Penn Dental Journal
For the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Community/Spring 2010

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ON THE COVER: Left to right: Board of Overseer Chair Dr. William Cheung; Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane; Penn President Amy Gutmann; Peking School of Stomatology Dean Tao Xu; Penn Dental Medicine’s Associate Dean for Global Affairs, and the Chair and Louis I. Grossman Professor of Endodontics Dr. Syngcuk Kim; and Peking School of Stomatology Vice Dean for Global Affairs Dr. Chuanbin Guo, at Peking University in Beijing. In March 2010, Penn Dental Medicine was part of a Penn delegation that traveled to Beijing to initiate and reaffirm Penn’s academic partnerships and agreements with universities there. See story, page 2.


School Signs Exchange Agreements with Schools in China, Taiwan, and Korea, Page 2.

Facilities Updates Create New Patient Management, Admissions, Office Areas, Page 16.

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A Message
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN

It will soon be a year since I joined Penn Dental Medicine as Dean, and it has been an enormously rewarding year for me. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be part of such a preeminent institution with its wonderful history and outstanding faculty, students, staff, and alumni. I thank you all for your input, feedback, and support as I stepped into this role. I thank you all for your support as we undertake necessary change and look to new ways of advancing Penn Dental Medicine’s reputation of excellence in education, scholarship, and clinical care.

Building on our strengths and meeting our challenges involves engaging the entire School community in an open exchange of ideas — listening and learning across academic disciplines, administrative departments, and internal and external audiences. All of you — Alumni, Overseers, Faculty, Students, Staff, Friends and Family — are a crucial part of that process as we examine where we are, set goals for where we want to be, and determine our path for achieving them. We want to hear your ideas — I can be reached at dean@dental.upenn.edu, and alumni, send us your input anytime at alumnifeedback@dental.upenn.edu. In this issue of the Journal, I hope you will also take a few minutes to complete the survey on alumni communications to help ensure we are providing interesting news from the School in the best format.

While this year has involved a great deal of listening, learning, and planning, it has been an active academic year as well. In March, Penn Dental Medicine was part of a delegation to Beijing, China, led by Penn President Amy Gutmann. We also went on to visit dental schools in Hong Kong, Korea, and Taiwan and hosted symposia in Taiwan and Korea as well, taking steps to advance the School’s global presence (see story, page 2). Within our School facilities, two projects — a new student admissions office and central patient registration center and a modern modular office area for faculty and staff — are scheduled for completion in July (see story, page 16). Work is proceeding also on the transition to electronic patient records and digital radiography in our teaching clinics, which will be in place over the summer. This year also brought a $3.2 million boost to our research activities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (see story, page 10), and the final settlement of the historic estate gift of alumnus Louis Schoenleber (C’42,D’43) to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, totaling a record $17.3 million (see story, page 6).

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2010. I wish you great success and happiness as you begin your dental careers, and I know your ties to Penn Dental Medicine will remain strong. As the first graduating class in my role as Dean, you are of special significance to me, and I look forward to hearing of your success. Stay in touch — my door is always open.

Denis F. Kinane, BDS, PhD
Morton Amsterdam Dean
Engaging Globally

Penn Dental Medicine advancing academic exchange in China, Taiwan, Korea

BY BETH ADAMS
Global Engagement — a core principle of the Penn Compact (the University of Pennsylvania’s vision for moving from excellence to eminence) — is central to the mission of Penn Dental Medicine as well. This March, the University and School were fulfilling both, as Penn Dental Medicine joined a delegation to Beijing, China, led by Penn President Amy Gutmann. From Beijing, Penn Dental Medicine went on to visit dental schools in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea and host symposia in Taiwan and Korea as well, engaging alumni, dental practitioners, and educators throughout the region and taking steps to advance the School’s global presence and exchange.

The Penn delegation, which also included deans and faculty from Wharton and the schools of Law and Engineering and Applied Sciences, traveled to Beijing to initiate and reaffirm Penn’s academic partnerships and agreements with universities there, including Peking University and Tsinghua University. Representing Penn Dental Medicine were Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis F. Kinane; Dr. Syngcuk Kim, Chair and Louis I. Grossman Professor of Endodontics and the new Associate Dean for Global Affairs; and Dr. William Cheung (D’81, GD’82), Chair of the School’s Board of Overseers and a University Trustee, who lives and practices in Hong Kong.

As part of this Penn visit, Dean Kinane and Dean Tao Xu of Peking University’s School of Stomatology signed a new memorandum of understanding, which outlines exchange of students and faculty, exchange of learning resources, and the possibility of joint research projects between the two faculties. President Gutmann and Peking University President Zhou Qifeng also signed a memorandum of understanding to expand the partnership between the two universities and reaffirmed existing partnerships between Wharton and Peking’s Guanghua business schools.

“Great Chinese and American Universities are building a bridge of knowledge spanning the globe. There is every reason to think that those universities that join together to embrace this historically unprecedented kind of integration across liberal arts and professional education will be the most powerful forces for progress in our societies and the world,” said President Gutmann in a keynote address at Peking University, March 10, when the University hosted “Penn Day” on its campus. Among other special events, U.S. Ambassador to China, Jon Huntsman, Jr. (a 1987 Penn alumnus named to the post in 2009) hosted a reception at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, welcoming the Penn delegation, administrators and faculty from Peking and Tsinghua universities, and more than 250 Penn alumni, friends, and parents.

“Penn had an incredible presence in Beijing. With President Gutmann, the deans from Wharton and the Law and Engineering schools, our group from Penn Dental, and Ambassador Huntsman’s involvement as well, it impressed upon our counterparts at the School of Stomatology the level of Penn’s commitment to partnerships within China,” says Dean Kinane. “Our schools recognize the value of scholarship across academic disciplines and national borders. Through collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, we all benefit.”

Such an exchange of scholarship began on this visit with Peking’s School of Stomatology hosting a symposium on oral health March 10 that featured a lecture by Dean Kinane on smoking and oral health, a presentation by Dr. Kim on modern endodontics, and talks on implants and traditional Chinese medicine by members of the Peking faculty.

An Opportunity for Growth
The new memorandum of understanding with the School of Stomatology positions Penn Dental Medicine to help advance dentistry in an area of the world where there is great potential for growth in the field.

“We laid the groundwork and built awareness through this first global symposium that we can now build upon as we move forward.”

— DR. SYNGCUK KIM, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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“Compared to a well-developed country like the U.S., which has 150,000 dentists for a population of 0.3 billion, China has 150,000 for a population of 1.3 billion,” observes Dr. Cheung, who is active in the FDI World Dental Federation, a Geneva-based consortium of nearly 200 dental associations worldwide that works to help less developed countries upgrade their standards in oral health care. Dr.
Cheung serves as the FDI’s Continuing Education Program Manager for the Asia Pacific region. “Educating more dentists is a priority among China’s dental schools, and through such collaborative agreements, Penn Dental can take dental education to higher levels by helping schools refine their curriculum, equip their faculty, and develop young graduates through continuing education programs.”

Dr. Cheung also notes that the exchange agreement with Peking University, as well as those signed with six other dental schools in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea during this trip (see box above) will create new opportunities for scholars within these institutions to study at Penn Dental Medicine through the Penn World Scholars Program, one of the endowed funds created through Penn’s current “Making History” capital campaign. This program enables talented/advanced students from developing countries to study at Penn with the goal of them returning to their home countries to in turn educate their colleagues. Dr. Cheung and his wife, Cathy, were among the first to establish a scholarship — The Cheung Family World Scholar Program — under the Penn World Scholars Program.

“This trip signified a great commitment from Penn Dental to build ever stronger connections with dental colleagues around the world and reinforce the School’s reputation for excellence globally,” adds Dr. Cheung, “which are vital to our mission and ongoing leadership.”

Establishing a Position of Leadership

Dean Kinane, who brought strong international ties with him to the position of Dean, is making global engagement a priority in his strategic plans for the School, and one of his first steps has been the creation of a new position to help lead that process, appointing Dr. Syngcuk Kim as Associate Dean for Global Affairs. This March trip to China, Taiwan, and Korea was the first for Dr. Kim in this new role.

“With many established relationships throughout the world, Dr. Kim is well positioned to step into this new leadership role,” says Dean Kinane. “He has built the international reputation of Penn endodontics in ways that can be applied more broadly throughout the School to expand and enhance our presence globally, while also strengthening the global perspective and experience for our students.”

Along with Penn Dental Medicine’s activities at Peking University in conjunction with the larger Penn delegation, a key focus of this recent trip revolved around Taiwan and Korea, where Dr. Kim worked with alumni in the region to develop and present the first Penn Dental Medicine Endodontics Global Symposium. The symposium was held in Taipei, Taiwan, March 13–14, and in Seoul, Korea, March 20–21.

“The symposia were organized with the help of graduates of our postdoctoral program in endodontics who are living and practicing there — Dr. Theresa Hsu (GD’95) in Taiwan and Dr. Seung-Ho Baek (GD’95) in Korea,” says Dr. Kim. “We have a fairly significant number of alumni from our endodontics, periodontics, and perio/prosthodontics
programs in this part of the world. They have taken the Penn Dental Medicine name back to their home countries and are an invaluable resource for enabling our international connections and reputation to grow even stronger.”

The symposium in Taipei was produced in collaboration with three dental schools in Taiwan, and the program in Seoul with four schools there. Dean Kinane and Dr. Kim participated as lecturers at both symposia, and all presenters were Penn Dental Medicine alumni or faculty, spotlighting the School’s expertise. The other speakers at the Taipei conference included Drs. Martin Trope (GD’82, D’83), Michael Marmo (D’95, GD’98), Meetu Kohli (D’02, GD’05), Bekir Karabucak (GD’97, D’02), Theresa Hsu (GD’95), Alan Yang (GD’04), and David Li (D’00, GD’03). Presenting in Seoul were Drs. Gilberto Debellian (GD’91), Su-Jung Shin (GD’04), Andy Kim (D’99, GD’02), Woo-Cheol Lee (GD’01), Frank Setzer (GD’06, GD’07, D’10), Meetu Kohli (D’02, GD’05), Helmut Walsch (GD’00, GD’01), Theresa Hsu (GD’95), and Seung-Ho Baek (GD’95). Alumni receptions were held in Taipei and Seoul as well.

