



# Dental Bites

November 2014

## Short Takes

*\*Curtis Machida, Ph.D. '83, professor of integrative biosciences and pediatric dentistry, has been appointed to the NIH Special Emphasis Panel on Musculoskeletal, Oral, and Skin Sciences for review of R15 grant applications.*

*\*First-year pediatric dentistry resident Paige Schmidt was a Golden Rose recipient for October. Paige recently graduated from Creighton University School*  
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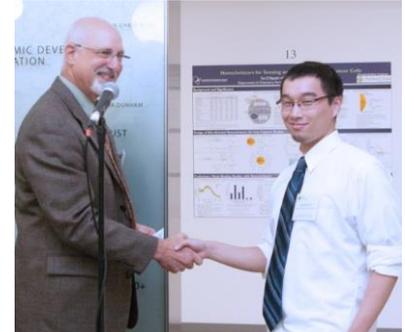
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## DS3 Wins Major Research Awards

A third-year dental student won several major research awards last month, making history along the way.

**Jonathan Yih** was one of two students — out of a national pool of 58 — who won the 55th American Dental Association (ADA)/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research competition during the ADA's annual conference in San Antonio. Jon placed first in the Clinical Science/Public Health category (Basic Science the other category) for his research project, "Thiouerthane Oligomers Improve the Properties of Light-cured Resin Cements." **Carmem Pfeifer**, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of biomaterials and biomechanics, is Jon's mentor.



*Third-year dental student Jonathan Yih (right) at the Portland section of the American Chemical Society's first undergraduate poster session and career fair at Portland State University in early October, where Jon placed second in the materials chemistry division. ACS Portland Section Chair-Elect Dave Reingold is at left. (Photo courtesy PSU)*

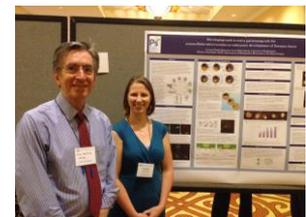
It is believed to be the first time in dental school history that a student has won first in the ADA student research competition.  
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## Dental School Donates Old Scopes

With new technologies in Skourtes Tower advancing the histology, pathology, and microbiology curriculum, OHSU School of Dentistry recently donated about 40 microscopes to middle and high schools in Oregon.

"This was such a great opportunity to share with schools in low-income communities, many of whom are our partners in the On Track OHSU! Program," said **Susan Shugerman**, M.F.A., Ed.D., assistant vice provost for education outreach and collaboration. "These gifts will enable Oregon schools, many of whom are on tight budgets, even more focus on science and engineering."

Gifted were Nikon and Olympus compound microscopes, and Nikon, Olympus, and Wolfe compound binocular microscopes.



*Union High School Teacher Crystal Wulff (right) with Professor of Integrative Biosciences Michael Danilchik, Ph.D., is using a donated multiheaded teaching scope from the dental school to show her students tardigrades (little creatures that dwell in tree moss).*

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## ***Staff Profile: Julie Hirai***



*Julie Hirai in her old Marquam Hill cubicle. (Photo Dan Carter)*

To say that **Julie Hirai** comes prepared is an understatement.

Now, I wasn't quite sure what you needed," said the longtime OHSU executive assistant, as she opens a file and starts thumbing through papers, "so I typed up a little background, and copied my job description, and I also have my CV if you need it.

"Will this get you started?" Julie asks in her polite and professional way, poised to take notes if necessary.

To anyone that knows or has worked with Julie, such unprecedented coordination for a short *Dental Bites* interview is unsurprising.

"Julie is the consummate executive assistant," said Dean Emeritus **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, who selected Julie for administrative help in 1999 when he was associate dean for clinical affairs. "No matter the task, it is completed on time and is accurate. The many years here at OHSU have given Julie extensive experience in delicately managing issues of great sensitivity and confidentiality, as well as in managing diverse personalities.

"She has an extraordinary talent for incorporating special little features that show she cares and is proud to be integral to the mission of the School of Dentistry."

Former Interim Dean (2012-2013) **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, agreed. "It is hard to find an executive assistant more capable than Julie. She is a reliable, collaborative, team player, and a productive systems thinker. Having her as a member of any group is always rewarding since she will assume her share of the work, lead when appropriate, and look for solutions.

"She always represents those in leadership well."

Julie was raised in Adrian, Ore., a small farming community south of Ontario on the border of Oregon and Idaho, where her family grew onions, sugar beets, wheat, cattle, chickens, and pigs. The third of five children, Julie recalls playing in the dirt fields, making friends with the farm animals, and creating beautiful mud pies.

