



# Dental Bites

December 2013

## Short Takes

*\*At 4:30 p.m. this (12/2) afternoon in room 220/225, Kenneth Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor and chair of endodontics at University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, kicks off the Dean's Seminar Series, with "Iron in the Fire: The Role of Endogenous TRPV1 agonists in Inflammatory Pain." A welcome reception is at 4 p.m. in the atrium and the pre-doctoral clinic is closing early so dental students and faculty may attend.*

## OHSU Faculty, Students, Alumni at MOM

Dozens of dental students were excused from class pre-Thanksgiving to volunteer at the fourth annual Mission of Mercy, the large-scale free oral health care event sponsored by the Oregon Dental Association. This year's event was held on Nov. 25 and 26 at the Oregon Convention Center.

Dental students from all four classes worked in such areas as patient education, bio-hazardous waste, and post-operative care, said fourth-year dental student **Karley Bedford**, who helped coordinate the dental student volunteers, and was troubleshooting on Nov. 25 looking for extra mouth mirrors and coordinating recycling.

"The school was good about making sure dental students were able to take time off from class to volunteer," said Karley. "We gave each class a time slot in which they could volunteer so there were only a few classes that needed to be cancelled over the two-day event.

"MOM was very organized and everyone was helpful."

*(continued on page five)*

## NIH Cracked Teeth Study to Start at SOD

**Thomas Hilton**, D.M.D., M.S., alumni centennial professor of operative dentistry, and **Jack Ferracane**, Ph.D., OHSU chair and professor of restorative dentistry, are preparing to conduct the first clinical investigation in the new National Dental Practice-based Research Network, thanks to a six-year, \$1.5 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant.



*Thomas Hilton, D.M.D., M.S.*

Drs. Hilton (principal investigator) and Ferracane (co-investigator) will lead a four-year study of cracked teeth in 3,000 patients from approximately 150 to 300 private practices within the National Dental Practice-based Research Network.

Cracked teeth are fractures that involve the whole tooth, from the chewing surface down to the nerve. If a tooth becomes damaged or diseased because of a crack, root canal treatment or even extraction may be necessary to treat the tooth.

"The prevalence of cracked teeth is quite high, with more than 70 percent of adults having at least one cracked posterior tooth," said Dr. Hilton. "Cracked teeth are problematic, not just for patients, but for dentists. In confronting cracked teeth, dentists have to decide whether the cracked tooth will get worse, when the tooth needs to be treated, and the best treatment *(continued on page three)*

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## Gootee Lecture Caps Professionalism Week

Dental students had the opportunity to hear several speakers during OHSU Professionalism Week in mid-November. Alumni Association President **Jim Smith**, D.M.D. '81, kicked off the week, speaking to third- and fourth-year dental students on Nov. 11 about ethics and leadership (see photo/caption, page four). Professionalism Week ended on Nov. 15 with the Robert G. Gootee/Moda Health Endowed Lecture in Leadership and Professionalism, led by **Kevin Carroll**, author of *Rules of the Red Rubber Ball*.

Carroll used snippets from his rocky childhood to express what he's learned about life: the importance of play in staying strong and adapting to change.

"We have resourcefulness and resiliency well beyond what we believe," said Carroll, a onetime trainer for his hometown Philadelphia 76'ers, and a former Nike executive. "If we want something badly enough, we'll figure it out. That's the beauty of the human spirit.

"If you're curious, with a person holding you accountable for *(continued on page six)*

## New NIH Grant will Boost Quality Improvement

OHSU School of Dentistry has a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to help create a framework for classifying and documenting adverse dental events, and then building a searchable repository for such events.

**Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., senior associate dean for clinical affairs, and **Karla Kent**, Ph.D., director of quality improvement, will collaborate with colleagues at the University of Texas at Houston (UTHealth) School of Dentistry, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and the University of California, San Francisco, thanks to a \$3.9 million, five-year grant from the NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

"Our goal is for all patients who visit the dental school's pre-doctoral clinic to have a positive outcome in their oral care," said Dr. Stewart. "The best way to ensure every patient receives excellent care is to boost patient safety and continually examine the quality of care, making improvements, as necessary."

Under the direction of principal investigator **Muhammad Waiji**, Ph.D., associate professor and director of informatics at UTHealth, Drs. Stewart and Kent will participate in a comprehensive collection of data on the most pressing safety risks. The data collection will give the researchers access to potentially millions of dental records.

Researchers will define "adverse events" and criteria for which incidents qualify, including unforeseen complications, and then develop triggers that electronically flag the patient records most likely to contain adverse events.