“We had a very positive response, drawing 500 attendees in Taiwan and 900 in Korea,” says Dr. Kim. “We laid the groundwork and built awareness through this first global symposium that we can now build upon as we move forward.”

Already in the planning stages for next year are symposia in Germany and Poland focused on endodontics and one in Japan on endodontics and periodontics. Looking beyond those, Dr. Kim and Dean Kinane both stress that their goal is to expand the nature of the symposia to incorporate presenters from the School’s biological science departments in addition to the clinical sciences. “By incorporating biological sciences, we will be able to spotlight the comprehensive nature of the School’s scholarship across disciplines and gain greater exposure of our activities with a wider international audience,” notes Dr. Kim.

Among other initiatives, Dr. Kim also hopes the use the model for training international practitioners at Penn Dental Medicine that has been established within the Department of Endodontics to help expand and strengthen the visiting scholars/ training programs in the School’s other clinical departments. The current international component within the Department of Endodontics is a three-month residency designed specifically for general dentists practicing in other countries who wish to come to Penn Dental Medicine to sharpen their skills in endodontics, but cannot afford the time to complete the formal postdoctoral certificate program.

“I am honored and pleased to be taking on this new role and working with Dean Kinane, our Board of Overseers, and my colleagues on the faculty to help expand our global programs,” says Dr. Kim.

“It is important to share the talents of our faculty and students around the world, and bring scholars here as well,” adds Dean Kinane on the School’s global mission and strategy (see box above). “Through this transfer of knowledge, we will not only raise our global visibility and reputation, but also learn much from our international colleagues. It is a win-win situation for all.”

Penn Dental Medicine Global Mission
Enhance the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine’s international reputation to improve the quality of the School and the global experience of our students.

To fulfill this global mission, the following strategies have been defined; they will continue to be reviewed and refined as part of the School’s ongoing strategic planning.

Global Strategies
• Improve the global experience of our students through student exchange (offering four-week international externships)
• Engage in collaborative international research
• Enhance the School’s global reputation to in turn improve the quality of DMD applicants from around the world
• Develop continuing education programs that bring clinicians from around the world to Penn Dental Medicine for hands-on continuing education and present the School’s clinical and biological sciences faculty internationally to share their expertise through continuing education symposia and underline Penn Dental Medicine’s global reputation
• Build and strengthen relationships that may in the long term support development efforts

Left to right: Overseer Chair Dr. William Cheung (D’81, GD’82), Penn President Amy Gutmann, Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman, Jr. (C’87), and Dean Denis Kinane at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

PDJ
A Lasting Legacy to Advanced Training, Care in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Louis Schoenleber (C’42, D’43) $17.3 Million Estate Gift Endows Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

By Jennifer Baldino Bonett

Chief Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Resident Eric J. Granquist (M’07, GD’10) leans in close to his patient. The patient needs a CAT scan and so he turns to a new i-CAT scanner, a 3D craniofacial imaging system that provides real-time visualization of the problem, to help determine diagnosis, treatment and surgical prognosis. Indeed, the patient does require surgery, and Dr. Granquist plans to use the department’s new state-of-the-art Piezosurgery® device for a minimally invasive procedure. The device employs 3D ultrasound vibrations to better enable micrometric and selective cuts through bone without harming underlying soft tissue and nerves.

In residents like Dr. Granquist and the advanced care and pioneering research conducted by Penn Dental Medicine’s Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, alumnus Louis Schoenleber (C’42, D’43) saw the future of his profession, making a landmark commitment — through an extraordinary gift — to the department and the residency program he wished had existed for him as a young oral surgeon. Dr. Schoenleber, who died in 2005 at the age of 84, left the majority of his estate to the School of Dental Medicine’s Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. At the final settlement of the estate in late 2009, the bequest totaled $17.3 million. The gift is the largest ever to a department of oral and maxillofacial surgery and one of the largest gifts to a dental school nationally.

“This gift is the culmination of a 12-year relationship between Dr. Schoenleber and the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, which he adopted shortly after his 50th reunion,” says Dr. Peter Quinn (D’74, GD’78), the founding chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the first Louis Schoenleber Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. (Dr. Schoenleber had established the trust to endow this professorship in 1993.) “Dr. Schoenleber loved oral surgery, and he had a great interest in our dual-degree program at Penn. Our program seemed to fulfill his dreams of what should happen in this specialty, which he entered at its very beginnings. He was fascinated by the work we did and always wanted to know more.”

In 1993, the year of his retirement, Dr. Schoenleber returned to Penn Dental Medicine for his 50th reunion. During that visit, Dr. Schoenleber met with Dr. Quinn for the first time, a meeting that inspired a great admiration for the work of the department and a deep friendship with Dr. Quinn who, in addition to his ongoing professorship at Penn Dental Medicine, now serves as Senior Vice President for Clinical Practices at the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Vice Dean for Professional Services at the School of Medicine.

“Peter Quinn built the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department at Penn into the finest in the country,” says Dr. Denis F. Kinane, the Morton Amsterdam Dean of Penn
Dr. Schoenleber intended his gift to enable the department to continue to be a leader in advanced clinical care, like that provided with the TMJ prosthesis developed by Dr. Peter Quinn (opposite), and to support the ongoing strength of the dual-degree residency program with new technologies and resources for faculty, research, and residents. Above right: Chief Resident Dr. Eric Granquist (M’07, GD’10) with Dr. David Stanton (D’88, M’92, GD’95), Director of the Oral & Maxillofacial Residency Program. Above left: Interim Department Chair Dr. Lawrence Levin (D’87, GD’92).

Dental Medicine. "The department is home to an immensely accomplished faculty and draws the most talented residents. The trust and respect that Dr. Schoenleber developed for Dr. Quinn and his accomplishments led to this historic gift to the department."

Already, the gift is advancing the field of oral surgery — Dr. Schoenleber’s prescient intention — by supporting the work of the highly competitive and demanding Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency program. In the six-year program, students complete the requirements at Penn Medicine for their MD, and finish with a two-year certificate in general surgery and a certificate at Penn Dental Medicine in oral and maxillofacial surgery. The program annually draws at least 80–100 applicants for three residency spots. "Dr. Schoenleber believed strongly that to be an oral surgeon in this day and age, you need both dental and medical training," says Dr. Quinn. "He wanted to ensure that the specialty training as it is here would continue and grow."

Established in 1986 as one of only a handful of programs in the country to offer a combined MD and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery certificate, the residency draws students like Chief Resident Dr. Granquist. With plans to stay in academe and pursue clinical research, Dr. Granquist notes he came to Penn Dental Medicine for the opportunity to study under faculty with "a wide breadth of expertise," including innovations in treating temporomandibular joint disorder, approaches to sleep apnea, and orthognathic surgery to correct congenital deformities. In the dual-degree program, Dr. Granquist has enjoyed exposure to medical specialties and learning to apply technologies from those areas. Of particular interest to Dr. Granquist has been his trauma rotation, which has aided his research on facial lacerations (conducted with Dr. Joli Chou, Assistant Professor of Oral Surgery/Pharmacology–Clinician Educator, and Dr. Carrie Sims, Assistant Professor of Surgery at Penn Medicine) funded by Dr. Schoenleber’s gift.

Residents like Dr. Granquist invest a decade to earn their DMD/MD degrees, so financial support for the residency program is particularly important, explains Interim Department Chair Dr. Lawrence Levin (D’87, GD’92). "This gift will allow us to continue to maintain our spot as one of the premier programs in the country," says Dr. Levin, who trained under Dr. Quinn. "In today’s financial climate in medicine, it’s a resource that I know will help us continue to grow."
From an original complement of two full-time faculty, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has grown to include eight full-time and 16 part-time members, covering multiple sites. Faculty and residents treat patients at the School of Dental Medicine, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Penn- Presbyterian Medical Center, the Veterans Administration Hospital, and Penn’s outpatient sites at Radnor and Plymouth Meeting.

This spectrum of clinical experiences appealed to Chief Resident Dr. Sotirios Diamantis (D’04, M’07, GD’10). “Penn’s Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency is superior to other programs due to its immense volume of major operative cases, its affiliation with Children’s Hospital, as well as the large number of highly skilled, full-time faculty,” says Dr. Diamantis. “The quality of training and multitude of experiences allows residents to obtain faculty positions immediately out of residency, go on to any fellowship opportunity, or pursue a career in private practice, while providing full-scope oral and maxillofacial surgery.”

As Dr. Schoenleber intended, graduates of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program will bring with them experience with top-of-the-line procedures and technology. The department is the largest center nationally for jaw joint replacement and Dr. Quinn developed the only FDA-approved stock temporomandibular joint (TMJ) prosthesis at Penn Dental Medicine.

“We developed the prosthesis and guidelines for its use and people come here from all over country and world for this unique approach,” says Dr. Quinn. “This is one of the things, early on, that Dr. Schoenleber wanted to support—these types of advances that can be developed and perfected in an academic center by professionals with dual-degree training.”

Already, the Schoenleber gift has enabled the department to hire two new faculty members. The gift also funded Drs. Granquist and Diamantis to present this past fall at the Annual American Association of OMFS meeting in Toronto. “The Schoenleber bequest will provide that layer of support for the things we need to be doing to keep the department at the top of the field,” says Dr. Quinn.

“Dr. Schoenleber took a special interest in our residents,” says David C. Stanton (D’88, M’92, GD’95) Associate Professor of Oral Surgery- Clinician Educator and Director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Residency Program. “He wanted to know how we taught them, what they were doing, and where they were going from here. Even in a time of government funding cuts for Medicare and education, this gift is enabling many things to occur that benefit our residents, our department, and ultimately our field.”

