School Launches Dean’s Seminar Series

The dental school’s new Dean’s Seminar Series—designed to promote oral health research at OHSU—kicked off last month with guest speaker Kenneth Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor and chair of endodontics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Hargreaves presented, “Iron in the Fire: The Role of Endogenous TRPV1 agonists in Inflammatory Pain,” which included recent unpublished findings from his group.

About 120 OHSU faculty and students attended the lecture at the School of Dentistry, with about one-third of attendees from the Schools of Medicine, and Nursing, and the Portland Veteran’s Administration Hospital.

“Research is a key part of the mission at OHSU, and at the School of Dentistry,” said Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D. “We are conducting quality research at the dental school and we want to share what we’re doing with the broader university community in hopes of strengthening collaborations.”

Dr. Marucha said the seminar series is designed to promote oral health research and will “provide visioning” for future research at the dental school. Dr. Marucha said he also hopes to further engage dental students in research.

“[The seminar] was an awesome opportunity to see so much of what we’ve learned, including neurophysiology/patch clamping, histology, and anatomy,” said first-year dental student Alayna Schoblaske. Classmate David Garfinkel noted that hearing Dr. Hargreaves’s findings made him “even more excited to study pain.”

In addition to his seminar, Dr. Hargreaves visited with researchers at three OHSU schools, took a tour of the dental school’s new building under construction, and had lunch with about a dozen dental students who are active in research.

“Dr. Hargreaves’s visit was a dream come true,” said Agnieszka Balkowiec, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences. “His cutting-edge research is fascinating and relevant to both oral and systemic health and I received so much positive feedback from those who met with Dr. Hargreaves in other OHSU schools—many of whom have never been to the dental school before—as well as from our dental students.”

Said Professor of Integrative Biosciences and Associate Dean for Research David Morton, Ph.D., “Dr. Hargreaves is undoubtedly a leader in his... (continued on page five)
New Look for Radiology Department in New Facility

One more unique corner of the 1956 dental school that will disappear in six months with the move to the new facility on South Waterfront exists in the radiology department.

Though there is one intraoral x-ray unit on the pre-doctoral clinic floor for a quick check or endodontology working image, much of patient imaging is still done in the main radiology clinic, located behind the patient reception center on the west end of the first floor. With its rabbit warren of wooden bays and the face of DXTTR (Dental X-ray Training and Technique Replica) peeking out from a dental chair, radiology resembles more of a fun house than a diagnostic screening room.

“It is a weird area,” admitted Kelly Wiss, lead dental radiology technologist who has been with the school for 19 years. “We made the most of the space we had.”

When the Marquam Hill dental school building first opened, part of the space where radiology is now located was an oral surgery classroom. About 25 years ago the room was re-configured to expand the radiology department, with each x-ray “room” separated by lead-lined wood paneling. Now, from the original main radiology clinic there are four x-ray rooms in the front space and—with the expansion—there are four in the back space, with a larger room in the back doubling as a demonstration and teaching room during dental students’ clinical radiology lab.

“We are filled to capacity during DS1 lab, as well as other busy clinical days,” said Kelly. “I’m really excited for our new space, which will have good air flow and windows. It can get a little warm back here!”

Another radiology architectural need from 1956 soon to disappear is the former darkroom, chemical processing tanks, and drying racks for developing film-based x-ray images.

“There is no more need for a revolving door to enter the dark room, nor the plumbing necessary to develop exposed film,” noted Dean Emeritus Jack Clinton, D.M.D. ’64, who remembers the days when exposure times were measured in seconds for dental film-based images. “Having replaced all of the school’s film-based technology with digital imaging in 2010 now means less x-ray exposure for patients, instant images for reading on computer monitors, and ease of sharing necessary information among patients’ family of providers.”

The radiology department in the new building will have all new equipment, including a cone beam CT machine, one panoramic machine, and nine intraoral x-ray units, along with all new exam chairs in the main radiology clinic located on the 12th floor of the Skourtes Tower. The remainder of new x-ray equipment throughout the building for all other radiology procedures in the undergraduate, graduate, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, continuing education, and Faculty Dental.
New IPE Opportunity

OHSU School of Dentistry students have a new interprofessional education (IPE) opportunity in which to participate, thanks to a three-year HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) grant to the School of Nursing. The SON grant is funded to develop an Interprofessional Care Access Network (I-CAN). “The grant complements OHSU’s Interprofessional Education Initiative,” said Jill Mason, M.P.H., associate professor of periodontology and community dentistry, and director of the SOD’s community-based rotations. “Dental students who choose to visit either La Clinica del Valle in Medford, or the Billi Odegaard Clinic in Portland as part of their required community-based rotations are now able to participate in the grant activities with those clinics, which allows them to interact with other OHSU health professions students – from nursing, medicine, and pharmacy – in patient assessment and care.”

