to help a
patient in a vulnerable situation is a very powerful
thing. Still, after having always had to negotiate her pay
with each client, having a steady salary will be powerful,
too.

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ride out fluctuations in the economy,”
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to nursing’s appeal.”

Katrina Millard, circa 1998, as a graphic designer
Dr. Nicola Partridge Outlines Her Plans to Advance NYUCD’s Bone Research Mission

NYUCD bone researchers’ interests range from taking a retrospective look at the microanatomy of ancestral human “Lucy” to engineering artificial bone cells for futuristic prosthetic devices.

Ten faculty members from six academic departments are involved in various bone research initiatives at NYUCD, and it’s the goal of the new chair of the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, Dr. Nicola C. Partridge, to motivate them to work collaboratively on behalf of common goals.

“When it comes to conducting bone research, we have a tremendous pool of complementary skills available to us at NYUCD,” says Dr. Partridge, who joined the College in September from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she had served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

“At NYUCD, we have basic scientists who can contribute to our understanding of the fundamentals of bone formation, function, and structure; researchers experienced in using imaging technologies such as environmental scanning electron microscopy, three-dimensional light microscopy, and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to document changes in bone; scientists who replace damaged or missing bone with biomaterials and biomimetics; and clinicians who can work with basic scientists, imaging experts, and biomaterials designers to develop and test new treatment strategies for bone disorders.

“My goal,” says Dr. Partridge, “is to motivate the faculty to identify and implement those research initiatives that have the greatest potential for multidisciplinary collaboration.”

To that end, Dr. Partridge will facilitate a series of meetings at which faculty members involved in bone research will present their work and explore potential alliances. They include Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros, Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry and Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Cristina Teixeira, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics; Dr. John Evans, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Amr M. Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Mani Alikhani, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics; Dr. Timothy Bromage, Adjunct Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. John Ricci, Associate Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Paulo Coelho, Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics;

“When it comes to conducting bone research, we have a tremendous pool of complementary skills available to us at NYUCD.”
Dr. Nicola Partridge, center, surrounded by bone research faculty, clockwise, from top: Dr. John Evans Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros Dr. Timothy Bromage Dr. Cristina Teixeira (far right) Dr. Seiichi Yamano Dr. Mani Alikhani Not shown: Dr. Amr Moursi Dr. John Ricci Dr. Paulo Coelho Dr. Zoya Kurago

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Dr. Zoya Kurago, Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; and Dr. Seiichi Yamano, Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics.

Dr. Partridge has also invited Dr. Bruce Cronstein, the Esserman Professor of Medicine and Professor of Pathology and Pharmacology at the NYU School of Medicine, and Dr. Thorsten Kirsch, Director of the Musculoskeletal Research Center at the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases, Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Cell Biology, and Pharmacology at the NYU School of Medicine, to join the meetings and explore collaborations with NYUCD.

"By encouraging collaborative research," Dr. Partridge says, "I believe we can explore new and exciting initiatives, such as the use of bone marrow stem cells to spur bone growth, which could have implications for the treatment of such disorders as cleft lip and palate."

Dr. Partridge will recruit four new junior researchers to assist faculty members on collaborative projects and to work with her on studies focusing on the action of parathyroid hormone in bone metabolism. Parathyroid hormone acts on osteoblasts, or bone-forming cells, to produce signals that activate osteoclasts, or bone-resorbing cells.

Such work is aimed at developing improvements for osteoporosis therapies.

Dr. Partridge is examining why recombinant parathyroid hormone injections for the treatment of osteoporosis cause bone to form at an exceptionally rapid rate. She recently received a $1.5 million grant from the NIH to support her work in that area. See related story on p. 60.

In a study that she conducted at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Dr. Partridge determined that parathyroid hormone injections in rats led to the expression of a protein that mobilizes white blood cells to fight acute and chronic inflammation. Dr. Partridge plans to continue to examine the connection between the expression of this protein and the rapid formation of bone, and is applying to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the NIH for funding to enable her to continue the study at NYUCD. Her research could help lead to the development of new treatments for people with osteoporosis.

Dr. Partridge is also awaiting renewal of NIDDK funding for a study of the process by which parathyroid hormone leads to the expression of an enzyme that breaks down collagen. Dr. Partridge hypothesizes that cancer drug use may increase this enzyme’s expression and may thus inadvertently set off bone breakdown—a hypothesis she plans to investigate in vivo in the next phase of her study.

“By encouraging collaborative research, I believe we can explore new and exciting initiatives, such as the use of bone marrow stem cells to spur bone growth, which could have implications for the treatment of such disorders as cleft lip and palate.”
New Study Examines Less Virulent HIV-2 for Clues about HIV/AIDS

NYUCD professor Dr. Daniel Malamud hopes to uncover new clues about HIV’s progression to AIDS by studying HIV-2, a related virus that causes a mild, non-lethal form of AIDS.

In a new study, Dr. Antonio Mata of the University of Lisbon and Dr. Malamud, a Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program at NYU, are examining whether HIV-2 is simply a weaker version of its lethal cousin, HIV-1, or whether it possesses unique characteristics that limit its ability to cause serious illness. The Lisbon-NYU team will compare the two viruses by analyzing blood and saliva from subjects infected with one or the other of the viruses.

HIV-2 cases were initially found mainly in West Africa, but in recent years the virus has spread to Europe. Investigators at the University of Lisbon School of Dentistry will recruit West African immigrants to Portugal as study subjects, along with Europeans who apparently became infected with the virus while living in West Africa. Dr. Antonio Mata, an Associate Professor of Oral Biology, and Dr. Joanna Marques, a student in the PhD in Oral Biology program in Lisbon, will ship blood, saliva, and bacterial samples to New York for analysis by Dr. Malamud and his NYUCD team, including Ms. Cheryl Barber, an Associate Research Scientist in Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Dr. Gene Fisch, a Research Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; Dr. Robert G. Norman, a Research Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; Ms. Amy Moore, a Data Manager in Epidemiology & Health Promotion; Dr. Patricia Corby, Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Assistant Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research; Dr. Joan Phelan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; and Dr. Yihong Li, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology.

A relatively small number of HIV-2 cases have been reported in the United States. Dr. Malamud said a better understanding of HIV-2 pathogenesis could help efforts to keep the spread of HIV-2 in check, and could provide clues to how the body deals with HIV-1 as compared to HIV-2.
Novel NYU Study Uses Psychoactive Agent to Promote Enhanced Well-Being for Cancer Sufferers

The NYU Langone School of Medicine and the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research at the NYU College of Dentistry are collaborating on a novel pilot study to investigate the potential therapeutic efficacy of the psychoactive agent, psilocybin, on the anxiety, psychosocial distress, and existential or spiritual suffering associated with a diagnosis of advanced-stage cancer. NYU is one of three sites in the U.S. conducting similar studies. The other two sites are the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Studies indicate that two-thirds of all cancer patients suffer emotional distress and hopelessness following a cancer diagnosis; conversely, enhanced spiritual well-being has been associated with decreased hopelessness and a decreased desire for hastened death in patients with advanced-stage cancer.

Psilocybin has been used in various religious and cultural traditions for millennia to induce mystical or spiritual states of consciousness and well-being; however little is known scientifically about its long-term effects. A serotonergic agonist, psilocybin is the primary psychoactive compound of a group of mushrooms known as *Psilocybe*, and its actions are mediated predominantly at serotonin 5-HT 2A/C receptor sites.

According to the NYU study’s principal investigator, Stephen Ross, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine and of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine at the NYU College of Dentistry, “While there is literature from the 1950s to the early 1970s suggesting that patients with advanced cancer who were treated with psilocybin showed diminished anxiety, depression, and pain and an increase in well-being, research on the therapeutic uses of psilocybin in cancer patients has lagged because the political and cultural tumult of the period led to the inevitable shutdown of clinical research using hallucinogens. Now, after almost three decades of inactivity, the hallucinogen treatment model is again being examined in formal clinical settings.”

A recent landmark study from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, published in 2006 and involving 36 normal volunteers who were hallucinogen naïve, showed that psilocybin can be safely administered in a controlled research setting and can reliably occasion mystical-type experiences associated with considerable personal and spiritual meaning and sustained improvements in...
psychological functioning and well-being at 14-month follow-up. The link between mystical experiences, transformation, and sustained positive changes in psychological functioning was strongly suggested in multiple research studies during the 1960s. One such notable study took place in a government-funded study at the Spring Grove Psychiatric Center in Maryland, where two-thirds of 100 subjects receiving a serotonergic hallucinogen similar to psilocybin reported moderate to marked improvement in anxiety and acceptance of death associated with terminal cancer.

Similar results have been obtained from a recently completed double-blind, placebo-controlled longitudinal study at UCLA involving 12 patients with terminal cancer and psychological distress who also experienced mystical feelings endowed with significant personal meaning following administration of psilocybin with a trend toward improvements in anxiety and depression reported. An article reporting the results of the UCLA study has been submitted to the Archives of General Psychiatry and is under review.

Dr. Ross, who is also Director, Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, NYU/Bellevue Hospital Center, and Director, Clinical Core, NYU Langone Center of Excellence on Addiction, adds, “As an addiction psychiatrist, I see parallels between the lack of training, education, and general attention paid to addiction and end-of-life distress and palliative care. We clearly need new paradigms of care to address the enormous psychological suffering that can occur in patients with advanced cancer for which traditional medicine offers little to help counter the emotional distress of dying.”

The NYU study, an FDA- and DEA-approved phase I, double-blind, controlled study, is open to patients between 18 and 76 years of age who have been diagnosed with potentially life-threatening, advanced or recurrent cancer and who have anxiety-spectrum disorders associated with the diagnosis, including adjustment disorder, anxiety disorder due to cancer, acute stress disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder.

“…Research on the therapeutic uses of psilocybin in cancer patients has lagged because the political and cultural tumult [from the 1950s to the early 1970s] led to the inevitable shutdown of clinical research using hallucinogens. Now, after almost three decades of inactivity, the hallucinogen treatment model is again being examined in formal clinical settings.”

Questionnaires and interviews are used to evaluate multiple outcome variables, including the effects of the study drug on anxiety, depression, quality of life, pain perception, spirituality, and attitude toward advanced illness.

In addition to two drug administration sessions seven weeks apart, volunteers in the NYU study receive extensive psychotherapy. Both the drug administration and psychotherapy sessions take place at the Bluestone Center, in a room that has been specially designed to foster a sense of serenity and spiritual well-being. As in the studies at Johns Hopkins University and UCLA, patients in the NYU study report mystical-type experiences having substantial personal meaning and spiritual significance. As one patient put it, “This study has been a gift for me. I want to repeat the psilocybin session.”

“This fits nicely with the proposed hypothesis of how psilocybin might work,” says Dr. Ross. “These agents have been reported to increase spiritual states, specifically connected with a higher power, including enhanced ability for insight and changing fixed ideas.”
Study Finds Over 90% of People with Periodontal Disease Are at Risk for Diabetes

CONCLUDES THAT AT LEAST HALF COULD BE SCREENED IN DENTAL OFFICES

An overwhelming majority of people who have periodontal (gum) disease are also at high risk for diabetes and should be screened for diabetes, a New York University nursing-dental research team has found. The researchers also determined that half of those at risk had seen a dentist in the previous year and concluded that dentists should consider offering diabetes screenings in their offices. The study describes practical approaches to conducting diabetes screenings in dental offices.

The study, led by Dr. Shiela Strauss, Associate Professor of Nursing and Co-Director of the Statistics and Data Management Core for NYU’s Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, examined data from 2,923 adult participants in the 2003–2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey who had not been diagnosed with diabetes. The survey, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States.

Using guidelines established by the American Diabetes Association, Dr. Strauss determined that 93 percent of subjects who had periodontal disease, compared to 63 percent of those without the disease, were considered to be at high risk for diabetes and should be screened for diabetes. The guidelines recommend diabetes screening for people at least 45 years of age with a body mass index (a comparative measure of weight and height) of 25 or more, as well as for those under 45 years of age with a BMI of 25 or more who also have at least one additional diabetes risk factor. In Dr. Strauss’s study, two of those additional risk factors—high blood pressure and a
first-degree relative (a parent or sibling) with diabetes—were reported in a significantly greater number of subjects with periodontal disease than in subjects without the disease. Dr. Strauss’s findings, published in the December 11, 2009, online edition of the Journal of Public Health Dentistry, add to a growing body of evidence linking periodontal infections to an increased risk for diabetes.

Dr. Strauss also examined how often those with gum disease and a risk for diabetes visit a dentist, finding that three in five reported a dental visit in the past two years; half in the past year; and a third in the past six months.

“In light of these findings, the dental visit could be a useful opportunity to conduct an initial diabetes screening—an important first step in identifying those patients who need follow-up testing to diagnose the disease.

“It’s been estimated that 5.7 million Americans with diabetes were undiagnosed in 2007,” Dr. Strauss added, “with the number expected to increase dramatically in coming years. The issue of undiagnosed diabetes is especially critical because early treatment and secondary prevention efforts may help to prevent or delay the long-term complications of diabetes that are responsible for reduced quality of life and increased levels of mortality among these patients. Thus, there is a critical need to increase opportunities for diabetes screening and early diabetes detection.”

Dr. Strauss said that dentists could screen patients for diabetes by first evaluating them for risk factors such as being overweight; belonging to a high-risk ethnic group (African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian-American, or Pacific Islander); having high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and a first-degree relative with diabetes; having gestational diabetes mellitus; or having given birth to a baby weighing more than nine pounds.

Dentists could use a glucometer—a diagnostic instrument for measuring blood glucose—to analyze finger-stick blood samples, or use the glucometer to evaluate blood samples taken from pockets of inflammation in the gums.

