FORMER MAIN CLINIC TRANSFORMED THROUGHOUT TO THE ROBERT I. SCHATTNER CLINIC
Advancing on Many Fronts

SINCE JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, I have been honored to serve as Interim Dean of Penn Dental Medicine. It has been a great pleasure working with the entire Penn Dental Medicine community to continue the excellence that has been achieved over the last several years. And starting in July, we are excited to welcome Dr. Mark Wolff as the new Morton Amsterdam Dean (see story, page 2); Dr. Wolff is coming to Penn Dental Medicine from the College of Dentistry at New York University, and we look forward to having him join the Penn Dental Medicine community.

In the interim, I am pleased to report that Penn Dental Medicine is continuing to advance on many fronts. Within the area of clinical education and patient care, one of the School’s most iconic spaces — the former Main Clinic — opened in January as the Robert I. Schattner Clinic. This grand space has undergone a complete transformation and is now a state-of-the-art facility throughout (see story, page 10). Within the DMD academic program, we are enhancing our students’ experience in treating the youngest of patients — those children 5 years of age and under — thanks to a $1.53 million grant to our Divisions of Community Oral Health and Pediatrics (see story, page 20); and through faculty and alumni mentoring, we are working to support student wellness and engagement (see story, page 32).

Additionally, in the area of research, Penn Dental Medicine continues to excel. In this issue, we highlight some of the School’s key research activities in 2017 — from high impact publications and grants activity to patent awards (see page 17).

Looking to the future, the University of Pennsylvania officially launched a new capital campaign — the Power of Penn — in April. The four-year campaign has a University-wide goal of $4.1 billion (see page 3). For its part, Penn Dental Medicine has a goal of raising an additional $20 million over the next four years to reach its overall $55 million campaign goal in support of research, scholarships, diversity, facilities, digital innovation, community programs, and general operations. The generosity of alumni, friends, corporate partners, and organizations has enabled the School to achieve so much over the past five years, when the quiet phase of this campaign began, and I’m confident their ongoing dedication to the School and its mission will continue as the campaign moves forward.

Finally, as this academic year soon comes to a close, I want to extend my congratulations on behalf of the entire Penn Dental Medicine community to the Class of 2018. As these accomplished students graduate and move on to the next stage of their dental careers, they join a distinguished group of alumni. Congratulations to all!

Dana T. Graves, DDS, DMSc
Interim Dean
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ON THE COVER: The School’s former Main Clinic has been renovated throughout; now the Robert I. Schattner Clinic, it features 74 operatories, outfitted with state-of-the-art technology. Bathing the space in natural light is the wall of windows that line the north side of the clinic. (photo credit: Halkin Mason Photography courtesy of EwingCole)
Dr. Mark Wolff Named Next Dean of Penn Dental Medicine

The University has named Dr. Mark Wolff as the next Morton Amsterdam Dean of Penn Dental Medicine; he will be assuming the new post July 1. The announcement was made in March by Penn President Amy Gutmann and Provost Wendell Pritchett.

Dr. Wolff is a celebrated teacher, globally engaged scholar, and deeply experienced clinician. He is currently Professor and Chair of Cariology and Comprehensive Care at the College of Dentistry at New York University and also the College’s Senior Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations.

“Mark’s career is notable for his commitment to superb clinical practice as well as excellence in scholarship, education, and community engagement,” President Gutmann said. “When we met Mark, he told us that he has always loved his work and believed in dental medicine because dentists help make people smile. We too are smiling at the prospect of Mark joining Penn and partnering with the incredible faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Penn Dental Medicine to bring this storied school to even greater heights.”

Since joining NYU in 2005, Dr. Wolff has brought bold and innovative thinking to the world’s largest dental school. As Chair of Comprehensive Care, he has led a diverse group of more than 400 faculty and staff with outstanding results; student pass rates on national boards are at near perfect levels and more than $20 million in research programs have been completed under his leadership.

“Among Mark’s many successes,” Provost Pritchett said, “he has demonstrated the many ways in which integrating patient care, educational experiences, and research programs advance core strategic goals, strengthen faculty and student culture, and better link the mission of dental schools with local and global partners and communities.”

As a faculty member at Stony Brook University for more than two decades before moving to NYU, Dr. Wolff revolutionized that institution’s dental-education program by pioneering a disease-based curriculum for first-year students that focused on prevention and wellness alongside interventions and procedures. He also streamlined and strengthened patient care, including the design and adoption of the first 100 percent paperless clinical record at any dental school in the nation.

A Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, Wolff has authored or co-authored 80 original articles as well as 20 books and chapters. Since beginning his career, he has also mentored more than 100 dental students in research who have presented 75 papers before the American Association and/or International Association of Dental Research. He has delivered invited lectures across the U.S. and the world and has received significant, long-term support for his scholarly activities, including from the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and corporate and industry partners. He served as chair of the American Dental Education Association’s Council of Sections, as President of the American Association of Oral Biologists, and as both secretary and councilor of the American Association of Dental Schools’ Oral Biology and Cariology sections.

The selection of Dr. Wolff concludes a global search to identify a successor to Interim Dean Dana Graves who has served in that role since January 1.

“We express our great appreciation to Dana for his service in this vitally important role,” President Gutmann said. “Dana succeeded Denis Kinane whose dedicated leadership of Penn Dental Medicine from 2009 to 2017 contributed invaluably to the School’s eminence and sustainability in education, research, and clinical service.”
Power of Penn Capital Campaign Launches

The University of Pennsylvania officially launched a new capital campaign — the Power of Penn: Advancing Knowledge for Good — on April 12 with Penn President Amy Gutmann unveiling the goals and vision for the campaign to volunteer leadership at a special launch event. The four-year campaign, with a University-wide goal of $4.1 billion, will focus on raising resources to grow inclusion, spark innovation, and accelerate impact throughout Penn. All Penn schools and centers are part of the campaign.

At Penn Dental Medicine, the Power of Penn Dental Medicine campaign will raise an additional $20 million of a $55 million campaign goal ($35 million raised in quiet phase) to support four key areas. They include building resources to:

- propel breakthroughs in oral health and interdisciplinary discovery through fellowships and research support as well as professorships and other faculty needs;
- produce the leaders of tomorrow through facilities improvements, digital innovation, scholarships, and funds to support diversity;
- address unmet oral health needs of the community locally and globally and build support for additional community- and global-based programs;
- build unrestricted funds for vital operations within the School.

Penn Dental Medicine’s campaign priorities received a boost during the campaign’s quiet phase, which extended from January of 2013 until December of 2017. During this period, more than $35 million was raised to complete the Thomas Evans Building transformation, expand scholarships, and secure the first of a fleet of four new PennSmiles buses. Leadership at the dental school will be working to raise the final $20 million to complete all projects by 2021.

“We are grateful to the many alumni, friends, business partners, and organizations whose generosity has made it possible to invest in our students, faculty, and facilities,” says Senior Associate Dean for Development & Alumni Relations, Elizabeth Ketterlinus.

Global Engagement: By the Numbers

MOUs
A memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed with other schools around the world, facilitates collaborative research and exchange with Penn Dental Medicine faculty and students.

- 39 MOUs are currently active with international schools, including:
  - 22 MOUs with schools in Asia
  - 11 MOUs with schools in Europe, 3 of which were new this academic year
  - 4 MOUs with schools in South America
  - 2 MOUs with schools in the Middle East, both new this academic year

GLOBAL SYMPOSIA
- 6 Global symposia were presented by Penn Dental Medicine this academic year in 5 different countries (Argentina, China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan) on the topics of biofilms/microbiomes, endodontics, and periodontics.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS
International students spend two to four weeks at Penn Dental Medicine each year, attending selected classes and observing various clinical operations.

- 58 international students visited this academic year
- 13 different universities and 9 countries (China, France, Japan, Peru, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom) were represented by the international students who visited this academic year.

INTERNATIONAL EXTERNSHIPS
Fourth-year DMD students have the option of completing part of their hospital externships at sites across the globe.

- 42 Students did international externships this academic year
- 9 different countries were included in this year’s extern sites (Botswana, China, England, France, Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey)
Dr. Uri Hangorsky Named Periodontics Interim Chair

Penn Dental Medicine has named Dr. Uri Hangorsky, Clinical Professor of Periodontics, Interim Chair of the Department of Periodontics. His appointment was effective in January 2018.

A long-time member of the Penn Dental Medicine community, Dr. Hangorsky has been part of the School’s faculty since 1980, serving in a variety of teaching and administrative roles. Presently, he also serves as Associate Dean for Student Life, Admissions and the Program for Advanced Standing Students (PASS) — a post he will continue to hold along with his new appointment.

Schattner Pavilion Construction Nearing Completion

The legacy of the late Dr. Robert I. Schattner (D’48), one of Penn Dental Medicine’s most accomplished and devoted graduates, is continuing to move Penn Dental Medicine forward with the construction of the Schattner Pavilion on track for completion by mid-June. The Pavilion and the recent renovation of the School’s Main Clinic (now the Robert I. Schattner Clinic, see story, page 10) were both made possible through a $15 million gift from Dr. Schattner, made before his death last year.

The Schattner Pavilion will build upon the unified Penn Dental Medicine campus achieved with the construction of the School’s Robert Schattner Center. When the Schattner Center opened in 2002, becoming the School’s main entrance, it linked the Thomas Evans Building and the Leon Levy Center for Oral Health Research. The Schattner Pavilion will enhance this connection, further joining all three buildings that make up Penn Dental Medicine and facilitating interaction among faculty, staff, and students within them.

The 2,100-square-foot Pavilion will extend beyond the existing atrium of the Schattner Center and enclose a portion of the courtyard area behind it, creating a dynamic new space on two levels for public gatherings and interaction. The first floor space is intended to become a central meeting and reception area for faculty, staff, patients, and visitors to the Penn Dental Medicine campus. The second floor patient waiting area will improve wayfinding for patients being treated in the Schattner Clinic, situated on the second floor of the adjoining Evans Building. The second floor connection to the Leon Levy Center will provide a straight line of access from the Evans Building through the Schattner Center to Levy and open into a faculty collaboration space within Levy.