Already being used to fund continuing education opportunities, new technology and equipment, and faculty positions, the Schoenleber bequest also is intended to fund research, facility construction and renovation, and endowed professorships. “Dr. Schoenleber’s foresight ensures the vitality of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,” says Dr. Quinn. “Through his gift to the School, he will have the lasting legacy of helping our department realize even more.”

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— DR. PETER QUINN, LOUIS SCHOENLEBER PROFESSOR OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
The Gift That Keeps On Giving
PENN’S CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

It has never been easier to provide for the financial security of you and your loved ones while also supporting the future of Penn Dental Medicine. Penn’s Charitable Gift Annuity offers a range of benefits including the comfort of knowing that you will receive a check for the rest of your life.

HOW IT WORKS:

In exchange for a gift of $10,000 or more, Penn will provide an attractive annuity rate and guaranteed payments for life...a portion of which may be tax-free! In addition, you may receive a tax deduction the year the gift is made.

Sample Rate Chart for a $10,000 Charitable Gift Annuity on a Single Life

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*Deduction will vary slightly with changes in the IRS Discount Rate. Assumed rate 3.2%.

PLEASE NOTE: The University of Pennsylvania does not offer tax or legal advice, and encourages you to consult with your own advisers regarding these materials.

For more information, including a personalized illustration of how a Charitable Gift Annuity can work for you or to review the full range of ways to meet personal planning objectives while securing the future of Penn Dental Medicine, contact:

Frank Barr, JD | Office of Gift Planning | 800.223.8236 / 215.898.6171
fbarr@dev.upenn.edu | www.upenn.planyourlegacy.org.
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: A Stimulus for Research

By Debbie Goldberg
In February 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), a massive economic stimulus bill designed to pump $787 billion into an ailing economy, calling it “the most sweeping economic recovery package in our history.” It is having a sweeping impact within the realm of research as well.

Scientific research overall got a $21.5 billion boost from the landmark legislation — the largest increase ever in federally funded research, underscoring the essential role of basic research to both the country’s immediate recovery and long-term economic growth.

To date within Penn Dental Medicine, researchers have received more than $3.2 million under ARRA to fund a wide range of studies and equipment needs. As of late March of this year, seven ARRA-funded research projects were underway in Penn Dental Medicine, with several more applications pending, says Dr. Bruce Shenker, Associate Dean for Research and Chair and Professor of Pathology. Under the ARRA guidelines, grants are awarded in 2009 and 2010, and researchers have two years in which to carry out their studies.

“This has significantly added to the overall research potential of the School of Dental Medicine to advance oral health and basic research,” Dr. Shenker says.

Its impact is being felt throughout the Penn research community. Impressively, since the law was enacted last February, the University of Pennsylvania has received more than $171 million in awards that are funding more than 348 studies in such diverse areas as gene therapy, robotics, public education, neurological disorders, and cardiovascular disease.

“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is making a difference for Penn’s world-class researchers, students embarking upon research careers, support staff, and the community at large by funding important scientific studies that will lead to the improved health and well being of millions and will spur economic growth in the long term,” notes Steven J. Fluharty, Penn’s Vice Provost for Research.

For example, ARRA-funded research being carried out by Dr. Shenker is studying the role of toxins produced by oral bacteria, which target the signaling pathways in a number of cancers. Potentially, these toxins could be used to modulate the pathways that control cancer cell growth and survival.

Thus, while jumpstarting the economic recovery is an important short-term investment, Dr. Shenker agrees that the impact of the infusion of new research money will be long lasting, for Penn Dental Medicine and beyond.

“I anticipate there will be significant advances in health on a national and global level from ARRA funding,” he says. “I think when we look back a few years from now, there will be a noticeable bump in effective funding of biomedical research, which will ultimately translate into improved treatment and new modalities for treating a number of disorders.”

Penn Dental Medicine ARRA Grants

Investigator: Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, Associate Professor of Pathology, $1,019,000

Three decades ago, when the AIDS crisis first came to light, being diagnosed with this mysterious disease was akin to getting a death sentence. Today, HIV-positive patients are successfully treated with combination antiretroviral therapy (cART), a drug regimen that has greatly reduced the mortality rate associated with HIV infection.

But taking this AIDS “cocktail” over an extended period of time also poses some health risks, ranging from heart disease to cognitive decline. By testing the three different classes of drugs that make up the AIDS treatment regimen on central nervous system cells, Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, Associate Professor in Penn Dental Medicine’s Department of Pathology, is trying to determine the cause of the cognitive impairment often seen in HIV-positive patients who have been taking cART.

As of late March of this year, seven ARRA-funded research projects were underway at Penn Dental Medicine. Among the principal investigators are Dr. Pamela Howard (top), Dr. Bruce Shenker (top, right), and Dr. Carolyn Gibson (bottom, right); other PIs include Drs. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, Sherrill Adams, Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, and Elisabeth Barton.

“This [ARRA] has significantly added to the overall research potential of the School of Dental Medicine to advance oral health and basic research.”

— DR. BRUCE SHENKER, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH
Prior to the current HIV-drug regimen, cognitive impairment occurred in up to 60 percent of AIDS patients, and HIV-associated dementia was considered a defining illness of the disease. While only three percent of patients now exhibit that form of dementia due to the success of the cART regimen, studies show as many as 60 percent of those being treated experience more minor forms of impairment. This study will consider whether these cognitive deficits are due primarily to the drug therapies or if HIV is still the major contributor.

**Investigator:** Dr. Sherrill Adams, Professor of Biochemistry, $711,000

The major goal of this research project is to understand how the formation of endochondral bone is controlled. Endochondral bones, which include most bones in the human skeleton, form in the embryo as cartilage, which is ultimately replaced by bone. Not surprisingly, normal bone formation is essential for tooth formation.

The formation of endochondral bone is regulated by many important hormones and growth factors, including thyroid hormone, vitamin A and bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), which are growth factors often used in conjunction with dental implants to improve bone formation. Currently, relatively little is known about how any of these individual factors regulate bone formation.

The major goal of this ARRA-funded project, which expands on Dr. Adams’ existing research, is to understand at a molecular level how these agents work together to form normal bone. The studies also will help researchers understand what goes wrong when there is too little or too much of any one of these factors: Why does thyroid hormone deficiency lead to short stature? Why does an excess of signaling from BMPs lead to excess bone?

Ultimately, this study will help identify potential therapeutic targets for growth disorders, and may also provide insights into the cause and treatment of osteoarthritis, Dr. Adams says. And, she notes, “Anything that impacts bone development is dentally relevant.”

**Investigator:** Dr. Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, $500,000

The newest ARRA grant to be approved, these funds will pay for a new core live cell confocal imaging system, which will enable a range of researchers working on a variety of studies to image live cells in real time. This state-of-the-art microscope, the only one of its kind in the School of Dental Medicine, is vital to a wide range of studies to explain the pathogenic mechanisms in periodontal diseases, herpetic infection, oral cancer, degenerative disease and disorders associated with the metabolism of oral tissues. “This technology will have a huge impact on research at the School of Dental Medicine,” Dr. Boesze-Battaglia says.

**Investigator:** Dr. Elisabeth Barton, Assistant Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology, $474,000

This program project grant with the University of Florida is designed to develop novel therapeutic strategies to prevent muscle atrophy and accelerate muscle rehabilitation in patients who have suffered spinal cord and other orthopedic injuries.

Loss of muscle mass, or atrophy, is common among patients with orthopedic injuries who endure extended periods of bed rest or cast immobilization, significantly impacting the rehabilitation of these patients. The results of such atrophy can be significant, ranging from declines in motor control and overall fitness, to development of functional limitations and, possibly, long-term disability.

This study will evaluate the therapeutic potential of the insulin-like growth factor I isoforms, one of the critical factors for coordinating muscle growth, enhancing muscle repair and increasing muscle mass and strength, as well as E-peptides, which also may have a positive affect on muscle mass, repair and strength. The goal, Dr. Barton says, is to develop new pharmacological agents to help promote better muscle recovery for patients with injuries that have led to muscle atrophy.
**Investigator:** Dr. Carolyn Gibson, Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology, $217,883

Patients with defective enamel often endure prolonged clinical treatments, pain and social anxiety because of the appearance of their teeth. This research project is designed to better understand dental structure and function, with the goal of planning better treatments for patients with enamel defects due to inherited amelogenesis imperfecta.

For this study, mice have been genetically developed to have enamel defects similar to those in humans who have inherited diseases that affect tooth enamel. The ARRA funds were used to purchase an imaging station, which allows researchers to analyze sections of the mice teeth, and a microshear tester, which helps the research team evaluate tooth restorations for the mice with enamel defects.

“We hope to use what we learn in the clinic to better design restorations for children with conditions such as amelogenesis imperfecta,” Dr. Gibson says.

**Investigator:** Dr. Bruce Shenker, Associate Dean for Research, Chair and Professor of Pathology, $318,666

Dr. Shenker received a supplemental grant to continue his research on the role and properties of bacterial toxins, such as those produced by periodontal pathogens. His research has shown that toxins produced by some oral bacteria have the ability to target and inhibit the signaling pathways that regulate the immune response. These same pathways are often perturbed in a number of cancers including leukemia and lymphoma.

“The main focus of our research is on the molecular mechanism of action of these toxins, which inhibit or impair the immune system,” says Dr. Shenker. “The ARRA grant provides funds to support the first steps in harnessing the therapeutic potential of these toxins; we hope that these studies will lead to a new approach for targeted chemotherapy for cancer patients.”

