Penn Endo Graduate Alumni Group. “I hope we can come together as the clinic nears completion to reach and even succeed this added funding goal for technology.”

“The new clinic will be a state-of-the-art environment for state-of-the-art education and clinical care,” says Dr. Syngcuk Kim, the Louis I. Grossman Professor of Endodontics, who has led the department for nearly 20 years. “I am also very humbled by the naming of this clinic in my honor and the tremendous alumni support at all levels that has made it possible.”

Support from alumni and friends met the project’s $2 million goal, enabling the new clinic — also the elite training center for the Department’s highly respected continuing education programs in microsurgery — to be technologically top-of-the-line. In preparation for full implementation, the technology capacity is being upgraded, and with it, the final project goal has been increased to $2.5 million. “Our education at Penn Dental has given us so much; it is only appropriate that we give back, and recognize Dr. Kim, who has been such a great mentor,” says Dr. Samuel Kratchman (GD’91), Clinical Associate Professor of Endodontics at Penn Dental Medicine, who along with his fellow endodontic alumni — Drs. Jung Lim (GD’04) and Brian Lee (D’00, GD’04) — have led fundraising efforts for the clinic renovation among the Penn Endo Graduate Alumni Group. “I hope we can come together as the clinic nears completion to reach and even succeed this added funding goal for technology.”

The new clinic remains in its previously existing space on the second floor of the historic Evans Building, but is gaining square footage by expansion into an adjoining area. The facility will feature 23 chairs, two surgical suites, a consultation room, modular operatories with an operating microscope and computer at each chair, and a handicapped-accessible reception room. The clinic will also be outfitted with technology for real-time video streaming of cases to classrooms, continued education programs, and national and international meetings. A special dedication celebration for the new clinic will be held in the spring. To view photos of the building progress in the final months of construction, visit www.dental.upenn.edu/endoclinic.
Next Step: A Simulation Lab to Inspire Learning

In addition to the Endodontic Clinic, proposed projects in Phase I of the master plan include a new predoctoral restorative clinic in the lower concourse of the Evans Building, new study spaces in the library, and a new Preclinical Lab and Training Center—the next top priority.

“We need to move our preclinical education into the 21st century with the ability to teach to the millennial generation of dental students. They are technologically savvy. They need and expect a learning environment that incorporates technology,” says Dr. Margrit Maggio, Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry, Director of Preclinical Dentistry, and Director of Advanced Simulation. “Plus, giving students ready access to instructional videos and creating a simulated environment as they build their psychomotor skills and learn clinical techniques are optimal.”

Such are the plans for the new Preclinical Lab and Training Center, which will replace the General Restorative Dentistry Lab currently in the basement of the Evans Building with a bright, high-tech environment on the building’s third floor. The east wing of the third floor was renovated in the summer of 2010 for office space, opening up the area to reveal the original windows and vaulted ceilings; the same will be done in the west wing where the Preclinical Lab will be located, flooding the area with natural light.

The new space will feature fixed benches with ample space for table-top projects and approximately 75 retractable simulation units, fully outfitted with dental equipment and designed to replicate the spatial dynamics of a clinical setting to reinforce correct positioning and posture. Each space will also have a dental light and computer monitor for instructional videos and steaming of live demonstrations.

“This will give us a calibrated way to give a demonstration—step-by-step, one-on-one for each student,” explains Dr. Maggio. “Instructors will be able to create calibrated, magnified videos of procedures, which students can see right in front on them, stopping and replaying the video as they go. Faculty will also be able to do live demonstrations visible on each student’s individual monitor.”

—DR. MARGRIT MAGGIO,
DIRECTOR OF PRECLINICAL DENTISTRY

This new space and its technology will also be used for hands-on continuing education programs, where presenters can stream live demonstrations.

“It’s where we need to be,” adds Dr. Maggio, “to maintain top quality of instruction and for teaching today’s generation of learners.”

Fundraising is underway with this $2.5 million project. For information on naming opportunities within the Preclinical Lab and Training Center, contact Maren Gaughan in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, at Gaughan@dental.upenn.edu, 215-898-8951.

ABOVE: The new Preclinical Lab and Training Center, planned for the Evans Building third floor, will be flooded with natural light.
OPPOSITE PAGE: Dr. Syngcuk Kim in the endodontic clinic construction site in early September.