Building a Better Dentist

OHSU and the Rural Divide

Research Day with the NIH
First-year students took some time in retreat at Cannon Beach, Ore. this fall to reflect on professionalism and ethics in their new profession. A sand-sculpting competition encouraged the students to use their team-building and communication skills in a creative exercise that celebrated a "Halloween" theme. Pictured are members of the Broadway Group Practice creating a vampire pumpkin, complete with braces.
Dear colleagues,

Following an exciting period of transition and change, 2015 was a year of great progress for the dental school. As we embark upon a new year, I would like to share with you several of our recent endeavors and accomplishments:

Tilikum Crossing: We have settled into our new building in Portland’s South Waterfront and have benefitted from the opening of the Tilikum Crossing bridge. The new TriMet MAX Orange Line provides excellent patient access from the east side of Portland and we hope that it will bring a new group of patients to our doorstep and provide further access to the underserved.

Patients: As we moved into the new building, it took time for our patients, particularly new patients, to find us. We have found that in 2015 our patient numbers have improved significantly so that we are at least at the level of admissions that we had before we moved. We expect to exceed our previous admissions rate in the coming year. This is important because students need to work with a diverse patient base to be fully-competent clinicians.

A new building and a new bridge are important infrastructure pieces that help us along our way, but it is what we do with the infrastructure that is most important. Our curriculum infrastructure is moving in real ways to better prepare our students for clinical work, focusing on patient outcomes and the broader interprofessional collaboration that connects oral health to overall health in our patient populations. Look for our next edition of Caementum for some of the curricular changes being made.

OHSU Campus for Rural Health: The School of Dentistry is a full partner in OHSU’s Campus for Rural Health initiative which kicked off in 2015. In September 2015, a group of our fourth-year students began to live, work and learn in our two Rural Health sites in Klamath Falls and Coos Bay. The students have spent a total of five weeks providing care for the underserved in various practice settings and living with students from other health professions. They also worked on a community project with other health profession students. Thank you to all of our partners at these facilities for giving our students a great experience.

Expanded Community Service: At the same time that we opened up the Campus for Rural Health, we started sending fourth-year students who are not part of the Rural Campus program to a number of other community sites. All of our students will experience at least five weeks of community service in Portland, in the surrounding suburbs and in rural areas. The value of these rotations is that all students will experience real practice situations, seeing many more patients every day than they would in the OHSU clinics, and expanding their procedural expertise. All these opportunities are dedicated to helping our students become more “practice ready.” Thank you to our statewide partners in this goal.

The Other Tilikum Bridge: As our students returned from their community service activities, where they were treating six to 10 patients a day, we realized that it would be beneficial to give them a chance to practice similarly in our own building, seeing more patients and teaming up with dental assistants and dental hygienists. We developed a pilot project named the Tilikum Bridge group to address this opportunity. Conceived by Sean Benson, D.D.S., and directed by Dr. Benson and Peter Morita, D.M.D., ’86, the Tilikum Bridge is a collaboration between OHSU and Portland Community College (PCC). In the Tilikum Bridge group, six OHSU dental students will treat patients as a team with dental hygiene students and dental assisting students from PCC. We will work through the pilot to understand how the model can be optimized and eventually generalized throughout our program.

(continued on page 4)
NBDE Part I: A quick shout out to the Class of 2017, who had a 100 percent first time pass rate on their recent National Board of Dentistry Examination, (NBDE) Part I. This demonstrates the success of our basic science curriculum and our new system for preparing students for the exam, as well as the hard work of these students. Congratulations to all!

Research: The past 12 months have been an exciting time for our researchers. The School of Dentistry’s funding in research contracts and grants has reached almost $5 million and FY16 has seen several more grants awarded. We want to recognize both continued funding of our research faculty, new grants awarded to Curt Machida, Ph.D.; Michael Danilchik, Ph.D.; Justin Merritt, Ph.D.; Carmen Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D.; as well as the recent hiring of Jens Kreth, Ph.D. Additionally, over the past five years our students have received 13 American Association of Dental Research Fellowships, ranking OHSU as third in the nation across all dental schools for fellowships awarded.

Prominent Visitors: Our school has garnered accolades and attention from a distinguished list of visitors this year, including Martha Somerman, D.D.S., Ph.D., director of the NIH’s National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S., the current president of the American Dental Association. This year’s Kenneth Cantwell Memorial Lecture/Margaret M. Ryan Dental Hygiene Update was delivered by nationally-recognized researcher Robert J. Genco, D.D.S., Ph.D., who covered the association between periodontal disease with diabetes, atherosclerotic and respiratory diseases, adverse pregnancy outcomes and cancer.

Accreditation: This is the year in which the School will undergo review by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Accreditation Steering Team, led by associate dean Dr. Bill Knight, is working hard and collaboratively with all our faculty to provide the documentation to prove the excellence of our programs.