**Investigator:** Dr. Pamela Howard, Research Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, $104,159

This grant will accelerate an existing study that could lead to new treatments for patients suffering from bladder obstructions. The grant funds a research associate to perform delicate microsurgery to partially obstruct the bladders of male mice, which mimics the gradual bladder obstruction that can occur in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). With this condition, the bladder gradually gets larger, and may become stiffer and fibrotic, due to the increased synthesis and deposition of structural proteins called collagens.

The researchers are testing to see if treating the mice both before and after the surgeries with cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins will result in reduced fibrosis in the bladder and lead to more normal bladder function.

Dr. Howard says the research “may result in a new therapeutic modality with minimal side effects for patients suffering from obstructive uropathies, including children with spina bifida, interstitial cystitis patients and men with BPH.”

**“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is making a difference for Penn’s world-class researchers...by funding important scientific studies that will lead to the improved health and well being of millions and will spur economic growth in the long term.”**

— STEVEN J. FLUHARTY, PENN’S VICE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH

Scientific research overall got a $12.5 billion boost from the landmark ARRA legislation — the largest increase ever in federally funded research. Since enacted in February 2009:

- the University of Pennsylvania has received more than $171 million in awards, funding more than 348 studies.
- Penn Dental Medicine researchers have received more than $3.2 million, with several more grants pending.
It is Wednesday evening, and while most of her peers are in the library or having dinner, third-year dental student Anna Yuan (D’11) is at St. Agatha/St. James Church at 38th and Chestnut. She is not here for herself, however; she is making sure the neighborhood’s homeless, who have come in for a free meal, have new toothbrushes, plenty of toothpaste and dental floss, information on dental hygiene, dental care referrals, and even oral cancer screenings. For the past three years, Anna has co-coordinated the dental aspect of this multi-disciplinary medical, dental, and legal assistance program, sponsored by the University City Hospital Coalition (UCHC).

The UCHC community program at St. Agatha/St. James Church, which aids approximately 100 individuals each Wednesday evening, is one of several throughout the city that provide free oral health assistance — as well as medical and legal advice — to anyone who needs it, no questions asked. At each of these sites, a community coordinator helps organize the students’ efforts and a physician oversees and triages the patients. Although the dental students are not authorized to provide dental care at the sites, they can offer oral health education and advice, and can refer patients in need to Penn Dental Medicine’s clinics and other clinics throughout the city, which offer free and reduced-rate dental exams and treatment to residents in need.

Giving back and getting back: All Penn Dental Medicine students have community health requirements to meet for graduation. They all take required courses in community health and help staff the School’s PennSmiles program and dental van, which travels to neighborhood schools to examine students’ teeth, provide preventive and comprehensive dental care, and oral health education. Students also provide dental care at the Elwyn Institute with medically complex and disabled individuals. Many also participate in the Bridging the Gap elective summer internship program, which offers placements in community health throughout the city; Anna’s work at St. Agatha/St. James is different because it is part of the enrichment community activities offered at Penn Dental Medicine. Anna and other students earn honors in the Community Health classes when they participate at additional community sites both locally and globally.

Why, when the dental curriculum is so challenging and time-consuming already, do students choose to take time and work with community agencies? For Anna, it is because she receives as much as she gives.

“My work at UCHC has reinforced in me the notion not to prejudge people...there may be times in any person’s life where they may be in need, no matter what their walk of life.”

— SOLOMON SUND, D’11

"The positive experience I’ve had with UCHC has changed my perspective on the importance of underserved populations," says Anna. "It’s opened my eyes to the plight of the underprivileged in West Philadelphia, and it’s strengthened my belief that access to dental care is a human right — one that should be advocated by everyone in the dental profession.

Anna’s co-coordinator, Solomon Sund (D’11) views the volunteer experience as a way to get out of his comfort zone on campus and experience real people and real situations.

“Being exposed to a different population that has little to no
access to a dental provider really grounds a person to the importance of oral health,” he explains. “There are many people in West Philadelphia who cannot afford a toothbrush or dental floss, or don’t know where to go for a serious dental infection.”

Dr. Joan Gluch, Director of Community Health and Associate Dean for Academic Policies, who oversees the community health program, agrees that the benefits of choosing to participate in these programs are numerous. “This is truly an enrichment activity,” she says. “Students choose it because they want to enrich their dental experience, and they do. They are learning about community and how community health care works, and at the same time they are able to choose a specific area of interest and expand on it.” For example, someone with an interest in pediatric dentistry can volunteer at the Children’s Hospital program. But the rewards don’t stop there, Dr. Gluch says. Students at Penn Dental Medicine have the chance to build a network of talented, like-minded students from Penn’s dental, nursing, medical and law schools who are interested in rolling up their sleeves and making a difference.

In keeping with the Penn Compact: Although most other universities have similar programs, Dr. Gluch feels that Penn’s program is particularly well-suited to the University’s mission and long-term goals. “The University’s Penn Compact, one principle of which is engaging locally, demonstrates our strong, enduring commitment to our neighbors in West Philadelphia,” she says. “Our futures are intertwined, and our responsibility is to help improve the quality of life in these neighborhoods with our special skills and interest.”

While the enrichment community health programs are not for everyone, they are an excellent training ground for those students answering a call to service. “For students who have an interest in solving societal problems, this experience offers an invaluable tool kit for getting involved in the community,” Dr. Gluch says, “and the skills are transferable to any city where our students might choose to live. We are teaching them to reach out to schools, community centers, churches, synagogues and mosques to find out how to make connections and improve health.”

Any dentist can contribute to his or her community, she says, and that contribution doesn’t have to be huge. There are many ways for dentists to get involved, whether they participate in one school visit a year, a monthly church program or a weekly community clinic.

Dr. Gluch hopes that by passing on this skill set, the reach and influence of the community health program will extend beyond Penn Dental Medicine and Philadelphia. “We’re looking at what we can do locally in Philadelphia, but we are also looking at the bigger picture,” she says. “We’d love to hear from our alumni about how they are making a difference in their communities as well.”

HOW ARE YOU MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The School of Dental Medicine wants to hear about how you contribute as a volunteer to the dental health of your neighborhood. Send an email with the details to the Office of Communications, at adamnb@dental.upenn.edu or alumnifeedback@dental.upenn.edu.

Through these seven community health programs, students at the School of Dental Medicine are making a difference for the city’s underserved residents, and for their own futures.

Homeless Health Initiative, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
Students with an interest in pediatric dentistry join pediatric medical and dental residents from CHOP to visit four shelters each month in West and Southwest Philadelphia.

United Community Clinic, First African Presbyterian Church
Faculty and students provide oral health education, screening and referrals on Monday evenings at least once per month at this interdisciplinary health care clinic on West Girard Avenue in Philadelphia.

University City Hospitality Coalition, St. Agatha / St. James Church
Dental students have an opportunity to provide education, referrals and free dental supplies to homeless residents who gather for meals at St. Agatha/St. James Church on Wednesday evenings at least twice each month.

Chinatown Clinic
In the heart of Chinatown, dental students join medical and law students to assess the needs of homeless residents, providing advice, screenings and referrals as needed.

Puente De Salud
Faculty and students from the Hispanic Dental Association educate and screen the local Latino population and provide referrals to Penn Dental Medicine’s clinics on Thursday evenings twice a month at this neighborhood clinic at 18th and South Streets.

Geriatric Oral Health Community Programs
Partnering with the Philadelphia Corporation on Aging and the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the geriatric outreach programs provide educational and screening activities to older adults throughout inner-city Philadelphia, targeting individuals in community senior centers and low-income public housing.

Oral Health Outreach Program with HIV/AIDS Clients
This community-based program, funded by the City of Philadelphia Aids Activities Coordinating Office (AACO), provides oral health education and dental referral with HIV/AIDS clients in conjunction with the School’s Oral Medicine Clinic.
Facilities Updates Create New Patient Management, Admissions, Office Areas
As Penn Dental Medicine continues to grow and address the needs of the School community, two key facilities projects are underway that will improve patient, student, and faculty experiences, while also providing an increasingly efficient work environment for staff. Scheduled for completion in July 2010, the projects involve renovation of space within the Robert Schattner Center atrium to include the Office of Admissions and a new Central Registration, Scheduling, and Cashiering center (CRSC), which integrates the Insurance Office. A complete reconstruction of the east side of the third floor of the Evans Building is also occurring to create office space for full-time, part-time, or visiting faculty and staff members.

Thomas Evans Building, Third Floor
The complete demolition and reconstruction of the Evans Building’s east side of the third floor is designed for flexible use by full- and part-time Penn Dental Medicine faculty, staff members, and visiting instructors. The open 3,800-square-foot, executive center-style office space will feature a modular floor plan with 32 desks, a conference room, and sitting area. The space will be designed to encourage collaboration among its occupants.

Previously home to the Department of Orthodontics and Office of Graduate Dental Education, the architectural refit echoes the open design of its original use as the bacteriology lab when the building opened in 1915. The drop ceiling of the old, constricted office space has been removed, revealing high, angled ceiling architecture. Wooden lockers will also be installed for storage of personal belongings for those part-time faculty members who use the office space on a limited basis. “The Evans space is going to combine the historical feel of the building itself with a new and modern look,” says Jerry Friel, Director of Facilities Management. “We expect people will really enjoy working there.” Penn Card Access will be required to enter the secure work space.

Construction of this new office area is estimated to relieve the School of $250,000 in annual expenses of leased space in the Hamilton Village center, located across from the School on Locust Street. Completion of the project will facilitate integration of the Departments of Restorative and Preventive Sciences, Community Oral Health, Communications, Continuing Dental Education, and Office of Academic Affairs into the main dental complex.
Robert Schattner Center Atrium

Plans within the Robert Schattner Center atrium will create welcoming areas for two key audiences — the School’s clinic patients and prospective students. For clinic patients, relocation of the CRSC near the School’s main entrance will eliminate any confusion on where they go for patient check-in. Currently located outside of the Main Clinic on the second floor of the Evans Building, the CRSC was created in September 2009 to streamline patient care and management — an important first step in moving toward a fully-electronic patient management system at the School. Among its many functions, the CRSC handles current patient check-in, appointment scheduling for new and existing patients, insurance pre-authorization and verification, scheduling of follow-up appointments at patient check-out, and payments for all patients seen in the general restorative Main, Myers, and Paletz clinics. Eventually, plans call for all patients within the School’s specialty clinics to be managed through the CRSC.

