



New Pedito Grant

The OHSU department of pediatric dentistry recently received a \$5,000 grant from The Dental Foundation of Oregon. The grant will be used to support emergency treatment and comprehensive dental care for children from low-income families. "These funds are so important in our efforts to provide dental care for children who otherwise have no access to dental care," said Prashant Gagneja, B.D.S., M.D.S., chair of pediatric dentistry.

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Patient Reception Center "Beautiful"

The newly remodeled patient reception center for the pre-doctoral clinic, which opened early July, is receiving rave reviews.

"It's beautiful!" said Delbert Buchelder, 74, who has been driving 90 miles round trip to the pre-doctoral clinic from Salem, Ore., for the past three months for his restorative care. "I heard other people say it was beautiful, too. I'm sold on OHSU. I'm happy with my dental care. I wouldn't go anywhere else."

Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, appreciates such comments. "We want our reception center to represent the kind of customer service and quality dental care people will receive when they choose our School.

"I think the brighter lighting, warmer



A School of Dentistry patient checks in at the newly remodeled patient reception center for the predoctoral clinic. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

colors, and extra space in the reception area from having moved the patient check-in closer to the entry doors – not to mention the overwhelmingly positive reviews from patients, dental students, staff, and faculty -- speaks for itself."

The patient reception center was funded entirely by (continued on page five)

New Grants for School of Dentistry Faculty

Several School faculty have recently received grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA; economic stimulus funds). They include:

* **Michael Danilchik**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, recently received a three-year, \$460,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Danilchik is a research scientist investigating basic cellular and molecular processes that regulate cell division and tissue morphogenesis – the biological basis of wound healing and tissue integrity. To study these activities, Dr.

Danilchik's lab uses cells of early frog embryos which divide rapidly and provide a useful experimental model for testing ideas about how tissues form and repair themselves.

In a spin-off of work published last year in *Developmental Dynamics*, Dr. Danilchik and colleague **Betsy Brown**, Ph.D., discovered a new class of membranous protusions that interconnect cells across unexpectedly long distances.

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New Book Highlights SOD Historical Displays

The OHSU School of Dentistry's dental history exhibits on the fifth and sixth floors recently were mentioned in a new book, *"Hidden Portland: Museums & Collections,"* by Carye Bye. Carye is a dental school patient and says she finds the Ernest Starr Memorial Museum of Dental Anomalies (on the fifth floor between the department of oral pathology and oral and maxillofacial surgery administration) particularly intriguing.

"We joke that there should really be a curtain with a quarter slot machine and when you put in a quarter, the curtain opens to reveal the anomalies!" she said.

Ernest E. Starr graduated in 1907 from North Pacific Dental College (the precursor to what was eventually OHSU School of Dentistry) with a doctor of dental medicine, and he then joined the faculty as a professor of pathology. Dr. Starr also had a bachelor of science in dentistry previous to his entering NPDC. He was the first president of the Delta Chapter of the national dental honor society Omicron Kappa Upsilon and served as interim dean for one year (1945-1946) between second dean **Herbert Miller**, M.D., D.D.S., and third dean **Harold Noyes**, D.D.S.

According to **Henry Clarke**, D.M.D. '61, professor emeritus of community dentistry, Dr. Starr collected the dental anomalies from his patients and other dentists for the museum. There are more than 500 oddly-shaped human teeth in the collection, with examples of such anomalies as a four-rooted upper molar, hypercementosis, and calculus on a lower anterior. Dr. Starr donated the collection to the school upon his retirement in 1946. He died in 1950.

W. Claude Adams, D.D.S., author of *The History of Dentistry in Oregon*, wrote at the time his book was published (1956) that Dr. Starr's was the largest collection of dental anomalies in the United States. And, said Dr. Clarke, it is likely one of the largest, if not *the* largest today.