New Faculty: We have been actively recruiting and welcoming 20 new faculty members in 2015 as well as a Department Chair of Oral Pathology (see profile, page 11).

We have a lot to be proud of here at OHSU. Our goal is to maintain our current momentum as we strive to make our programs the best in the nation. I invite your comments and feedback at any time as we pursue this vision.

Phillip T. Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D.
Message from the Alumni Association President

It is an honor to serve as your president of the OHSU School of Dentistry Alumni Association.

As many of you know, the move into the new school is complete. Now is the exciting time of growth as we begin to utilize all of the new space and technology in the Skourtes Tower.

I am pleased to see that the Sirona Simulation Clinic is now equipped with 35 Sirona Cerac Bluecams and 16 chairside milling units for training in CAD/CAM dentistry. Sirona also has equipped the school with four Omnicams and a lab grade MCXL unit for fabricating restorations. These units are the most up-to-date technology available to dentists and possibly one of the areas our students can update the alumni about. They also help us maintain the School’s reputation as an outstanding clinical school for restorative dentistry.

Another new technology dedicated to student training and enhanced patient care is cone beam imaging in the radiology department. This technology allows for better placement of implants, identification of endodontic lesions and assessment of oral pathology, to name just a few of the more common uses.

No matter how much new technology we have it is still the faculty which earns the school its reputation. Over the past year twenty faculty members have joined the School, further enhancing our education, patient care and research missions.

I hope we can count on your continued support as we grow the OHSU School of Dentistry into national prominence. Providing a bedrock of donations of time, talent and treasure, our alumni help us to carry forward OHSU’s traditional reputation as an outstanding training institution for all aspects of dentistry.

Thank you for your continued support of the OHSU School of Dentistry,

Donald J. Sirianni, DMD ’64
President, OHSU School of Dentistry Alumni Association Board of Directors
Building a Better Dentist

The shifting landscape of health care and dentistry itself calls for the evolution of dental education. The challenge for more efficiency and efficacy is currently being met at OHSU School of Dentistry through a number of initiatives primarily centering on changes and a re-sequencing of the four-year predoctoral curriculum. The ultimate goal remains the same: the development of clinicians who are practice-ready upon graduation, but with a broader variety of clinical experiences, and who are competent in a comprehensive-care healthcare model.

While OHSU’s dental curriculum has been heading this way for some time, the changes now underway are more visible, being driven by national accreditation changes and the need to formalize different methods of assessing student competency as they progress from year to year. Other factors driving this change are the growth of interprofessional education and extramural practice rotations, two areas where OHSU’s School of Dentistry has a long history of success.

Some changes entail simply resequencing curriculum to deliver the needed information in a timelier manner aligned with national board testing schedules. Other changes include moving away from the traditional quantitative DVU system toward an assessment model that better matches the comprehensive care models used in practice. At each milestone throughout the predoctoral program, student competency is evaluated based on varied experiences, faculty and peer evaluation, clinical skills assessments and student self-evaluation. The measurement of a student’s competency in certain procedures will occur as early as the third year, so that fourth year students will be ready for semi-autonomous practice at community and rural health sites. Moving forward, the process will also focus on reducing the number of single-credit-hour courses, streamlining the program’s course offerings over time.

With previous experience guiding academic programs through this kind of transition, G. William “Bill” Knight, D.D.S., M.S., joined the school this year as senior associate dean of academic affairs to facilitate this change (see profile, page 11).

“Much of the change being implemented focuses on the student development required to transition from the third to the fourth year, with a focus on students being prepared to take on external rotations earlier,” said Dr. Knight. “The program will prepare students to be national board ready in their first year, and accelerate clinical exposure throughout the program.”

“Our graduates should be able to effectively communicate with patients, provide comprehensive patient assessments, generate diagnoses, develop comprehensive treatment plans, and provide high-quality compassionate patient care,” added Dr. Knight.

Look for more information on curriculum change as the School of Dentistry works to ensure students receive the best possible clinical education focused on patient-centered care.
Visit from ADA President Highlights Association's Support for Students and Seasoned Professionals Alike

OHSU School of Dentistry hosted current American Dental Association president Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S. in early September, prior to the ODA’s House of Delegates meeting in Bend, Ore. Her visit included time with school faculty, staff and administration and a tour of OHSU’s new dental facility, but was highlighted by her address to students, faculty and staff where she described many of the ADA’s initiatives aimed at addressing issues affecting membership, including student members.

Among the accolades Dr. Feinberg listed for the audience was the amount of positive discussion she had heard prior to visiting Oregon about the success of the dental program at OHSU, the focus on collaborative interprofessional education and of course, the new facility.

"You’re lucky to have the leadership in this state with the foresight and ambition to create such a beautiful learning environment," she said.

Dr. Feinberg noted that as ASDA members, the students in the audience were already ADA members. She also listed the primary initiatives that the ADA was pursuing in response to input from membership across the nation.