The completion of the Schattner Pavilion is the culmination of a series of major facilities projects for Penn Dental Medicine since 2015, which in addition to the Robert I. Schattner Clinic that opened in January of this year, included the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project that transformed all four levels of the School’s historic Thomas Evans Building.
On Board: Penn Dental Medicine Adds 5 Overseers

Penn Dental Medicine is continuing to add to the depth and diversity of its Board of Overseers, welcoming five new members and bringing the Board’s total membership to 24. Their appointments to three-year renewable terms were officially approved by the University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees this fall. Joining the Board are Dr. Joanne Chouinard-Luth (D’79); C. Mitchell Goldman (WG’75), Esq.; Larry L. Turner, Esq.; Ken Serota; and Sidney M. Bresler, Esq.

A 1979 DMD graduate of Penn Dental Medicine, Dr. Chouinard-Luth brings experience not only in dental practice but public health and nutrition as well, holding master’s degrees in each from the University of Illinois and Columbia University, respectively. In 2016, she also earned her chef certification from the Institute of Culinary Education in New York. Chouinard-Luth presently serves as CEO and Director of The John E. Luth and Joanne Chouinard-Luth Charitable Trust. Established by her and her husband, John Luth, the foundation is focusing its efforts on research and education of the public in issues of mitigation and prevention of chronic disease through exercise, diet, and improving local food environments.

C. Mitchell Goldman brings extensive knowledge of health insurance and policy to the Board. A health care entrepreneur and health care transactional and reimbursement attorney, Goldman is currently CEO of Mid-Atlantic Dental Partners, a Philadelphia-area-based dental services organization. He has worked in wide ranging aspects of the health care industry including advising health care entrepreneurs in mobile health, accountable care organizations, dental support organizations, dental practice acquisitions, and dental supply companies. Goldman holds an MBA from Penn’s Health Care Management program and a law degree from Temple University. Presently, he is also an adjunct professor of health care law at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

Larry Turner joins the Board from the law firm of Morgan Lewis where he is a partner in its Labor and Employment Practice, co-lead of the firm’s Unfair Competition Task Force, and one of the original members of the firm’s Diversity Committee. Turner’s practice focuses on employment litigation, including restrictive covenants and trade secrets, cases involving anti-discrimination and wrongful termination claims, as well as nationwide Fair Labor Standards Act collective actions. A frequent speaker on employment-related topics, including enforcing non-compete covenants, independent contractor issues, and avoiding risks associated with diversity programs, he also counsels employers on litigation avoidance and best practices for corporate diversity initiatives. Turner holds a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

And continuing to represent the legacy of the late Dr. Robert Schattner Foundation, Bresler oversees the overall operations and financial management of the recently formed Foundation. Bresler provides insight on the mission of the Foundation; allocating capital; and developing and managing projects, partnerships and granting vehicles. Bresler, who holds a law degree, has more than 35 years of experience in investment management and real estate development and is active in a variety of philanthropic causes.

At Penn, Overseers provide long- and short-term advice to deans and directors regarding the achievement of strategic objectives and priorities. Overseer boards serve as bridges between Penn’s schools and centers and the community beyond campus boundaries. Although Overseers do not have fiduciary responsibility, Penn’s President, Provost and Board of Trustees rely heavily on the boards to help inform the work of the University’s schools and centers.

Also joining the Board is Ken Serota, President of Hu-Friedy, the Chicago-based dental instrument manufacturer. Serota has been affiliated with Hu-Friedy since 2004, when he was a member of the company’s advisory board. He went on to serve as Executive Vice President and CFO prior to being appointed President in 2011. In this current leadership post, he has been instrumental in identifying global growth opportunities, guiding new product development, instilling operational excellence and placing emphasis on digital innovation and transformation. An attorney and CPA, Serota was previously President and CEO of Liberty Group Publishing, and has held various executive level positions with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, business process optimization, and overall financial management.
Focused on Making a Difference in the Lives of Others

When she was only 7 years old, Roopali Kulkarni (D’19) started on a six-year journey of extensive dental interventions and what felt like a never-ending sequence of being fitted for appliances.

“I went for years feeling unhappy about my smile and my appearance,” says Roopali. “I still remember the day my braces were removed. I glided by tongue along my teeth and grinned from ear to ear. I finally felt confident in myself.”

Roopali’s new-found confidence as a young teen blossomed into a career epiphany. If dental work could make such a difference in her life, could she learn to do the same for others? “I knew then that I wanted to instill that same confidence in others and pursue a career in dentistry,” she says.

FOCUSING ON DENTISTRY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Before starting at Penn Dental Medicine, Roopali took a gap year and worked as a research assistant on a health literacy study – an opportunity that broadened her career aspirations. She learned the power that health care providers have in influencing and empowering patients to take better care of themselves and just how important the oral-systemic health connection is.

“During that project, I conducted interviews with study participants to learn how older adults understand their own health and well-being,” she explains. “That interaction proved to me that I needed to establish good relationships with my patients in order to communicate effectively with them about their health and make a difference in their lives.”

To help her better develop those interpersonal skills, Roopali decided to combine her studies in dentistry with public health. As a dual-degree candidate for a DMD and a master’s in public health, she is focusing on how public health and dentistry align through oral medicine. Through an internship working at Living Independently for Elders in West Philadelphia, her work in a community honors program, and an independent study project, she has developed a fondness for working with seniors.

“I not only want to practice dentistry but want to provide specialized care to a geriatric population and medically complex patients,” she says. The dual-degree program is helping her meet that goal.

“In dentistry we tend to focus on the millimeter, while in public health we focus more on the landscape. This dichotomy has allowed me to grow throughout the past three years in school and shown me how I can make a bigger difference as a dental professional,” she says.

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALLY

While Roopali was attracted to Penn because of its inspiring people, unique energy, and academic rigor, she also found it a great fit for her outgoing personality — particularly with the opportunities available in the school’s American Student Dental Association (ASDA) chapter.

ASDA is a national student-run organization that protects and advances the rights, interests, and welfare of dental students. It introduces students to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry and provides services, information, education, representation, and advocacy.

“I have found my community in this association. It has provided me with lifelong friends, professional development, leadership opportunities, and the chance to engage with dental students and professionals from across the country,” she says.

Roopali, who has recently been elected as the national president of ASDA, has also served on the national Board of Trustees as the District 3 Trustee, where she represents Penn and other regional schools by helping to plan programming that helps members better manage the issues affecting dental students and professional life. She was also selected to represent ASDA to the American Dental Association Advisory Committee on Annual Meetings. She is helping to plan the Association’s annual conference in Honolulu this October.

“This has been a huge honor, and I hope to continue staying involved with organized dentistry post-graduation,” she says. “Dentistry is stronger when we all stand together and it’s important for students and practicing dentists to be involved, to lend our voices to important issues.”

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With her third year at Penn Dental Medicine nearing completion, Roopali is excitedly looking forward to achieving her dream in dentistry.

“Dentistry combines the best of all of my interests, skills, and passions, and I’m excited for my future,” she says.

That future may also include making time to stay involved in academia.

“I have had great mentors who have demonstrated their willingness to help me achieve my goals — I’d like to do the same,” she says. “As part of my career vision, I would love to serve as a part-time faculty member at a dental school and help guide the next generation of dental professionals and leaders.”
AADR TRAVEL AWARDS ADVANCING STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Through the School’s AADR Travel Awards, Penn Dental Medicine students and junior researchers had the chance to showcase their research on an international stage at the AADR/CADR Annual Meeting & Exhibition, March 21-24, 2018 in Fort Lauderdale. This was the fourth year for the Penn Dental AADR Travel Awards with 16 recipients participating in this year’s meeting (see list below).

The AADR Travel Award program was launched by Penn Dental Medicine in 2014 to advance student /junior research, providing funds toward their travel to the annual AADR meeting where awardees have the opportunity to present their work. Recipients are selected by a faculty panel of judges at Penn Dental Medicine’s annual Research Day (the 2018 AADR Travel Award grants will be presented at Research Day 2018, May 10).

The AADR Travel Awards are funded through the School’s Research Incentive Fund Committee with additional support from Dentsply Sirona and Johnson & Johnson.

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<td>Fusun Ozer, Div. of Restorative Dentistry</td>
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<td>Justine Chiou (D’19): The ESCRT Machinery is Recruited in KSHV Assembly and Egress</td>
<td>Yan Yuan, Dept. of Microbiology</td>
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<td>Jerry Choi (D’19): IKK-BETA Deletion in Mesenchymal Stem Cells Improves TGF-b Expression in Diabetic Fractures</td>
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<td>Thomas H. Yoo (D’18): Dental CBCT Investigation of Reported Pixel Values and Comparison to CT Number</td>
<td>Mel Mupparapu, Dept. of Oral Medicine</td>
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Upcoming CDE Spotlight

Esthetic Dentistry

In June, Penn Dental Medicine will present two continuing education programs spotlighting esthetic dentistry — Advanced Esthetics Week, June 13-16, will feature leading experts on current techniques and technologies within esthetic dentistry, and on June 22, there will be a hands-on day of learning with master clinician Dr. Brian LeSage from Beverly Hills, Calif. Both programs will be held at Penn Dental Medicine and are being developed by the School’s Department of Preventive & Restorative Sciences.

“The field of esthetics continues to rapidly evolve with the use of digital technologies and new materials,” says Dr. Markus Blatz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive & Restorative Sciences and Assistant Dean for Digital Innovation and Professional Development. “We are pleased to not only share the work of international leaders in this area, but to provide a forum that facilitates an exchange among clinicians and educators working in the field across the country and around the world.”

ADVANCED ESTHETICS WEEK

June 13-16, 2018

This four-day program will cover a wide range of topics within esthetic dentistry and includes three days of lectures and a day of hands-on workshops. Among the lecture topics will be esthetic analysis and the esthetic parameters for successful treatment planning; dental photography; a ceramics update; bonding protocols; surgical to restorative implant therapies; chairside CAD/CAM dentistry; and digital full-arch solutions. The hands-on workshops will address surgical techniques, digital impressions, shade determination and finishing, and the use of zirconia.