“The oral blood sample would arguably be more acceptable to dentists because providers and patients anticipate oral intervention in the dental office,” Dr. Strauss noted. In an earlier study involving 46 subjects with periodontal disease published in June 2009 by the Journal of Periodontology, an NYU nursing-dental research team led by Dr. Strauss determined that the glucometer can provide reliable glucose-level readings for blood samples drawn from deep pockets of gum inflammation, and that those readings were highly correlated with glucometer readings for finger-stick blood samples.

Dr. Strauss’s coauthors on the study for the Journal of Public Health Dentistry include Ms. Alla Wheeler, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene; Dr. Stefanie Russell, a periodontist and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; and Dr. Robert Norman, Research Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, all of the NYU College of Dentistry; Dr. Luisa Borrell, an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Lehman College of the City University of New York; and Dr. David Rindskopf, Distinguished Professor of Educational Psychology and Psychology at the City University of New York Graduate Center.
Tomorrow’s Practitioners Will Routinely Conduct In-Office Research

Predictions by Dr. Donald DeNucci
Program Officer for Practice-Based Clinical Research
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

In-office clinical research will become commonplace in the next decade, with practicing dentists using large electronic networks to share findings about patient treatments, Dr. Donald DeNucci predicts.

“Clinical research has the potential to become an integral part of future daily practice, just as infection control is today,” says Dr. DeNucci, adding that in-office research findings could contribute to improvements in the quality of care being provided to the public.

Today, the PEARL Network is helping to lay the groundwork for wider use of in-office clinical research in the future by developing and conducting peer-reviewed clinical studies that are important to practicing dentists, and by demonstrating that subject recruitment and data gathering can be successfully integrated into day-to-day practice.

“With PEARL,” says Dr. DeNucci, “we’ve seen that a formal research network can create an infrastructure that facilitates and supports the collection of valuable data at the point of care.”

The core of this infrastructure is the web-based system for data capture, verification, and distribution developed by the EMMES Corporation, the contract research organization helping PEARL manage its studies.

In August, the federal government announced grants of almost $1.2 billion to help healthcare providers and hospitals develop an electronic health record and begin switching from a paper-driven system to an electronic one over the next several years. The American Dental Association is working to develop the oral health components of such a record. Dr. DeNucci believes that a move toward electronic health records will result in more dentists becoming familiar with data-gathering technology.

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

In addition to overseeing the PEARL Network* and two other NIDCR-funded, practice-based research networks, Dr. DeNucci administers a practice-based research network for the Veterans Administration, has been a practicing dentist and periodontist for more than 38 years, and has conducted clinical studies on periodontal disease and chronic pain. His predictions on the future of conducting clinical studies in dental offices are presented here.
An increase in the number of dentists working in large group practices is also likely to spur the adoption of technology that facilitates in-office research. Unlike solo practitioners, who don’t generally need to communicate with other practitioners on a regular basis, dentists in large groups will need to transmit laboratory test results, treatment outcomes, and other clinical information in a uniform fashion from the point of care. This technology could easily be adapted to report in-office clinical trial findings, as well, Dr. DeNucci believes. Thus, practicing dentists could rapidly transmit data from research studies to other practitioners, oral health advocates, and policy makers, enabling a more rapid translation of research findings into clinical practice.
Endodontic Resident Research Wins National Award

A multidisciplinary study presented by NYUCD’s endodontic residency program captured a major award at the April 2009 annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists in the highly competitive area of resident research. NYUCD’s submission, “Evaluation of Pathologists (Histopathology) and Radiologists (Cone Beam Computed Tomography) Differentiating Radicular Cysts from Granulomas,” placed fifth out of 116 presentations. A paper based on the research has been submitted to the Journal of Endodontics.

Dr. Paul A. Rosenberg, Professor and Chair of the Quattararo Department of Endodontics, was the principal investigator on the study, which was presented by Dr. Jared C. Frisbie-Teel, a second-year endodontic resident. Other participants in the study included Dr. Jaehoon Lee, a former endodontic resident; Dr. Kyung Lee, a second-year endodontic resident; Dr. Herbert Frommer, Professor Emeritus of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; 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. Louis Lin, Professor of Endodontics and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Endodontics; and Dr. Gene Fisch, Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.
Hinman Research Award Goes to NYU Dental Student

Second-year dental student Robert Range won one of three equivalent awards given in the basic science category at the 15th annual Hinman Student Research Symposium held in October 2009 at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The symposium featured oral and poster presentations of research projects submitted by a total of 83 pre- and postdoctoral dental students from 49 dental schools across the nation.

Robert’s research project studied the role of pore formation in the outer mitochondrial membrane on the initiation of programmed cell death (apoptosis). The project was directed by Dr. Kathleen W. Kinnally, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology. Global Health Nexus congratulates Robert on his outstanding achievement in a national research competition.

The symposium featured oral and poster presentations of research projects submitted by a total of 83 pre- and postdoctoral dental students from 49 dental schools across the nation.
Recruiting the BEST

Dr. Hillary Broder has been appointed a Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care. Dr. Broder was formerly the Acting Chair of the Department of Community Health at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School and the Hunterdon Professor in Community Health at UMDNJ. She earned a master’s degree in educational psychology and a PhD in school/counseling psychology from Duke University. Dr. Broder’s special expertise is in communication in health care and community outreach to diverse patient groups.
MR. JOHN WEDELES has been appointed Program Director of the NYUCD-based Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program, which helps healthcare providers, hospitals, and community health centers throughout Manhattan create anti-smoking services. Mr. Wedeles earned a master’s degree in Health Policy and Management from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

MS. ALLYSON LEFFEL has been appointed a social worker at NYUCD. Her responsibilities include providing psychosocial counseling for students, patients, faculty, and staff; and helping to develop a social and behavioral sciences curriculum. Ms. Leffel earned a master’s degree in social work from Adelphi University.
**Ms. Phyllis Stone**, formerly Manager of the Center for University Advisement at Hofstra University, has been appointed Assistant Director for Student Retention and Academic Advising. Ms. Stone, who also worked as an academic counselor at NYU’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, earned master’s degrees in educational psychology and in higher education administration from the Steinhardt School, and is currently enrolled in the PhD program in Higher Education Administration at George Washington University.

**Ms. Laura B. Sleeper**, formerly a Clinical Research Specialist at the University of Maryland Dental School, has been appointed Assistant Director of Clinic Operations for Postgraduate Education. Ms. Sleeper earned an AAS degree in dental hygiene from Broome Community College in Binghamton, New York, and an MA degree in Social Sciences from Binghamton University.
**Promoting our Own**

**DR. ANALIA VEITZ-KEENAN,'99,** formerly a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine, has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine.

**DR. YIHONG LI,** formerly an Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, has been promoted to Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology. Dr. Li earned a DDS degree from Beijing Medical University School of Stomatolog in China, as well as a Master’s degree in Public Health and a Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**DR. PETER MYCHAJLIW,'87,** formerly a part-time Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, has been promoted to a full-time faculty position.

**DR. ELISE S. EISENBERG,'84,** Clinical Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion and former Director of Informatics and Digital Support Services, has been promoted to Senior Director of Informatics. As the leader of the Office of Informatics, Dr. Eisenberg’s responsibilities include overseeing programming, updating, and development of NYUCD’s Web site, iTunesU podcasting, and multimedia, educational media, desktop, and technology support for students, faculty, and staff.
DR. WILLIAM J. MALONEY, ’92, formerly a Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.

MR. CHIRAG SADANA, formerly Manager of Informatics, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Informatics. Mr. Sadana’s responsibilities include managing multimedia, and desktop and technology support and services.

MR. DAYAKE (BOB) BUBB, formerly a Patient Services Representative, has been promoted to Clinic Manager of Dr. Scott Podell’s Group Practice.

MR. LAWAYNE PERKINS, formerly a Group Practice Clinic Manager, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Preclinical & Clinical Support Systems. Mr. Perkins will help manage the central sterilization unit’s day-to-day operations.
NYUCD Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Part-time Faculty

Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology
Dr. Haiteng Deng, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Jorge A. Andrade, Instructor
Dr. Yakir A. Arteaga, Instructor
Dr. Leonard Berkowitz, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Iryna Branets, Instructor
Dr. Michael Cali, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Joseph A. Checchio, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Sophia Dyakiv, Instructor
Dr. Derek J. Faktor, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Steven Feinstein, Instructor
Dr. Virendra L. Jhaveri, Instructor
Dr. Edward J. Jhaveri, Instructor
Dr. Edisa Karamitri, Instructor
Dr. Sophia Khan, Instructor
Dr. Richard K. Kim, Instructor
Dr. Peter Kouvaris, Instructor
Dr. Lisa Kuhnle-Biagas, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Dr. Robert S. Landman, Instructor
Dr. Roger Lerner, Instructor
Dr. Ronald I. Maitland, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Jaclyn J. Park, Instructor
Dr. Colin M. Pech, Instructor
Dr. Thomas Plantzos, Instructor

Department of Dental Hygiene
Ms. Denise Barry, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Ms. Lisa Duddy, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Ms. Marsha Tantleff, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Dentistry
Dr. Nicholas I. Rallis, Instructor
Dr. Michael A. Regis, Instructor
Dr. Harpriya Sidhu, Instructor
Dr. Lori R. Suser, Instructor
Dr. Stefan Ursu, Instructor
Dr. Colleen A. Watson, Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion
Ms. Lisette Gonzalez, Instructor
Mr. Richard C. McGowan, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Mr. James T. Nissel, Instructor

Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Dr. Andrew Blitzer, Adjunct Professor
Dr. Stephen Ross, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Department of Orthodontics
Dr. Richard Alexander, Clinical Professor
Dr. Susan S. Braun, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Olga Bukholts, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Mary Eve Maestre, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Susan T. Singer, Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Aura Caldera, Instructor
Dr. Heather I. Baumhardt, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Rupal V. Patel, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Joshua C. Treesh, Instructor

Ashman Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Dr. Gary Greenstein, Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. Nikisha N. Jodhan, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Barbara B. Jurim, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Miriam D. Messing, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Jessica Pandich, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Alexander J. Schloss, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Mark B. Snyder, Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. Stephen J. St. James, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Jonathan Zamzok, Clinical Associate Professor

Department of Prosthodontics
Dr. Caroline Barsoum, Clinical Assistant Professor
Dr. Louis F. DeSantis, Clinical Associate Professor

Congratulations to Recently Promoted Part-time Faculty

Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology
Dr. Elena Cunningham, from Adjunct Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Steven Resnick, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

Dental Hygiene
Ms. Denise Barry, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Ms. Lisa Duddy, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
Ms. Marsha Tantleff, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor

Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Dr. Elvir Dincer, from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. David Nassry, from Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor
NYUCD Hosts Inaugural New York State Global Health Forum

The Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY), the NYU College of Dentistry, and Weill Cornell Medical College hosted a daylong Global Health Forum for 94 faculty, staff, and students from medical schools, dental schools, affiliate nursing schools, and public health schools from around the State of New York. The Forum, held at NYU College of Dentistry in December 2009, brought together educators to discuss relevant issues in the delivery of education and care at the global level. Moderated by Oliver Fein, MD, Associate Dean of Affiliations and Office of Global Health Education at Weill Cornell Medical College, attendees spent the morning hearing panel presentations. Presenters included:

Richard Deckelbaum, MD, MPH, President GHEC, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
“Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC) and Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)”

Charles Bertolami, DDS, DMedSc
Dean, NYU College of Dentistry
“Global Health Program Sustainability”

From top: Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, Dr. Oliver Fein, Dr. Padmini Murthy, participants at the conference.
Padmini Murthy, MD, MPH, MS, M Phil,
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health Policy & Management Global Health/Dept. of Family Medicine, New York Medical College,
School of Health Sciences & Practice
“Cultural Competencies and Skills”

Natasha Anandaraja, MD, MPH
Director, Global Health Center, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
“Creating a Comprehensive Global Health Training Program”

Prabhjot Dhadialla, PhD, Director, Health Systems, Center for Global Health and Economic Development, The Earth Institute of Columbia University
“Interdisciplinary Health Work in the Broader Context of Economic Development”

After a networking lunch, participants divided into four breakout sessions to begin discussions on “University-Wide Collaborations,” “Curricula Development,” “Basics in International Programming,” and “Funding.” These breakout sessions sought to determine ways in which the institutions could begin to collaborate on a variety of topics.
250 Dentists from 27 Countries Attend International Implantology Conference at NYUCD

Last August saw the participation of more than 250 dentists from 27 countries in a five-day International Implantology Week program organized by Mr. H. Kendall Beacham, Assistant Dean for Continuing Dental Education. This was the largest group of international dentists ever to attend a continuing dental education program at NYUCD.

The conference featured presentations on advanced treatment planning, implant surgery, and oral rehabilitation by Dr. Dennis Tarnow, former Professor and Chair of the Ashman Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry; Dr. Stephen Chu, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry; Dr. Christian Stappert, Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry; Dr. Ziv Mazor, a former Clinical Instructor in Periodontics at the Hadassah School of Dental Medicine in Israel; and Dr. Harold Baumgarten, Clinical Professor of Periodontics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.
NYUCD Hosts Visiting Scholars from Japan, Jordan, and Brazil

Three researchers from Japan, Jordan, and Brazil have been appointed as Visiting Scholars for 2009–2010 in the following areas:

PROSTHODONTICS

Dr. Haruko Okazaki from Japan is working with Dr. Seiichi Yamano, an Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, on the development of growth factors for bone regeneration in periodontology and implant dentistry. Dr. Okazaki earned a DDS degree from Nihon University School of Dentistry and plans to return to her private dental practice in Tokyo, which she opened in 1999.