One of the association’s larger agenda items includes work on standardizing state-by-state issues with licensing tests as well as the related issue of portability of licensure.

"With an ever-more-mobile workforce, these issues deserve a lot of attention," said Dr. Feinberg. "We need either a standardized test across states, or we need to bring disparate tests into enough compliance that they can be accepted across all states."

Dr. Feinberg worked through the top list of issues that members had brought to the table over the last year, including the related licensure exam process and license portability from state to state, and concerns over student debt.

Dr. Feinberg made reference to the Jetsons cartoon when addressing the ADA’s need to change and stay relevant. Video watches were a dream then, but they’ve become reality as the world marches forward. And she noted that staying relevant is a challenge for a 155-year old organization such as the ADA.

One of the bigger functions the ADA performs as a service is the yearly survey noting market trends, salaries, and product use in practices around the country. But it was found that that effort was much more valuable to the dental products industry than to the ADA’s practicing membership. With input from membership, those unwieldy surveys have changed drastically to better provide data that is actionable for individual and group practices.

(continued on page 9)
This last spring, the School of Dentistry held its annual research day. This event serves to highlight the research activities and achievements that have been made by faculty, staff and students within the OHSU School of Dentistry.

The school was honored to host our keynote speaker, Dr. Martha Somerman, director of the NIH’s National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). Dr. Somerman began her visit by meeting with dental students who are actively engaged in research, the leadership of the student research group and the two students who are the first members of our new D.M.D./Ph.D. program at the school. She then met with junior faculty who have research as a major part of their activities within the school, and also with faculty who are currently funded by grants from the NIDCR.

In Dr. Somerman’s keynote address she explained that although a major focus for the NIDCR is basic research, it also has a major mission to fund projects aimed at translational research, helping to bring new treatments into the clinical setting.

"I’ve heard from deans of both medical and dental schools that the perception is the NIH is no longer focused on funding basic science," said Dr. Somerman. "I’m hearing questions about whether schools should focus on hiring translational and clinical researchers and forget about basic science and I want to stress to you that is not the case. We have to have both. At the NIDCR, around 80 percent of our funded research portfolio is for basic science, without which we wouldn’t be able to move into translational areas."

Dr. Somerman noted the eclectic and successful research portfolio at the OHSU School of Dentistry, from periodontic carries to biomaterials, and encouraged the school to continue its momentum and to keep applying for funding. Dr. Somerman also noted the duality of research focuses that range from big data and population health studies to help in diagnoses and identifying new treatment solutions, to personalized, precision healthcare, focusing on an individual patient’s genetic biomarkers for truly personalized care. By working on oral health issues from both perspectives, dental care is moving quickly into the future.

Dr. Somerman concluded her key note address by encouraging students and faculty to reach out to the NIDCR about what research needs to be pursued, and stressed the organization’s reliance on the input from the community of practitioners to focus research where it’s needed most.

Following Dr. Somerman’s talk, participants viewed research posters presented by faculty, students and staff of the school to be evaluated by a panel of judges. This year there were 44 research poster presentations that included, for the first time, Case Critically Appraised Topic or CaseCAT presentations from students. CaseCAT projects involve students taking a clinical case and performing a literature search to come to a recommended treatment option using an evidence-based approach. Additionally, other research was presented at the Oregon Dental Conference Student Table Clinic. The presentations were judged by members of the Oregon Academy of General Dentistry and the winners were awarded cash prizes.
TRAVELING DENTISTRY

Daniel Petrisor, M.D., D.M.D. ’03, assistant professor, department of oral maxillofacial surgery, returned to his country of birth, Romania, just over a year ago to help treat a two-month-old baby girl with a large, aggressive tumor in her neck. Working at Sfanta Maria Hospital in Bucharest with fellow oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dr. Ghali E. Ghali from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and local Bucharest surgeon Mihai Dorobantu, he successfully removed a 1-kilo tumor.

Dr. Petrisor is a board-certified surgeon with training in microvascular reconstructive surgery, head and neck surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery. He has a special interest in treating patients with benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck, and has also trained in reconstruction of complex deformities of both hard and soft tissues. This combination of advanced training allows for a patient’s own tissues to be used for reconstructive surgery at the same time as their cancer surgery. Additionally, he is part of a team of physicians, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, therapists and social workers all working together to provide each patient the latest in comprehensive treatments for a variety of cancers of the mouth, head and neck.

VISIT FROM ADA PRESIDENT

Of particular interest to the students in attendance was Dr. Feinberg’s announcement of a new student loan consolidation program the ADA is launching with Darien Rowayton Bank (DRB). The program leverages the buying power of the ADA’s membership to provide very competitive refinancing opportunities on federal and private undergraduate and graduate school loans at a 0.25% lower rate that DRB’s normal published rates for the life of the loan. More information on the program can be found at student.drbank.com/ada.