On the sixth floor of the dental school are more than 40 photographs of Alumni Association presidents, and a variety of instruments, including ivory dentures from 1700-1800, anatomic forceps from 1841, a 1905 C.M. Carr periodontist kit with 140 instruments for scaling "every surface of every tooth," and one of the first (1871) foot treadle drills, freeing dentists from using one hand to rotate the drill.

Hidden Portland author Carye has been to the dental school 14 times this year and has at least five more visits scheduled. She says she's had a good experience at OHSU. "The program is so thorough that a lot more that needed fixing was found than I expected," she said. "I like going to the dental school because I don't feel like the appointment is rushed, I can ask a lot of questions, and I'm happy to help out the student as they learn what they need to know."

Carye illustrates her own musings and, along with the brief discussion about OHSU's Historical Archives, has a nice sketch of the dental anomalies exhibit at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/38150042@N05/3513431110/in/set-72157617782895279/> (see also, photo at right).



SOD Grants *(continued from page one)*

Similar structures, seen primarily in tissue culture, have been implicated in inflammatory responses to wounding and viral transmission in infected cells, but their role in normal tissues is a mystery.

The new grant, "Pregastrular Morphogenesis in *Xenopus*," will enable the Danilchik team to explore the possibility that these cellular projections are used for direct cell-cell communication.

"What's novel about these structures is that they extend across a huge intercellular space during a phase of development when widely separated cells need to talk to each other to organize into functional tissues," said Dr. Danilchik.



Michael Danilchik, Ph.D.

Dr. Danilchik's project will determine how these intercellular bridges are used in normal development, how they are deployed, and what happens when they are prevented from forming.

The stimulus funds also will be used to hire new research staff.

Dr. Danilchik received another grant as we were going to press: a one-year, \$58,000 grant from the OHSU Presidential Bridge Fund to support a pilot project for studying the cytoskeletal proteins involved in cell division. *(continued on page five)*

If you have a submission for *Dental Bites*, please contact Sydney Clevenger (clevenge@ohsu.edu, 503-418-1792) by the 25th of the month prior to publication. Photos are also welcome in jpg or tif format.

New Postdoctoral Students for School

There are 17 postdoctoral students joining the OHSU School of Dentistry this fall. They include:

Endodontology

David Christianson, D.D.S.
Tyson Curtis, D.D.S. (fellow)
Karen Lovato, D.D.S.
Ross Mitchell, D.M.D.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Siavash Eftekhari, D.M.D.
Philip Mann, D.D.S.

Orthodontics

Valane Cook, D.M.D.
Michael Courtright, D.M.D.
Lauren Fleischner, D.D.S.
Gregory Werner, D.D.S.

Pediatric Dentistry

Spencer Campbell, D.M.D.
Shelby Hiles, D.D.S.
Anastacia Hunton, D.M.D.
Lisa Yarborough, D.D.S.

Periodontology

Sunny Drake, D.M.D.
Lisa Frisbie-Teel, D.D.S.
Michael Matsuda, D.D.S.

SOD Calendar

Aug. 14	End of six-week summer session
Aug. 17	Start of six-week pre-term (DS1)
Sept. 3-4	DS1 Beach Orientation
Sept. 7	Labor Day
Sept. 25	End of six-week pre-term
Sept. 28	Start of 12-week fall term (DS1 to 4)
Nov. 20	ASDA Vendor Fair
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 18	Last day of 12-week fall term

MedStars Visit School

Fourth-year dental student **Jonathan Gold** enjoys working with kids. So he took advantage of the opportunity to help at OHSU's recent MedStars Honors Program, an event that provides high school students with hands-on activities in various health professions. This year's MedStars event at the School of Dentistry was held July 7 in the Kenneth Cantwell Continuing Education Dental Clinic, with 39 high school students from such cities as Pendleton, White City, Baker City, Medford, and Albany.

During their visit at the dental school, the high school students put on protective gear (gown, mask, gloves, goggles) and divided into groups of three to look into one another's mouths. Jon assisted the students in identifying landmarks and oral tissues. He also answered questions about dental anatomy and the School in general.