MASTER CLINICIAN HANDS-ON COURSE

A Day Spent Bonding with Composites: Contour, Color and Creativity

Dr. Brian LeSage

June 22, 2018

This hands-on course will explore the 3-D concept of color and contour as it relates to composite restorations. Through lecture and workshop exercises, participants will learn new techniques to improve composite artistry skills and how to create the nuances of natural enamel and dentin. Participants will improve their ability to create seamless restorations while maintaining the appropriate polish. Dr. LeSage is director of The Beverly Hills Institute of Dental Esthetics and a member of both the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry.

Learn more and register for both programs at www.dental.upenn.edu/cde.

CDE SYMPOSIA

Penn Dental Medicine will also present two continuing dental education symposia this coming fall on the topics of dental microscopy and temporomandibular joint disease in the growing patient.

AMED-PENN DENTAL MICROSCOPY MEETING 2018 & 17TH ANNUAL MEETING & SCIENTIFIC SESSION OF THE ACADEMY OF MICROSCOPE ENHANCED DENTISTRY

Details Matter

September 28-30, 2018

This joint program with the Academy of Microscope Enhanced Dentistry (AMED) will feature world class clinicians in all branches of dentistry sharing the latest diagnostic and clinical techniques of dental microscopy. Along with lectures and live surgery, the program will include hands-on courses on both the basics of microscopy and advanced procedures using the microscope. AMED is an international membership association serving the dental profession and the public through teaching and research in the art and science of microscope enhanced dentistry.

PENN CENTER FOR TMJ DISEASE

2ND BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

TMJ Disease in the Growing Patient

December 8-9, 2018

This symposium is designed to guide the practitioner in the initial evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of the pediatric patient with temporomandibular joint disease. Topics will focus on the growing facial skeleton, preventing disease progression, and recognizing distinct pediatric conditions affecting the TMJ. Speakers will utilize evidence-based diagnosis, treatment, and decision-making approaches to commonly encountered conditions in the growing patient. A multidisciplinary approach to these patients will be emphasized with speakers from pediatric rheumatology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, radiology, oral medicine, and orthodontics.

Visit www.dental.upenn.edu/cde for a complete listing of upcoming continuing dental education programs. Penn Dental Medicine alumni receive discounted registration fees on most programs.
CHAIRSIDE CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture) technology provides dentists the possibility of delivering ceramic restorations in a single appointment. Among the patients’ benefits are the reduction of visits, avoiding unpleasant conventional impressions, and eliminating the need for a temporary restoration.

With the implementation of intraoral scanners, the information from the abutment tooth preparation, opposing dentition, and interocclusal record can be obtained in a few minutes. The possibility of reviewing the tooth preparation in relation to adjacent and opposing teeth and detecting undercuts or irregular margins and surfaces, gives the practitioner a better understanding of the clinical situation to optimize the quality of the final restoration. As a result, definitive ceramic restorations with proper material thickness and natural contours can be designed and milled following a simple workflow. This provides less invasive treatment while preserving more healthy tooth structure.

Proper understanding of the ceramic material used and its respective bonding protocols are crucial for long-term clinical success. Today, we have the possibility of milling different types of materials, such as hybrid ceramics, silica-based ceramics, and even zirconia for same-day delivery. Optimized ceramic furnaces for clinical use provide shorter crystallization and sintering times. With the implementation of longer and specific implant solution blocks, fixed dental prosthesis (FDP’s) and monolithic screw-retained implant-supported restorations as well as customized implant abutments bonded to titanium inserts can also be milled chairside.

Clinicians who do not want to get involved in restoration design, milling, and finishing can also incorporate intraoral scanners into their practices and use the connectivity options to send their cases to a laboratory of choice. This digital option speeds up the elaboration process compared to traditional analogue methods and enhances communication between the clinician and laboratory technician, one of the most important aspects in restorative dentistry.

When facing more demanding treatments, intraoral scanners are an excellent tool to capture and record patients’ initial conditions. In combination with a CBCT image, the patient’s Digital Clone can be evaluated and exported to an implant planning or surgical software. In-house fabrication of surgical guides is also a great benefit of this technology. Patients are delighted by the opportunity to receive their final ceramic crown, inlay, or onlay in one appointment.

The frequent updates in CAD/CAM technologies, materials, and software requires constant training of our students, residents, and faculty to stay at the forefront and benefit from these innovations.

**Chairside CAD/CAM Technology at Penn Dental Medicine**

Contributed By: Dr. Julian Conejo
Clinical CAD/CAM Director, Department of Preventive & Restorative Sciences

As part of Penn Dental Medicine’s Digital Innovation Initiative, chair-side CAD/CAM technologies have been greatly accepted by faculty members and students. A focused teaching approach and newly developed “Train the Trainer’s programs” for faculty members and residents have been quite successful. Most important, however, the combination of traditional restorative concepts with the latest digital technologies provides our students with the best tools for their dental career.
HISTORIC SPACE
NOW STATE OF THE ART
FORMER MAIN CLINIC TRANSFORMED TO THE ROBERT I. SCHATTNER CLINIC

ON JANUARY 2, 2018, the doors opened on a new era for Penn Dental Medicine’s storied Main Clinic when students, faculty, and staff welcomed patients to what is now the Robert I. Schattner Clinic and a state-of-the-art facility throughout. This 11,170-square-foot space has been the hub of clinical instruction and patient care since the School’s Thomas Evans Building opened in 1915 — heralded, at that time, for its advanced features and dramatic architectural elements, today, it can be as well. From the incorporation of computer-assisted design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology and custom-designed operatories to the dramatic wall of windows, the space is designed for optimal educational and patient care experiences.

“Within our Restorative Department, this facility is the stunning centerpiece of our comprehensive care clinics,” says Dr. Markus Blatz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences. “It is equipped to educate students and treat patients with the absolutely latest techniques and technologies, geared toward extensive integration of digital technologies, and readied to accommodate future developments.”

The clinic renovation, completed over the past year, was made possible in large part through the generosity of the late Dr. Robert Schattner (D’48), an alumnus who contributed $15 million to this project and the new Schattner Pavilion that will be completed in June (see story, page 4). They culminate a series of major facilities projects for Penn Dental Medicine since 2015 as part of the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project that transformed all four levels of the School’s historic Thomas Evans Building.

“The Schattner Clinic truly is the crown jewel of the Evans Building renaissance,” says Dr. Mark Koup (D’04), Associate Professor of Clinical Restorative Dentistry and Director of Comprehensive Care Clinics; he and Dr. Patrice Ierardi (MT’80, D’84), Clinical Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Assistant Director of Comprehensive Care Clinics, oversee faculty, students, and the delivery of care in this clinic and the Edward & Shirley Shils Clinic, which opened in September 2016.

Renovated by the Philadelphia-based architectural firm of EwingCole, the Schattner Clinic includes 74 operatories (four devoted to radiography), CAD/CAM and wet laboratories off the west end, a faculty meeting area on the east end, a streamlined dispensing area on the south side, and a centrally located work station for clinic staff that provides a welcoming entryway for patients.

“The Schattner Clinic has been universally well received and will have a positive impact on multiple levels related to the education of our students and patient care,” adds Dr. Najeed Saleh, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. “The modernized equipment will allow us to continue providing state-of-the-art, patient-centered care with lower levels of patient anxiety due to the more soothing, welcoming nature of the clinic.”
THOUGHTFUL DESIGN

Creating a space that functions well for both teaching dentistry and treating patients was a top priority, and care was taken throughout the design process to achieve that goal. “This clinic was planned over several years with a vast amount of information and experiences from prior clinic renovations and other dental schools taken into consideration,” says Dr. Blatz, “including a great amount of input from our faculty and students.”

Before final decisions were made on equipment and layout, Dr. Blatz explains that sample operatories were set up in the former Main Clinic so faculty and students could evaluate the ergonomics and share their preferences. A-dec equipment was ultimately selected, and among design qualities incorporated are the following.

Ample room for 4-handed dentistry. The operatories are sized and equipment placed so students assisting, students providing care, and observing faculty can all work comfortably within the space. “The rear-hand delivery system will allow for more effective four-handed dentistry and will enhance the experience during dental assisting,” says Dr. Saleh.

Patient privacy & open site lines. The individual operatories provide patient privacy, yet were designed with glass panels on the upper portion to create open site lines that ease faculty supervision and student/faculty interaction.

Custom cabinetry. “We consulted with faculty and then worked with the vendor to custom design cabinets that would function well in our teaching environment,” says Dr. Koup. They feature two retractable shelves that can be repositioned in a variety of ways, a mount for the computer monitor that moves fully from one side to the other for flexibility in positioning, extra storage, and even a clock built into the front door. Within the operatories, the cabinets are positioned to allow for a comfortable amount of room behind the chair when providing care, while also being easy to access.

“The cabinets also have outlets galore and USB ports,” notes Dr. Koup. “We added to the power capacity with an eye to accommodating equipment we may acquire in the future. It’s a forward thinking space designed for today and tomorrow.”
WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
ENHANCING PATIENT CARE
A room with a view. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the Schattner Clinic is the abundance of windows, and thus, natural light. With a nod to the original architecture of the historic Evans Building, there are eight, 17⅝-foot windows on the north side of the clinic in the same footprint as the building’s original windows. In addition, original windows at the top of the south wall and a large bay window on the east end of the space were also revealed. Faculty, students, and patients alike agree the dramatic wall of windows and bounty of natural light make it a positive environment for patient care.

“The patients love coming here and that is the most important thing. They love all the light and the view out the windows,” says fourth-year student Frank Shannon (D’18). “I think it calms them, and if they are comfortable, it is much easier to work with them and provide care.”

Dr. Koup also notes that the natural light is a benefit for shade matching and making decisions on restoration colors.

Peace and quiet. Another noticeable quality that makes the space welcoming is the low noise level. A major factor in creating a quieter environment is the switch to all electric dental handpieces. However, acoustic solutions were also incorporated into the design, including acoustic ceiling tiles to absorb high frequency sounds and 1,300 square feet of absorptive wall panels installed on the south side of the clinic to offset the hard surfaces of the large windows across the entire north wall of the clinic.

(photo credit: pages 10–12 and bottom right by Halkin Mason Photography courtesy of EwingCole)
SUPPORTING DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

In terms of clinical instruction and state-of-the-art patient care, the Schattner Clinic is advancing the application of the latest technologies in digital dentistry. “The rapid advancement of digital dental technologies is changing restorative dentistry and prosthodontics like never before,” says Dr. Blatz, “and it is important that we expose our students to these technologies as early as possible.” The resources within the Schattner Clinic are supporting that goal and the digital innovation initiative being implemented schoolwide.