BIOMATERIALS & BIOMIMETICS

Dr. Leandro Martins of Brazil is investigating the mechanical properties of ceramic materials used in dental restorations in collaboration with Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, and Dr. Nelson Silva, an Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics. Dr. Martins earned a DDS degree and an MS in Materials Science from Gama Filho University in Rio de Janeiro, and plans to return to the Bauru School of Dentistry—University of São Paulo, to complete a PhD in Oral Rehabilitation.

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Dr. Enas Othman is studying oral health care for medically compromised and disabled children in collaboration with Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Neal Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Othman earned a DDS degree from the University of Jordan School of Dentistry in Amman, and completed a residency program in pediatric dentistry at the King Hussein Medical Center Royal Medical Services in Amman, where she also served as the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program Director. Dr. Othman plans to return to Jordan to resume teaching responsibilities at the King Hussein Medical Center.
NYUCD’s Office for International Programs will host its second Global Alumni Reunion in Hong Kong from May 6 to 9, 2010. The event will celebrate the achievements of International Programs alumni from 60 countries.

NYUCD offers 10 Advanced Programs for International Dentists and has over 800 alumni worldwide. Under the leadership of Ms. Dolores Spinelli, who assumed the position of Senior Director for International Programs in 2000, enrollment has grown from an annual enrollment of 45 students to over 100.

Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs and Development, said he expected attendance at the Hong Kong reunion to exceed the 120 people from 37 countries who came to the first International Programs reunion held in May 2008, in Florence, Italy.

“At the upcoming reunion, you’ll be able to renew acquaintances, make new friends, and attend lectures taught by top specialists in their fields, as well as presentations by alumni,” said Dr. Hirsch, noting that over 100 people recently attended educational presentations by International Programs alumni in Beijing, China (see story on p. 49).

The reunion agenda will include a welcoming reception on Thursday, May 6, and presentations on Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, followed by a gala dinner on Saturday for alumni and their guests at Café Deco, located on Victoria Peak overlooking Hong Kong.

For additional information, please contact the International Programs Alumni Reunion by telephone at 1.212.998.9901; by fax at 1.212.995.4240; or by e-mail at dental.ipreunion@nyu.edu.
Dr. Pedro Casillas Ascanio and Dr. Jaime Jiménez García, graduates of the Advanced Program for International Dentists in Implant Dentistry in 1998 and 2004, respectively, traveled to China from their home in Spain this past October to present a lecture entitled “Immediate Loading of 15 Ball Retained Overdentures with Evolution Implants: Can Biology Work Out the Stress?” at the Peking University College of Stomatology and at the China Stomatological Association’s Beijing headquarters. Over 100 Chinese dentists and dental students attended the lectures, which were coordinated by Dr. Dixin Zhang, a private practitioner in Beijing who studied in the Advanced Program for International Dentists in Comprehensive Dentistry in 2007.
Ever since Miracle Corners of the World (MCW)* organized its first dental outreach in August 2001, NYU dental students and faculty have been active participants in providing free dental services to patients in underserved areas of Tanzania. The first outreach mission, which served more than 200 patients at MCW’s Arusha, Tanzania, Community Center¹, included Ruben Cohen, NYU College of Dentistry Class of 2002; Maia Berger, NYUCD Class of 2004; and Dr. Anthony Vernillo, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine at NYUCD. MCW and Henry Schein Cares have subsequently supported NYU faculty and students in treating hundreds of patients each year.

Follow-up outreaches took place in August 2003 and 2004 at a regional hospital in remote, underserved Songea, Tanzania, a 15-hour bus ride southwest of Dar es Salaam. NYUCD faculty, students, and other volunteers treated over 500 patients in 2003 and 600 patients in 2004.²

In 2005, MCW built the Liana Cohen Dental Clinic on MCW’s new 52-acre site in Kipera Village, Songea, Tanzania, under the direction of MCW volunteer Alfred Hanssen. By August of that year, a team including NYUCD students and faculty treated patients in the new and fully equipped clinic.³

*About Miracle Corners of the World (MCW): MCW is a nonprofit organization founded in 1999 to empower youth to become leaders of social change. Its oral healthcare program’s goal is to strengthen Tanzania’s oral healthcare system through public and private sector partnerships, providing state-of-the-art dental equipment and access to oral health care expertise, www.miraclecorners.org
In August 2006, the fifth outreach team treated over 400 patients in one week. The sixth outreach group undertook an expanded program in August 2007, in keeping with MCW’s goals to include preventive oral hygiene education and more treatment to children in the community.

The relationship between MCW and the Songea Municipal Council was formalized in 2007 through a memorandum of understanding, whereby the Liana Cohen Dental Clinic was to be managed and staffed by the Songea district, while owned and supplied by MCW. With a government-employed dental therapist posted to the Kipera clinic, MCW’s vision of sustainable access to oral health care for the residents of Songea is being realized.

Accordingly, the December 2008 Songea outreach by NYUCD faculty and alumni brought treatment and community-based preventive oral hygiene education to hundreds of patients. A major goal was to work with Mr. Bilal, the dental therapist, training him on the latest...
techniques in restorative procedure both pediatric and adult dentistry. A tory was set up to keep track of sup needed; and expiration dates of cer rials. The dental team treated 175 p days on the ground. Patients received preventive, intermi ate restorative care, and extractions. In the MCW outreach programs, dental care is tai lored to the individual patient. Dr. Neal Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, presented a lecture entitled "Update on Dentistry for Children at the Songea Regional Hospital," and a second lecture on "Contemporary Issues in Pediatric Dentistry" at the dental school of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania).

In August 2009, the outreach team treated over 200 adults and children," and 15 dental textbooks were donated to the dean of the dental school in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Walter Schneider (private practice, Colorado) worked in Songea with the MCW dental therapist for three weeks in November 2009.

Future outreaches will focus on providing training and support for the clinic’s dental therapist while helping to improve the school-based preventive pediatric oral health education program.

MCW’s oral healthcare program, in conjunction with academic partners, has received encour ment, and support from Tanzania’s kwete; present and past Permanent the United Nations, Honor able Mwakawago and Augustine Mahiga; and Tanzania’s Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

A 2008 memorandum of agreement between MCW and the dental school at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Dar es Salaam outlines a project to improve oral health care across Tanzania. As part of the agreement, in early 2009, the MUHAS School of Dentistry received new state-of-the-art equipment, including dental operators and chairs, X-ray machines, sterilizers, compressors, dental instruments, new cabinetry, and sterilization centers.

The project, along with the planned installation of a new dental lab, is valued at nearly $2 million, representing one of the largest private donations to MUHAS to date. The memo­randum of understanding also stipulates that MUHAS dental students will soon begin serving their community rota­tions at the MCW Liana Cohen clinic in Songea.
MCW program participants have included the following individuals:

1. Drs. Anthony Vernillo, Mitchell Pines, Frank Andolino (orthodontist, private practice), Onir Leshem (NYUCD graduate), Ron Kumbawa (Zimbabwe), and dental student Abtin Shahriari (University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine).

2. NYUCD students included Erica Barba, Daniel Kang, Michael Wilson, Brent Stanley, and Jason Horn, with NYUCD faculty Drs. Mitchell Pines, Anthony Vernillo, Brian Swann (private practitioner, Kumbawa), Anna Conoulis (MCW Board), Ogo Sow (MCW volunteer), and Shareen Mani (Henry Schein).


4. NYUCD students Noah Ariola-Tirella, Juan Carlos-Hernandez, Amita Damani, Meeta Grewal, Sung Lee Min, Clinton Timmerman, Tammy Tran, Anne Yu, and Alyssa Brown (University of Illinois), along with Drs. Girish Shah, Anthony Vernillo, Mitchell Pines, and Doug Pollack (pediatrics), and Henry Schein volunteers Keith Drayer, Jules Paoletti, and Shirley Green.

5. NYUCD faculty included Jill Fernandez, Drs. Amr Moursi, Brendan O’Connor, and Miriam Robbins, with NYUCD students Zhemeng Wang, Reem Hemantharaju, Sheena Lambert, Charles Roy, and David Treff.

6. Prof. Jill Fernandez, Drs. Sky Berdahl and Neal Herman, and Drs. Jason Horn (NYUCD alumnus, US Navy) and Ryan Horn (private practitioner, periodontics).

7. Prof. Jill Fernandez with Drs. Elizabeth Lee (Montefiore resident) and Patrick So (private practitioner, California, and NYU alumnus).
Libyan Dentists’ Enrollment in Advanced Programs Rises Sevenfold

The normalization of diplomatic relations in 2006 between the United States and Libya has made it easier for Libyans to obtain visas to study in the U.S. and has contributed to a dramatic increase in Libyan dentists’ enrollment in NYUCD’s Advanced Programs for International Dentists.

There are currently 23 Libyan dentists enrolled in the program, 20 more than the three who enrolled last year. All receive full scholarships from the Libyan Ministry of Higher Education.

Most of the 20 new students learned about NYUCD first-hand from the three who had enrolled last year, Dr. Omar Ezarrugh, Dr. Thamer Musbah, and Dr. Hosam Alrqiq, all from Libya’s capital of Tripoli.

“When dentists back home called to inquire about studying abroad, we recommended NYUCD for the practical, real-world experience offered with many different kinds of patient cases,” said Dr. Ezarrugh, who is enrolled in the three-year Oral Surgery program jointly accredited by NYUCD and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

“Many of the dentists back home were impressed to hear that I was given the opportunity to treat patients in the very first week of my program,” Dr. Ezarrugh added.

“The experience I’ve had treating so many different kinds of cases will give me more confidence in deciding on treatment strategies when I return to continue the oral surgery career I began in the Tripoli Medical Center, Libya’s largest hospital.”

Dr. Musbah said that the Comprehensive Dentistry program, which he completed in 2009, and the Oral Medicine and Special Needs Dentistry program, which he expects to complete in 2010, have helped him to both improve his technique and grow professionally.

“My exposure to professors from a range of different disciplines in the Comprehensive program helped
me develop my own special styles and techniques, and my work with medically complex and developmentally disabled patients in the Oral Medicine and Special Needs Dentistry program has made me a stronger, more well-rounded dentist.”

Dr. Alrqiq, Orthodontics ’09 and Pediatric Dentistry ’10, said: “I came to NYUCD seeking advanced clinical training and real-world experience to complement an MS in Dentistry in Dental Public Health that I had recently earned at the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine. Treating children from many different ethnic and racial backgrounds in the NYUCD pediatric clinic, on the mobile dental van’s visits to Head Start programs at New York City public schools, and on an outreach mission to an underserved area in upstate Hudson, New York, are practical experiences I can draw on when I return to Libya to teach public health dentistry.”

In addition to Drs. Ezarrugh, Musbah, and Alrqiq, the Libyan dentists enrolled in the Advanced Programs in 2009–10 are:

Dr. Ahmed Matri, from Alshati, Libya, Endodontics, ’10; Dr. Amaddin Abdullah Alghzwi, Tripoli, Esthetics, ’10; Dr. Elhadi Faraj Kadoshi, Zliten, Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Eman Othman, Zawai, Orthodontics, ’10; Dr. Fathi M. Elgaddari, Benghazi, Implant Dentistry, ’11; Dr. Ghazi Benkura, Tripoli, Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Hamza Sharif, Khoms, Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Hayat Omar Abood, Yefren, Orthodontics, ’10; Dr. Hossam Ragab Harisha, Tripoli, Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Khaled Elhenshiri, Tripoli, Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Mohamed Hawidi, ArRyaina, Oral Surgery/RCSI, ’12; Dr. Osama Khalifa, Baniwalid, Oral Sugery/RCSI, ’12; Dr. Salahaldeen Ghamid, Baniwalid, Orthodontics, ’10; Dr. Shehabeddin Felfel, Tripoli, Oral Surgery, ’10; Dr. Ziad Nast, Hoon, Oral Surgery/RCSI, ’12; Dr. Khalid Abdullaziz Azzouz, Tripoli, Oral Medicine, ’10; Dr. Mohamed Jede, Zentan, Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Mohamed Mansour Ben Hakoma, Tripoli, Endodontics, ’10; Dr. Moid N.R. Karwaa, Tripoli, Esthetic Dentistry, ’10; and Dr. Noureddin Omer Khazam, Tripoli, Oral Surgery/RCSI, ’12.
A new preventive model that aims to achieve sustainable reductions in dental caries among underserved children both in the U.S. and abroad was further bolstered by the results of a November 2009 follow-up outreach by NYUCD’s Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program to a school in an underserved area of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The new model is based on fluoride varnishes being re-applied at three-month intervals by local dental school students and faculty recruited by Dr. Adolfo Rodriguez, President of the Dominican Dental Association. Training and preventive materials were supplied through NYUCD and made possible by gifts from the Henry Schein corporation. Approximately 350 children were treated at the school in February 2009. When the team re-evaluated the children’s oral health status, it found that this approach had reduced tooth decay among the children by 40 percent in just nine months. Even more striking was the reduction in the number of carious teeth per child, from 3 to 1.3.

“The initial decline in tooth decay is very encouraging and exceeds our original expectations,” said Ms. Rachel Hill, Program Administrator for the Office of International Programs & Development, who added that the children will continue to receive fluoride varnishes at three-month intervals until NYUCD returns for its third mission in November 2010. “We expect to see further improvements in oral health when we return to re-evaluate the children,” said Ms. Hill, who attributed the high rates of decay to frequent snacking on refined carbohydrates.