Another focus highlighted in Dr. Feinberg’s address was the ADA’s Center for Evidence-based Dentistry, connecting clinicians to the latest research findings. With this information dental professionals can have more confidence in their diagnoses and treatment plans, creating better outcomes for patients overall.

Dr. Fienberg also touched on the ADA’s efforts to better integrate dental care into Medicaid and state implementations of the Affordable Care Act. Recognizing the oral health communities’ great work with outreach programs to provide better access to dental care, she noted that these programs are not replacements for real access to care, and in many states Medicaid doesn’t provide adequate dental coverage for adults.

“We’re your professional organization and we’re here to support the school, your faculty and you too, both now and when you graduate. The ADA is the largest and oldest dental group in the world and we’re very proud that all of you are part of it,” Dr. Feinberg concluded.
GPR PROGRAM TO MATRICULATE FIRST COHORT IN JULY

It’s been a long process, but the OHSU School of Dentistry’s General Practice Residency program is ramping up and will be admitting its first cohort of residents this July. The GPR program will reinstate the school’s Hospital Dental Service with dedicated space in OHSU’s Mark O. Hatfield Building and on the 12th floor of Skourtes Tower at the CLSB.

Sean Benson, D.D.S., assistant professor and GPR program director, announced that the program was in the process of interviewing candidates for the inaugural class following initial accreditation through the efforts of Patrick Haggerty, D.M.D. ‘85, OHSU School of Dentistry assistant professor and assistant program director. The two-year program will start with six students in 2016, adding another six in 2017 for a total of 12 residents in the program for each academic year.

The GPR clinic will be a highly collaborative effort with the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and will expand the School of Dentistry’s presence at OHSU Hospital. The program will increase patient care capacity, support the postgraduate programs and add demonstrable value to the D.M.D. program.

BUILDING UPDATE: CLOSING IN ON THE FINISH!

The OHSU School of Dentistry has made great strides to close in on the final fundraising goal for the new dental school building – thanks largely to you, our alumni. But we still need your help. Investing in the OHSU School of Dentistry is an investment in tomorrow’s dentists and the future of healthcare in Oregon and beyond. Please call (503) 552-0745 to schedule a tour of our new home and learn how you can support the next generation of dental health professionals in our region.

OHSU AND THE RURAL DIVIDE

It has been a long-standing goal of dental education institutions to produce more dentists dedicated to work in underserved geographical areas or with underserved populations. Access to oral health care differs significantly between the I-5 corridor and Oregon’s large rural expanses. OHSU’s new rural campus initiative and the rural rotations integrated for many years into the dental curriculum serve as examples of how OHSU has attempted to help address these issues.

In a recent Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) article, Marko Vujicic, Ph.D., chief economist and vice president of the ADA’s Health Policy Institute, analyzed data on dental school graduates from the last decade to see how many graduating dentists go on to practice in the same state as their degree-granting institution, as well as how many are practicing in rural areas as defined by U.S. census classifications.

Independent data show that the OHSU School of Dentistry stands out as one of the more effective institutions in training dentists who choose to work in rural areas. In the figure below, the colors shown distinguish private dental schools (red) from public dental schools (blue), and the size of the circles are scaled to enrollment levels with larger circles representing schools with larger enrollments (OHSU circle size altered for clarity). More than fifty percent of recent OHSU School of Dentistry graduates now practice in Oregon, with over fifteen percent choosing practice in a rural area.

“We’re very proud of the fact that OHSU produces so many quality clinicians who are interested in serving rural communities in Oregon,” said Dr. Marucha, dean of the OHSU School of Dentistry. “With the growing interest in interprofessional education combined with OHSU’s Campus for Rural Health, we hope to see these numbers continue to rise.”

Location of practicing dentists from the classes of 2005-2014, by dental school of graduation. Figure reprinted from JADA, 146, (10) (2015), pp. 775-777, M. Vujicic, Where do dental school graduates end up locating? pp. 775-777, Copyright 2015, with permission from Elsevier.
New Faces

G. William Knight, D.D.S., M.S., M.S., F.A.C.D.
Dr. G. William "Bill" Knight joined the School of Dentistry in March, accepting the position of Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Dr. Knight will guide all educational aspects of the D.M.D. and postgraduate specialty programs, including curriculum management and innovation. Dr. Knight's initial focus will be on preparing the school for the Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit in the fall of 2016.

Dr. Knight brings significant experience to the school, having served in a variety of positions at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, including Interim Dean, Executive Associate Dean and Assistant Dean of Clinical Education. Prior to that, Dr. Knight served as Associate Dean for Clinic Administration at the University of Detroit Mercy. In addition to his academic career, Dr. Knight practiced as a restorative dentist for 29 years, initially as a Dental Officer in the US Navy and then as an owner and senior partner in private practice. Dr. Knight earned a D.D.S. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and later a Master of Science, Restorative Dentistry (Operative) from the same institution. He went on to gain a Master of Science in Health Careers Education.