During fall term, fourth-year dental students Tyler Wilson and Andrew Tillman provided care at La Clinica del Valle, and Kelly Harness and Craig Wright were at Billi Odegaard Clinic.

Inclement Weather Hotline

With winter’s arrival, here are the numbers to call for information during inclement weather:

**OHSU Alert Line (road conditions):** (503) 494-9021. Additional resources and policies are at https://o2.ohsu.edu/emergency-management/inclement-weather.cfm.

**School of Dentistry clinic or class cancellation (for dental students, staff, faculty):** (503) 494-8565. This will be a recorded message beginning at 6 a.m. Students should wear pagers for notification of cancellations via pager. Students should also be prepared to notify their patients in the event of a clinic cancellation. Employees should know their department’s policy on who should report for duty in the event of cancelled classes and/or clinics, and be prepared to follow those guidelines. The school will never be “closed” unless OHSU and its ambulatory care clinics close, said Director of Quality Improvement Karla Kent, Ph.D. If clinics and classes are cancelled, she said, the recorded message will say “classes and clinics are cancelled.”

**Patient information (regarding clinic cancellations):** (503) 494-8867. Dental students should remind their patients of this number for inclement weather.

New IPE Opportunity

“Prior to MCHD [Multnomah County Health Department in which Billi Odegaard is a part] I had limited exposure to public health,” said Kelly. “This rotation helped me to understand the interdisciplinary approach and management of complex and deserving patients.”
Recent Photos from OHSU School of Dentistry

Staff eagerly await the cutting of ham, turkey, and bread (left front is Auxiliary Staff Supervisor Karen Straham and right front is Phyllis Beemsterboer, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs) made by the various school "chefs" for the Dec. 23 in-service and potluck. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

OHSU School of Dentistry Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D. (center) met with alumni in Klamath Falls in November, including Andrew Smith, D.M.D. ’08 (left) and his wife, Brooke (right). Dr. Smith is in private practice with his father, T. Alexander Smith, D.M.D. ’08. Brother, Nicholas, is a 2010 D.M.D. graduate. Dr. Marucha joined other OHSU leaders in Klamath Falls to introduce the concept of an OHSU rural campus in the area. (Photo Mark Kembal)

Steel group practice care coordinator Eva Brame brings holiday cheer to the pre-doctoral clinic floor on Dec. 13, Holiday Sweater Day. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

SOD Development Director Pat Regan (left) uses the newly-installed A-dec instrumentation to "examine" A-dec President Scott Parrish (center) during a new building tour on Dec. 16, while Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D., looks on. A-dec has been steadily delivering truckloads of operator equipment to the Skouettes Tower for the past month, part of their nearly $5 million commitment to the $43 million "Our Moment is Here" campaign. "It looks beautiful!" said Mr. Parrish. "It is a luxury to start from scratch in outfitting an entire dental school." Read more at www.ohsu.edu/sod. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)
Radiology (continued from page two)

Practice areas includes: two additional panoramic/cephalometric machines and 42 additional intraoral x-ray units. There will be one intraoral x-ray until in each bridge group on the 8th and 9th floors.

“This should allow for more convenience for dental students treating patients that need images done during an appointment,” said Kelly.

However the 12 DXTTRs, having been recently refurbished, will make the move in July. “DXTTR is essential to teaching,” said Kelly. “Their heads have human skulls inside for helping students understand anatomy. Their mouths open and close similar to a real person, and they have a life-like tongue and lower jaw.

“My job is fun,” said Kelly. “I enjoy working with the students. We are looking forward to the move!”

See past dental school historical features on: Room 13 (February 2013 Dental Bites); the pneumatic tube transport system (March 2013 Dental Bites); instrument management (April 2013 Dental Bites); and other dental school architectural tidbits (July 2013 Dental Bites).

School Calendar 2014

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
March 10-12 School Boards for DS4’s
March 15-18 ADEA Meeting
March 19-22 AADR Meeting
March 21 End of 11-week winter term

Seminar Series (continued from page one)

Field—as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Endodontics and editor of our dental students’ required text “Pathways of the Pulp”—and this is the kind of clinician-scientist we hope to bring regularly to speak at the dental school.”

The next speaker in the series is Jacques Nör, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., the Donald A. Kerr Professor of Dentistry at the University of Michigan. Dr. Nör is expected to speak at the dental school on Friday, Jan. 31, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., in rooms 220/225.

Short Takes (continued from page one)

PeaceHealth. Dr. Chiodo joins PeaceHealth effective March 3. He said he’ll be working at OHSU’s Center for Ethics for the next few months until he transitions to the private sector. "We thank Dr. Chiodo for his commitment, vision, and leadership at the dental school over the past two years and wish him the best in his new endeavors,” said OHSU School of Dentistry Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D.

*The OHSU Foundation/Russell Street Dental Clinic recently received a one-year, $2,000 grant from the Pride Foundation for clinic supplies and advisory board training.