As part of Penn Dental Medicine’s progressive incorporation of digital workflow that includes digital radiography and digital patient records, all DMD students are now gaining exposure to intraoral scanning and chairside CAD/CAM technology. Mobile intraoral scanning units are available for chairside use within the Schattner Clinic and the CAD/CAM lab on the west side of the clinic enables fabrication of same-day, milled restorations.

The laboratory is outfitted with a chairside CAD/CAM milling machine capable of milling a wide array of restorative materials as well as a speed-fire furnace. “This is a new kind of furnace that enables us to use even the most current restorative materials, like zirconia, and mill and fire smaller restorations like crowns and onlays within hours,” says Dr. Blatz. “So this lab is a convenient extension of our CAD/CAM Ceramic Center, which is geared toward fabricating larger and more complex dental restorations in a true laboratory setting.”

“Having this CAD/CAM laboratory adjacent to the Schattner Clinic and in close proximity to the Shils Clinic enables us to practice this kind of dentistry more readily and conveniently, so it is a huge advantage,” adds Dr. Koup. “It is expanding our students’ exposure to this modality that they didn’t have before, so the clinic is changing the way our students are able to learn.”

Third-year student Bret Lesavoy (D’19) agrees. “The clinic is awesome,” he says. “For us to see where we came from and where we are right now, it is exciting to see the school is placing so much emphasis on our clinical care experience.”

— By Beth Adams
What have you found most rewarding about being a member of Penn faculty?

First of all, I feel privileged to work in a profession that has been changing so dramatically. While CAD/CAM technology has been around for many years, the developments over the last five years have really affected the way we think in dentistry. Almost every month new materials, new software features, and new production technologies like 3D printing get introduced to the market. It’s rewarding as part of the faculty to be exposed to all these new developments and be on the cutting edge of digital technology. Sharing ideas with other faculty members and utilizing the latest digital tools with students to develop new treatment protocols gives unlimited opportunities for growth.

What do you view as your greatest professional accomplishment?

That is a difficult question. When I started as a dental technician in Germany, I was very proud of earning my master’s degree in dental technology at 24, as I was considered one of the youngest students to do so at that time. At 26, I gave my first lecture to the German Association in Implantology, and from that point on, got invited to other meetings first in Germany and then other parts of the world. Personally, it wasn’t about the speaking engagements, but rather realizing at a certain point that I could impact future generations in dental technology and be part of shaping a profession. Since coming to the U.S. in 2008, one of my greatest accomplishments has been being part of building and directing the CAD/CAM Ceramic Center for Penn Dental. Being able to bring the latest technologies and concepts in digital technology to the School and being part of testing and developing new software applications and digital treatment concepts with different departments has been extremely rewarding.

What drew your interest to your particular field and what do you enjoy most about it?

There are many aspects of dental technology what drew my interest. When I first started, I was very focused on creating esthetic ceramic restorations. Since I worked at the University in Germany, I was also exposed to material research and implantology from the very beginning, and I realized how many interesting facets this profession has to offer. Implantology caught my interest; I was fascinated by the complexity and the many different options in designing an implant restoration. I was part of a highly specialized laboratory for implant restorations in Freiburg, Germany, but began to miss the research aspect and returned to the University of Erlangen, Germany in 2001. There I started to gain exposure to CAD/CAM technology. I got to know software developers and established contacts in the CAD/CAM industry for research and testing the latest digital equipment and my involvement with modern CAD/CAM technology just continued to grow. I love every aspect — software development, milling, digital workflow, material research, and of course, applying it all to patient care.

Schools/degrees?

CDT, certified dental technician, University of Erlangen, Germany; MDT, master dental technician, Master School Freiburg, Germany; bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Germany.

If you could have dinner with anyone who would it be? And why?

As a guitar and rock enthusiast, I would have dinner with Slash, guitarist from the band Guns’n Roses. Actually, I would like to have dinner with the whole band. They all had to overcome all kinds of struggles; I think they’d have interesting stories to share.

Hobbies?

Playing guitar, live music, car racing, traveling, horseback riding, and since I came to the states, I’ve become a huge wine enthusiast. I recently finished the first wine courses to become a sommelier.
Translating New Knowledge Across Disciplines

The Penn Dental Medicine research enterprise spans scientific disciplines to translate new knowledge into clinical therapies that are expanding our understanding of disease and advancing patient care. In 2017, faculty and laboratory staff throughout our basic science and clinical departments continued to advance research and scholarship across their respective fields and beyond. Their commitment and passion for discovery are building on the School’s reputation as a leader in research and innovation. Here, we are pleased to highlight some of these research and scholarly activities for 2017.

Highly Funded Researchers

The top 10 funded Penn Dental Medicine researchers in fiscal year 2017 based on research grant activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACULTY/DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>FY17 TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto</td>
<td>$1,803,152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. George Hajishengallis</td>
<td>$1,411,120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Henry Daniell</td>
<td>$1,369,458</td>
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<td>Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Michel (Hyun) Koo</td>
<td>$1,117,107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthodontics/COH/Pediatrics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Dana Graves</td>
<td>$1,024,892</td>
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<td>Periodontics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia</td>
<td>$947,362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Shuying (Sherri) Yang</td>
<td>$882,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Cell Biology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Gary Cohen</td>
<td>$805,573</td>
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<td>Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Claire Mitchell</td>
<td>$717,085</td>
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<td>Anatomy &amp; Cell Biology</td>
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<td>Dr. Hydar Ali</td>
<td>$676,135</td>
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<td>Pathology</td>
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Scholarly Impact

The impact of faculty publications measured by the h index* is presented for a selection of research and clinical track faculty for the past five years. Career h-indexes are also included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCH TRACK FACULTY (Tenure/Tenure Track/Research Track)</th>
<th>SCOPUS LIFETIME H-INDEX</th>
<th>SCOPUS 5 YR. H-INDEX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. George Hajishengallis, Microbiology</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Songtao Shi, Anatomy &amp; Cell Biology</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Henry Daniell, Biochemistry</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hyun (Michel) Koo, Orthodontics/COH/Pediatrics</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dana Graves, Periodontics</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Claire Mitchell, Anatomy &amp; Cell Biology</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Geelsu Hwang, Orthodontics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gary Cohen, Microbiology</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Anh Le, Oral Surgery/Pharmacology</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Shuying (Sherri) Yang, Anatomy &amp; Cell Biology</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<th>CLINICAL TRACK FACULTY (Clinician-Educator/Academic-Clinician Track/Academic Support Staff)</th>
<th>SCOPUS LIFETIME H-INDEX</th>
<th>SCOPUS 5 YR. H-INDEX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Markus Blatz, Preventive &amp; Restorative Science</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Betty Hajishengallis, Pediatrics</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Fusun Ozer, Preventive &amp; Restorative Science</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bekir Karabucak, Endodontics</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Eric Stoopler, Oral Medicine</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Frank Setzer, Endodontics</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Thomas Sollecito, Oral Medicine</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jonathan Korostoff, Periodontics</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Arthur Kuperstein, Oral Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rabie Shanti, Oral Surgery/Pharmacology</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The h-index was developed by J.E. Hirsch, Department of Physics, UCSD and attempts to measure the impact of an individual's publications. As an example, an h-index of 20 means there are 20 publications that have 20 citations or more each in journals covered by the Scopus database.
### 2017 High Impact Original Articles: Clinical Sciences

Within the School’s clinical departments, the following selection of original research articles with Penn Dental Medicine faculty as first or senior authors were published in 2017 in journals with high impact factors.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHORS</th>
<th>ARTICLES</th>
<th>JOURNAL</th>
<th>IMPACT FACTOR</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xiao E, Mattos M, Vieira GHA, Chen S, Corrêa JD, Wu Y, Albiero ML, Bittinger K, <strong>Graves DT</strong></td>
<td>Diabetes Enhances IL-17 Expression and Alters the Oral Microbiome to Increase Its Pathogenicity.</td>
<td><em>Cell Host &amp; Microbe</em></td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>Periodontics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrêa JD, Calderaro DC, Ferreira GA, Mendonça SMS, Fernandes GR, Xiao E, Teixeira AL, Leys EJ, <strong>Graves DT</strong>*, Silva TA* (*co-senior authors)</td>
<td>Subgingival microbiota dysbiosis in systemic lupus erythematosus: Association with periodontal status</td>
<td><em>Microbiome</em></td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Periodontics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoopler ET, Ojeda D, Alawi F</td>
<td>Asymptomatic Pigmented Lesions of the Gingiva.</td>
<td><em>JAMA Dermatology</em></td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Oral Medicine, Pathology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 High Impact Original Articles: Basic Sciences

Within the School’s basic science departments, the following selection of original research articles with Penn Dental Medicine faculty as first or senior authors were published in 2017 in journals with high impact factors.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHORS</th>
<th>ARTICLES</th>
<th>JOURNAL</th>
<th>IMPACT FACTOR</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Li Q, Xu K, Du T, Zhu P, Verma A, Kulkarni M, Prasad T, <strong>Daniell H</strong></td>
<td>Oral Delivery of Angiotensin-(1-7) Bioencapsulated in Plant Cells Protect against Diabetes-Induced Tissue Damage and Retinopathy</td>
<td><em>Diabetes</em></td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jin SX, Singh ND, Li LB, Zhang XL, <strong>Daniell H</strong></td>
<td>Engineered chloroplast dsRNA silences cytochrome p450 monoxygenase, V-ATPase and chitin synthase genes in the insect gut and disrupts Helicoverpa armigera larval development and pupation.</td>
<td><em>Plant Biotechnology Journal</em></td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns TM, Ditto NT, Lou H, Brooks BD, Atanasiu D, Eisenberg RJ, <strong>Cohen GH</strong></td>
<td>Global sensing of the antigenic structure of herpes simplex virus gD using high-throughput array-based SPR imaging.</td>
<td><em>PLoS Pathogens</em></td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Impact Factor identifies the frequency with which an average article from a journal is cited in a particular year. This number can be used to evaluate or compare a journal's relative importance to others in the same field. Journal impact factors are reported in Clarivate Analytics InCites™ Journal Citation Reports®. The JCR, 2016, was used for these figures.
2017 High Impact Review Articles

The following selection of review articles with Penn Dental Medicine faculty as first or senior authors were published in 2017 in journals with high impact factors.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHORS</th>
<th>ARTICLES</th>
<th>JOURNAL</th>
<th>IMPACT FACTOR</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hajishengallis G, Reis ES, Mastellos DC, Ricklin D, Lambris JD</td>
<td>Novel mechanisms and functions of complement.</td>
<td>Nature Immunology</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 New Grant Awards

In 2017, the following new grants of $50,000 or more were awarded to Penn Dental Medicine.