Positioning CRSC near the School entrance will have security benefits as well. “Relocation of the center is expected to help ensure Penn Dental Medicine’s strong commitment to enhanced security by requiring that all patients have verified appointments at the door,” says Pamela Arms, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration. “Our School is taking all advisable steps to providing a safe and secure learning, working, and patient care environment.”

Clinical operations for faculty, staff, and students will also be improved with the reduction of scheduling and cashiering traffic around areas where dental instruments and other clinical supplies are being used and transported. CRSC staff members will work on laptops that will be removed and securely stored after business hours, enabling continued use of the popular atrium area for School and student-run events.

Relocating from the Evans Building, the Insurance Office, which is becoming part of CRSC, and the Office of Admissions, will also be housed within the new atrium development. The integration of the insurance staff with CRSC will allow for efficient processing of payments and insurance claims on-site. And positioning the Office of Admissions at the front of the School will create a convenient and welcoming environment to greet and host prospective students. In addition to the new office space, the admissions area will include private meeting rooms for incoming student interviews and use by staff.

To make room for the renovations, the Au Bon Pain café and table seating, previously located in this section of the atrium, were removed in March. (The School is exploring options with Penn Dining Services for incorporating a snack and beverage vendor at an alternative location within the school.) The display cases in this area will be preserved and the new construction around them will incorporate the use of blonde wood to complement the existing panels and cases.

As approved by the University, the total cost of both projects is estimated to be $1.5 million, funded from a combination of gifts to the School and operating funds over the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years. Dr. Stephen Olitsky, son of Dr. Allan Olitsky, Assistant Dean for Clinical Administration and Director of the Penn Dental Care Network, has donated $250,000 to the School for the construction and naming of the CRSC facility in honor of his father (see related story, page 28).

In the coming academic year, Penn Dental Medicine administrators will continue to evaluate the School’s facilities during a master plan review in accordance with the University. “One of our priorities is to improve aspects of the School that positively affect the lives and careers of students, faculty, and staff on a day-to-day basis,” says Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis F. Kinane. “We are very excited about the growth and refinement of Penn Dental Medicine and its facilities.”
Penn Dental Medicine Welcomes Students from Seven Countries

This academic year, Penn Dental Medicine’s Office of International Relations (OIR) once again welcomed visiting dental students from around the world, hosting more than 30 students from China, Switzerland, Ghana, Japan, Nigeria, Spain, and Taiwan.

Penn Dental Medicine currently has exchange agreements with more than 35 institutions outside of the United States (seven of which were renewed or established during a recent trip to the Far East by Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane, see story page 2). The agreements between these universities allows both Penn Dental Medicine students and those from collaborating institutions to spend time at the other schools for the purpose of learning alternate teaching and service delivery approaches.

Students who participate in this two- to four-week exchange program are generally self-selected and usually learn about Penn Dental Medicine from fellow students who have been visitors, or from faculty members who recommend the experience. “The large number of students who wish to visit the School each year is a tribute to everyone here,” says Dr. Robert Collins (D’71), Director of the Office of International Relations and Chief of the Division of Community Oral Health. “The program is one way that the School sustains and advances its strong standing in the international community.”
I believe that staying connected to PENN DENTAL MEDICINE and each other continues to ENRICH OUR PROFESSIONAL development as well as our personal lives.

KEITH D. LIBOU, D’84
President, Alumni Society Executive Committee
Dear Fellow Penn Dental Medicine Alumni,

We want to hear from you. As President of the Alumni Society Executive Committee, one of my goals is to help strengthen connections, and thus communication, between you and this great alma mater of ours.

I believe that an engaged alumni base is crucial to the ongoing growth and strength of Penn Dental Medicine, and I am eager to help foster a reconnection to the School among our extended alumni family. This is a particularly exciting time for Penn Dental Medicine — under the leadership of Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis F. Kinane there is a renewed energy and commitment to excellence in all areas of dental education, research, and clinical care.

So as the School looks to maintain and build ever stronger ties with alumni, it is looking for our feedback on alumni communications. The content, format, and frequency of the current modes of communication are being evaluated to determine if they are connecting with alumni in the best ways possible and providing the information of greatest interest about Penn Dental Medicine.

The Alumni Communications Survey on the adjoining page and online at www.dental.upenn.edu/alumni/survey will only take a few minutes to complete, but can have a lasting impact on reinforcing connections between you, our fellow alumni, and Penn Dental Medicine. The School wants and needs our input, and I ask you to take a moment to share your thoughts through the survey.

I believe that staying connected to Penn Dental Medicine and each other continues to enrich our professional development as well as our personal lives. As alumni, we need to be giving back to the institution whose education has afforded us all so very much — through philanthropy; through the mentoring of students; through continuing education, teaching, and advising; and yes, through sharing our views on how Penn Dental Medicine can best communicate with each of us.

In addition, in my new leadership role with the Alumni Society Executive Committee, a key goal is to help open the channels of communications with alumni and the School on an ongoing basis. The School wants to hear from you with ideas, experiences, and feedback, and I am eager to help build that dialogue. So please, I encourage you to share your thoughts regularly through alumnifeedback@dental.upenn.edu. Together, we can help this great institution and the future leaders in our profession grow even stronger.

It is never too late to reconnect. We look forward to hearing from you.

Keith D. Libou, D’84
President, Alumni Society Executive Committee

Thank You for Your Feedback
In appreciation of your time and input in completing the survey, we will be awarding a chance to win:
• Free attendance at a lecture course of your choice from the Penn Dental Medicine Fall/Winter 2010 CDE Program
• A gift basket of Penn Dental Medicine merchandise

Please take a few minutes now to complete the survey:
• Simply fill out the printed version on the adjoining page (a postage paid envelope is included in the fold of the Journal) or
• Visit www.dental.upenn.edu/alumni/survey to complete the survey online

We want to hear from you on an ongoing basis — contact us at alumnifeedback@dental.upenn.edu.
READERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

We are asking for just a few moments of your time to complete this short survey on the Penn Dental Journal and alumni communications in general. Your feedback will help us deliver content of interest to you in a format that best suits your lifestyle and preferences.

In appreciation for your time and input, we will be awarding a chance to attend free of charge a lecture course of your choice from the School’s Fall/Winter 2010 Continuing Education program and a gift basket of Penn Dental Medicine merchandise. To be eligible for these drawings, please include your name, address, email, and phone number below. Thank you for your participation.

Name ____________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
Email ________________________________________________________________
Phone# _______________________________________________

1. What is your relationship to Penn Dental Medicine? (check all that apply)
   □ Alumnus/Alumna – year graduated ___________________________        □ Donor □ Student □ Faculty/staff
   □ Parent or other relative □ Other (please specify) ___________________________

2. What is your age? □ Under 25 □ 25 to 34 □ 35 to 49 □ 50 to 64 □ 65 and over
   Gender? □ Male □ Female

3. How often do you read the Penn Dental Journal? □ Every issue □ Most issues □ Some issues □ Not at all

4. When you read the Penn Dental Journal, how much of the issue do you read?
   □ I read most everything □ I read many of the stories □ I skim stories □ I flip through

5. What are you most likely to do with the Penn Dental Journal after you have read it?
   □ Place it in my office as reading material □ Pass it along to a colleague or friend □ Shelve it with other material I want to keep
   □ Recycle it □ Other (please specify) ___________________________

6. Is it your general magazine reading habit to...
   □ Read predominantly print □ Read predominantly online □ Both □ Your comments ___________________________

7. Would you prefer to read the Penn Dental Journal...
   □ In print □ Online □ Both □ Your comments ___________________________

8. Have you viewed the Penn Dental Journal PDF online? □ Yes □ No

9. How often do you visit the Penn Dental Medicine web site?
   □ Once a week □ Once a month □ Every 2–3 months □ Twice a year □ Once a year □ Other ___________________________

10. Why do you visit the Penn Dental Medicine web site? (check all that apply)
    □ For news from the School □ Information on alumni events □ Information on continuing education programs □ Submit a class note
    □ View the Penn Dental Journal □ Other ___________________________

11. Are you a member of any of the following social networks? (check all that apply)
    □ Facebook.com □ LinkedIn.com □ Twitter.com □ MySpace.com □ Tagged.com □ None □ Other ___________________________

12. Please rate your interest in the following Penn Dental Journal sections:
    Dean’s message □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Feature stories □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    On campus/faculty/student news □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Faculty scholarly activity □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Philanthropy news □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Alumni news and events □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Alumni profiles □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Class notes □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Honor roll/annual report □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    In memoriam □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion
    Calendar of Events □ Interested □ Somewhat interested □ Not interested □ No opinion

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13. Please rate your interest in knowing about the following subjects:

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14. Please indicate your agreement with this statement: “The *Penn Dental Journal* strengthens my connection to the dental school.”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

15. What actions have you taken as a result of reading the *Penn Dental Journal*? (check all that apply)

- Attended an event
- Made a donation to the School
- Submitted a class note
- Saved an article or issue
- No action taken
- Visited the School’s web site
- Other

16. Rather than receiving the *Penn Dental Journal* twice a year, would you prefer to get one magazine a year and then also receive a newsletter at more frequent intervals throughout the year?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

17. Would you prefer to read an alumni newsletter...

- In print
- Online
- Both

18. How frequently would you like to receive information regarding what is happening at Penn Dental Medicine?

- Every two weeks
- Monthly
- Bimonthly
- Quarterly
- Biannually
- No opinion
- Other

19. As alumni, how would you like to become more engaged with Penn Dental Medicine?

- Teaching
- Mentoring
- Attending local alumni gatherings
- Presenting continuing education programs
- Serving on a volunteer committee
- Talking to predental students at local schools about dentistry/Penn
- Other

20. If you have any additional comments regarding the *Penn Dental Journal* or other aspects of alumni communications in general, please share them here:

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for participating in our readership/communications survey. A postage-paid envelope is included in the fold of the magazine for your convenience. Or, use your own envelope and send to: Penn Dental Medicine, Office of Communications, 240 S. 40th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6030.
Dr. Gary Cohen Granted Continuation of NIH MERIT Award

Dr. Gary Cohen, Professor and Chair of Microbiology at Penn Dental Medicine, has been awarded funding for the second half of his National Institutes of Health (NIH) MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) Award, which will provide ongoing support over the next five years to his study of the herpes virus. In 2005, Dr. Cohen was selected as a MERIT Award recipient, a highly selective award that recognizes researchers who have demonstrated superior competence and outstanding productivity in their research by providing long-term support to investigators with impressive records of scientific achievement in areas of special importance and promise. A principal feature of the program is the opportunity for such investigators to gain up to 10 years of grant support, which Dr. Cohen will receive with the recent granting of this five-year continuation of the award. Less than 5 percent of NIH-funded researchers are selected to receive MERIT Awards.