All identifying patient information will be deleted from the records examined in the study so privacy is not compromised.

*(continued on page five)*

## Cracked Teeth (continued from page one)

for the patient. It is our hope that this study will help dentists answer these questions."



*Jack Ferracane,  
Ph.D.*

The National Dental Practice-based Research Network was initiated in April 2012, a sequel to the three separate NIDCR-funded regional networks. One of those three networks was NW PRECEDENT, a joint effort between OHSU School of Dentistry and University of Washington that began in 2005.

The dental school has also coordinated its own Practice-based Research in Oral Health (PROH) network since 2003 (see the Nov. 4 Top News Story at [www.ohsu.edu/sod](http://www.ohsu.edu/sod)). PROH currently has about 180 practitioners in Oregon and southwest Washington, many of them OHSU dental alumni who participate in clinical studies within their private practices.

"We not only have long-term expertise in practice-based oral health research, but have conducted practice-based research studies previously in cracked teeth," said Dr. Hilton. "As we expect PROH practitioners who are part of the national network will be involved in this study, we anticipate a number of Oregon patients in the new study, as well."

The National Dental Practice-based Research Network, based out of the University of Alabama at Birmingham College of Dentistry, is funded by the NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

## Dental Applications Up at OHSU

OHSU School of Dentistry is poised to receive 1,328 applications this cycle, a 7.53 percent increase from 2012, said **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs.

"This is another application record for us," said Mark.

However, the national pool shows a decline in the number of applications received.

"As of Nov. 1, which happens to be our application deadline, the year-to-date decrease in national applications is 4.5 percent," said Mark. "While we are fortunate to have a healthy pool of applications again this year, we need to prepare for a possible decline in applicants to dental schools, as is forecast."

Mark said the cost of dental education, as well as decreasing dental salaries are factors in the national decrease in applicants to dental school. In addition, new dental schools in the United States over the past six years have increased to 25 percent the number of seats available to enrolling dental students.

## Faculty News

**Kevin Kwiecien**, D.M.D. '95, assistant professor and director of the Faculty Dental Practice, Urgent Care, and Admissions, is leaving the dental school at the end of the year to join Spear Education.

## OHSU T-shirt Competition

OHSU schools are competing to sell school-specific T-shirts for a Doernbecher Children's Hospital fundraiser. Money raised goes to making the holidays bright for children in the hospital. The deadline to order is Dec. 3 and the shirts will be delivered on Dec. 17. For more information, go to <https://www.booster.com/ohsuschoolofdentistry>.

## Recent Photos from OHSU School of Dentistry



Second-year dental students Sydney Stoker (left) and Jennifer Rosales attended the American Student Dental Association National Leadership Conference in Chicago in mid-November. (Photo courtesy Sydney Stoker)



Kicking off Professionalism Week, United States Navy Veteran and Alumni Association President Jim Smith, D.M.D. '81, F.A.C.D., spoke to third- and fourth-year dental students as part of their morning huddle. "It is our ability as dental professionals to communicate our caring through listening, empathizing, reflecting, and drawing out each patient's unique story that will be most meaningful to the patient and improve their outcome," said Dr. Smith. "The connection with patients will not always be easy, but a commitment to learning the art of interaction, and attending to each individual's expectations is a powerful tool." Be sure to read Dr. Smith's message in the upcoming Caementum. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



Patricia Finn, D.D.S., adjunct assistant professor of restorative dentistry and Steel group leader, volunteered on Nov. 25 at Mission of Mercy. Dr. Finn is shown here in triage. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Denice Stewart, D.D.S., M.H.S.A. (right) gives a tour of the pre-doctoral clinic to representatives from Exan, the company that own axiUm, the school's electronic dental record, in mid-November. "We are celebrating our third year of being entirely paperless in all of our clinics," said Dr. Stewart, who noted that the few remaining paper documents in the pre-doctoral clinic are educational worksheets and some informational fliers for patients that will eventually be converted to an electronic format. "Our use of an electronic record system is beginning to go way beyond the day-to-day operations. It is helping us to transform information management entirely as we prepare for our move to the new building, including quality of care, student performance, and research. See also story, page two. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

## Wallace Clinic Update

An expansion grant submitted to the state by Human Solutions Incorporated (a public housing nonprofit) and The Wallace Medical Concern in Gresham has just received a green light from the state, reports Executive Vice Dean **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, F.A.C.D. The expansion grant is for a new four-story building that includes a 2,800 square foot, seven-operator dental clinic "perfect" for an OHSU collaboration.