She received her bachelor of science in elementary education from Boise State University and taught first and second grade in Emmett, Idaho, for several years before moving to San Diego as a newlywed. While working in mortgage lending, Julie took graduate courses at the University of California, San Diego, until the pull of the Northwest called her home.

She found work as an administrative assistant at the dental school in 1981 working in the department of dental materials under Professor Emeritus **David Mahler**, Ph.D. **Lou Terkla**, D.M.D. '52, was dean.

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## New Faculty

Please welcome to OHSU School of Dentistry **Prashant Poplai**, D.D.S. Dr. Poplai is a new assistant professor of restorative dentistry as of early September (.6 FTE). Dr. Poplai joined the OHSU faculty as an affiliate (volunteer) faculty member in July, after having been a dental continuing education course coordinator at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry. Dr. Poplai received his doctor of dental surgery from UCSF School of Dentistry. In addition to English, Dr. Poplai is fluent in Urdu and Hindi, and he is working on his Spanish-speaking skills.

## Old Scopes Donated

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"The new microscopes inspired me to reconfigure my engineering class (enrichment) to bioengineering," said **Melanie Ramsey**, earth/space science and bioengineering teacher at Faubion PK-8 School in northeast Portland, who received four microscopes. "We will be using the microscopes to study DNA, bacteria, and other microorganisms as a cohesive part of issue-based learning that are relevant to medicine and environmental science. I will train the students how to use them as if they were in a workshop or in-service, where they will receive a certificate of basic or advanced mastery of microscopy. We are sincerely grateful for the wonderful donation."

Additional schools receiving OHSU School of Dentistry microscopes included: Portland Public School's Access School; Self-Enhancement, Inc.; Valley Catholic Middle School; Beaverton Health & Science School; Glencoe High School; Valor Middle School in Woodburn; French Prairie School in Woodburn; Albany High School; Arts and Technology Academy in Eugene; Roosevelt High School/George Middle School in Portland; and Culver Elementary, Middle, and High School in eastern Oregon.

## Student Research Award

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For his efforts, Jon won a trophy and cash prize. "Pretty cool," he said.

However, after graduating from Oregon State University in 2011 with a bachelor of science in bioengineering, Jon wasn't sure he would ever do research again! "It just didn't seem to be for me," said the third-year dental student, a Salem, Ore., native. But then he heard Dr. Pfeifer explain her research in a dental materials class.

"I connected with her research in biomaterials and polymers because of my bioengineering undergraduate background." Jon talked with several students in OHSU School of Dentistry's growing Dental Student Research Group, formed a research team (classmates **Jacqueline Platta** and **Joseph Knight**), and "have had fun doing research since."

Dr. Pfeifer described Jon as very dedicated and inquisitive. "He truly has demonstrated a passion for research," she said. "He has all the traits necessary for a career in academics. Or, if he chooses to focus on a strictly clinical career, he will certainly be a very critical, evidence-based practitioner. I am really proud of Jon and all he and his teammates have accomplished in such a short period of time."

In April, Jon presented his research at the Oregon Dental Association (ODA)/DENTSPLY-sponsored Student Table Clinic during Oregon Dental Conference weekend, and learned in May on the school's annual Research Day that he'd won first place: \$500 from the ODA and an all-expenses paid trip to the ADA conference, where he presented on Oct. 11.

Also in October, Jon entered the student research competition of the Portland section of the American Chemical Society, sponsored by Portland State University, and placed second in the materials chemistry division. "He competed with chemists and chemical engineers, and was the only dental student there," said Dr. Pfeifer. "This is pretty huge!"

## Recent Photos from OHSU School of Dentistry



Lelah Hedayet, D.D.S., assistant professor of restorative dentistry (left forefront) chats with Jill Mason, M.P.H., R.D.H., associate professor of periodontology and community dentistry, and rotation director (right forefront) in the Broadway group practice. Meantime, Tom Galbraith, D.D.S., assistant professor and Broadway group leader connects with care coordinator Abby Byerly (right background), and Jessica Price, aXium trainer. The photo was taken for marketing purposes. (Photo Michael McDermott)



Senior Research Assistant Adam Dodson (left) and Carmem Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of restorative dentistry, share an informal moment in the Ferracane lab on the sixth floor, on Oct. 28. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



Fourth-year dental students (from left to right starting with the second from the left) Lauren Royse, Brett David, and Evan Campbell, teamed with Michael Royse, D.M.D. '87, at the Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament. (Photo Fred Bremner, D.M.D. '64)