Dr. Cohen received the MERIT Award for Studies of Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) glycoproteins, through which he and co-investigator Dr. Roselyn Eisenberg, Professor of Microbiology at Penn Dental Medicine and Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine, have been studying the mechanism whereby HSV invades cells to initiate infection. They have shaped their research around the glycoproteins gD, gB, and gH/gL that enable the virus to tunnel its way into the cell, asking two key questions about them: What do they look like? What do they do?

To date, they have solved the 3-D structure of each protein involved in HSV entry. “Each structure has given us invaluable clues as to how the proteins work and has led us to undertake detailed studies of the individual proteins and their interactions,” notes Dr. Cohen. "Although many pieces of the puzzle are now in hand, the puzzle itself has evolved so now we can ask: How does it all work?" Their current challenge involves understanding the formation of the gB-gH/gL complex, its consequence, and its 3-D structure. “Solving this intricate puzzle will significantly advance our knowledge as to how virus enters a cell,” adds Dr. Cohen.

Goldin Leadership Development Seminar Series

This year’s Goldin Leadership Development Seminar Series featured two seminars: “Building a Profitable Practice: Effective Negotiation and Persuasion,” January 7, by G. Richard Shell, an award-winning author and Wharton faculty member, and “Building Effective Teams,” April 21, by Mary DiStanislao, Associate Director of the Penn Athletics Department. Open to all Penn Dental Medicine faculty, students, and staff, the series is made possible through the endowment gift of Harriet (CW’62) and Marshall Goldin (C’60, D’64).

Left to right: G. Richard Shell of Wharton; Dr. Joan Gluch, Associate Dean for Academic Policies; Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis F. Kinane; and Harriet and Marshall Goldin.
Student Events

Making the Penn Dental Connection
The Executive Student Council organized Making the Penn Dental Connection, a special networking event for students, alumni, members of the Board of Overseers, faculty, and staff, held November 3, 2009 at the Union League of Philadelphia. Recognized at the event with the Student Council’s Award for Outstanding Service to Students was Dr. Margrit Maggio, Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry–Clinician Educator, and the Department of Endodontics.

1 Melissa Pauli (D’10), Rachel Levarek (D’11), and Prem Patel (D’10). 2 Students networking with Board of Overseer and alumnus Dr. Joseph Gian-Grasso (C’67, D’71). 3 Joel Frankel (C’02, D’06, G’10), Lisel-Anne Parillon (D’12), and Stephanie Berg (D’12).

Black History Month
On February 24, Penn Dental Medicine’s Student National Dental Association (SNDA) held its 9th annual Black History Month Celebration in the School’s Robert Schattner Center Atrium. This year’s event, “African American Dentists Through the Decades,” was attended by Penn Dental Medicine faculty, staff, dental students, residents, as well as students from local colleges and high schools. The keynote speaker was Penn Dental Medicine alumnus and current member of the Board of Overseers, Dr. Lewis E. Proffitt (D’73, WG’80).

4 Dr. Lewis E. Proffitt (D’73, WG’80)

Oral Cancer Walk
The Penn Dental Medicine Oral Cancer Awareness Society organized the second annual Philadelphia Oral Cancer Walk to increase awareness about the disease and raise funds in support of the Oral Cancer Foundation. Held April 24, 2010, the 3.1-mile walk took place around Penn Dental Medicine’s West Philadelphia neighborhood. Free head and neck screenings for oral cancer were also offered along with free refreshments and entertainment.

5 Student organizers from last year’s event (this year’s walk was occurring at press time).
School Names New Associate Dean of Finance and Administration
Effective January 1, 2010, Pamela Peters Arms was named Associate Dean of Finance and Administration for Penn Dental Medicine. In this position, Arms serves as the School’s chief financial and administrative officer with senior managerial and fiduciary responsibilities for University and School policy. She also oversees business and finance, information technology, communications, continuing education, facilities management, human resources, strategic planning and institutional research, and administrative support, while leading fiscal operations as they relate to education, clinical care, research, and the Penn Dental Care Network (the School’s three faculty dental practices).

Holding a Master’s in Business Administration from Temple University and a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate from Penn State University, Arms comes to Penn Dental Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania’s Division of Finance, where she was Associate Treasurer since 2006. In addition, since 2008 Arms also served as the Division’s chief administrative officer. During her tenure with Finance, Arms twice received Penn’s Models of Excellence Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of notable staff members that reflect initiative, leadership, increased efficiency, and a deep commitment to service. Prior to joining Penn’s Division of Finance in 2004, Arms worked in banking and real estate financing, serving as Vice President—Relationship Manager in Real Estate Banking with Citizens Bank, Philadelphia, Pa., beginning in 2002.

A transition from leading University-wide financial initiatives, Arms says her service at Penn Dental Medicine presents exciting new challenges every day. "A large part of my work at the School involves collaborating and developing professional relationships with key personnel to support the mission of Dean Denis Kinane," says Arms. "Upgrading the School’s facilities, capitalizing on the strength of our research, expanding globally, engaging alumni, and providing students with a superior education are essential to our goal of being the finest dental institution in the world, and it is rewarding to be part of that process.”

Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto Named Penn Fellow

Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, Associate Professor of Pathology at Penn Dental Medicine, has been named a 2010 Penn Fellow by University of Pennsylvania Provost Vincent Price and Vice Provost for Faculty Lynn Hollen Lees.

Launched in 2009, the Penn Fellows Program provides leadership development to select Penn faculty in mid-career. Penn Fellows have the opportunity to build networks across the University, meet with distinguished academic leaders, think strategically about University governance, and participate in monthly dinners with prominent speakers from within Penn and beyond.

Dr. Jordan-Sciutto is an expert on interdisciplinary approaches to the function and dysfunction of neurons. Her research is focused on the molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative processes in determining neuron survival in three neurodegenerative diseases: HIV encephalitis, Alzheimer’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease. Dr. Jordan-Sciutto is one of six faculty members within Penn chosen to be part of this year’s class of Fellows, who are selected from nominations by school deans, department chairs, and Faculty Senate leaders.

Students Recognized for Outreach, Service Efforts

Penn Dental Medicine students Li-Ping Chew (D’11) and Senthil Arun (D’11) were among 12 students nationwide selected as 2010 American Dental Education Association (ADEA)/Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Products Preventive Dentistry Scholars, recognized for their accomplishments in preventive dentistry and community health. The annual scholarship program was established to support predoctoral dental students who have demonstrated academic excellence in preventive dentistry. Chew and Arun were recognized in an awards presentation held March 2 during the ADEA Annual Session in Washington, DC.

“This prestigious award acknowledges the high quality, relevant programs that both Li-Ping and Senthil have developed, and also brings honor to everyone at Penn Dental Medicine in acknowledgement of all student and faculty efforts in community health,” says Dr. Joan Gluch, Director of Community Health at Penn Dental Medicine.

At Penn Dental Medicine, Arun is actively involved in the Homeless Health Initiative of Children’s
When learning of the scholarship campaign, Dr. Cohen said, “I was very pleasantly surprised. Students graduate with such high levels of debt; having funds that will serve as a true scholarship, not a loan, will have a tremendous influence on students.” For more information on the planned scholarship or on making a contribution to the campaign, contact the AAP Foundation at 312-573-3257 or www.perio.org/give.

**Students Named to Matthew Cryer Honor Society**

Students from the Class of 2011 have been recognized for their outstanding academic achievements as the newest inductees into the Matthew Cryer Honor Society. Membership in the Cryer Society is the highest scholastic honor conferred to Penn Dental Medicine students. The award is presented to the top 10 highest-ranked DMD candidates in each class at the completion of their second year (as determined by the general order of merit).

Established in 1912, the Cryer Society honors the legacy of Dr. Matthew Cryer, a distinguished Professor of Oral Surgery, research, and clinician. The Society’s main functions are to acknowledge and honor academic achievements, while serving as a body of reference and resource to new students entering the School. This year’s inductees include Amanda M. Bayley, Christopher Chafin, Joshua A. Goldfein, Sanghun Lee, Justin R. Messina, Jacy J. Papasikos, Alexander D. Paul, Scott C. Roemer, Justin Silvestre, and Goth KF Siu.

**Dr. Sherrill Adams Recognized for Advancing Role of Women at Penn**

Dr. Sherrill Adams, Professor of Biochemistry at Penn Dental Medicine, has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the University of Pennsylvania’s Trustees’ Council of Penn Women (TCPW) — Office of the Provost Award, recognizing significant contributions by Penn faculty to advancing the role of women in higher education and research at Penn. Dr. Adams, who has taught at Penn...
Dental Medicine for more than 30 years, served as Chair of both the Faculty Senate and the Department of Biochemistry in Penn Dental Medicine, and won the Lindback Award, Penn’s highest University-wide teaching honor, in 2002.