**CLINICAL DEPARTMENTS**

*Expanding Pediatric Training in Predoctoral Dental Education (See related story, p. 20)*
Principal Investigator: Dr. Joan Gluch, Professor and Division Chief, Division of Community Oral Health (Bureau of Health Professions/HRSA/DHHS; $1,528,175; 7/2017-6/2022)

The Role of NF-kb in Mesenchymal Stem Cells During Diabetic Wound Healing
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kang Ko from the lab of Dr. Dana Graves, Professor, Dept. of Periodontics (NIDCR/NIH/DHHS; $500,535; 7/2017-6/2022)

Defining mechanical injury, hypoxia, and disease progression in TMJ OA and pain
Principal Investigator: Dr. Eric Granquist, Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation; $75,000; 1/2017-12/2017)

Stromal Cell-Derived IL-6 Promotes Stem-Like Cell Generation by Inducing Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition in Ameloblastoma
Principal Investigator: Dr. Qunzhou Zhang from the lab of Dr. Anh Le, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Oral Surgery/Pharmacology (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation; $75,000; 1/2017-12/2017)

**BASIC SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS**

Targeted Cultivation of New Periodontal Pathogens
Principal Investigator: Dr. Flavia Teles, Associate Professor, Dept. of Microbiology (NIDCR/NIH/DHHS; $694,505; 9/2017-12/2018)

Predicting Epitopes in Vaccine and Therapeutic Antibody Research
Principal Investigator: Dr. Gary Cohen, Professor, Dept. of Microbiology (Carterra Inc.; $50,000; 2/2017-6/2018)

FY17 Patent Awards

The following patents were awarded to Penn Dental Medicine faculty in fiscal year 2017 as part of their research activities.

Expression of the Human IGF-1 Transgenic Plastids
Inventor: Dr. Henry Daniell, Biochemistry

Expression of human interferon in transgenic chloroplasts
Inventor: Dr. Henry Daniell, Biochemistry

Therapeutic Compositions for Bone Repair
Inventor: Dr. Joseph Fiorellini, Periodontics

Therapeutic Compositions for Bone Repair
Inventor: Dr. Dana Graves, Periodontics

Methods of Treating or Preventing Periodontitis Wound Diseases Associated with Periodontitis
Inventor: Dr. George Hajishengallis, Microbiology

PENN DENTAL MEDICINE JOURNAL | SPRING 2018
“We are leading a new generation of dental health educators in treating the whole patient, not just their teeth.”

— DR. JOAN GLUCH
THANKS TO A $1.53 MILLION GRANT from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Penn Dental Medicine has announced a new focus on an important area of pediatric dentistry — care for children under the age of five. The grant includes supplemental funding for training in childhood obesity prevention, another area of critical need for American kids.

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS
AN INNOVATIVE GRANT PROGRAM PROMOTES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO TREATING VERY YOUNG PATIENTS

OPPOSITE: Dr. Joan Gluch (center) is the project director of the “first five” grant in conjunction with Dr. Betty Hajishengallis and Dr. Maria Velasco (to her left and right) of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, who are helping to develop new educational modules and who supervise students working with children in the pediatric clinic.

Until now, Penn Dental Medicine students have had limited opportunities to care for children in this age group, who present some of the biggest behavioral challenges in pediatric dentistry.

“There’s an old joke among dentists: If a two-year-old walks into a dentist’s office, who’s more afraid — the child or the dentist?” says Dr. Joan Gluch, Chief, Division of Community Oral Health and Project Director of the grant. “The reality is that most general dentists have not had a lot of training in dealing with very young patients, and yet all dentists will need to treat them at some point. Through this grant, all of our predoctoral students will now have clinical experience with children in their first five years of life.”

Penn Dental Medicine was one of 11 dental schools nationwide to receive the “first-five” HRSA grant. By targeting the dental health of very young children as well as childhood obesity, the new curriculum promotes a holistic approach to pediatric dentistry.

“We’re very proud that Penn Dental Medicine is at the forefront of this movement toward holistic dental care,” says Dr. Gluch, who applied for the grant in early 2017 in conjunction with the School’s Division of Pediatric Dentistry, led by Division Chief Dr. Betty Hajishengallis. “We are leading a new generation of dental health educators in treating the whole patient, not just their teeth.”
A SHORTAGE OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
The dental schools that received the HRSA grant are mostly in urban and rural areas, which are less likely to have pediatric dentists, says Deanne Wallaert, a public health dental hygienist and educator who is helping to implement the program. In these areas, pediatric dental care usually falls to general dentists.

“There are 67 counties in Pennsylvania, and 39 of them — about 60 percent — are without a pediatric dentist. Therefore, general dentists need to feel comfortable and confident in treating kids at all stages of development,” she says.

NEW LEARNING MODULES
To bring about this goal, Penn Dental Medicine is instituting a two-pronged program consisting of new classroom learning modules and added rotations in the pediatric clinic and at community sites. The didactic, or classroom, portion of the curriculum includes eight new pediatric dentistry and public health learning modules for second- and third-year students that will address cultural competency, health literacy, social determinants of health, behavior management, oral health prevention, and restorative dental care. (A new module on childhood obesity prevention will be added in fall 2018.)

The lessons on cultural competency and social determinants of health are especially relevant to students working in a community as culturally and economically diverse as West Philadelphia. “Cultural competency” and “cultural humility” are two phrases health care leaders use to describe the importance of understanding and respecting a patient’s ethnic background and how it may affect health care expectations and decisions. In the case of young children, family values and attitudes are an important piece of the puzzle.

Another key is the understanding of behavioral management in babies and toddlers, says Dr. Maria Velasco (D’10, GED’10), Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry, who is helping to develop the new educational modules and supervises DMD students rotating through the pediatric clinic in conjunction with Dr. Hajishengallis.

“An infant, a two-year-old, and a four-year-old all present very different behavioral challenges to a dentist,” Dr. Velasco says. “An infant is usually examined on the parent’s lap, and students must earn to do a lap exam safely and effectively. A two-year-old might not want to sit still for treatment, whereas a four-year-old may have more fears. It’s important for the students to understand pediatric behavior at every age.”

A KID-FRIENDLY APPROACH
“It takes patience, flexibility, and persistence to treat young children,” says Wallaert. “It’s intimidating to try to brush someone’s teeth who is crying and screaming.”

Through the new curriculum, students are learning to use games and role playing to make the process fun and help children relax.

“Animal puppets with teeth and large-scale toothbrushes are tools that can alleviate fears about going to the dentist, allow small children to feel more in control of their dental care, and educate them about their own teeth,” says Wallaert. “Letting a child count a puppet’s teeth is a natural segue into asking the patient to open wide so his or her own teeth can be counted.”

EXPERIENCE IN THE CLINIC & COMMUNITY
Case studies and treatment plans introduced in the classroom will come to life in the School’s pediatric clinic, where second-, third-, and fourth-year students will assist Penn Dental Medicine pediatric residents and attendings in examining “first-five” patients. Penn Dental Medicine will add about 1,000 advanced practice appointments to its pediatric clinical schedule for the 2018–19 school year, vastly expanding pediatric clinical opportunities for students.

As always at Penn Dental Medicine, community outreach will be a cornerstone of the expanded pediatric curriculum. Second-year students will double their rotations at Penn-affiliated community health care sites, including Philadelphia FIGHT, Sayre Health Center, Homeless Health Initiative of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and Puente de Salud.

Through these clinical experiences, students will learn how to treat all kinds of young patients, including those with special physical, mental, or social needs, who may require a referral.

“If a child has a cardiac condition and needs to have cavities filled, it may be imperative that he or she is referred to a specialist,” says Dr. Velasco. “Our students will learn when a referral is necessary for the safety and well-being of a patient.”


EARLIER CARE PREVENTS CAVITIES
Until fairly recently, parents were advised to schedule a child’s first dental appointment in preschool, but in recent years, dentists have seen the effectiveness of starting earlier. Normally, a child’s first tooth erupts between six months and a year, a great time for dentist and parent to discuss the need for brushing the new teeth after feedings and avoiding sugary foods and drinks to prevent cavities.

“Early childhood caries is a huge problem in pediatric dentistry,” says Dr. Velasco. “Studies show that if a child receives five fluoride treatments by age three, the chance of tooth decay can be greatly reduced.”

Early dental appointments often include what Dr. Velasco calls “anticipatory guidance” on a child’s future dental needs.

“Is fluoride needed, and how much? What are the issues surrounding thumb sucking and pacifiers? Is drooling normal? We can discuss these questions with parents so they know what to expect as their child grows,” Dr. Velasco says.

“EARLIER CARE PREVENTS CAVITIES

THE POWER OF PENN DENTAL MEDICINE
Visit www.dental.upenn.edu/powerofpenn to learn more about community initiatives that are part of the Power of Penn Dental Medicine campaign.

PATIENTS AS PEOPLE
As students embrace new opportunities for working with young children, Dr. Gluch and her colleagues are thrilled to deliver an expanded level of learning and experience in pediatric dentistry. Dr. Gluch plans to track the outcomes of the new instruction, which she believes will be sustainable far beyond the five years of HRSA funding.

“Understanding our patients as people and learning how to tailor treatment to their specific needs,” she says, “is really what this new initiative is all about.”