During the November 2009 outreach, NYUCD’s 32-member team provided more than 2,800 treatments, including 232 restorations and
496 extractions, to 789 adults and children. Two Dominican natives—Dr. Hansel Gonzalez, Advanced Program for International Dentists in Oral Surgery, ’10, and Dr. Eugenia Mejia, Director of Admissions—took part in the mission. “Nothing is more gratifying than doing outreach in my own language, with my own people,” said Dr. Mejia, who helped manage the triage area.

In addition to Ms. Hill, Dr. Gonzalez, and Dr. Mejia, the members of the outreach team included Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs & Development; Dr. Roy Sonkin, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care; Dr. Zachary Sonkin, ’09; Ms. Amanda Meissner, Program Administrator for the Office of International Programs & Development; Dr. Lily Lim, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Jennifer LaSasso, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, ’09; Dr. Kelly Kim, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry ’10; Dr. Loan Nguyen, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry ’11.

Additional volunteers included Dr. Shereen Riad, Advanced Program for International Dentists in Pediatric Dentistry ‘10; Dr. Prenard Mickens, Clinical Assistant Professor of Endodontics; Dr. Raul Ortiz, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics ‘10; Dr. Joshua Yadegar, Advanced Education Program in Endodontics ’10; Dr. Katsushi Okazaki, Advanced Program for International Dentists in Endodontics, ’10; Dr. Sharon Umrigar, Advanced Program for International Dentists in Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; Dr. Carolina Varela, Advanced Program for International Dentists in Comprehensive Dentistry, ’10; as well as DDS class of 2010 students Ms. Jennifer Chang, Mr. Corey Corpodian, Ms. Sarah Eukszuzian, Mr. Andrew Hoppe, Ms. Radhika Kapur, Mr. Prospero Matos, Ms. Rimma Portman, Ms. Sarah Saucerman, Mr. Ojas Shah, Ms. Audrey Wingo, and Mr. Jason Yang; and DDS Class of 2011 students Mr. Julian Issacs and Ms. Rachel Kwal.
DR. LILY LIM: PREPARING CHILDREN FOR A LIFETIME OF ORAL HEALTH

“IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO STOP TOOTH DECAY AND TEACH CHILDREN GOOD ORAL HEALTH HABITS THAT CAN PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR A LIFETIME OF ORAL HEALTH,” SAYS DR. LILY LIM, A CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY AND DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL DENTISTS IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY. DR. LIM first worked with children in the pediatric clinic at the University of the East College of Dentistry in her native Philippines, where she earned a DMD degree. Although she emigrated to the United States 30 years ago and has been a faculty member at NYUCD for the past 18 years, she still maintains close contact with dentists in the Philippines and plans to lead an outreach mission to underserved areas there in July 2010.

“The Philippines has only a handful of pediatric dentists, and there’s a great need to improve awareness about children’s oral health,” says Dr. Lim, who will be accompanied by Ms. Jill Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Neal Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Bernadette Lapena, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. Patrick So, Pediatric Dentistry program, ’09; and Dr. Paul Abaya, a 2003 graduate of the Pediatric Dentistry program who practices in the Philippines. In July, Dr. Lim will present a paper on caries prevention and management at the Biennial Conference of the Pediatric Dentistry Association of Asia in Manila.

“Dr. Lim is a great asset to NYUCD,” said Dr. Amr M. Moursi, Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. “In addition to caries prevention, she is an authority on preventing and treating sports injuries in the oral cavity, and on managing children’s anxiety about dental treatment. Dr. Lim is truly passionate about caring for children.”

“In addition to caries prevention, she is an authority on preventing and treating sports injuries in the oral cavity, and on managing children’s anxiety about dental treatment. Dr. Lim is truly passionate about caring for children.”
Faculty members from NYUCD’s Advanced Programs for International Dentists work hard to raise the College’s profile in Latin America, traveling throughout the region to present educational seminars and network with prospective students. One faculty member who has maintained a particularly high profile is Dr. Lupo Villega, DDS Class of 1994, a native of the Dominican Republic, who joined the faculty in 2005 as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and an Instructor in the Advanced Program for International Dentists in Esthetic Dentistry.

A high point for Dr. Villega and for NYUCD occurred when he was invited to be a featured participant at the October 2009 annual meeting of the Latin American Dental Federation in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Dr. Villega demonstrated how to place no-preparation veneers to an audience of 2,000 dentists—the first such demonstration in that country.

Dr. Villega traveled to Santo Domingo two months before the meeting to identify a patient who could be fitted for no-preparation veneers, which, unlike traditional veneers, can be attached to teeth without enamel removal. Working with Dr. Adolfo Rodriguez, President of the Dominican Dental Association, Dr. Villega selected a 20-year-old woman whose anterior teeth were too far apart and too short.

Dr. Villega and his co-presenter, Mr. Jason Kim, President of the Oral Design Center of New York, demonstrated how to take an impression, fabricate the veneers, and condition the teeth and the porcelain veneers for bonding. They placed six veneers in a four-hour operation broadcast live via TV monitors placed throughout the packed convention hall.

“This was a great opportunity to share my knowledge about no-preparation veneers with many dentists from Latin America who are not yet familiar with them,” Dr. Villega said. “More training is needed before no-preparation veneers can be made widely available in Latin America, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the region to promote education on this and other advances in esthetic dentistry.”
NYU College of Dentistry’s Dr. Nicola Partridge Awarded $1.5 Million NIH Grant for Craniofacial Bone Research

The new Chair of the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology at the NYU College of Dentistry, Dr. Nicola Partridge, has been awarded a two-year, $1.5 million NIH grant to expand research on craniofacial bone biology. Dr. Partridge is a national and international authority on molecular endocrinology and an expert in bone and mineral research.

The award, which was made by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the NIH, will enable Dr. Partridge to hire two new junior faculty members to conduct research that has relevance to bone remodeling and craniofacial development and disease, such as osteoclast biology and the interaction of osteocytes with bone matrix. Dr. Partridge has special expertise in the role of parathyroid hormone action in bone and mineralized tissue, and in investigating pulsed electromagnetic fields that stimulate bone formation—work that is aimed at developing new signals for non-healing fractures and other improvements in orthopedic therapies.

The new faculty members are to devote at least 75 percent of their time to research and the balance to teaching. They will be mentored by Dr. Partridge, who gained extensive mentoring experience in her previous position as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

In addition to working with Dr. Partridge, the new faculty will be expected to collaborate with other craniofacial bone researchers from the College of Dentistry’s Departments of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; Orthodontics; and Pediatric Dentistry.
NYU Global Public Health Research Challenge Fund Grant Awarded to College of Dentistry’s Dr. Dasanayake

NYU College of Dentistry Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake has been awarded a one-year NYU Global Public Health Research Challenge Fund grant to continue his study of how periodontal disease can contribute to gestational diabetes mellitus.

Dr. Dasanayake’s hypothesis is that molecules related to periodontal disease block insulin, the hormone that enables cells to absorb glucose, the body’s main source of energy. In gestational diabetes, the body cannot transport glucose to the cells during pregnancy.

“Although gestational diabetes usually disappears when pregnancy ends, nine out of ten women who have had gestational diabetes will later develop the most common form of diabetes, known as Type 2, and their babies will be at risk for developing it, too,” said Dr. Dasanayake, adding that Type 2 diabetes has already been linked to inflammation caused by periodontal disease. He is collaborating with researchers at Khon Kaen Hospital and Khon Kaen University Teaching Hospital in northeast Thailand.

Thailand was chosen for the study because Thai women have low rates of smoking and alcohol use, thus enabling Dr. Dasanayake to eliminate these practices as possible risk factors for periodontal disease and gestational diabetes mellitus in his study.

The women will be given a periodontal examination and tests to screen for gestational diabetes. Dr. Dasanayake hypothesizes that those women found to have the greatest amount of bleeding and inflammation in their gums as a result of periodontal disease will have the highest levels of glucose in their blood. Such a finding would bolster the results of a previous study completed in spring 2009, in Sri Lanka, in which pregnant women with periodontal disease and low smoking and alcohol use rates were shown to be at increased risk for developing gestational diabetes.

“If our hypothesis is borne out, it will be further evidence that women should see a dentist if they are thinking of becoming pregnant, and even after becoming pregnant,” said Dr. Dasanayake. “Treating gum disease during pregnancy has been shown to be safe and effective in improving women’s oral health and minimizing potential risks.”

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RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY HELD FOR GARY AND ALYSE RUTH ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY WING

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for NYUCD’s Gary and Alyse Ruth Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Wing on November 13, 2009. The 4,000-plus-square-foot Ruth Wing, which opened in September after extensive renovations to the second floor of the Schwartz Building, houses 11 operatories, an additional suite of seven enclosed surgical operatories, and an 11-operatory emergency care facility, the Dr. Stanley N. Turetzky Urgent Care Suite.

Said Dr. Ruth, “Alyse and I saw the work that the NYU faculty are doing in such areas as endoscopic surgery for salivary gland disease, pediatric cleft lip and 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.”

Gary and Alyse Ruth’s extraordinary generosity enabled us to build the oral and maxillofacial surgery wing of our dreams.
“Gary and Alyse Ruth’s extraordinary generosity enabled 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 school to support,” he added, “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.”
NYUCD Shares $2.8 Million NIH Award to Advance Study of 3-D Bone Tissue Scaffolds

Two NYUCD professors are partnering with researchers from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Rutgers University on a $2.8 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the NIH, to assess the effectiveness of anti-inflammatory, three-dimensional bone tissue scaffolds in regenerating missing sections of skull. The study is being led by Dr. Patrick O’Connor, an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UMDNJ.

The NYU College of Dentistry, a subcontractor on the grant, received a $352,000 award. Dr. John Ricci, an Associate Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, and Ms. Elizabeth Clark, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, will design and fabricate the calcium-phosphate scaffolds, which will contain a unique anti-inflammatory biomolecule known as a lipooxygenase inhibitor, as well as a novel anti-inflammatory polyaaspirin polymer developed by Dr. Kathryn Uhrich, a Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences, which is also a subcontractor on the grant.

The scaffolds will release the anti-inflammatory biomolecule and polymer into the surrounding bone and skin. This is believed to be the first time that anti-inflammatory therapies, which have shown great promise for the stimulation of bone repair, are being used in scaffolds.

The scaffolds will be made using a robotic deposition printer, or Robocaster, that can generate layered, porous, three-dimensional scaffolds from data obtained from CT scans and MRIs of missing or damaged bone. Because the structural elements of the scaffolds are similar in size to bone structure (approximately one-quarter millimeter in diameter), the bone is expected to grow more quickly and accurately than bone generated from other random-orientation tissue scaffolds. NYUCD is believed to be the only dental school using the printer for bone regeneration.

In addition to skull repair, the scaffolds could have a variety of other craniofacial applications, including bone regeneration for periodontal disease patients, and cleft palate repair. Human trials would be needed before the scaffolds could be put into clinical use.

The scaffolds are being developed in collaboration with Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Mitchell Pines, Clinical Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Racquel Z. LeGeros, Professor and Associate Chair of Biomaterials & Biomimetics and Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry; and three second-year students from the MS in Biomaterials program: Dr. Afraa Murriky, Dr. Ioana Chesnoiu-Matei, and Mr. Lukasz Witek.
NYU College of Dentistry Professor Dr. Marcela Romero-Reyes has been selected by the Migraine Research Foundation and the American Headache Society as the first recipient of the Thomas E. Heftler Migraine Research Award for her innovative proposal to investigate whether a treatment for migraine headaches can also be used to manage orofacial pain disorders, such as trigeminal neuropathies, which are often associated with burning sensations and sudden episodes of stabbing, electric shock-like pain in the lips, tongue, nose, scalp, forehead, and jaws.

Dr. Romero-Reyes, an Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Director of the Orofacial and Head Pain Clinic, will study a molecule that has shown promise as a treatment for acute migraine pain. This molecule blocks CGRP, or calcitonin gene-related peptide, a protein that triggers migraine pain by causing blood vessels in the trigeminovascular system (brainstem) to dilate and release inflammatory substances.

Like migraines, orofacial pain disorders are rooted in the trigeminovascular system. In her study, Dr. Romero-Reyes will examine whether blocking CGRP prevents orofacial inflammation and pain in mice.

Dr. Romero-Reyes is collaborating on the grant with her former mentor, Dr. Andrew Charles, Director of the Headache Research and Treatment Program at the University of California at Los Angeles, where Dr. Romero-Reyes was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Neurosciences before joining the NYUCD faculty in September 2009.
NYU College of Dentistry Awarded NYU School of Medicine Grant for Faculty Development

The NYU School of Medicine has awarded the NYU College of Dentistry a one-year grant to evaluate a teaching skills workshop for clinical faculty known as the Advanced Clinical Teaching Scholars Program, or Class ACTS.

The grant, awarded by PrMEIR, the School of Medicine’s Program for Medical Education Innovations and Research, was given to Dr. Maureen McAndrew, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Clinical Faculty Education, and Mr. William H. Eidtson, Director of the NYUCD Office of Professional Development, to determine whether Class ACTS training has helped the faculty to improve teaching and learning in four key areas. Dr. McAndrew and Mr. Eidtson are the first individuals outside of the School of Medicine to be awarded a PrMEIR grant. The areas they will look at include:

• easing students’ transition to the clinic
• resolving conflicts in ways that create a more productive learning and working environment
• incorporating peer teaching programs and student teaching assistants into the classroom and clinic
• facilitating small-group workshops for students.

Launched in spring 2009, the first Class ACTS workshop included 25 faculty members who had first completed either the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Program sponsored by NYUCD’s Faculty & Staff Development Center, or a course sponsored by the Academy for Academic Leadership, which is also designed to bolster teaching skills. The Class ACTS workshop will be offered twice annually.