In making its selection, the award committee took note of Dr. Adams’ longstanding advocacy for gender equity across campus, wide-ranging service to Penn, and public and private mentorship of women faculty, including the establishment of a formal mentorship program for junior faculty at Penn Dental Medicine. In addition, she recently worked with other faculty members to form a new organization, the Penn Forum for Women Faculty, whose mission is to build a University-wide community of women scholars, creating opportunities for education, professional skills building, networking, and cross-disciplinary interactions. “I believe that this organization will help make a more welcoming, inclusive, and productive environment for women faculty,” says Dr. Adams.

“Women faculties have come a long way at Penn in recent years,” she adds. “We have had two highly successful women presidents at Penn, and the deans of four schools are women. However, we haven’t yet reached parity within any faculty rank and balancing work and family life remains an ongoing challenge, so there is still work to do.” Dr. Adams’ award, which includes a $5,000 honorarium, was presented April 8 during the TCPW Spring Conference 2010.

**Dr. Jonathan Korostoff Receives University’s Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching**

Dr. Jonathan Korostoff (D’85, PhD’91, GD’93), Associate Professor of Periodontics—Clinician Educator and Director of the Masters of Science in Oral Biology Program at Penn Dental Medicine, has been recognized for his excellence in teaching as one of the recipients of the 2010 Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Awards for Distinguished Teaching. The University of Pennsylvania presents the awards annually to eight faculty members — four within the health schools and four within the non-health schools. This year’s award winners were recognized at a University-wide reception, held April 26, 2010.

Dr. Korostoff has been a member of the Penn Dental Medicine faculty since 1986 and has held his current position as Associate Professor of Periodontics—Clinician Educator since 2003. His other teaching appointments at the School have included Research Fellow (1986–1991) in the Department of Periodontics, Teaching Fellow (1991–1993) in the Department of Microbiology, Assistant Professor of Microbiology (1993–2000), and Assistant Professor of Periodontics—Clinician Educator (2000–2003). He is also attending periodontist in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. A 1985 DMD graduate of Penn Dental Medicine, Dr. Korostoff also earned his certificate of periodontics here in 1993 and holds a PhD in Immunology (1991) from the Penn’s School of Medicine.

Dr. Korostoff teaches courses at both the pre- and postdoctoral levels on a broad variety of topics, including the structures of the periodontium, basic immunology, oral microbiology, and periodontal pathogenesis and implant dentistry. Lindback Award winners are determined by recommendations and nominations made by faculty and students in December of each year. Two separate committees, one for the health schools and another for the non-health schools, consisting of previous award winners as well as

students, select the winners from the nominees. The Lindback Awards for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania were established in 1961 with the help of the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation.

**Postdoctoral Fellow Wins Top Honors in Hatton Research Competition**

Angela C. Brown, PhD, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Pathology at Penn Dental Medicine, has been recognized for her achievements in research as the first place winner in the postdoctoral category of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Hatton Competition, held during the 2010 AADR Annual Meeting, March 3–6 in Washington, D.C. She was among 40 scientists presenting at the meeting with first and second place winners selected in three categories.

As a winner of this award, she will compete internationally in the senior/basic science category as part of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR)/Unilever Hatton Competition and Awards that will take place during the 88th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR in Barcelona, Spain, July 14–17, 2010. The ADR/Unilever Hatton Competition and Awards is designed to provide an opportunity for the best junior investigators from all IADR Divisions and non-Divisional Sections to present their research at the annual IADR General Session.

Dr. Brown is studying microbial pathogenesis under Dr. Kathleen Boeze-Battaglia, Associate Professor of Biochemistry at Penn Dental Medicine, and Dr. Edward Lally, Professor of Pathology at Penn Dental Medicine. Specifically, her project, titled “Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans leukotoxin disrupts cell membranes by inducing membrane curvature,” is...
investigating a virulence factor (LtxA) produced by Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans, a bacterium associated with various forms of periodontal disease. She is looking at the interaction of LtxA with model membrane systems in order to determine the mechanism used by the toxin to destroy the membranes of white blood cells. In February, Dr. Brown was awarded a three-year Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship from the NIH’s National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research for this project.

Drs. Sollecito, Greenberg Assume Leadership Posts with AAOM
Effective April 16, Penn Dental Medicine’s Dr. Thomas Sollecito (D’89, GD’91), Chair of the Department of Oral Medicine and Professor of Oral Medicine — Clinician Educator, and Dr. Martin Greenberg (GD’68), Professor of Oral Medicine, assumed new leadership posts on the American Academy of Oral Medicine (AAOM) Board of Trustees. Dr. Sollecito was named President and Dr. Greenberg is now President-Elect; both will serve one-year terms in their respective appointments.

Drs. Sollecito and Greenberg have been active in leadership roles on the Board over the past several years. Dr. Sollecito served as President-Elect in 2009–2010, Vice President in 2008–2009, Secretary in 2007–2008, and Assistant Secretary from 2004–2007. Dr. Greenberg was Vice President in 2009–2010, Assistant Secretary in 2007–2008 and also served as the Oral Medicine Section Editor of the Academy’s Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology, and Endodontology Editor from 2001–2008. He also previously served as President of the American Board of Oral Medicine (2004–2005), the examining board administered by AAOM.

The AAOM is dedicated to promoting excellence in education, research, and patient care in the field of oral medicine. Its 700 members include an internationally recognized group of health care professionals concerned with the oral health care of patients who have complex medical conditions, oral mucosal disorders, and/or chronic orofacial pain.

Do you have a child or grandchild in high school? Is your child or grandchild considering Penn?

The Alumni Council on Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania is an advising resource for navigating the college search and application process.

ARE YOU VISITING THE PENN CAMPUS? Attend an Admissions Information Session and take a Campus Tour—www.admissionsug.upenn.edu. Visit the ACA for a Legacy Advising Session- Monday through Friday at 12:15 PM and 3:15 PM in the Sweeten Alumni House, 3533 Locust Walk. Additional sessions are available during Alumni Weekend and Homecoming.

ACA ADVICE is most helpful before submitting the application! What math class should I take junior year? What activities does Wharton look for in an applicant? How many proofreaders should review my essays? What is the advantage for a legacy to apply during Early Decision? How can I learn more about research opportunities at Penn?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca

Browse our FAQs and advice on numerous topics: academic preparation; early decision vs. regular decision; getting to know Penn; tips for the campus visit; a guide to Penn resources and much more!

LINKING LEGACIES: Legacies may sign up for a Penn student “email buddy” to get a current Penn perspective. Linking Legacies is open to high school juniors and seniors who are interested in learning more about Penn. www.alumni.upenn.edu/linkinglegacies

215.898.6888 | aca@dev.upenn.edu | www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca

To receive ACA information via email or to update your contact information, please visit QuakerNet: www.alumnicommunications.com/penn or email Alumni Records at record@ben.dev.upenn.edu

Dr. Martin Greenberg (GD’68)

Dr. Thomas Sollecito (D’89, GD’91)
Awards & Achievements

Dr. Sherrill Adams, Professor of Biochemistry
- Recipient of the Trustees’ Council of Penn Women (TCPW) — Office of the Provost Award, University of Pennsylvania, April 2010.

Dr. Martin Greenberg, Professor of Oral Medicine

Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, Associate Professor of Pathology
- Named a 2010 Penn Fellow by University of Pennsylvania Provost and Vice Provost for Faculty

Dr. Jonathon Korostoff, Associate Professor of Periodontics-Clinician Educator
- Recipient of the 2010 Christian R. Dr. Jonathon Korostoff, Periodontics Award.
- Invited lecturer at 2010 national Dr. Sherrill Adams, Awards & Biochemistry. 

Dr. David Stanton, Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery-Clinician Educator
- Named President of the American Academy of Oral Medicine, April 2010.

Dr. Eric Stoopler, Assistant Professor of Oral Medicine-Clinician Educator

Dr. Ernesto Lee, Clinical Professor of Periodontics

Dr. Robert A. Levine, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics
- Named to Temple University Gallery of Success

Dr. Rochelle Lindemeyer, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry-Clinician Educator

Dr. Thomas Sollecito, Chair and Professor of Oral Medicine-Clinician Educator
- Named President of the American Academy of Oral Medicine, April 2010.

Selected Publications

A selection of recently published work by Penn Dental Medicine faculty, who are indicated in bold.


Nevinis M, Nevins ML, Uzel NG, Kim DM. Treatment of advanced periodontal defects by active tissue engineering therapies. JPIO. 2010 Feb: Vol.29 no: 1


Grants

Awards since the publication of the Fall 2009 Penn Dental Journal.

Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
Therapeutic Strategies to Augment Muscle Rehabilitation
9/30/2009–8/31/2010
Principal Investigator: Elisabeth R. Barton, Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology
Funding Source: University of Florida

Molecular Analysis of Collagen in Non-compliant Bladders
Principal Investigator: Pamela S. Howard, Research Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Department of Biochemistry
Nikon A1R Confocal Laser Microscope System for Live Cell Imaging
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, Associate Professor of Biochemistry
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Pathology
Adapter Molecules on C3a Receptor Signaling in Mast Cells
9/14/2009–8/31/2010
Principal Investigator: Hydar Ali, Associate Professor of Pathology
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Role of Cell Cycle Proteins in HIV Encephalitis
Principal Investigator: Kelly L. Jordan-Sciutto, Associate Professor of Pathology
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Bacteria and Lymphocyte Suppression in Periodontitis
Principal Investigator: Bruce J. Shenker, Professor and Chair of Pathology
Funding Source: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research/NIH/DHHS

Analysis and Intranasal Treatment of the EZFi Neurodegenerative Paradigm
Principal Investigator: David R. Marks, Pathology Postdoctoral Fellow
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences
Prospective Clinical Evaluation of Cadon Posterior All-Ceramic Fixed-Partial Dentures
10/7/2009–8/31/2012
Principal Investigator: Markus B. Blatz, Professor and Chair of Preventive and Restorative Sciences
Funding Source: Ivoclar Vivadent Inc.