Sam Kelley is a sterile processing technician II in central sterilization, who has worked at OHSU for nine years. Sam is shown here inspecting and packaging instruments for dental students and faculty to provide patient care. The rest of the dental school's team includes: Rick Atencio, Irina Tkachenko, Jason Frieboes, Matt Shearer, Mark Wende, Dar'ya Tkachenko, John Gomez, Helen Watts, and Jose Fuentes (now on paternity leave). "This is a hard working group and they are dedicated to being part of a team," said Karla Kent, Ph.D., director of quality improvement and professor of integrative biosciences, who is hands-on with the groups' systems and scheduling. "We started processing instruments for the specialty clinics in July, and have been beefing up our staff to provide instruments to all of our clinics since then," said Karla. "As the clinics have gotten busier, we have refined our processes, and are almost running at full capacity." Dr. Kent estimates that 10,000 to 20,000 instruments are now processed daily. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



Fourth-year dental students Devin Wahlstrom (left) and Ryan Martin (second from left) teamed with Gene Kelley, D.M.D. '59, assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery (third from left), and Robert Myall, M.D., professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, at the Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament in late September. (Photo Fred Bremner, D.M.D. '64)

## New Endo Technologies

The department of endodontology is enjoying new technologies in the Skourtes Tower that are enhancing patient care and education, said **Brian Whitten**, D.D.S., assistant professor and director of OHSU's pre-doctoral endodontology program. For the new building, Dr. Whitten purchased six new Global six-step, ceiling-mounted surgical microscopes with LED light sources, one for each operatory in the pre-doctoral endodontology clinic. OHSU School of Dentistry is believed to be the first dental school in the nation to have dedicated, state-of-the-art microscopes in pre-doc endo.

Also, last winter, the school introduced a new file system into the endodontology lab course, in anticipation of the move. "The file is inserted into the hand piece and makes a back-and-forth motion, rather than a circular motion," said Dr. Whitten. "We are super impressed with the results so far." The WaveOne file systems were provided in part through a grant from DENTSPLY.

## Golden Rose *(continued from page one)*

of Dentistry, where she was on the Dean's List.

Paige was nominated by a patient's mother who wrote:

"My young child was seen in the Doernbecher [Dental] Surgery Clinic for a very sensitive surgery with one doctor and tooth extractions with Dr. Paige Schmidt. We received outstanding care from both providers, but Dr. Schmidt was amazing as both a dentist and a child behaviorist. She was with my family for the better part of six hours. We arrived at our scheduled time, but were told the surgery had been delayed. We went next door and checked in with Dr. Schmidt. She jumped at the opportunity to get started with x-rays. She developed a rapport with my child quickly, which she would need later.

*(continued on page six)*

## Julie *(continued from page two)*

"It was the old days, and before he hired me, Dr. Mahler gave me a test on an electric typewriter," said Julie. "I'm a perfectionist anyway, so what he expected made sense to me."

Transferring to central administration in Baird Hall two years later, Julie worked for the director of OHSU materials management as an administrative assistant, and then had the opportunity to become executive assistant to then university hospital and Doernbecher Children's Hospital director **Timothy Goldfarb**.

During that time, Julie gave birth to her daughter, **Stephanie**, and opted to reduce her "crazy" hours by returning to the dental school in 1988 at .8 FTE as executive assistant to the associate deans for academic and administrative affairs. **Henry Van Hassel**, D.D.S., Ph.D., was dean.

Enjoying the hours with her daughter that part-time work offered, Julie then moved to the pre-doctoral clinic with Dr. Clinton in 1999 rather than go full-time. **Sharon Turner**, D.D.S., J.D., was dean.

Julie returned to the Dean's Office in 2003 when Dr. Clinton became interim dean of the dental school. After Dr. Clinton became dean, and subsequently retired in late 2011, Julie was executive assistant to Dr. Chiodo during his one-year as interim dean, and she has continued in that role for current dean, **Phillip Marucha**, D.M.D., Ph.D.

A "typical" day for Julie includes administrative support to the dean, goodwill ambassador for the office of the dean, coordinating day-to-day activities within the dean's office, composing and formatting dean correspondence, liaising between various departments, organizing faculty development presentations and the annual faculty conference, managing faculty personnel records, arranging travel, working with *(continued on page six)*

## School Calendar

<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>Robert Gootee Lecture, 4 p.m., CLSB-PSU Auditorium, with Trail Blazers President/CEO Chris McGowan as speaker.</b>
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>ASDA Vendor Fair</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Dean's Seminar</b>

### Julie *(continued from page five)*

with students on dental conferences and missions, coordinating monthly reconciliations, and other special projects.