“Dr. McAndrew and Mr. Eidtson are conducting research that will be of interest to people throughout NYU who design faculty development programs,” said Dr. Sondra Zabar, an Associate Professor of Medicine who directs PrMEIR and the School of Medicine’s Residency Training Program in Primary Care.
The first Class ACTS Program graduates included the following faculty members:

Dr. James Apltauer, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Eugene Bass, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Bruce Brandolin, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Marie A. Congiusta, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Rosalynn Y. Crawford, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Arlene R Curry, Clinical Associate Professor, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine
Dr. Angela DeBartolo, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Debra Ferraiolo, Clinical Assistant Professor, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine
Dr. Morey Gendler, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Mihaela M. Harutunian, Instructor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. William Katz, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Gerald Klaczany, Clinical Associate Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Richard Kosofsky, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Martin J. Lapidus, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. William Maloney, Clinical Associate Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Harry Meeker, Associate Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Marjan Moghadam, Clinical Assistant Professor, Prosthodontics
Dr. Ivy D. Peltz, Clinical Associate Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Andrew Schenkel, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Gene B. Sherwin, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Joel Silver, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Silvia Spivakovsksky, Clinical Assistant Professor, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine
Dr. Eric Studley, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology & Comprehensive Care
Dr. Analia Veitz-Keenan, Clinical Associate Professor, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
Dr. Julie Yip, Associate Professor, Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
NYUCD Partners with NYU School of Medicine to Study the Link Between Oral and Intestinal Flora and Rheumatoid Arthritis

Could rheumatoid arthritis be treated with an antibiotic for periodontal infections? Dr. Walter Bretz, an Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, is partnering with researchers at the NYU School of Medicine to address this question in a new study funded by a two-year, $4 million grant from the NIH/National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

Rheumatoid arthritis, a form of chronic arthritis characterized by painful and swollen joints, stiffness, and fatigue, occurs when the body mistakenly mounts an immune defense against its own cells. Although past research suggests that oral and intestinal pathogens produce enzymes that alter the immune system and cause it to produce inflammatory substances that attack the joints, questions remain about the identity of those bacteria and their role in rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr. Bretz will compare oral bacteria in 90 subjects with early-stage rheumatoid arthritis against 30 healthy subjects and 30 subjects with early-stage psoriasis—another autoimmune system disorder. Dr. Bretz and the study’s principal investigator, Dr. Steven B. Abramson, a Professor of Medicine and Pathology and Director of the NYU Division of Rheumatology, will then identify the 300 oral and intestinal bacteria most common to rheumatoid arthritis subjects, establishing genetic markers for those at risk for the disease. The researchers will also observe how oral and intestinal microbes contribute to the development of rheumatoid arthritis in laboratory mice, and will administer doxycycline and vancomycin, antibiotics that kill periodontal and intestinal bacteria, respectively, to two separate groups of human rheumatoid arthritis subjects. If both drugs prove successful in reversing the course of the disease, they could be jointly administered in a future clinical trial.

Dr. Bretz’s coinvestigators are Dr. Yvonne Buischi, a periodontist and Research Scientist in Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Dr. Patricia Corby, Assistant Professor of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and Assistant Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, both at NYUCD. Additional coinvestigators include Dr. Jose U. Scher, Instructor of Medicine and Rheumatology at the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases; Dr. Dan Littman, Kimmel Professor of Molecular Immunology and Professor of Pathology and Microbiology at the NYU Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine; and Dr. Gerald Weissmann, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, NYU School of Medicine.
The NYU School of Medicine has awarded a one-year Center of Excellence grant to an NYU College of Dentistry professor to study how bladder tumors progress to invasive cancer.

Bladder cancer is the fourth most common cancer in men and the eighth most common in women, with over 50,000 new cases and 14,000 bladder cancer-related deaths reported annually in the United States. Molecules found in tobacco smoke, processed meats, and rubber products have been linked to bladder cancer, and the new study, led by Dr. Joseph Guttenplan, a Professor of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology at the College of Dentistry, will focus on one such molecule, known as BBN, or N-butyl-N-(4-hydroxybutyl) nitrosamine.

Dr. Guttenplan will investigate how BBN damages the DNA of mice to create mutations leading to cancer. He will also examine whether certain enzymes increase BBN’s toxicity to determine why some mice develop mutations and others do not. His findings could aid in the development of genetic tests to identify those individuals at a high risk for bladder cancer and also contribute to the development of new drugs or dietary supplements to prevent the disease. Dr. Guttenplan’s laboratory is one of only a handful of laboratories in the U.S. that can analyze and measure mutations in mouse organs. Dr. Guttenplan also uses mouse mutation analysis for oral cancer research.

NYU’s Senior Vice Provost for Research, Dr. Pierre Hohenberg, provided supplemental funding for the study. Dr. Xue-Ru Wu, Co-Director of the Center of Excellence on Urologic Disease at the NYU School of Medicine, is a coinvestigator on the grant.

His findings could aid in the development of genetic tests to identify those individuals at a high risk for bladder cancer and also contribute to the development of new drugs or dietary supplements to prevent the disease.
NYU College of Dentistry Shares $1.63 Million NIH Award for Oral Bacteria Identification Study

Although the destructive effects of oral bacteria in producing dental caries (cavities), periodontal disease, and other infectious conditions are well known, the identities of many of the microbes responsible for these conditions, as well as their physical characteristics and ability to grow and sustain themselves, remain a mystery. In fact, only half of the bacteria residing in the human oral cavity have been identified.

Now, the NYU College of Dentistry (NYUCD) and Sandia National Laboratories, a research and development center affiliated with the U.S. Department of Energy, are partnering to develop a technology that will facilitate bacterial identification. Their study was recently funded with a three-year, $1.63 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) of the NIH. NYUCD, a subcontractor on the grant, received a $264,000 award to acquire saliva samples from NYUCD’s patient population, prepare the samples, and analyze the findings. Dr. Deepak Saxena, an Assistant Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, is leading the NYUCD study in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Malamud, a Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of NYUCD’s HIV/AIDS Research Program.

The study’s principal investigator, Dr. Anup Singh, Director of Biosynthesis Research at Sandia, uses a method dubbed “FISH n’ CHIPs” for identifying genes because it combines fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH), with a glass chip less than four centimeters wide to spot unknown microbes in saliva.

The researchers plan to locate cells from a dozen unknown oral bacterial species and establish a bank of cells that can be manipulated in subsequent sequencing studies designed to fully decode a microbe’s genome.

“I anticipate that our ‘FISH n’ CHIPs’ model will ultimately also be used to locate unknown bacteria in the gastrointestinal and nasal tracts and in other parts of the body,” said Dr. Saxena. “This will help in the development of genetic tests to identify those at risk for a variety of infectious diseases.”
College of Dentistry and Polytechnic Institute Share Grant to Develop New Weapon Against Harmful Oral Bacteria

Researchers from the College of Dentistry and the Polytechnic Institute of NYU have been awarded a one-year NYU-Polytechnic Institute Seed Grant for Collaborative Research. The project aims to develop a new weapon against oral bacteria that cause dental caries and adhere to dental restorations, causing them to fail.

Co-principal investigators Dr. Simone Duarte, an Assistant Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology at the College of Dentistry, and Dr. Spencer Szu-pin Kuo, a Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the Polytechnic Institute, are examining whether an air plasma torch can kill microorganisms that adhere to tooth surfaces and dental implants and veneers, penetrate inside root canal treatments, and attack other types of restorations. Air plasma is a gaslike substance composed of oxygen, nitrogen, and electrons. The highly energized form of air plasma in the NYUCD-Polytechnic study contains free radicals, or reactive atoms and molecules, that can destroy microbes through chemical reactions.

Dr. Kuo will build the torch and Dr. Duarte will assess whether the air plasma can prevent bacteria from attaching to tooth surfaces and restorative materials such as alumina, zirconia, and microwave- and light-cured resins. Dr. Duarte and her coinvestigator, Dr. Deepak Saxena, an Assistant Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology at NYUCD, will also determine how much air plasma is needed to kill the microorganisms in vitro.

The NYUCD-Polytechnic investigators hypothesize that air plasma, which is used to kill bacteria deep inside burn wounds, could destroy microorganisms that cause dental caries and seep into root canal treatments and other dental restorations. Implants and other prostheses could also be treated with air plasma to make their surfaces less susceptible to bacterial attachment. If it proves effective, the torch would be tested in a subsequent clinical trial involving human subjects.

In addition to Dr. Saxena, coinvestigators on the study are Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the NYUCD Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics; Dr. Ramiro Murata, an Associate Research Scientist in Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology; and Mr. Cheng-Yen Chen, a PhD candidate in Electrical & Computer Engineering at the Polytechnic Institute.

From left: Dr. Ramiro Murata, Dr. Deepak Saxena, Dr. Simone Duarte, and Dr. Spencer Szu-pin Kuo. Inset, lower right, close-up of the plasma torch.
Gala Reception for Donors Held at NYU’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

NYUCD paid tribute to alumni and friends who made gifts of $1,000 or more to the College over the past year at a gala reception last June held at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. The Institute is an NYU center for advanced scholarly research and graduate education, intended to cultivate comparative and connective investigations of the ancient world from the western Mediterranean to China.

More than 100 guests enjoyed a reception and dinner in the Institute’s facility, a stunning former private mansion on East 84th Street in Manhattan.

A highlight of the evening was recognition of Dr. Benjamin Godder, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, who had recruited 25 new $1,000 donors since last year’s event.

“Ben Godder’s commitment to increasing philanthropy at NYUCD is based on his conviction that excellence requires financial
resources to make dreams reality,” said Dean Bertolami. “We are deeply grateful to him for his efforts and applaud his success; and we warmly welcome the new donors he has recruited. They have added a special dimension of enthusiasm to this wonderful evening.”

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To learn more about leaving a legacy to NYUCD, please contact:

Rita Startup, Assistant Dean for Development & Alumni Affairs
Phone: 212.998.9920
E-mail: rita.startup@nyu.edu
NYUCD in the News
A SAMPLING OF RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

The New York Times

The New York Times quoted Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, in an article about managing the costs of dental care, with or without insurance. The story was also reported by the Salt Lake Tribune, Sarasota Herald Tribune, Gainesville Sun-On, and the Pioneer Press of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The New York Times quoted Dr. Steven Butensky, Clinical Associate Professor of Prosthodontics, for a story on the connection between financial distress and teeth grinding.

Prevention reported the results of a study led by Dr. Wolff that showed a connection between consuming sports drinks and tooth erosion. The research results were also reported in Good Housekeeping, Self, Bottom Line Personal, Chicago Parent, and AGD Impact.

Prevention also interviewed Dr. Wolff about when and how you should brush when using white strips/trays/gels.

AGD Impact quoted Dr. Daniel Malamud, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program, in an article about salivary diagnostics.

DrBicuspid.com quoted Dr. William Maloney, ’92, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, in an article about research on progeria, a disease that produces rapid aging, beginning in childhood. The research was also reported in Biotech Week.

DrBicuspid.com also interviewed Dr. Amr Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, for a story on the Institute of Medicine’s recent findings that comparative effectiveness research on pediatric dental care should become a national priority.

ABC News Now interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff for a story on affordable dental care.
**The Today Show** interviewed Dr. Amr Moursi on the potential benefits of recovering dental stem cells for families who did not bank their children’s cord blood.

**Woman’s Day** quoted Ms. Alla Wheeler, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, in an article about tooth sensitivity.

**Martha Stewart Living** magazine interviewed Dr. Wolff for a story on teeth bleaching.

**KHN**, a journalist-run news organization covering healthcare policy and politics, interviewed Dr. Moursi about how healthcare legislation may affect pediatric dental care.

**Univision/Channel 41** interviewed Dr. Lucy Troncoso, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about oral health care for Hispanics, pediatric oral health care, and oral cancer prevention.

**A Wall Street Journal** article on the link between oral health and systemic health mentioned the preventive health services available at the NYU Nursing Faculty Practice at NYUCD.
msnbc.com reported on a study led by Dr. Mark Wolff that found a connection between drinking white wine and tooth staining. The research results were also reported by AOL Health; Allure; News 12 Long Island; DentalNotes, the newsletter of the Academy of General Dentistry; and Dental Products magazine.

CBS Newspath reported on a study led by Dr. Sheila Strauss, Associate Professor of Nursing and Co-Director of the Statistics and Data Management Core for NYU’s Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, which found that over 90 percent of people with gum disease are at risk for diabetes, and that at least half could be screened in dental offices. The research results were also reported by Reader’s Digest, UPI, Science Daily, Medical News Today, Dental News Report, Drug Store News, and hundreds of other health news Web sites and blogs worldwide, including ScienceCodex.com, RedOrbit.com, Healthcentral.com, and Futurity.org. Dr. Strauss was also interviewed about the study by HHS HealthBeat, a podcast produced by the United States Department of Health & Human Services.

Woman Dentist Journal reported that Dr. Marcela Romero-Reyes, an Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine and Director of the Orofacial and Head Pain Clinic, was awarded a grant to study whether a treatment for migraine headaches can also be used to manage orofacial pain disorders.

Hudson Register-Star reported on an NYUCD outreach mission to treat underserved children in Hudson, New York.

Fox 5’s Good Day New York interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff for a story about the benefits of chewing sugarless gum.

Smart Money magazine interviewed Dr. Wolff about the pros and cons of new dental technology versus traditional restorations.
**VOGUE**

*Vogue* magazine featured Dr. Gerald Curatola, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, in an article about tooth whitening and oral health.