— By Juliana Delany

OPPOSITE: Hygienist Deanne Wallaert, who is helping to implement the program, with DMD students at a community site, where they worked with children in a Head Start program. (photos by Health Federation of Philadelphia)

ABOVE: Dr. Maria Velasco, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry, (left) and a DMD student working with a young patient in the pediatric clinic.
ACCELERATED HEALING

Stem cell therapy shows promise for treating a variety of conditions but to optimize its use, researchers need to understand precisely how it works. Research from the lab of Dr. Songtao Shi, Professor and Chair of Anatomy & Cell Biology, has taken steps to nailing down how stem cells derived from gum tissue can speed wound healing.

See the following article:


MICROBIOLOGY

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


In the lab of Dr. George Hajishengallis, the lab of Dr. George Hajishengallis in the Dept. of Microbiology, a collaboration with an international team to show how the innate immune system can be trained by altering bone marrow.

See the following article:


RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Targeted Cultivation of New Periodontal Pathogens

The overall objective of this proposal is to recover and domesticate uncultured taxa associated with periodontal disease. Our central hypothesis is that their growth results from interactions with community members and the habitat, which have not yet been reproduced in vitro. Our rationale is that targeted systematic cultivation of relevant taxa in ex vivo biofilms is a cost-effective approach to isolate new periodontal pathogens.

Funding Source: NIDCR/NIH/DHHS Principal Investigator: Dr. Flavia Teles, Associate Professor

Predicting Epitopes in Vaccine and Therapeutic Antibody Research

All therapeutic antibodies and most vaccines critically depend on the ability of antibodies to specifically recognize particular antigens; consequently, detailed characterization of antibody/antigen binding can provide invaluable information to understand and guide development. Unfortunately, due to the time and expense required, atomic resolution structure determination is typically used sparingly, late in a development process or for a small number of different antibodies or antigen variants. We seek to enable earlier and larger-scale, but still detailed, characterization and modeling of antibody/antigen binding. Ultimately, the approaches developed here will allow researchers to leverage extensive epitope characterization data generated with Wasatch’s SPR instrument in order to broadly and deeply characterize the basis for antibody/antigen recognition in wide-ranging vaccine and therapeutic antibody discovery and development programs.

Funding Source: Carterra Inc., NIH Principal Investigator: Dr. Gary Cohen, Professor

Dr. Sollecito was honored by the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) with its 2018 PDA Recognition Award. The award recognizes Dr. Sollecito’s clinical care, research, and teaching in the areas of oral mucosal diseases, head and neck tumors/cancer, TMD, and HIV dental treatment.

Dr. Sollecito, Dr. Stoopler, and Dr. Martin Greenberg. Professor Emeritus, served on the Steering Committee for the 2017 World Workshop of Oral Medicine, held in, Glasgow, Sweden, this past fall.

Dr. Farideh M. Madani (GD’78, GD’80, D’84), former Clinical Professor, who retired last year after more than 40 years of service, will receive the 2018 Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Award of Merit (see story, page 29).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


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Funding Source: Carterra Inc., NIH Principal Investigator: Dr. Gary Cohen, Professor
ORAL CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Dr. Thomas Sollecito, Professor and Chair of Oral Medicine, was part of an expert panel charged with reviewing and updating the American Dental Association’s guidelines regarding oral cancer diagnostics. Biopsy remains the gold standard. See the following article:

Lingen MW, Tampi MP, Urquhart O, Abt E, Agrawal N, Chaturvedi AK, Cohen E, D’Souza G, Gurvenlian J, Kalmar JR, Kerr AR, Lambert PM, Patton LL, Sollecito TP, Truelove E, Banfield L, Carrasco-Labra A. Adjuncts for the evaluation of potentially malignant disorders in the oral cavity: Diagnostic test accuracy systematic review and meta-analysis-a report of an expert panel charged with reviewing and updating the American Dental Association’s guidelines regarding oral cancer diagnostics. Biopsy remains the gold standard. See the following article:

NEW RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Outpatient Early Intervention Service with Respect to HIV Disease- Part C

Chief Resident Dr. Andrew Henry (D’12, M’15, GD’18) was awarded the OsteoScience Foundation Clinical Observership program with Dr. Michael Block and has also been accepted to an orthognathics/TMJ fellowship at the Carolinas Center for Oral and Facial Surgery with Dr. Brian Farrell after graduation.

Resident Dr. Kenneth Kufta (M’19, GD’22) was re-elected as District II Representative for the resident organization of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold):


**NEW RECENT GRANT AWARDS**

Defining Mechanical Injury, Hypoxia, and Disease Progression in TMJ OA and Pain

This research proposal lays the foundation to evaluate biomarkers of chronic TMJ disease and pain, as well as to define the early cellular mechanisms in the joint and nervous system associated with the development and maintenance of chronic orofacial pain.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


Note: Koo H also has appointments in the Divs. of Community Oral Health and Pediatric Dentistry.

**PATHOLOGY**

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


Effective October 2017, Dr. Howard Fraiman (GD’93, GD’94). Clinical Associate Professor, was named Director of Penn Dental Medicine’s Postdoctoral Periodontal Prosthesis Program.

Dr. Stephen Hudis, Clinical Associate Professor, was appointed Vice President of the American College of Prosthodontists.
**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


**RESIN BONDING & HIGH-STRENGTH CERAMICS: A CRITICAL REVIEW**

The rise of computer-aided design (CAD)/computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) in clinical dentistry has also accelerated the use and popularity of high-strength ceramic materials — namely alumina and zirconia — for fabricating both tooth and implant-supported restorations. For successful clinical outcomes, the use of these materials has also raised questions about proper cementation and resin bonding protocols. In a recently published work in the *Journal of Dental Research*, Dr. Markus Blatz, Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Preventive & Restorative Sciences, and Dr. Julian Conejo, Clinical CAD/CAM Director, presented a literature review and discussion of the research evidence on resin bonding related to the clinical success of high-strength ceramic restorations, which has been a focus of Dr. Blatz’s research over the past 20 years.

Among their conclusions, they note that while the studies showed high survival rates of porcelain-veneered alumina and zirconia full-coverage crowns and fixed prostheses when inserted with conventional cements, most studies recommend resin bonding with composite resins or self-adhesive resin cements, particularly for implant-supported restorations, noting pretreatment and primers are needed. For the full review and discussion, see:


**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

A selection of recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


Division of Pediatric Dentistry


2018 Alumni Awards

The Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society will once again recognize the accomplishments and dedication of alumni with its annual awards presentation. This year, the Thomas Evans Achievement Award, the highest alumni award; the Alumni Awards of Merit; and the Honorary Alumnus/ae Awards will be presented as part of Alumni Weekend 2018 at a special reception, May 11 at 4 pm. The following recipients will be honored.

THOMAS EVANS AWARD

The Thomas Evans Achievement Award is Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society’s highest award of recognition, honoring alumni who have shown innovation, excellence, and leadership in the profession of oral health care nationally and internationally. This year’s recipient is:

Dr. David Garber, GD’78, D’81

Dr. Garber, who earned both a DMD and postdoctoral certificates in periodontics and periodontal prosthetics at Penn Dental Medicine, is one of the managing partners of Goldstein, Garber and Salama dental practice in Atlanta, Ga., and presently is a Clinical Professor in both the Department of Periodontics and the Department of Oral Rehabilitation at the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry. He is also a Visiting Professor in the Department of Prosthodontics at Louisiana State University. Dr. Garber lectures extensively throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia on multi-disciplinary approaches to optimizing esthetics. A past editor of the Journal of Esthetic Dentistry, he has published widely in the field and is currently completing a text on integrated therapy in advanced esthetics and the “esthetic implant.” Dr. Garber is a past president of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry (AAED) and a current board member of both the AAED and the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics.

ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT

The Alumni Award of Merit recognizes love for and loyalty to Penn Dental Medicine, excellence in the profession of dentistry, and community involvement. The award acknowledges graduates who have maintained their ties with the School through their support of alumni activities, demonstrated leadership in the dental profession, and fostered and maintained the ideals of the School. This year’s recipients include:

ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT

Dr. Lee Carrasco, GD’02

Dr. Heywood Kotch, D’77

Dr. Farideh Madani, GD’78, GD’80, D’84

Dr. Margrit Maggio, D’87

HONORARY ALCUMNUS/AE AWARD

The honorary alumnus/ae awards are presented to individuals who are not graduates of Penn Dental Medicine, but have demonstrated a strong commitment to Penn Dental Medicine through their service to and involvement with the School. This year’s recipients include:

HONORARY ALCUMNUS/AE AWARD

Dr. Joan Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP

Dr. Denis F. Kinane, BDS, PhD

Dr. Irving M. Shapiro, BDS, PhD
That defining moment was brought to mind the first time he saw one of his students light up when they realized they could make that same impact.

“Students absorb so much. It’s a true pleasure to work with them and help motivate them to be the very best they can be. That’s one of the reasons I teach,” he says. “When the knowledge dawns on them that they can make a true difference to each patient they work with, it’s energizing.”

Lately, Dr. Atlas has seen a lot of those aha moments for students in the Endodontic-Restorative Microscopy and Technology Clinic, where he is co-director. This new clinical instruction initiative was recently launched to provide DMD students experience in using the dental microscope as a precision tool in restorative care along with digital technologies.

“This is truly a unique training initiative that our students have enthusiastically embraced,” he says.

Key to using technology for better patient outcomes are what Dr. Atlas calls his three pillars for success: doing dentistry well, motivating patients to higher levels of health, and using the right materials and equipment.

“Easier and faster is not always better. It’s all in the detail and the precision of the practice,” Dr. Atlas says.

Alumni profile: Alan Atlas, D’86

Inspired to Deliver and Teach Exceptional Dentistry

FOR A MAN ACCUSTOMED to international recognition, a recent handwritten letter has become a treasured reminder for Dr. Alan Atlas (D’86) that all the time, effort, and passion he puts in to inspire others in dentistry is well worth the sacrifice.

The letter was from a veteran dentist of more than 40 years who attended one of Dr. Atlas’ lectures. It was addressed to Dr. Atlas’ family, thanking them for their sacrifices that allowed Dr. Atlas to share his message that each patient’s best interest is every dentist’s first priority.

“The opportunity to affect the lives of my patients, my students, my colleagues, and their patients is not something I take lightly. My career has gone way beyond my expectations and I realize that it is because I have chosen to make exceptional patient care and service a huge part of my personal mission,” he says.