Nasser Said-Al-Naief, D.D.S., M.S. - Chair, Oral Pathology
Nasser Said-Al-Naief, D.D.S., M.S., has joined the School of Dentistry as the Chair of Oral Pathology. Dr. Said-Al-Naief received his D.D.S. from Marquette University School of Dentistry, and his M.S. in Oral Biology and his Certificate in Oral Pathology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
News and Events

COMPASSION CLINICS CONTINUE SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH

The OHSU School of Dentistry conducted its North Portland Compassion Clinic in July at the Charles Jordan Community Center. More than 15 students participated, providing much needed oral care for members of the North Portland community.

OREGON ADA’S MISSION OF MERCY

OHSU School of Dentistry faculty and students participated in this year’s Mission of Mercy, held at the Oregon Convention Center.

TRIMET MAX ORANGE LINE AND TILIKUM BRIDGE OPENING

OHSU School of Dentistry students, faculty and staff participated in the opening festivities for the new Tilikum Crossing Bridge on September 12th. Thousands of curious onlookers took in the new views from the bridge, and enjoyed the Native American village and salmon bake on the Zidell Yards property to the south of the new bridge. Visitors to the School of Dentistry building discovered a fully-staffed reception and scheduling desk for OHSU Dental Clinics. Approximately 3,500 branded toothbrushes were handed out to the community and many 3rd and 4th year students offered business and appointment cards to guests.

The bridge opening offers the School of Dentistry a unique opportunity to build awareness in the Portland community for the outstanding dental care available at the school. The new MAX Orange Line to the Milwaukie area and the Portland Streetcar loop to OMSI, Lloyd Center, the Pearl District and PSU, considerably increases public transportation access to the School.

SDAA Class Reunions 2016
Scheduled with the Oregon Dental Conference
April 7 – 9, 2016
Various locations

Cantwell Golf Tournament
Friday, September 16, 2016
8 AM, Shotgun Start
Riverside Golf and Country Club

Cantwell Memorial Lecture/
Ryan Dental Hygiene Update
Saturday, September 17, 2016
8 AM – Noon: Collaborative Life Sciences Building

SDAA Reception at the ADA Session
Friday, October 21, 2016
Denver, Colo.

For additional information on these and other SDAA-sponsored events, contact Mark Kemball, Director, Alumni Relations, at 503 552-0667.
OHSU School of Dentistry was featured in Portland Monthly Magazine’s August 2015 issue, providing an inside look at the school, the new facility and its leading-edge technology.

“OHSU is taking the lead in trying to get more dental care to Oregonians. They’re doing exciting things with the curriculum, and getting students out into the rural areas.”
- Bruce W. Austin, D.M.D. ’85, statewide dental director for the Oregon Health Authority

DEAN’S SEMINAR SERIES

The Dean’s Seminar Series at OHSU School of Dentistry continues to draw quality speakers and robust audiences to the Oregon Dental Association Lecture Hall in the Collaborative Life Sciences Building. Designed to bring nationally-recognized researchers to campus and stimulate discussion and collaborations, the lunchtime sessions begin at noon, and are offered to OHSU faculty, students, and staff and alumni.

DEAN’S SEMINAR SERIES SCHEDULE

Richard Lamont
University of Louisville
Monday, March 7, 2016

Luisa A. DiPietro
University of Illinois - Chicago
Wound Healing
Thursday, March 31, 2016

Michel Koo
University of Pennsylvania
Caries Microbiology, Sponsored by: D.M.D. Class of 1980
Monday, April 11, 2016

Reinhard Hickel
Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich
New Restorative Materials
Monday, June 6, 2016

2015 CANTWELL LECTURE & GOLF TOURNAMENT

As part of Back to School Weekend events, the OHSU School of Dentistry welcomed Robert Genco, D.D.S., Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, State University of New York, to discuss The Impact of Periodontal Disease on General Health. Delivering the 2015 Kenneth Cantwell Memorial Lecture/Margaret M. Ryan Dental Hygiene Update, Dr. Genco described his work associating periodontal disease with diabetes, atherosclerotic and respiratory diseases, adverse pregnancy outcomes and cancer.

The Cantwell Golf Tournament, held on Friday, September 18, returned to the North Course at The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club. The tournament was won by Bob Collins, D.M.D. ’73, Jeff Ulmer, D.M.D. ’03, Dinesh Reddy, D.M.D. and Joseph Knight (pictured). The putting competition, held this year in memory of Fred Scott, D.M.D. ’63, was won by David Doyle.

Dr. Rose McPharlin, D.D.S., assistant professor of operative dentistry was featured in Portland Monthly Magazine’s fall 2015 Women’s Health Annual. Dr. McPharlin discussed dental treatment during pregnancy. The article dispelled some widely held myths about treatment concerns and encouraged greater communication between a mother’s medical and dental care professionals.