**NYSDA (New York State Dental Association) News** reported on a weekend conference held at NYUCD in October which focused on AIDS testing in the dental office. The conference, entitled “Oral Pathology and Rapid HIV Testing,” was sponsored by the New York State Dental Association.

**Dental Town Magazine** reported on research led by Dr. Nelson Silva, Assistant Professor of Prosthodontics, and Dr. Van Thompson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, which found that dental crowns made from lithium disilicate ceramic were more durable than veneered zirconia crowns. The study results were also reported in *Lab Management Today*.

**WebMD** interviewed Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, for stories about the causes of and solutions for bad breath, and the impact that smoking has on the ability to taste.

**Doctor Radio**, a Sirius Satellite Radio channel sponsored by the NYU Langone Medical Center, interviewed Dr. Amr Moursi about children’s oral health; Dr. Rima Bachiman Sehl, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, about oral health and nutrition and changes in oral health as people age; Dr. Mark Wolff about diseases of the mouth and the connection between oral health and heart health, as well as how to manage dental erosion caused by everyday beverages; and dental “New Year’s Resolutions” for 2010; Dr. Dennis Tarnow, former Professor and Chair of Peridontology & Implant Dentistry, about advances in implant treatment; and Ms. Alla Wheeler, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, on proper ways to keep teeth clean.

**Slate**, the online magazine, carried a story entitled “The American Way of Dentistry: Inside the Dental Safety Net,” in which the NYU College of Dentistry was cited as an excellent resource for affordable dental care.

**Big Apple Parent** quoted Dr. George Cisneros, Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthodontics, in a story about advances in orthodontics. The story also appeared in *Brooklyn Parent* and *Promenade* magazine.
Enriching Learning, Pioneering Innovative Teaching Strategies, and Building Community:
THE FRUITS OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN NYUCD/NYUCN AND NYU’S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

NYU’s College of Dentistry (NYUCD), College of Nursing (NYUCN), and College of Arts and Science (CAS), have been collaborating for the better part of the past decade on a series of unique initiatives that enable CAS to take full advantage of the benefits offered by professional school faculty, while at the same time providing opportunities for these faculty to be exposed to the perspectives, aspirations, and values of liberal arts students—experiences that help to refresh their approaches to teaching and spur additional forms of collaboration.

The impetus for many of the collaborations was provided by Dr. Matthew S. Santirocco, Professor of Classics and, for the past 15 years, the Seryl Kushner Dean of the College of Arts and Science, and they have flourished through the enthusiastic support, first, of former Dean Michael C. Alfano and, currently, NYUCD Dean Charles N. Bertolami, and NYUCN Dean Terry Fulmer.

“NYU’s liberal arts college is surrounded by very strong professional schools,” says Dean Santirocco, “and we can add value to the education we provide by reaching out to faculty from across the University to teach courses to our undergraduate students, to act as their research mentors, to develop dual degree programs, and to contribute to co-curricular offerings. In this way, we provide our students with something they could not get at most other liberal arts colleges, namely, appropriate access to the extraordinary resources of the entire research university. In our efforts to realize this vision, our collaboration with the Colleges of
Dentistry and Nursing has been invaluable. I am enormously grateful to Mike Alfano, Charles Bertolami, and Terry Fulmer for their partnership, support, and creativity."

Examples of the multiple ways in which this collaboration flourishes are discussed below.

**CAS FRESHMAN SEMINARS TAUGHT BY DENTAL AND NURSING FACULTY**

The Freshman Honors Seminar Program was created in 1992 with a handful of courses. This past semester, students from CAS (and other undergraduate units) had over 60 courses from which to choose. The involvement of Dentistry in this program took off in 2003, with a course entitled “Ethics, Pointillism, Epidemiology, and Epistemology: EPEE Dueling with Scientific Health Information,” which was designed and taught by Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion at NYUCD, who has now taught in the program for five semesters. A list of faculty from the Colleges of Dentistry and, now, Nursing who have taught at CAS since the program’s inception appears below.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FACULTY FROM THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY</th>
<th>Dept/Rank</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Semesters taught</th>
<th># of sem.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralph V. Katz</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Health Promotion [Professor]</td>
<td>V50.0278</td>
<td>Ethics, Pointillism, Epidemiology, and Epistemology: EPEE Dueling with Scientific Health Information</td>
<td>fall 2003, fall 2004, fall 2005, fall 2009</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>V50.0368</td>
<td>Embracing Race . . . or Erasing Race: A Consideration of Black and White Issues</td>
<td>fall 2007</td>
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<td>Daniel Malamud</td>
<td>Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology [Professor]</td>
<td>V28.0133</td>
<td>Literature and Science: Pathways and Intersections (co taught with Martha Rust)</td>
<td>spring 2007</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew I. Spielman</td>
<td>Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology [Professor]</td>
<td>V50.0417</td>
<td>History of Medicine and Dentistry</td>
<td>fall 2009</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<th>FACULTY FROM THE COLLEGE OF NURSING</th>
<th>Dept/Rank</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Semesters taught</th>
<th># of sem.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Fulmer</td>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>V50.0393</td>
<td>Comfort and Suffering</td>
<td>fall 2008, fall 2009</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hila Richardson</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs</td>
<td>V50.0425</td>
<td>Current Controversies in Public Health</td>
<td>fall 2009</td>
<td>1</td>
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Because the collaboration is a two-way street, the participating dental and nursing faculty also benefit from the experience. Says Dr. Katz: “The privilege and joy of teaching beginning liberal arts students in a liberal arts course of my own design is a refreshing change in teaching from my ‘more bound up’ courses at the DDS, master’s and PhD levels. Moreover, the bonds formed in a seminar class of just 12 to 16 students are strong and lasting and have led to subsequent formal one-on-one tutorial experiences with these same students, one as a tutorial within the Department of Philosophy, another as a Research Mentor for a student who was awarded a Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund Award.”

Adds Dr. Hila Richardson, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at the College of Nursing: “Working with freshman students is an extraordinary opportunity to experience firsthand the inquisitive and intelligent students who are entering NYU. Their ability to reason through and reflect on complex public health issues has consistently surpassed my expectations.”

CAS FRESHMEN WORKING WITH CLINICAL AND RESEARCH MENTORS AT NYUCD/NYUCN

Another component of the NYUCD/NYUCN/CAS collaboration involves students who are engaged in research and clinical projects on a one-to-one basis with faculty at the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing. For example, last year three CAS students were assigned to the following NYUCD sites: Dr. Daniel Malamud’s lab, the Department of Prosthodontics, and the Comprehensive Care treatment area.

In addition, beginning in spring 2010, several research opportunities for CAS students will be made available at the College of Nursing, and for summer 2010, the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing plan to expand their innovative, collaborative eight-week Summer Research Experience Program to include CAS students interested in careers in the health sciences. This program uses dental and nursing faculty mentors to expose dental and nursing—and soon CAS—students to a unique “hands-on” research experience that creates excitement about research as a career path.

DUAL DEGREE BA/DDS PROGRAM

In existence since the mid-70s, this seven-year program now includes 22 students. It enables highly motivated students who are certain that they want to pursue a career in dentistry to explore the dental profession while completing an undergraduate major in biology.

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS IN NURSING

CAS has long provided the liberal arts “general education” component for nursing undergraduates, and now plans are in progress for an innovative new dual degree program that would create a seamless undergraduate/graduate educational trajectory for CAS students interested in pursuing careers in nursing. The vision of CAS and NYUCN is that students graduating from CAS would immediately enroll either in NYUCN’s dual BS/MS program or its new BS/DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) program. In addition, discussions are underway to create a dual BS/PhD program for those who opt to pursue a career as a nurse-scientist.

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH CROSS-CAMPUS LECTURES

In fall 2009, NYUCD and CAS embarked on an ingenious new initiative designed to expand access to a special event at NYUCD by repeating it later in the day at CAS’s Washington Square Campus. The idea originated with Dr. Ralph Katz, who had invited two well-known historical researchers and commentators on the Tuskegee Syphilis Study* to lecture on consecutive days at NYUCD. Given the importance of the subject, and the prominence of the lecturers, Dr. Katz invited Dean Santirocco to cosponsor the lectures in an additional, combined, one-day forum so that the CAS community could also have access to the lectures.

Says Dean Charles N. Bertolami, “These rich interactions suggest the potential for future mutually beneficial linkages between NYUCD/NYUCN and CAS that support NYU’s aspirations and values as a ‘Common Enterprise University,’ which NYU President John Sexton defines, in part, as one that ‘celebrates conversations
not only across cultures, but also across traditional disciplinary boundaries,’ and in which ‘faculty … dedicate their time and energy not only to their graduate students, but also to undergraduates. In all this and more, they … internalize the collective interest as part of their own interests.’

“We are enthusiastic about this collaboration,” adds Dean Bertolami. “The true value of the learning that is engendered through these collaborations is immeasurable, and I have no doubt that both students and faculty come out of these experiences with a broader perspective on the meaning of education than they otherwise would have gained.”

*The Tuskegee Syphilis Study is widely considered to be the most infamous research study (1942–1972) in U.S. history. In it, 399 African-American male sharecroppers in Macon County, Alabama, were denied treatment for syphilis and deceived by officials of the U.S. Public Health Service so that researchers could observe the effects of untreated syphilis on various organ systems.
Thinking Green: Greening Initiative Spurs Campus-wide Awareness

Lately there has been a lot of talk in the media about “green shoots” sprouting up in the economy, indicating that the beginning of the end of the economic recession may be at hand. At NYUCD, we have been seriously focused on thinking green in another fundamental way—ecologically—for over a year, and the results of our efforts leave no doubt that we are succeeding in identifying, developing, and implementing “green shoots” for more environmentally friendly policies and programs, which are consistent with NYU’s sustainability initiatives.
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR GREENING COMMITTEE’S EFFORTS OVER THE PAST YEAR INCLUDE:

• A Re-Cell-a-thon, which collected and recycled used cell phones by donating them to an organization that collects and pays for the used phones. Proceeds were donated to the Oral Cancer Foundation.

• A quarterly “shred-it” truck event was a huge success, enabling administrators to recycle confidential materials like admissions applications. The July shred-a-thon resulted in recycling 30 tons of paper, the equivalent of 30 trees saved.

• An annual Greening Day featured a raffle for a Norco 21-speed hybrid bike won by Ms. Edna Thomas, Administrative Aide in the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions, and 12 door prizes created from sustainable materials, plus special menus in the Alfano Commons highlighting locally grown food products.

• A Green Awareness Day logo (right) was created by Jared Miller, Class of 2012.

Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, Vice Dean for Administration & Finance, founder and chair of the Greening Committee, said: “We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm and involvement that has greeted this initiative. We expect even greater strides in the year ahead.”
Visit By President Sexton
Spotlights Facilities Transformations

Recently, NYU President John Sexton paid a visit to NYUCD to see for himself the stunning facilities transformations that have occurred in recent years and to engage in informal conversations with students, faculty, and staff.

From the moment President Sexton entered NYUCD from the main entrance on First Avenue and 24th Street, he could see that something had changed. Revolving doors offer greater ease of access; an electronic lift next to the stairs is designed to better accommodate those with disabilities; and the main lobby features new tiles, emblazoned with the NYU torch, recessed lighting, and a dramatic circular ceiling fixture. One floor above, he entered a 13,268-square-foot, newly renovated, architecturally stunning space devoted to comprehensive care, urgent care, and oral and maxillofacial surgery, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Gary and Alyse Ruth (the Gary and Alyse Ruth Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Wing; see related story on p. 62), Dr. Stanley N. Turetzky (the Stanley N. Turetzky Revolving Door Entry System), and Vice Dean Terracio explain the special features of the “serenity room” in the Bluestone Center.

Above: President John Sexton, right, chats with Vice Dean for Research Louis Terracio and a student.
Right: Dr. Robert Glickman shows President Sexton around the new Gary and Alyse Ruth Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Wing.
Turetzky Urgent Care Suite), and Henry Schein, Inc. (the Henry Schein Cares Wing).

Photos of President Sexton’s visit show him with faculty and students at the Henry Schein Technology Resource Center, in the “serenity room” within the Bluestone Center, where late-stage cancer patients enrolled in an innovative psychoactive drug therapy treatment undergo psychotherapy (see related story on p. 30), and chatting with Dr. Robert Glickman, Professor and Chair of the newly renovated Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

“I am exhilarated by my visit,” said President Sexton. “Not only are the facilities state-of-the-art, but, more important, they complement and enhance the sense of a vital campus community branded throughout by the NYU torch, the logo which brings us all together as a unified community.”

For a video tour of the new facilities, please go to: http://www.nyu.edu/dental/news/nyucdtv/facilities.html.

From top: New revolving doors facilitate access to NYUCD; a ramp just inside the revolving doors has been installed to better accommodate those with disabilities; a new dramatic circular lighting fixture illuminates the Schwartz Lobby; the lobby floor has been imprinted with a large NYU torch logo.
NYUCD Hosts Inaugural NYC Consortium for Head Start “Dental Homes”

In November 2009, the NYUCD Department of Pediatric Dentistry coordinated and hosted the inaugural meeting of the New York City Pediatric Oral Health Consortium in support of Head Start “dental homes” for children. The NYUCD event, which brought together all the pediatric dentistry residency programs in the New York City area, launched the NYC component of a new partnership between the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the national Head Start (HS) program that is designed to foster a network of dentists at the national, regional, state, and local levels that will link HS children with “dental homes,” or sites at which each child’s oral health care will be delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way by a licensed dentist. Since HS provides comprehensive developmental services in NYC for approximately 10,000 low-income preschool children between the ages of three and five and support services for their families, this means that approximately 10,000 NYC youngsters will have dental homes.