"Wallace has a commitment now from the state so they and Human Solutions can proceed with architectural plans for a new building," said Dr. Chiodo. "The executive director is currently forming a committee to help with planning and additional fund raising."

Construction on the new clinic building could begin in late fall of 2014, with completion targeted for early summer of 2016, said Dr. Chiodo.

OHSU alumnus **Mike McKeel**, D.M.D. '71, has been asked to chair the Dental Clinic fund raising committee, and the dental school will also have a representative.

"This is a big deal for interprofessional practice and will fit nicely into the university's Interprofessional Education Initiative," said Dr. Chiodo. "If all goes as planned, this will be the first Wallace dental clinic. Oral care is certainly one of the clinic's biggest needs and this collaboration is a great opportunity for our dental students to work with their healthcare peers."

The Wallace Clinic is a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC).

Should Wallace be added to the dental school's repertoire of community health sites, it would become a required rotation for dental students, with the community rotation requirement (now two weeks for all graduates) likely increasing.

## MOM *(continued from page one)*

Dental students said it felt good to make a difference. "I am interested in doing community service," said first-year dental student **Anna Hildebran**. "I wanted to help out."



*First-year dental students (from left to right) Tate Masunaga, Cliff Heaberlin, and Chet Heap "spread joy and happiness" at the Nov. 25 Mission of Mercy. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)*

See also photo, page four

## Patient Safety *(continued from page two)*

"Ultimately, having a searchable database will allow dental practitioners to pinpoint incident patterns, identify underlying causes for any incidents, and improve patient safety," said Dr. Kent.

Dr. Stewart noted that OHSU's history of success with its electronic record make the dental school a ready partner in helping to forge a patient safety system for all dental schools.

"We are ready to take our electronic dental record system to the next level," said Dr. Stewart. "The electronic record is not just for storing data. It can help us to look for patterns that we can build into the system that will improve patient safety not just in Oregon, but nationally."

## Gootee (continued from page two)

your ideas, anything is possible."

Carroll said his travels taught him that a simple ball from the playground can change the world.

"We all speak ball," he said. "It's a language in and of itself. If you stand outside and bounce a ball, it takes more energy to ignore the ball than to play with it. Balls can create collaborations and teach conflict resolution. It's a wonderful thing.

"We each have the ability to do something amazing," Carroll added. "As you grow in your skills, never lose sight of the ability to be passionate and curious. Play is serious business. Play is serious *in* business. Play can save a life."

Carroll donated a bag of balls to Doernbecher Children's Hospital and there was a raffle in which a handful of lecture attendees received balls and books.

"The lecture was very inspirational," said fourth-year dental student **Kristen Vogel**, whose raffle number was drawn for the grand prize. "We are so focused on dental school that sometimes we forget about the big picture. It is refreshing to hear someone motivated to change the world and make a difference."



*Second-year dental student John Waite was one of the lucky raffle winners at the Gootee Lecture. (Photo Aaron Bieleck)*

## School Calendar

Dec. 20	End of 12-week fall term
Jan. 6	Start of 11-week term
Jan. 20	Holiday—Martin Luther King
Feb. 17	Holiday—President's Day
Feb. 18	Dental Specialty Speed Dating, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for DS1-DS3's, OHSU Student Center gym
Feb. 21	Sealant Day

## SOD Students Have Talent

Dental student talents—beyond dentistry—have been on display recently:

\*First-year dental students **Brian Phan** and **Arthur Gutnik** met in dental school and discovered each was a musician. On Halloween during lunch time, Brian (on piano) and Arthur (violin) played an awesome rendition of "Danse Macabre" in the Student Center, with the support of classmates **Jennah Rouse** (turning pages for Brian) and **Tate Masunaga** (behind the camera). The duo even performed a birthday serenade for classmates **Demetri Howerton** and **Chris Fanger** after their Halloween piece. Go to: <http://vimeo.com/79629275>

\*Fourth-year dental student **Rose Vaughan** is dancing her way through winter! Go to [www.ohsu.edu/sod](http://www.ohsu.edu/sod) and click on the Nov. 7 Top News Story for the link to a Trailblazer video showing Rose's energetic dancing at one of the Blazer home games, and how her love for dancing complements dentistry.

Want dental school news more frequently than once a month? Join our 545 friends on Facebook by "liking" us at: [www.facebook.com/ohsuschoolofdentistry](http://www.facebook.com/ohsuschoolofdentistry).