"I'm always up for a challenge," said Julie.

Julie is very active within her church, and she has held several leadership positions. A third-generation Japanese-American, Julie is a member of the Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, and she volunteers at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, charged with preserving Japanese American history.

Julie said she "loves to travel," enjoys crafts like needle work, scrapbooking, and card making, and she bowls and golfs when she has time. Julie, and Stephanie—who just graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a doctorate in physical therapy and secured her first PT job—live in southwest Portland.

"My favorite part of the job is the people," said Julie. "I love being in an educational setting, and the interactions with our students. During my 33 years here at OHSU, friends have come and gone, retired, and been re-hired, and a few friends are still here.

"I appreciate the opportunities that OHSU has afforded me, but it's the friendships that make coming to work every day enjoyable."

### Golden Rose *(continued from page five)*

"My child is cognitively delayed and I knew we were going to have a hard time getting him to sit still for the IV placement. I didn't anticipate he would try to make a run for the exit when his sibling left. I was not able to retain him and he was flailing and wailing. I was able to get him to the floor in the hall and tried all my techniques of deep breathing and deep massaging.

"Dr. Schmidt heard the commotion and came out of her office and immediately to my aid. She talked softly in his ear and calmed him down. This became important after surgery, as well. When my son awoke, he did so quickly and before they could get him medicated, Dr. Schmidt came right over again and held his arms and head, talking softly in his ear. Dr. Schmidt stayed with us until we got my son calmed down and in a private area. When we finally left at about 7 p.m., Dr. Schmidt was there to say goodbye.

I knew there was a reason I loved OHSU so much! It was not a perfect "OHSU" day. There were a few hiccups, but even these were dealt with well. Thank you for all the great care my family continues to receive at OHSU.



First-year pediatric dentistry resident Paige Schmidt, D.D.S. (center) with her Golden Rose Award for October. Paige is pictured with OHSU Provost Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P. (left), who presented the rose awards, and Kirsten Lampi, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences. (Photo Aaron Bieleck)

## Dean's Seminar Series Underway for Second Year

The second annual Dean's Seminar Series, designed to infuse research within the dental school, kicked off on Sept. 30 with a "Meet the Mentor" session. Dozens of dental students received an overview of research at OHSU School of Dentistry, as well as information on how to get involved in specific projects this academic year. This was the first Dean's Seminar in the dental school's new facility.

"Science will change the face of dentistry over the next few decades," said Dean **Phillip Marucha**, D.M.D., Ph.D.

"Dentists will need a strong foundation in biomedicine, be able to assess patient outcomes in their practices using an evidence-based approach, and be savvy with technology.

"Having research experience will make all of you better clinicians."

Dental students at the seminar heard from faculty members about a dozen ongoing projects at the school, with information on how they can get involved, everything from analysis of a cracked tooth detection device to collecting and compiling data for Google Glass informatics.

"I want to do research, and I'm particularly interested in re-growing teeth from cells," said first-year dental student **Roman Zakhariya**.

"Fourth-year dental student **Devin Wahlstrom** said participating in research while a dental student has been "a lot of fun, and provided me a way to enhance" my education.

"I have no regrets," said Devin. "I want to go into oral and maxillofacial surgery, and I knew this was an opportune time to do research before I get into a residency. I've been able to present research nationally, at conferences in Atlanta and San Diego. I'm hoping to start a third research project before I finish school."

On Oct. 24, **Brian Schmidt**, D.D.S., M.D., Ph.D., professor at the New York University (NYU) College of Dentistry, director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research, and director of the NYU Oral Cancer Center, spoke about the "Neurobiology of Cancer Pain" at the second Dean's Seminar of the academic year.

"When I was invited to speak, I immediately knew I wanted to be part of the group," said Dr. Schmidt. "There are a number of investigators I wanted to meet here, and I've had a terrific time."

Dental students especially enjoyed Dr. Schmidt's presentation. "I always come to the seminars when I can in the hopes that something new will be discussed, and I was really impressed with today's talk," said second-year dental student **Britta Martinez**, who is working on research with **Jack Ferracane**, Ph.D., professor and chair of restorative dentistry. "The lecture was clear, relevant, and interesting."



*Jack Ferracane, Ph.D., professor and chair of restorative dentistry (left) chats with first-year dental student Kenneth Weekes at the Sept. 30 Dean's Seminar Series, "Meet the Mentor." (Photo Sydney Clevenger)*