Dr. Amr M. Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of NYUCD’s Department of Pediatric Dentistry, is one of two Co-State leaders for New York State in this initiative. The other Co-State leader is Dr. Courtney Chinn of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine.

“The Consortium participants created a directory of NYC pediatric dental residency programs,” explained Dr. Moursi. “This contact information will be distributed to the 380 HS sites in the city to expedite referrals and requests for exams, training, and education.

“We also provided each pediatric dentistry residency program with a list of the HS programs near them, using our geographic information systems software, and asked them to contact the HS sites directly in order to establish an ongoing relationship. In addition, program directors were encouraged to assign someone from their program to serve on health advisory panels at HS programs near them.”
Dr. Dennis Tarnow Steps Down as Professor and Chair of the Ashman Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry

Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, one of the most consistent contributors to the College of Dentistry for over 30 years, has retired from his positions as Professor and Chairman of the Ashman Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, effective January 1, 2010. A search committee for a new chair has been formed, and Dr. Stuart M. Hirsch, Associate Dean for Development and International Affairs, has been appointed interim chair until a successor to Dr. Tarnow can be found.

Dr. Tarnow served as the founding chair of the Department of Implant Dentistry since 1992, and as the chair of the Ashman Department of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry since 2005, when the two departments merged. Dr. Tarnow trained in both prosthodontics and periodontics and is Board-certified in periodontics. He has played a pivotal role in building a growing national body of evidence on ways of significantly improving the oral health of fully and partially edentulous patients.

In addition to his teaching, research, and administrative duties at NYUCD, Dr. Tarnow has established a global network of alumni of the College’s Advanced Study Program in Implant Dentistry for International Dentists, many of whom are generous supporters of NYUCD.

Said Dean Bertolami, “NYUCD thanks Dr. Tarnow for his many wonderful contributions over the years and wishes him the best of everything in his future endeavors.”

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NYUCD Becomes First NYU School to Officially Ban Smoking on Campus

In November, just days before the Great American Smokeout, NYUCD became the first NYU school to become officially smoke-free.

The policy was announced by Dr. Michael P. O’Connor, Vice Dean for Administration & Finance, who noted that in addition to no smoking inside the building, a smoking ban within 15 feet from any part of the exterior of the building (including entrances and exits), was now official policy.

The policy was implemented in accordance with a recent New York State Department of Health Mandate that established specific no-smoking policies for institutions under Article 28, which includes dental schools and dental hygiene programs.

Said Dean Bertolami, “As an academic community, we have collectively made the decision that one of our strategic priorities is to foster and maintain an environment for excellence. In this regard, a smoke-free campus is indispensable. Unlike some policies that may be laudable in theory, but do not work in practice, we are committed to make it as easy as possible for our colleagues to quit smoking by providing free, on-campus, conveniently scheduled tobacco cessation information and counseling sessions for all members of our community who want to quit smoking, as well as referrals to the Nursing Faculty Practice for patients.”

Smiling Faces, Going Places Visits Assemblyman Bing’s District

It has become something of a tradition for NYUCD’s Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental care program to pay an annual visit to New York State Assemblyman Jonathan L. Bing’s district, and 2009 was no exception. Last August, the van spent a full day at the Stanley Isaacs Center in Assemblymember Bing’s district, screening youngsters and providing referrals for care. Since being elected to the Assembly in 2002, Mr. Bing has been one of the Assembly’s strongest advocates for NYUCD’s programs.
Apple.com Celebrates NYUCD’s Use of New Media to Advance Dental Education

A profile of Dr. Elise S. Eisenberg, Senior Director of Informatics, is scheduled to appear in an upcoming Apple.com Web site story, “Leaders and Administrators Profiles,” which focuses on how schools and universities are using Apple technology to prepare students for the changing world.

The story traces the progress that NYUCD has made in only one year after it introduced iTunes U technology to ensure easy access to classroom lecture content by students and faculty and to empower students to create digital recordings. To date, NYUCD courses and lectures have been downloaded from the iTunes U site more than 160,000 times by dental students.

Notably, it was student demand that drove the integration of technology into the classroom and the adoption of iTunes U. Now that the college has launched the digital recording initiative, future dentists have an easy means of recording and playing back their daily lectures. At the same time, NYU’s IT staff has an affordable, scalable solution for data archival and distribution via an internal, password-protected iTunes U site.

Says Dr. Eisenberg, “Students have avidly adopted the technology. Even as we look ahead to further enhancing NYU’s media service offerings, we are extremely pleased with the new digital capturing solution. I would absolutely encourage any university to go this route.”

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Celebrating OUR COMMUNITY

WHITE COAT CEREMONIES WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

NYUCD welcomed incoming students in the DDS, Advanced Placement DDS, AAS, and BS in Dental Hygiene programs with separate, formal White Coat Ceremonies in 2009, marking the first time that the College has held three such events in one year.

Each ceremony featured welcoming remarks by Dean Bertolami, recitation of a Student Pledge affirming a commitment to professionalism, humanism, integrity, and ethics, and, most dramatically, the donning of white coats by students for the first time. Dr. Anthony Palatta, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions, and Professor Cheryl Westphal, Assistant Dean for Allied Health Programs and Director of Dental Hygiene Programs, also spoke at the DDS and Dental Hygiene Program ceremonies, respectively.

“It is with great pride that we recognize students in each of these programs with their own dedicated annual White Coat Ceremony,” said Dean Bertolami. “The presentation of white coats by faculty members is an important symbolic way to convey to students that they can count on the faculty to help them uphold the high standards we have set for them.”

White Coat Ceremonies: Assistant Dean Anthony Palatta addressing Advanced Placement DDS Program students.
DDS Program participants at their White Coat Ceremony.

Assistant Dean Cheryl Westphal, far right, and the incoming dental hygiene program class at their White Coat Ceremony.
STAFF STARS HONORS ITS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

Staff Stars, a yearlong program designed to prepare clinical and administrative staff at the Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing for supervisory positions, graduated its first class last June. Graduates were honored at a ceremony hosted by Dr. Michael O’Connor, Vice Dean for Administration & Finance, back row, fourth from left; and Staff Stars cofounders Dr. Lisa Biagas, Executive Director for Human Resources and Faculty Services, first row, far left; and Mr. Ira Beresnoy, Senior Director for Clinic Operations and Extramural Programs, back row; third from right.

The graduates are: Back row, from left: Ms. Alicia Hudson, Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations; Ms. Maritza Gordian, Surgical Technician, Clinic Operations; Ms. Veronica Burden, Patient Account Aide, Office of Financial Management and Business Operations; Ms. Robin Elliot, Lead Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations; and Ms. Carmelita Maurentt, Senior HR Assistant, Office of Human Resources and Faculty Services, all of the College of Dentistry; Ms. Dina Figueroa-Bell, Administrative Aide, Office of Administration, Finance & Planning at the College of Nursing; and Ms. Gabriela Vaca, Human Resources Administrator, Office of Human Resources and Faculty Services at the College of Dentistry.

Front row, from left: Mr. Russell Carre, Supply Assistant, Clinic Operations, College of Dentistry; Ms. Jacqueline Johnson, Administrative Aide, Office of Student Affairs and Admissions; Ms. Donna Francis, Human Resources Administrator, Office of Administration, Finance and Planning, both at the College of Nursing; and Mr. Seth Yeboah, Patient Service Representative, Clinic Operations, College of Dentistry. Ms. Francis, formerly an Administrative Aide, is the first Staff Stars graduate to receive a promotion. Not shown are Mr. Tyrone Pearson, Sterilization Technician, Central Sterilization; Mr. Richard Anchundia, Administrative Aide, Office of Student Affairs and Admissions; and Ms. Cynthia Ruiz, Dental Imaging Technician, Office of Information Systems, all of the College of Dentistry.
The American Association of Medical Colleges’ MedEdPortal, an online resource for high-quality, peer-reviewed, educational materials, has selected Dr. Andrew Spielman, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, to receive an Outstanding Reviewer Award in recognition of his commitment to the MedEdPortal peer review process and his exemplary efforts as a MedEdPortal reviewer. In addition, MedEdPortal’s featured publications for 2009 include one from NYUCD: “Manual for Preclinical Removable Prosthodontics: Complete Dentures,” authored by 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.

In spring 2008, 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 by including submissions from dental professionals.

“I am delighted that NYUCD faculty members have become involved in MedEdPortal,” said Dean Bertolami. “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 academic advancement decisions. It’s a tribute to our faculty that during the first year of involvement with MedEdPortal, recognition has been achieved for excellence in contributing to both the peer review process and the publications list.”
NYUCD STUDENTS’ NATIONAL BOARD SCORES SET RECORD HIGH

The results of the NYUCD Class of 2011’s performance on Part I of the National Board Dental Examinations have set a record high for the College. With an overall pass rate of 98.6 percent, the class scored four points above the national average. Notably, 23 students scored 90 or above, with 97 the highest score achieved.

The magnitude of these results is underscored by the fact that the NYU College of Dentistry student body is four to five times the size of a typical dental school, suggesting that the Board scores would be likely to regress toward the national mean. Instead, the data show that NYU dental students are raising the bar on performance standards nationally.

But statistics tell only part of the story. The engine that drives these outcomes is fueled by our wonderful faculty, whose talent and dedication, coupled with the incredibly hard work of our students, are an unbeatable formula for success. On behalf of everyone at NYUCD, Global Health Nexus offers hearty congratulations to our students and faculty on their exceptional achievement.
AFGHAN WAR VETERAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT TEAM

A
n Afghanistan war veteran dressed in combat fatigues walked into NYUCD’s orthodontic clinic last July and asked for everyone’s attention so that he could make an announcement.

“I’d like to recognize the wonderful care I’ve received from the residents, faculty, and staff of this clinic,” said U.S. Army Sergeant Manjue G. Sampson, 36, as he presented Dr. Karishma B. Jumani, ’09, the resident who led his treatment team, with a U.S. Army Coin of Excellence, a medal awarded to those who go above and beyond the call of duty. Sergeant Sampson, whose dentist, Dr. Frank Visintini, ’92, referred him to NYUCD to be fitted for braces, also handed out plaques of appreciation, signed by his commander, to Dr. Jumani’s faculty instructors, Dr. Yon Lai, Clinical Professor of Orthodontics, and Dr. Neil Lawner, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, as well as to the clinic’s reception staff.

“Dr. Jumani has great leadership skills,” said Sergeant Sampson, who redeployed overseas in September. “She was my ultimate advocate, never hesitating to tell her professors that she had researched alternate treatment strategies which she believed would get me even better results.”

“Although he was a challenging case, with very constrained arches, we succeeded in giving him that Mr. Universe smile we had promised him,” Dr. Jumani said.
AMC ELECTS REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES FROM THE COLLEGES OF DENTISTRY AND NURSING

Seven representatives and eight alternates from NYUCD/NYUCN were recently elected to NYU’s Administrative Management Council, the organization through which the administrators—management and professional personnel—of NYU participate in University governance. Representatives to the AMC are elected from within each school and division.

Congratulations to the following NYUCD/NYUCN representatives and alternates:

**Representatives**
Beth Appel, Assistant to the Associate Dean  
    Office of Research
Annette Cutugno, Assistant Director, Or  
Chirag Sadana, Assistant Director, Informatics
Ira Beresnøy, Senior Director, Clinical Affairs and  
    Extramural Programs
Maria DeAcetis, PEARL Network Research Administrator
Dolores Spinelli, Senior Director,  
    International Programs
Cheryl Villa-Abrille, Assistant Director, Faculty Services

**Alternates**
Elise Eisenberg, Senior Director, Informatics
Tara Freese, Director, Continuing Dental Education
Elsa Case-Russell, Assistant Director,  
    Clinical Operations
Alphonse Falcone, Department Administrator,  
    Nursing BS Program
Daniel Ferraro, Technical Services Supervisor
Rosemary Lipani, Registered nurse,  
    Health and Immunization
Lance Irving, Assistant Director, Administration and  
    Finance, Nursing, General Administration
Dean Bertolami expressed his appreciation to the 13 students who constitute NYUCD’s newly established Student Peer Review Board by hosting a luncheon in their honor in December.

The Student Peer Review Board relies exclusively on student leadership to promote academic integrity, champion ethical behavior, and adjudicate allegations of academic dishonesty. The program is in the middle of a one-year pilot phase, whose outcome will determine whether or not it will continue on a permanent basis.

“The results we’ve seen to date have been very impressive,” said Dean Bertolami. “The student peer reviewers take their responsibilities very seriously and have acted in what I consider to be an extremely thoughtful, professional manner. I am confident of the soundness of the program’s premise; namely, that when students are empowered to set and enforce academic integrity standards, they tend to do so. I believe that the program has great potential on an ongoing basis.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO...


DR. ERIC W. BAKER, Adjunct Associate Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on editing an anatomy textbook, The Head and Neck Anatomy for Dental Medicine, which will be published in 2010.

DR. CHARLES N. BERTOLAMI, Herman Robert Fox Dean of the College of Dentistry, shown with Dean P. J. Byrne of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), on Dean Bertolami’s induction into the RCSI. NYUCD is conducting a collaborative three-year Advanced Education Program in Oral Surgery for International Dentists. Additional kudos to Dean Bertolami on presenting the Mirmelstein Lecture on Ethics, “People Behaving Badly: ‘What’ vs. ‘Want’,” at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry.

DR. JOHN CAVALLARO, JR., ’85, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “Clinical Methodologies for Achieving Primary Dental Implant Stability: The Effects of Alveolar Bone Density,” for the Journal of the American Dental Association, with Dr. Gary Greenstein, ’72, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry.