Putting patients first has been a lifelong focus for Dr. Atlas. That focus has helped establish him as a trusted expert with patients, students, and colleagues. His private practice in comprehensive restorative and aesthetic dentistry has helped thousands of people live healthier, more confident lives. As Clinical Professor of Preventive & Restorative Sciences and Endodontics with joint appointments in the Department of Preventive & Restorative Sciences and the Department of Endodontics at Penn Dental Medicine, he has inspired countless students in the practice of dentistry. And as an in-demand lecturer at professional meetings and conferences, he has enhanced the knowledge and acumen of colleagues nationwide.

“Truthfully, I love what I do, and that has been my recipe for happiness and meaningful fulfillment and the reason I dedicate much of my time to teaching and lecturing,” he says.

INSPiRED BY His TIME LEARNING AT PENN DENTAL MEDiCINE

Sharing his passion for dentistry has deep roots in Dr. Atlas’ days as a student at Penn Dental Medicine.

“As a dental student, I remember the day I obtained unexpected encouragement from one of my most demanding teachers — Dr. Bal Goyal. He demanded so much from all of us and drove home the imperative that details are important. The day that sticks in my mind is when he let me know that I had the clinical and communicative skills to make an impact on people’s lives through this profession,” he says.
LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW ERA IN DENTISTRY
Since graduating from Penn Dental Medicine, Dr. Atlas (the 2006 Alumni Award of Merit winner) has witnessed a vast change in the practice of dentistry.

“I graduated at the start of a tremendous renaissance in dentistry,” he explains. “At that time, adhesive, esthetic, and implant dentistry became a global phenomenon, with tremendous research that initiated a major shift in treatment planning and delivery of dental care.”

Today, new digital technologies are bringing forward another era in dentistry, with exciting potential to help practitioners improve their ability to diagnose, plan treatment, and deliver optimal care.

“Penn Dental Medicine is highly involved in ushering in this new era [digital dentistry] with many leaders coming from and teaching at Penn,” he says. “I’m proud to be among these outstanding colleagues and am continuously inspired by those who are fully committed to teaching the next generation of dentists.”

Dr. Atlas hopes to connect with other alumni when he’ll be speaking at the 2018 American Dental Association annual session, as well as the Yankee Dental Conference, the Hinman Dental Meeting, and Chicago Mid-Winter meeting, all in 2019.

“Penn Dental Medicine is highly involved in ushering in this new era [digital dentistry] with many leaders coming from and teaching at Penn.”
CONNECTING,

ADVISING
FACULTY AND ALUMNI MENTORS SUPPORT STUDENT WELLNESS, ACADEMIC GOALS

THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, all first-year students at Penn Dental Medicine met one-on-one with Dr. Uri Hangorsky, Associate Dean for Student Life, Admissions and PASS, to go over their career options and plans, the opportunities and resources available at the school, and to discuss whether they would like to be matched with a faculty or alumni mentor.

Although mentors previously have been available to students, this year there has been a renewed focus on encouraging students to connect with a mentor who can help provide advice, guidance, and support on a variety of academic, professional, and personal issues. It’s part of a broader effort, both at Penn Dental Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania, to focus on student wellness initiatives (see box on the right).

“This school is a big place, and it’s helpful for students to have a faculty member or alumnus focused on their needs,” Dr. Hangorsky says. “It’s also a way for students to interact more closely with specialists and practicing dentists and start to think about their career options.

The need can vary by student. “Some students are children of dentists, their families are local and they have a large support system,” Dr. Hangorsky notes. “But many are far away from home, and the opportunity to interact with another individual in the same field, who they can talk to confidentially and ask for advice, is a huge boost. A mentor can be an advocate for the student.”

The interactions between student and mentor will vary, but can include work shadowing, academic and career advising, social activities, research opportunities, professional networking and, often, a friendly and supportive person to talk to.

There has been a high level of interest this year in connecting with a mentor. Over the past three years, approximately 150 students in the DMD program have been assigned mentors, notes Sue Schwartz, Assistant Dean for Student Life. And while some students initially don’t seek out a mentor, they hear about positive experiences some of their classmates are having and come in later to request one.

To facilitate a good match, students are asked if they prefer a faculty or alumni mentor and what their interests are, including career objectives, research, community service, honors programs or other areas. If they know where they want to live and work, students can be assigned alumni mentors who are working throughout the country or they can be matched with someone right here in the Philadelphia area.

And while particular focus is on assigning mentors for freshmen, Dr. Hangorsky says students can come in any time during their studies to request a mentor. “Sometimes second- or third-year students may struggle, either didactically, clinically or emotionally, and we assign a mentor and that often turns things around.”

For Sarina Dodhia (D’20), who has sought out mentors for school, dance, and sports in the past, requesting a mentor at Penn Dental Medicine didn’t give her a moment’s pause. “I have gained so much from this experience,” says Dodhia, who was paired with faculty mentor Dr. Neeraj Panchal her freshman year. “Guidance from an individual who has walked our path is invaluable and something we cannot obtain from a textbook or lecture.”

The success of the mentoring program depends greatly on the faculty and alumni mentors, from a variety of specialties and geographic locations, who volunteer to help guide and support the students. Following are the experiences of two mentors and some of the students they have advised.

OPPOSITE: (top left) Alumni mentor Dr. Shari Leavitt (D’87) with mentees Kristen Leong (D’21), seated, and Sujeong Lee (D’21). (bottom left) Dr. Uri Hangorsky talking with students. (bottom right) Faculty mentor Dr. Neeraj Panchal with mentees Jonathan Griffin (D’20) and Sarina Dodhia (D’20).
Dr. Neeraj Panchal, Instructor, Department of Oral Surgery/Pharmacology, credits many of his own “amazing” mentors with motivating him to pursue a career in academic dentistry and oral surgery. Thus, he had no hesitation about paying this forward when asked if he was interested in mentoring Penn Dental Medicine students. In fact, in an abundance of enthusiasm, he is currently mentoring nine first- and second-year Penn Dental Medicine students, taking time to meet them for dinner, providing insights into dental school and oral and maxillofacial surgery, offering opportunities to shadow in the clinic and operating room, as well as work on research projects.

“My goals for the program are quite simple, and that is to encourage our students to have well-balanced personal and professional lives,” says Dr. Panchal, also Section Chief of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery for Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. “We want to make sure our students do well in all aspects of their lives.”

His dedication is apparent to his mentees. When Sarina Dodhia (D’20) had questions about whether to apply for the Research Honors Program last year, she texted Dr. Panchal on his cell phone, and just a few minutes later she received a call from him to discuss the issue.

Dodhia views Dr. Panchal as a mentor, academic and career advisor, and general sounding board on a variety of issues. “Knowing I have a mentor who is willing to go above and beyond for me has positively impacted my well-being during these stressful years in dental school,” she said. In terms of career development, she says Dr. Panchal provided an opportunity for her to write and present two research papers on oral and maxillofacial surgery and network with residents.

Dr. Panchal, who also meets with several additional students each month who are interested in oral surgery careers, says in addition to providing educational and career guidance he tries to provide a comfortable place for students to discuss their aspirations and concerns and, sometimes, just vent.

“It was not too long ago that I went through the same hurdles that they are going through,” he says. “I know what it’s like to manage multiple classes, exams, clinical work, research, volunteer work and shadowing — besides all the other things in their lives.”

He’s introduced mentees to private practitioners to gain insights and connected several students to colleagues serving as oral maxillofacial surgeons in the military. “I have a couple of students interested in military service, and their dedication and willingness to serve our country is an inspiration to me,” he notes.

“Mentoring with Dr. Panchal has been a great experience,” says Jonathan Griffin (D’20), noting that every semester Dr. Panchal takes his mentees to dinner to catch up, talk about the ups and downs of school, and get to know each other on a personal level. Academically, Griffin is working with Dr. Panchal on a case report manuscript with the goal of having it published, and also hopes to shadow him on surgical procedures.

“The insight and knowledge gained from Dr. Panchal has helped me grow as a student both personally and professionally. Throughout the stresses of school, it is incredibly reassuring to know you have someone in your corner.”

— JONATHAN GRIFFIN (D’20)
Kristen Leong (D’21) started shadowing Dr. Leavitt as a Penn undergraduate, spending four hours a week at her office. “It gave me a lot of context for the things I’m learning.” In addition, she says Dr. Leavitt has helped her keep her perspective while in a challenging program, encouraging her to make time for relaxation and to take advantage of living in Philadelphia.

For her part, Dr. Leavitt says she hopes to provide an honest accounting of what it’s like to be a dentist. “Dental school is not easy, practicing is not easy,” she notes, and says it gives her a good feeling to help guide and support the students. “I also enjoy their enthusiasm,” she says. “It brings me back to how excited I was to be in dental school.”

— By Debbie Goldberg

When a Penn undergraduate interested in dentistry asked to shadow her back in 2011, Penn Dental Medicine alumna Dr. Shari Leavitt, (D’87), didn’t hesitate. “It was so enjoyable,” she recalls. “She looked through my textbooks, came into the operatory with me to view fillings and extractions and learned about running a dental practice.”

That student was Shin Young Ahn (D’16), who is now a full-time dentist in Dr. Leavitt’s practice, University Square Dental Associates, in West Philadelphia. “I wasn’t looking for an associate at that time,” Dr. Leavitt says, but has since found the addition of another dentist to her staff to be “life changing.”

That positive experience has made Dr. Leavitt into somewhat of a “super mentor” among Penn Dental Medicine alumni. She estimates she has mentored more than 50 undergraduate and dental students since Dr. Ahn first reached out to her, many of them connecting through word of mouth or referred by the Penn Dental Medicine alumni office. The students have gone on to dental schools in New York, Boston, and San Francisco, among other places, including two currently enrolled in Penn Dental Medicine.

Some of the students have worked as paid employees during gap years between college and dental school, while others have come for shorter periods of time to learn, observe, and see if they are on the right career path. “I ask, ‘Can you foresee doing what I’m doing?’” says Dr. Leavitt, who exposes the mentees to dental care and procedures, explains basic restorative and dental terminology, and teaches them to read x-rays. “As much as they’re willing to absorb,” she says.