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Awards and Recognition

DR. TOM HILTON RECEIVES THE RYGE-MAHLER AWARD
The Dental Materials Group of the International Association of Dental Research awarded Tom Hilton, D.M.D., M.S., Alumni Centennial Professor, Operative Dentistry, with the Ryge-Mahler Award at their annual meeting in Boston in March 2015. The award recognizes significant contributions to clinical research in dental materials science.

PROFESSOR CARMEN PFEIFER NAMED OHSU INVENTOR OF THE YEAR!
Carmen Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor, Restorative Dentistry, has gained attention recently for her work on the development of innovative polymeric materials for restorative dentistry, as well as on the development of analytical tools to characterize polymer properties’ evolution in real time. This fall, Dr. Pfeifer won the Inventor of the Year award, presented by OHSU’s Technology Transfer and Business Development office, in recognition for her continued success in this area.

Dr. Pfeifer’s “inventor” title came in a very unexpected manner. In 2009, following a suggestion from her postdoctoral supervisor, Dr. Pfeifer attended a conference to showcase his work with industries outside of dental and healthcare. During a session on sun protection for outdoor decks, Dr. Pfeifer started contemplating alternatives for the UVA/UVB protective coatings produced in her supervisor’s lab. While the conference addressed the application of photo-polymerization coatings in a commercial setting, Dr. Pfeifer realized the connection between the chemicals being discussed and those used in dental materials. “I asked myself how I could harness this technology and translate it into a biomedical application,” she said.

Dr. Pfeifer set to work designing a dental resin composite that would be an improvement over currently-available resin composites by extending their lifetime and durability. Currently, dental restorations are made from silver amalgam or natural tooth-colored composite resin. Resin composite resists fracture and degradation for between five to 10 years and is technique sensitive; the hand skills of the dentist and placement of the material on the tooth play a large role in determining durability. Dr. Pfeifer worked to overcome these inefficiencies, creating a new durable dental composite that is more forgiving and demonstrates greater resistance. As dental composites are made of two components (an inorganic filler and an organic composition), Pfeifer created an additive that makes the elements of composites more resistant to hydrolysis and crack propagation.

Her technology, “Durable Dental Composites,” has been featured twice at OHSU’s MedTech Alliance, a platform that allow investors, industry representatives, and community partners to stay up to date on early-stage collaboration and investment opportunities at OHSU.

Dr. Pfeifer’s advice for future innovators hoping to commercialize their research? “Have an open mind” she said. “When you get removed from your everyday problems, sometimes you can have an idea completely out of the blue.”

MACHIDA LAB AWARDED $100,000 SUPPLEMENTAL AWARD
Curt Machida, Ph.D. ’82, Professor of Integrative Biosciences and Pediatric Dentistry, has been awarded a $100,000 supplemental award to his parent National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) grant, “Dominant Mutans Streptococci Genetic Strains in Caries-Active Children”.

The objectives of the NIDCR supplement grant, utilizing the same cohort of participants as the parent grant, are to identify sex-specific differences in the responsiveness of adjunctive therapies used as standard-of-care for children with severe early childhood caries (S-ECC). The translational goal of the parent award is to provide insight on the efficacy of restorative and adjunctive therapy practices in the elimination and/or reduction of certain cariogenic mutans streptococci microorganisms and other microbial strains in caries-active children.

The research team includes members of three School of Dentistry Departments: John Engle, D.D.S., John...
Peterson, D.D.S., and Anna Forsyth, D.D.S., M.S.D., all of Pediatric Dentistry; Tom Maier, Ph.D., Dr. Machida and Shay Strauss, M.S., all of Integrative Biosciences; Dongseok Choi, Ph.D., Community Dentistry and School of Public Health; and several Pediatric Dentistry residents and dental students, including Paige Schmidt, D.D.S., and second year dental student Erin Flamiatos, B.S., M.S.N.

$1.5 MILLION DENTAL WORKFORCE GRANT AWARDED TO OREGON

HRSA, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable, has awarded a grant of $1.5 million dollars to be used over three years to support a current pilot program studying efforts to improve access to dental care in rural areas of the state.

More than 91 areas in the state of Oregon are designated as dental care health professional shortage areas (Kaiser Family Foundation study, April 28, 2014). This level of deficiency translates to more than 61% of Oregon residents not having their dental care needs met.

The grant will expand on current work by the School of Dentistry’s Department of Community Dentistry in collaboration with Oregon Health Authority’s Public Health Division and others to support OHSU School of Dentistry’s senior dental student community based rotation program in rural areas.

“this grant will enable us to support the expansion of the final-year dental student rural dental clinic placements,” said Dr. Eli Schwarz, OHSU professor and chair of the Department of Community Dentistry. “in particular, we’ll be expanding the dental component of the OHSU rural campus initiatives in Klamath Falls and Coos Bay.”