DR. ELISE EISENBERG, ’84, Senior Director of Informatics, on presenting a lecture entitled “Mac OS Server State of the Union” at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference; and on participating in panels on how NYUCD uses Podcast producer and iTunes U at AcademicX 2009—Beyond the LMS: Innovations in Higher Education & Scholarship, a
conference cosponsored by Apple and maclearning.org, and in an ADEA-sponsored Commission on “Change and Innovation in Dental Education.”

**DR. MICHAEL GHALILI,**
Clinical Professor of Prosthodontics and Director of the International Program in Aesthetic Dentistry, on copresenting the keynote address at the 17th World Congress of Aesthetic Medicine.

**DR. DONALD B. GIDDON,**
Clinical Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on authoring an article entitled “Expanded Health Care Involvement for Dentists,” for *The Berkshire Eagle.*

**DR. DAVID GLOTZER,** ’58, 
Clinical Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on being appointed by the ADA Board of Trustees to serve as a consultant to the Council on Dental Practice on bioterrorism preparedness.

**DR. DONNA HALLAS,**
Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing and Coordinator of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, on copresenting a seminar entitled “Nurse Practitioner Interventions to Reduce the Incidence of Childhood Caries” at the annual meeting of the New York State Nurse Practitioners Association, in collaboration with Ms. Jill B. Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Pediatric Outreach Programs.

**MS. NICOLE GRECO,**
Instructor in Dental Hygiene, on authoring an article entitled “The Oral Implications of Celiac Disease,” for *Dimensions.*

**MS. ROSEMARY HAYS,**
Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, on coauthoring an article entitled “Benefits of...”

Professor Jill Fernandez, left, and Professor Donna Hallas at the annual meeting of the NYS Nurse Practitioners Association.
Fluoride at Any Age,” for the *Journal of Practical Hygiene*.

**DR. RALPH V. KATZ,** Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on being appointed to the Advisory Committee of the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care.

**DR. RACQUEL Z. LEGEROS,** Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Biomaterials & Biomimetics and Linkow Professor of Implant Dentistry, on authoring book chapters entitled “Calcium Phosphate-Based Osteoinductive Materials,” for *Chemical Reviews*; “Hydroxapatite” and “Tricalciumphosphate/Hydroxapatite Biphasic Calcium Phosphates,” for *Handbook of Bioceramics and Their Applications*; “Calcium-Phosphate Glass” and “Magnesium- and Zinc-Substituted beta-Tricalcium Phosphate Materials,” for *Progress in Bioceramics*; and “Bioactive Materials in Endodontics,” for *Expert Review of Medical Devices*. Dr. LeGeros also coauthored the following articles: “Inhibitory Effect of Zn2+ in Zinc-Containing β-Tricalcium Phosphate on Resorbing Activity of Mature Osteoclasts,” and “Fabrication of Cancellous Bone Type Carbonate Apatite Foam by Hydrothermal Conversion of α-Tricalcium Phosphate in Carbonate Solutions,” for the *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research*; “Efficacy of a New Injectable Calcium-Phosphate Ceramic Suspension on Improving Bone Properties of Ovariectomized Rats,” for the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*; “Calcium-Phosphate Mineralized GBR Membranes: Preparation and Properties,” and “Effect of Sintering Process on Micro-porosity and Bone Ingrowth on Biphasic Calcium-Phosphate Ceramics,” for *Key Engineering Materials*; “Qualitative Study of the New Bone Formation Surrounding the Ti Implant by FT-IR and Polarizing Microscope” and “Comparison of Bone Mineral Density and Area of Newly Formed Bone Around Ti-15%Zr-4%Nb-4%Ta Alloy and Ti-6%Al-4%V Alloy Implants,” for the *Journal of Hard Tissue Biology*.

**DR. ARNOLD I. LIEBMAN,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on presenting a lecture entitled “Cosmetic Dentures” to the Sheephead Study Group, and a lecture on “Dental Care for the Elderly and the Mouth-Body Connection” to the faculty and fellows of the Geriatrics Grand Rounds at the NYU Langone Medical Center.

**DR. WILLIAM MALONEY,** ’92, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on authoring articles entitled “Progeria Syndrome: Its Presentation in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Short Story, ‘The Curious Case of Benjamin Button’ and Its Oral Manifestations,” for the *Journal of Dental Research*; “The Need for Implementation of Evidence-Based Dentistry in Daily Dental Practice,” for *The Bulletin of the Ninth District Dental Association*; “Horace Wells and His Significant Contributions to the Discovery of Anesthesia,” with coauthor Dr. Maura Maloney. ’92, for the *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society.*
DR. DOUGLAS MORSE, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, on coauthoring an article entitled “Assessing Caries Increments in Elderly Patients With and Without Dementia,” for the Journal of the American Dental Association.

DR. AMR M. MOURSI, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, on representing NYUCD at the 100 Million Smiles Celebration sponsored by the Colgate-Palmolive Company and its national education program, Bright Smiles, Bright Futures, to mark reaching its goal, stated in 2002, of reaching out to 100 million children by the year 2010 with free dental screenings, treatment referrals, and oral health education. Added kudos to Dr. Moursi on being quoted in the Appeal-Democrat, a Marysville, CA-based newspaper, on the likelihood of children’s dental care being included in national health reform.

DR. NICOLA PARTRIDGE, Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, on coauthoring an article entitled “Runx2 Recruits p300 to Mediate Parathyroid Hormone’s Effects on Histone Acetylation and Transcriptional Activation of the Matrix Metalloproteinase-13 Gene,” for Molecular Endocrinology.

DR. PAUL A. ROSENBERG, Professor and Chair of the Quartararo Department of Endodontics, on presenting lectures entitled “Pain: Biologic, Clinical, and Pharmacologic Considerations,” at the University of Cagliari in Sardinia; and “Endodontic Pain: Genetic, Gender, and Anxiety,” at the American Association of Endodontists annual meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

DR. STUART SEGELNICK, Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on coauthoring an article entitled “The Periodontist’s Role in Obtaining Clearance Prior to Patients Undergoing a Kidney Transplant,” for The Journal of Periodontology, with Dr. Mea Weinberg, Clinical Associate.

MS. LENKA PENA (left), and MS. SONYA FRECON, both Dental Hygiene Program Class of 2010, on winning second place in the Table Clinic Competition at the 2009 Greater New York Dental Meeting.
Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry.

DR. ANDREW I. SPIELMAN, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, on being selected to receive the prestigious ADEA/Colgate-Palmolive Excellence in Teaching Award of the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Spielman will be recognized at the 2010 ADEA Annual Session in Washington, DC, during the Opening Plenary Session. Added kudos to Dr. Spielman on coauthoring an article entitled “Sour Ageusia in Two Individuals Implicates Ion Channels of the ASIC and PKD Families in Human Sour Taste Perception at the Anterior Tongue,” for PLoS ONE.

DR. SHIELA STRAUSS, Associate Professor of Nursing and Co-Director of the Statistics and Data Management Core for the NYU Colleges of Dentistry and Nursing, on coauthoring articles entitled “The Potential Use of Gingival Crevicular Blood for Measuring Glucose to Screen for Diabetes: An Examination Based on Characteristics of the Blood Collection Site,” for the Journal of Periodontology, with Ms. Alla Wheeler, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, and Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; and “The Dental Office Visit as a Potential Opportunity for Diabetes Screening: An Analysis Using NHANES 2003–2004 Data” for the Journal of Public Health Dentistry, with Ms. Wheeler, Dr. Russell, and Dr. Robert Norman, Research Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion.

DR. GRACE YI-YING SU, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care, on presenting a lecture entitled “Three Types of Apical Implant Pathology” to the postgraduate periodontal faculty and residents at the Haifa University College of Dentistry in Israel. Dr. Sussman also coauthored a chapter, “Medically Compromised Hospitalized Patients—Need for Special Considerations When Treating Diabetics,” for a new textbook on mini dental implants.

NYUCD’s Advanced Programs for International Dentists to students and faculty at Huashan Hospital and Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

DR. HAROLD I. SUSSMAN, PG Perio Program, ‘68, on presenting a lecture entitled “Three Types of Apical Implant Pathology” to the postgraduate periodontal faculty and residents at the Haifa University College of Dentistry in Israel. Dr. Sussman also coauthored a chapter, “Medically Compromised Hospitalized Patients—Need for Special Considerations When Treating Diabetics,” for a new textbook on mini dental implants.

DR. LOUIS TERRACIO, Associate Dean for Research, on winning the Stem Cell Awareness Day Image Contest for his micrograph of a skeletal prosthesis made of skeletal muscle-derived stem cells.
Dr. Terracio’s winning stem cell image was included in New York State Governor David Paterson’s proclamation of September 23, 2009, as Stem Cell Awareness Day in New York State, and appears in a slide show on the Web site, www.stemcell.ny.gov/about_stem_cell_awareness.html, and will be incorporated into a 2010 NYSTEM calendar available for downloading from the Web site.

**DR. MEA WEINBERG,**
Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, on authoring an article entitled “How Is the Quality of Generic Drugs Evaluated?” for U.S. Pharmacist.

**DR. HOWARD A. WEINER,** ’75, Clinical Associate Professor of Endodontics, on being elected a Nassau County representative to the New York State Dental Association House of Delegates.

**MS. DAWN WELDON,** Class of 2010, on being appointed a clinic representative to the New York State Dental Association.

**PROFESSOR CHERYL M. WESTPHAL,** Assistant Dean for Allied Health Programs, on coauthoring an article entitled “College of Dentistry/College of Nursing Partnership for Access.” Professor Westphal’s coauthors were Ms. Winnie Furnari, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, and Dr. Judith Haber, the Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at the NYU College of Nursing.

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**DR. MARK S. WOLFF,** Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education, on authoring an article entitled “Dentin Hypersensitivity, the Biofilm and Remineralization: What Is the Connection?” for Advances in Dental Research.

**DR. YU ZHANG,** Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, on authoring an article entitled “Graded Structures for Damage Resistant and Aesthetic All-Ceramic Restorations,” for Dental Materials; and on coauthoring an article entitled “Optimization of Ceramic Strength Using Elastic Gradients,” for Acta Materialia.
Alumni Association Installs New Officers, Celebrates Quinquennial Classes 1949 to 2004

Last fall the NYUCD Alumni Association installed new officers for 2009–2010 as follows:

Immediate Past President: Dr. Lucy Troncoso, ’94
President: Dr. Maura Maloney, ’92
President-Elect: Dr. Ralph Cunningham, 72
Vice-President: Dr. Eric Studley, ’85
Treasurer: Dr. Benjamin Godder, ’85
Secretary: Dr. Elise Eisenberg, ’84

Congratulations to:

'60s
DR. HERBERT BADER, Class of 1961, on authoring an article entitled “Antimicrobial Aspects of Inflammatory Suppression,” for Dentistry Today.

'80s
DR. MAXINE FEINBERG, Class of 1980, on being installed as a trustee of the American Dental Association.

DR. CYNTHIA GOMEZ, Class of 1989, on participating in a pediatric dentistry outreach mission to Nepal sponsored by the Himalayan Dental Relief Project.

DR. JOHN R. HALIKIAS, Class of 1985, on being elected General Chairman of the 2010 and 2011 Greater New York Dental Meetings.

DR. MATTHEW J. IWINSKI, Class of 1989, on receiving the Academy of General Dentistry Mastership Award, the highest honor presented by the AGD.

DR. BARRY SALTZ, Class of 1984, on cochairing “Dentists Who Care for ME,” an outreach event offering free dental cleanings, fillings, and extractions for underserved residents of Portland, Maine.

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.”

'90s
DR. BOZENA J. KIERSKI, Class of 1994, on receiving the Mastership Award, the highest honor presented by the Academy of General Dentistry.

'00s
DR. JAN P. GONZALO-TORRES, Class of 2006, on his appointment as Clinical Director of the Oral Health Department at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, New York City’s only primary healthcare center serving the health needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, as well as those living with HIV/AIDS.


DR. DAWN WELDON, Class of 2010, on receiving a New York State Dental Foundation Dean’s Award.
In Remembrance

Dr. Sidney I. Silverman, Class of 1937, passed away in September at the age of 96. Dr. Silverman had a legendarily productive career. A long-time professor and chairman of the department of prosthodontics at NYUCD, his alma mater, he later reinvented himself as a faculty member at the NYU School of Medicine, where he served with distinction as a clinical professor in the department of neurology pursuing an avid interest in research combining neurology with oral medicine. Yet he never gave up dentistry, his first professional love. Indeed, he continued to practice dentistry until over the age of 90. Last spring he was honored for 50 years of service to the College, which he said accounted for his longevity. Dr. Silverman was the author of the book, *Comes the Millennium—It’s Still Tough to be Jewish: 100 Years in the Life of An Immigrant Family*, published in 2006 by Savant Book Series. His passing truly marks the end of an era.

We also remember the following distinguished colleagues:

- Dr. Michael Ariola, Class of 1946
- Dr. Herman Belkin, Class of 1951
- Dr. Michael Bernfeld, Class of 1973
- Dr. Ronald S. Brandt, Jr., Class of 1958
- Dr. Evan Chandler, Class of 1972
- Dr. Michael Firestone, Class of 1967
- Dr. Robert Levin, Class of 1952
- Dr. Henry Lober, Class of 1961
- Dr. Oddvin Lokken, Class of 1961
- Dr. James C. Marsters, Class of 1952
- Dr. Bernard Pepper, Class of 1942
- Dr. Julius B. Rosenthal, Class of 1933
- Dr. Joseph Valinoti, Former faculty member
- Dr. George J. Wrubel, Class of 1956
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