Sujeong Lee (D’21) reached out to Dr. Leavitt as an undergraduate at Drexel University and ended up working in her office for a year before starting at Penn Dental Medicine last fall. Besides providing experience in dentistry, Dr. Leavitt helped guide her through the dental school admissions process. It was the start of an ongoing and rewarding relationship.

“She is not only a great career mentor, she is a great life coach as well. I can talk to her about my personal struggles. I also feel that she genuinely believes in me and that really motivates me to do my best.”

— SUJEONG LEE (D’21)

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— By Debbie Goldberg

BECOME A MENTOR

Interested in mentoring? Please contact Lindsay Murphy in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 215-898-8023 or alumni@dental.upenn.edu and we’ll add you to the list of alumni we share with DMD and pre-dental students looking for a mentor. In the coming year, we are looking to evolve the program and find new ways to engage our alumni mentors.
NETWOR kING EVENT
In October, the School held the 8th annual Alumni-Student Networking Event at the Ritz-Carlton Philadelphia. Over 160 alumni and students enjoyed making the connection at the annual fall event.

ADA 2017
Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Reception at the ADA in Atlanta.

PENN DENTAL IN FLORIDA
In February, Penn Dental Medicine hit the road in Florida making stops with Dr. Evans in Miami, Naples, and Tampa.

GREATER NEW YORK 2017
Annual Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Reception at the Penn Club of New York.

YANKEE DENTAL 2018
Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Reception at the annual Yankee Dental Conference in Boston.
1940s

Cynthia White Hamilton (DH’47) is the proud great-grandmother of three boys, who all live nearby. She is holding up well for 90 years old.

1950s

Myron Schaffer (D’58) enjoys spending his winters in West Palm Beach, Fla., and summers in Syracuse, N.Y.

Evans “Bo” Guequierre (D’59) passed away April 3, 2017. He is survived by his loving wife, Verna Knowles Guequierre, and his brother, Jacques C. Guequierre. Bo practiced Orthodontics for 28 years at the University of Geneva Clinic, where he taught and rose to the professorial position of Chef de Traveau, or “Head of All Works.” Bo was loved by all who knew him, and he is sorely missed.

1960s

Fred Bergamo (D’64) retired after 50 years in practice. He had a wonderful and rewarding career, and would like to thank Penn Dental Medicine.

Joseph ‘Buz’ Hanley (D’67, GD’69) and his wife Pat had two children while at Penn Dental Medicine, Chip and Michael. Dr. Hanley completed an oral surgery residency, and then served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps. Private practice in Hyattsville, Md., and Bristol, Conn., followed, and as an active reservist, he was recalled to active duty in 1991. After the military, he and Pat moved to the Berkshires. Dr. Hanley was on the teaching staff of the Berkshire Medical Center dental residency program for several years. He then took a part-time position as the oral surgeon with the Veterans Administration in Northampton, Mass., but retired in 2011. Now, he and his wife enjoy traveling, spending time with family, and seeing old friends. Frederick Krochmal (D’68) recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. He is happily retired with four wonderful grandchildren.

1970s

The Lenape Regional High School District Board of Education honored William J. Bisignano, Jr (D’70) for serving on its board for 20 years. His dedication and hard work has led the district to great success. Dr. Bisignano still completely enjoys dentistry as a profession, and continues to serve as a full-time clinician in his Medford, N.J. practice.

Steve Moriconi (D’78, GD’83) has been in private practice as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon since 1983. He has worked at Abington Jefferson Health since 1987, and serves as the Chief of the Dental Division and Program Director of the Abington GPR Program. He will soon be an official PDA lecturer for licensure CE on the opioid epidemic. Dr. Moriconi also runs a non-profit organization called “Men Anpil” for Haitian medical and dental students. He is happily married with six children and three lovely grandchildren!

1980s

After 34 plus years as a healthcare professional, a self-employed businessman, a vineyard operator (Pagoda Hill Vineyards, LLC), and many years of civic involvement on the Municipal Redevelopment and Parking Authorities, Gary Wegman (D’83) has decided to take the skills he’s learned and run for the 16th Congressional District House of Representatives seat in Pennsylvania in 2018. He thanks everyone who helped him to where he is today, and sincerely appreciates the support for his efforts on behalf of dentistry, his constituents, and the hope of creating a better tomorrow.

Cary Limberakis (C’73, D’78) and his wife, Alexis, recently celebrated their 40th anniversary and couldn’t be more proud of their four children. Over the last three years, Dr. Limberakis has experienced the joy of working alongside his son, Jonathan, in his practice in the Philadelphia suburbs. He has also enjoyed the camaraderie that comes with being involved in the ADA, at all its tripartite levels. He is currently serving on the Council on Dental Practice.
David P. Pitman (C’81, D’86) was Chair of the New York Section of the American College of Dentists, and completed a two-year term as a Trustee of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists in 2016. In the same year, he was named President of the South Orange New Jersey Board of Health after serving on the Board for 15 years. He is the former President of both the Columbia Dental and Periodontal Alumni Associations. This May marks the 30th anniversary of his graduation from the periodontics postgraduate program at Columbia University and 30 continuous years on the periodontics faculty. Most recently, Dr. Pitman was named President of the New York Academy of Dentistry, effective April 2018.

Jeffrey Ganeles (GD’87) was appointed to Supply Clinic’s Advisory Board in October. Supply Clinic is an online marketplace for dental supplies founded by Scott Drucker (C’10, D’13) and his brother, Jacob.

James Patrick Murphy (D’88) is proud to say that two of his eight children currently attend the University of Pennsylvania. Richard is a junior Biology major and Mary Rose is a freshman Electrical Engineering major.

1990s

Luis J. Fujimoto (D’90, GD’93) is the president-elect for the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) and vice-president for the New York County Dental Society (NYCDS). He is in the private practice of Comprehensive Dentistry with Advanced Services in Implants and Oral Rehabilitation in New York City.

2000s

Elizabeth Prada (D’06) was promoted from Clinical Director to Executive Director of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic. Dr. Prada was instrumental in founding the clinic’s Lime Street Pediatric Dentistry practice.

Elizabeth “Ellie” Baker (D’07) was sorry to miss her 10th reunion, but the past year has been very busy. She was honored to receive her recent FAGD award, but was even more proud to celebrate her 10 years of marriage to her husband Jon with her wonderful daughters, Eowyn and McKenna.

Dana Romano (D’08, GD’12) married Joseph DiGerolamo on March 16, 2018 at St. Joseph’s Church in Hamilton Square, N.J. Dana practices as an associate pediatric dentist in Hamilton Square, N.J. Joseph is an animator/editor for Ogilvy and Mather in New York, N.Y. Jessica Bowen (D’08) was a member of the bridal party. The following Penn Dental Medicine alumni attended as guests: Lisa Shoff (D’08), Susan Kasper (D’08), Lisa Nguyen Hoang (D’08), Yolanda Madison (D’08), Banafsheh Vahid (D’08), Lucas Mantilla (D’09), Maria Velasco (D’10) and Pappy Chinna (D’10).

2010s

Alex Volchonok (D’12) was recently recognized as a Fellow of the largest dental implant association in the world, the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. In addition to this prestigious honor, he also serves as a member and Diplomate on the American Board of Periodontology. Dr. Volchonok recently started his own New York-based practice, AvPeriodontics, where he is dedicated to providing the highest level of periodontal care and patient experience.

Stephen Howarth (D’16) and his wife, Nicole, welcomed their first child, Stephen Howarth III, on September 17, 2017. Proud grandfather, Stephen Howarth (D’81) greeted the future Penn Dental Medicine graduate upon arrival.
Dr. Ricardo Teles

The Penn Dental Medicine community warmly remembers Dr. Ricardo Teles, former Professor and Chair of the Department of Periodontics, who passed away in December. Having joined Penn Dental Medicine in August 2017, he quickly became a deeply valued member of the faculty and was highly regarded by students, colleagues, and alumni.

Prior to coming to Penn, Dr. Teles was the OraPharma Distinguished Professor in the Department of Periodontology from 2014-2017 at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and Vice Chair of the Department from 2015-2017. He was also Senior Research Investigator in the Department of Applied Oral Sciences within the Center for Periodontology at The Forsyth Institute from 2014–2017 and Director of the Center from 2009–2010.

An accomplished researcher, his work focused on the cause and treatment of periodontal diseases, and he was the principal investigator and co-investigator on many NIH-funded clinical trials focusing on the etiology and pathogenesis of periodontal diseases and the clinical and biological effects of periodontal therapies.

Dr. Teles, a native of Brazil, earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 1988, as well as a Doctor of Medical Science and a Certificate in Periodontology from Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1996.

“Dr. Teles was an exceptional individual with a great passion for research and education,” says Interim Dean Dana Graves. “He was a widely respected colleague and educator, whose loss has impacted so many.” A tribute celebrating his life and contributions to the dental field was held at Penn Dental Medicine on April 23, 2018. His wife, Dr. Flavia Teles, is Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology at Penn Dental Medicine.
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<td>Senior Farewell</td>
<td>The Bellevue, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>MAY 10, 2018</td>
<td>Research Day 2018</td>
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<td>Alumni Weekend 2018</td>
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<td>JUNE 12, 2018</td>
<td>Regional Campaign Celebration</td>
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<td>JUNE 13-16, 2018</td>
<td>CDE: Advanced Esthetics Week</td>
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<td>JUNE 22, 2018</td>
<td>CDE Master Clinician Hands-on Course: A Day Spent Bonding with Composites – Contour, Color, and Creativity</td>
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<td>AUGUST 13, 2018</td>
<td>Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 18, 2018</td>
<td>Alumni Lecture Series CDE: Evidence Based Analgesia - Alternatives to Opioids</td>
<td>Penn Dental Medicine</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 28–30, 2018</td>
<td>CDE: AMED-PENN Dental Microscopy Meeting</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 11, 2018</td>
<td>American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) Alumni Reception</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 18, 2018</td>
<td>Alumni Student Networking Event</td>
<td>Ritz-Carlton Philadelphia</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 19, 2018</td>
<td>CDE: Nitrous Oxide Certification</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 29, 2018</td>
<td>American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Alumni Reception</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 9–11, 2018</td>
<td>Homecoming Weekend University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 26, 2018</td>
<td>Greater NY Alumni Reception</td>
<td>The Penn Club, New York, NY</td>
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