This grant complements an ongoing project funded by the Oregon State Office of Rural Health being carried out with Capital Dental in Polk County, Ore. This separate project implements a tele-health model in rural Oregon with the goal of improving access and utilization of oral health services.

The main goal of the telehealth project is to demonstrate the effectiveness and potential for telehealth connected dental teams as one solution to the dental care access shortage. Separately, and aligned with OHSU’s overall efforts to train health professionals who are amenable to practicing in rural and underserved areas, the additional rural rotations offer exposure to these beautiful communities, helping to increase the number of dental health professionals serving lower-income and underserved populations in Oregon and beyond.

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

Oregon Academy of General Dentistry offers programs that engage members in professional development and further the efforts of general dentists to be leaders in the field. Study Clubs offer exceptional continuing education opportunities for hands-on participation with peer-to-peer learning. Mentors are selected who challenge participants’ existing skill sets by presenting changing techniques and technology while perfecting basic practices. Limited enrollment for each course guarantees opportunity to exchange ideas and concerns with colleagues on coursework information as it is presented. For more complete course information, visit http://www.oragd.org.

UPCOMING COURSES:

Orthodontic Techniques for the General Dentist: Howard Memorial and Student Competition
March 11, 2016
Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, OR

Comprehensive Training in Parenteral Moderate Sedation
Begins August 2, 2016
OHSU CLSB, Portland, Ore.
Alumni News

CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ENDODONTICS ELECTS OHSU ALUM AS NEW PRESIDENT
Dr. Howard “Howie” Fogel was recently installed as President of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE) at its 51st Annual General Meeting in Banff, Alberta.

Dr. Fogel received his D.M.D. from the University of Manitoba in 1980 and practiced general dentistry in Winnipeg from 1980 until 1985. He then attended the OHSU School of Dentistry, where he received his Specialty Certification in Endodontics in 1987 and his M.S. in 1988.

Dr. Fogel has been a member of the CAE since 1988 and has served as a member and chair of its Public Relations Committee since 1996. He has been a member of the CAE Executive for the past three years. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada and a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. He also teaches part time at the University of Manitoba School of Dentistry. Howie was born and raised in Winnipeg where he lives with his wife and two children.

IN MEMORIAM

1950s
Daniel Haselnus, D.M.D. ’51, Albany, NY, died March 12, 2015 at age 90
Edward Zarosinski, D.M.D. ’57, Klamath Falls, Ore., died May 30, 2015 at age 81

1960s
John Peterson, D.M.D. ’63, Eugene, Ore., died April 9, 2015 at age 77
Fred Scott, D.M.D. ’63, Milwaukie, Ore., died May 14, 2015 at age 78

1970s
Paul Fontanini, D.M.D. ’74, Stayton, Ore., died March 29, 2015 at age 68
Bruce L. Williams, D.M.D. ’74, Hillsboro, Ore., died April 23, 2015 at age 81

1990s
Michael Berg, D.M.D. ’93, Portland, Ore., died June 4, 2015 at age 57

Reunion News

DMD/ RDH 1955
The DMD/ RDH Class of 1955 met at the new OHSU School of Dentistry, sharing memories and exchanging stories and career and family updates. A big thank you is due to Orv Boyle, DMD ’55 and Marilyn Stratford, RDH ’55, for bringing this event together.

- Alumni staff

DMD 1955
1st row, left to right  Keith Stenshoel, Orville Boyle, William Chetwood, Wallace Teuscher, Cecil K. Claycomb 2nd row left to right Devern W. Pinnock, E.R. Quinn, John Seal, James Creswell

BS/RDH Class of 1955
Danna J. Huebner, Joyce A. Muck, Barbara M. Koch, Marilyn M. Stratford
DMD 1960
The DMD Class of 1960 celebrated its 55th class reunion at the Sentinel Hotel in downtown Portland. Many could be heard reminiscing about dental school and recounting funny stories. Discussions of careers and family were also in abundance. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended.

- Alumni staff

DMD 1965
What is important to a graduate of our dental school after 50 years? Seeing old friends and recalling old times. Jim Deming - showman and dentist - took us on a hilarious journey into time with pictures of people, places and things. We saw ourselves and our classmates as we were, and made it all real again. We had a tour of the present school and were able to see some of the changes and improvements to the education of future Oregon dentists. We were impressed by the new technology and some of the cutting-edge procedures and instruments. All in all, we had a great time, renewed old friendships, mourned some empty seats, and renewed our gratitude for the profession of Dentistry that has been so good to us, and for us. A special thanks to the alumni association for their help and support.