"I like to teach and when I know something, I like to teach it to those who are interested," said Jon.



Fourth-year dental student Jon Gold

Mark Mitchell, M.A., associate dean for student affairs, talked to the MedStars students about the process of admission to dental school and the courses required to apply. **Mary Ann Haisch**, M.P.A., R.D.H., outreach services coordinator, talked to the students about being oral health care providers and the dental profession. Also volunteering their time were **Debbie Reaume**, continuing education program manager; **Gail King**, continuing education clinic coordinator; **Sharon Reams**, C.D.A., health and safety specialist; and **Ginny Dunn**, B.S., R.D.H., clinical instructor.

Pedo Graduates 2009



Four pediatric dentistry residents recently celebrated their 2009 graduation at a party at the Gagneja residence. Pictured from left are Hai Pham, D.M.D. '06, Yi-Li Lin, D.D.S., Sue Choi, D.D.S., and Marisa Reichmuth, D.D.S.. Part-time pediatric dentistry faculty also were given appreciation awards for their support and contributions to the education of dental students and residents (Photo Dan Carter)

Appointments and Awards

Several OHSU School of Dentistry faculty recently received appointments and awards:

* **Allison Broyles**, D.M.D. '05, has joined the OHSU faculty as an assistant professor of prosthodontics. Allison recently received her advanced prosthodontics certificate from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.

* **John D. Hanna**, D.D.S., assistant professor of pediatric dentistry, has been appointed full time director of the School of Dentistry's new pediatric dental surgery clinic. Dr. Hanna joined the School faculty 11 years ago. He received his doctor of dental surgery from Northwestern University, and his certificate in pediatric dentistry from OHSU in 1976. The Pediatric Dental Surgery Clinic, located in Doernbecher Children's Hospital, with an anticipated Aug. 3 opening, is for young patients who are acutely ill, immunocompromised, have special needs, or those with craniofacial disorders.

* **Marvin P. Levin**, D.D.S., emeritus professor of periodontology, recently received the American Academy of Periodontology 2009 Educator Award in recognition of outstanding teaching and mentoring in periodontics. Dr. Levin has been on faculty at OHSU since 1980.

School Grants (continued from page three)

* **Agnieszka Balkowiec**, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, also received an AARA grant for \$174,342, for an 18-month project that is a supplement to a current grant from the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

In their NIH (National Institutes of Health)-supported investigations, Dr. Balkowiec and her team recently discovered a new molecule in the blood pressure control system. The molecule is called Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) and is likely to play a role in hypertension.



Agnieszka Balkowiec, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, in her office. (Photo Ewa Balkowiec-Iskra, M.D., Ph.D.)

The ARRA supplement will enable Dr. Balkowiec to expand the scope of currently funded studies and examine molecular mechanisms that govern regulation of the BDNF gene by high blood pressure. The supplement also will create a full-time position for a postdoctoral fellow.

Dr. Balkowiec was recently interviewed about her research by a nationally syndicated television health show, *MedStars*, with affiliates around the country. The story recently aired in several markets (one of them Madison, Wis.) and can be viewed at <http://www.wkowitz.com/Global/story.asp?S=10727319>.

Good-bye Dr. Stroud

Frank Stroud, D.D.S., assistant professor of operative dentistry, and the Broadway group practice leader, recently left the School to start his own Eugene, Ore., dental practice. Dr. Stroud had been commuting to OHSU from Eugene weekly.

Reception Remodel

(continued from page one)

the Dean's Fund for Excellence, noted Dean Clinton. "We are thankful to our donors who earmarked gifts specifically to this discretionary fund, particularly in these tight economic times when there are no funds to spare from the school budget."

The remodel is an initiative of the School's (ACE) Advisory Committee on Excellence, which is charged with boosting service excellence.