- Chuck Padbury, D.M.D. ’65

RDH 1965
We had 12 classmates attend a lunch at Aquariva with a beautiful view of the Willamette River. It is only about a mile from the new dental school, so we had a tour of the new school by the alumni office. We celebrated our 50 year RDH reunion by remembering the old dental school, and our long white dresses and caps that we wore. We also remembered the dormitory that was built in 1964. We were the first class to live there. You had to live in the dormitory if you were under 21 and did not live with your family. Now that building is torn town. We had classmates from as far away as Alberta, Canada. We shared stories and pictures of our grandchildren. We are sorry that Elaine Deming, Muzzy Parks and Linda Andrews could not attend at this time. Linda sent pictures of her children to share.

- Jennifer Robertson, R.D.H. ’65

DMD 1960
1st row, left to right James Tallman, Dale Canfield, Glynn Roberson, Ray Terhune, Don Burk
2nd row, left to right Jerry Bowman, Gary Dixson, Chuck Wingard, Rita Grislis-Seja, Barney Hoaglin, Bob Macy, Rudolph Henny, Wayne Neff

DMD 1965
1st row, left to right Rick Walton, Ed Barnes, Ed Merzenich, Paul Pachal, Leonard Hays, Steve Berglund
2nd row left to right R.C. Peterson, Bob Schini, Dave Longtin, Gary Miller, Tom Zinser, Ernie Weinberg
3rd row left to right Charles Padbury, Paul Olson, James Deming
4th row left to right Linda Hertz-Brown, J. Darold Brown, Bill Dugan

RDH 1965
1st row, left to right Kathy Rask, Jennifer Robertson, Sue Carly, Kristin Johnson, Jeanne Fox
2nd row left to right Deanne Foster, Venita Reinmouth, Dorothy Philips, Jan Young, Carolyn Smith, Becky Engle
DMD 1970
The OHSU dental class of 1970 met for our 45th year reunion in April during the Oregon Dental Conference. About 25 class members and spouses enjoyed an evening of renewing old friendships during a great dinner at the Multnomah Athletic Club. We had a visit from OHSU Dean Phillip Marucha and his wife, some other dignitaries and OHSU Alumni staff. Entertainment for the evening was having each class member take a couple of minutes to tell the rest of us what they have been up to, where they live, how many grandkids, or whatever else they wanted to talk about. We discussed the possibility of maybe having our 50th reunion in Hawaii. Thanks to the Alumni Association for all their help to have such an enjoyable evening.

- Mike McKrill, D.M.D. ’70

DMD 1980
Members of the Class of ’80 gathered for an evening of great food, drink and renewing old acquaintances. We were treated to a multiple-course meal in a private room upstairs at the Andina restaurant. The food and drink were unsurpassed and I will be returning to Andina. And the food was not the best part of the evening. Dean Phillip Marucha was able to stop by and meet and visit with everyone. Although we were few in number there was a warm and friendly atmosphere and all present were reluctant to leave when the place was shutting down (long visit outside on the sidewalk). Thank you to all who came and thank you alumni staff for a memorable evening.

- Casey Sayre, D.M.D. ’80

DMD 1990
The Class of ’90 had a fun happy hour at The Burnside Brewery on the Friday evening of the Oregon Dental Conference. It was a comfortable get together with our classmates and several of their friends and family attending. Even after 25 years, the conversation was warm and we were able to pick up as if we hadn’t been apart for nearly so long. We were visited by Dean Phillip Marucha and his wife, other current faculty, and some of our alumni staff. I want to thank all the people that were able to attend for what I felt was an enjoyable evening.

- Erik Richmond, D.M.D. ’90
DMD 1995

On a beautiful Saturday evening twelve of us from the class of 1995 and our spouses enjoyed an intimate dinner and cocktails at Elephant’s on SW Corbett. Old stories were recounted and laughed about, friendships were rekindled and new stories told. It was truly gratifying to feel that after all this time and separate paths, we genuinely did not want the evening to end and several promised that this cannot just be an every five year get-together. We were visited by Dean Phillip Marucha and he graciously shared the ‘state of the union’ regarding our school, programs and--as still to us--relatively new building space. OHSU Alumni Relations Director Mark Kemball also ensured that we were well cared for. We were sad more of our classmates were not able to attend, but this is the busy, busy stage of life—just know that you were missed and perhaps a few of you had burning ears for some reason that evening. Best to all and hope to see you soon and for sure in five!

- David Dowsett, D.M.D., ’95

DMD 2005

The class of 2005 has had a remarkable decade. Meeting at Andina was a great place to reconnect and share what the past 10 years has been like since dental school. It was a pleasure to meet Dean Marucha and his wife, and hear about the new dental school. Thanks to the Alumni staff for helping coordinate a special evening where we could get together and enjoy each other’s company.

- Brian Bray, D.M.D., M.S. ’05

DMD 2010

The class of 2010 celebrated its five-year class reunion at The Kennedy School in NE Portland. We had a great turnout with 29 classmates and 14 significant others in attendance. We played blackjack, danced and reminisced the dental school days. The class of 2010 would like to thank all those who attended the event and those who helped organize our 5th year reunion.

- Aaron Marks, DMD ‘10
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