The next step in the patient reception center remodel is transitioning to an electronic record system for dental patient charts. Installation of the electronic system is slated for early 2010, said the Dean.

Running for the School

Honorary Alum **Lora Mattsen** is raising funds for the OHSU School of Dentistry (and the Dental Foundation of Oregon) by running in the Oct. 4 Portland Marathon. To sponsor Lora for her 26-mile journey, please contact Lora for a pledge form, (503) 513-5010, or lora@multnomahdental.org. All money raised for the School of Dentistry will go toward the Dean's Fund for Excellence, said Lora.

Phonathon Coming Soon

The OHSU School of Dentistry Alumni Association is looking for a few good phonathon volunteers! The School's fall phonathon is set for Oct. 19 to 22 and Oct. 26 to 29 at the OHSU Foundation. To volunteer, contact **Jessica Smith** at (503) 494-0983.

Class of 2010 Receives White Coats

The 75 dental students in the Class of 2012, now heading into their second year of dental school, received their white coats in a ceremony July 18, signifying entry into the pre-doctoral clinic.

"In the pre-clinical years, there is a great deal of emphasis on acquiring the skills to perform specific procedures – amalgams, crown, scaling, and root planning – to name a few," said **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., associate dean for clinical affairs to the assembled dental students. "We now challenge you to start to perfect another set of essential skills – communication, organization, confidentiality, ethics, and compassion. These attributes are hallmarks of a true professional and must be continuously honed just as we improve our technical skills throughout our professional careers."

The Class of 2012 elected two faculty "coaters," **Thomas Galbraith**, D.D.S., adjunct professor of prosthodontics, and **Jeffrey Brunner**, D.M.D. '97, assistant professor of prosthodontics.

Twelve dental students were coated by a family member or mentor with a doctor of dental medicine or doctor of dental science. Of those 12, four are OHSU School of Dentistry legacies including **Anne Adams Belusko** (father, **Charles Belusko**, D.M.D. '77); **Anton Conklin** (brother, **Derek Conklin**, D.M.D. '04); **Matthew Lesh** (brother, **William G. Lesh**, D.M.D. '97); and **Stevenson Smith** (father, **Steven Smith**, D.M.D. '73).

Alumni Association President **David Kreutzer**, D.M.D. '00, gave the keynote address. **Mark Alder**, D.M.D. '80, alumni outreach committee chair was also in attendance.

Additional guests included **Rickland Asai**, D.M.D. '81, president-elect of the Oregon Dental Association, and **James Fratzke**, D.M.D. '63, **William Scharwatt**, D.M.D. '63, and **Fred Scott**, D.M.D. '63.

Dive Into Dentistry

OHSU's American Student Dental Association (ASDA) recently hosted 25 pre-dental students for a morning of hands-on dentistry. "We had a great time and are already planning on changes and improvements for next year's program," said third-year dental student **Amanda Restschler**, OHSU ASDA pre-dental committee chair.



Thomas Galbraith, D.D.S., adjunct professor of prosthodontics, helps at the ASDA's Dive into Dentistry event. (Photo Michelle Yang)

Pre-dental students from such schools as George Fox University, Portland State University, and Oregon State University, attended OHSU's second annual Dive into Dentistry event on July 11. **Thomas Galbraith**, D.D.S., adjunct professor of prosthodontics, and **Todd Beck**, D.M.D. '94, affiliate faculty of operative dentistry, gave demonstrations on composite and amalgam preparations and restorations. The pre-dental students used high-speed hand pieces to cut preps on natural teeth that were poured into models that they could take home. Third-year dental student **Truon "Charles" Nguyen** talked to the pre-dental students about periodontology, and fourth-year dental student **Jason Walker**; third-year dental students **Vishal Panchmatia** and **Trace Baxter**, and second-year dental student **Patrick Corning** did live casting demonstrations. The pre-dental students also learned how to conduct cleanings, and gather periodontology data. They also asked questions of the 15 dental students in students in attendance.