Purines and the Health of Retinal Ganglion Cells
2/1/2010–1/31/2013
Principal Investigator: Claire H. Mitchell, Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Interaction of Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans
2/1/2010–1/31/2013
Principal Investigator: Angela A. Brown, Pathology Postdoctoral Fellow
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Interaction of Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans
2/1/2010–1/31/2013
Principal Investigator: Angela A. Brown, Pathology Postdoctoral Fellow
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Pathology
Interaction of Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans
2/1/2010–1/31/2013
Principal Investigator: Angela A. Brown, Pathology Postdoctoral Fellow
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

For more information, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 215-898-8951.
The Allan J. Olitsky Central Registration Center: A Son’s Tribute to a Mentoring Father
By Amy Biemiller

Some sons give their dads cards to show their love. Some give parties. Stephen Olitsky, Clinical Associate in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences at Penn Dental Medicine, and his wife Tamar, gave his father the Central Registration area planned for the first floor of Penn Dental Medicine’s Robert Schattner Center (see related story, page 16). When the center is complete this summer, it will bear the name Allan J. Olitsky Central Registration Center.

“We’re generally not ones to put our names on things,” says Stephen. “Many buildings and centers are named in memory of someone. We wanted to be sure our dad would enjoy this honor while he was alive.”

Allan, the Assistant Dean for Clinical Administration at Penn Dental Medicine and Director of the Penn Dental Care Network (the School’s three faculty practices), has worked at the School since 1996, first volunteering to supervise students in the Oral Medicine Department, then becoming Director of the Network, and then Assistant Dean. The central registration area was his idea. “I broached it to Dean Kinane that we really should have an open, convenient area where patients can be greeted and where registration, scheduling, and cashiering can be completed,” says Allan. He, Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane, and several other committee members began putting plans together. But suddenly, Allan found he was out of the planning loop. “I was really confused,” he says. “The Dean was avoiding me, the other committee members weren’t returning my calls, and I had no idea what was going on with our plans for the area.”

Then, as is typical for the father and son, they had one of their weekly Wednesday lunches, and Stephen brought along the renderings for the project.

“I showed him the drawings and said ‘Pop, this is why no one was letting you in on the meetings recently’ as I pointed to the name of the center,” says Stephen. “I was shocked,” says Allan. “I never dreamed of this.”

Stephen’s goal in providing the $250,000 gift for the Registration Center was twofold: honoring his dad and giving back to dentistry and Penn Dental Medicine. “My dad is one of those unsung heroes in dentistry,” he says. “He established one of the most respected dental restorative practices in Montgomery County, Pa., taught, and also provided administrative leadership at the School. This was a very appropriate way for us to honor him. But I also wanted to give back to Penn. The School has been a great home for me, and I enjoy teaching there very much.”

The dental profession in the Olitsky family goes back three generations, and in addition to the father and son team, Allan’s father was a dentist and his brother and his two sons and daughter-in-law are all practitioners.

“Pop was a well respected reconstructive dentist, and the esthetic demands of the early 1990’s really appealed to me with my background as a studio art major,” says Stephen. “I’m glad we had the opportunity to practice together as I’ve learned so much from him. Unfortunately, he had to retire prematurely from practice in 1995 due to chronic neck problems.”

“That took both of us by surprise,” says Allan. “But I just couldn’t physically do the day-to-day anymore.” Allan transferred his love for dentistry into working with students at the School and providing administrative leadership. “Now we are able to enjoy working together once again at Penn,” says Stephen.

“I have loved dentistry for over 40 years,” says Allan. “Others burn out, but I want to continue contributing and being productive. It’s very important to give back, so now I work with students and get the chance to explain about the human side of the practice, bringing my own experience in to it.”
Alumni Profile: Felicia Swinney (D’06) and Kristy Hayes (D’07)

By Alandress Gardner

Outside of a United States Army base in northern Iraq, the swooping sound of aircraft propellers fills the atmosphere as military personnel hop in and out of large armored vehicles in the unforgiving heat. This distant scene we have watched on the world news is a short clip of reality for two Penn Dental Medicine alumni, unexpectedly united more than 6,000 miles away from their alma mater, providing dental care to troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Each serving a six-month tour of duty, Captain (CPT) Felicia Swinney (D’06) and CPT Kristy Hayes (D’07) were selected by their respective units to operate a dental clinic together for six weeks at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Q-West, serving 7,500 members of the United States military. Swinney was the first to arrive in July 2009, as part of the 502nd Dental Company, while Hayes, part of the 501st Area Support Medical Company, arrived three months later. Both were surprised to be working as colleagues together in Iraq. “We felt very confident handling basic and complicated emergency dental cases with the well-rounded didactic training we received at Penn Dental Medicine,” says Hayes.

The graduates were assigned to a newly built dental clinic in Iraq, a hard-top air-conditioned facility, equipped with six fully functional dental chairs, separate sterilization, lab and office space, and a waiting area. The facility also featured a digital X-ray unit, which could easily be packed and transported. “We had most of the conveniences of a dental clinic in the United States,” says Swinney. “However, the unexpected power outages, water restrictions, and uncertainty of supply deliveries were occasional reminders that we were in the middle of the desert.”

Initially focused on providing emergency treatment, patient flow to the clinic was sparse. To increase activity, Swinney and Hayes began performing regular exams and cleanings for Army personnel at COB Q-West. Soon afterward, the scope of their practice expanded to include endodontics, periodontics, restorative dentistry, and advanced procedures in prosthodontics and oral surgery. The transience of soldier life made it difficult to provide them with comprehensive care. Some patients had to leave the clinic in provisional, but stable, stages of treatment until they could return to complete the procedure.

The journey to Iraq for Swinney and Hayes began when they signed-up for year-for-year service commitments with the Army in exchange for full tuition at any accredited dental school in the United States. Both students also completed a year of Advanced Education in General Dentistry before beginning service in Iraq. Swinney, who returned to the United States on Christmas Eve 2009, is now currently stationed at Fort Lee in Va., providing care to 25,000 troops with the help of nearly 20 other staff members. Hayes, who recently completed her service at COB Q-West, was selected by the Army’s Graduate Dental Education Department to train in pediatric dentistry at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, beginning her residency this coming summer. Approximately seven percent of Penn Dental Medicine alumni from class years 2007–2010 went to armed services or foreign military commitments after graduation. During her time in Iraq, Swinney developed a strong passion for the aid they were able to provide. “There is nothing like helping soldiers returning from a mission who are in pain,” she says. “All they want is relief and a good night’s rest, so they can focus on their job. I truly enjoyed taking care of them.” Despite the hardships of being away from home, Swinney and Hayes used video conferencing to keep in touch with family and friends. They also gathered with other soldiers during holidays to create a sense of community and fellowship. “Everyone at COB Q-West played an important role in support of the mission,” says Hayes. “The soldiers truly appreciated our hospitality, kindness, and service.”
Alumni Gatherings

Throughout the year, Penn Dental Medicine alumni gathered at events around the country. Along with the highlights presented here, you can view additional photos from some these events by visiting the "Alumni News" section of the Penn Dental Medicine web site at www.dental.upenn.edu/alumni/news/index.html.

GREATER NEW YORK DENTAL MEETING ALUMNI RECEPTION
Penn Dental Medicine held a reception on December 2, 2009 for alumni attending the Greater New York Dental Meeting.

1 James Koretz (D’81), Marc Gainor, (C’77, D’81), Richard Oshrain (D’81), and John McIntyre (D’79). 2 Gordana Fleischer (D’06), Chad Lazar (D’06), Sara Kim (D’06), Elina Bilman (D’06), Man Yee Chan (D’06), and Nicholas Bett (D’06). 3 Keith Libou (D’84), Michael Shreck (D’84), Paul Feldman (D’83), and Lee Durst-Roisman (D’83).

YANKEE DENTAL CONGRESS ALUMNI RECEPTION
Penn Dental Medicine held a reception on January 29, 2010 for alumni attending the Yankee Dental Congress in Boston.

1 Bob Orenstein (D’74), Stephen Solomon (D’84) and his wife. 2 Anthea (Williams) Resnick (D’05), Tony Saito (D’95), David Yu (D’03), James Kim (D’02), and Biplab Malo (D’00).
Alumni and faculty from the Department of Oral Surgery gathered March 13, 2010 at the Oral Surgery Annual Faculty Meeting to honor Dr. Peter Quinn, Schoenleber Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Pharmacology, for his 22 years of leadership and dedication to the Department. One hundred attendees, including former residents from around the country and current department faculty members, gathered at the dinner to pay tribute to Dr. Quinn and celebrate his distinguished career.

The day culminated with a cocktail reception and the presentation of a portrait of Dr. Vanarsdall, commissioned by the alumni for display at the School as a lasting tribute.

Alumni and faculty at the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Faculty/Alumni Meeting.

56TH ANNUAL PENN ORTHODONTIC REUNION
In honor of Dr. Robert Vanarsdall’s 25th anniversary as Chairman, the Department of Orthodontics and its alumni held a symposium, dedicated to recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to dentistry. Ten of Dr. Vanarsdall’s former residents, who are now prominent academicians and clinicians, presented papers pertaining to clinical or basic science topics at the event, which was the 56th Annual Penn Orthodontic Reunion. Held at the University Museum on October 9, 2009, approximately 180 alumni attended the luncheon, which featured brief narratives from graduates, who shared stories about the impact Dr. Vanarsdall has had on their success.

Alumni gathered for a reception where the portrait of Dr. Robert Vanarsdall (GD’72) was presented. Approximately 180 alumni attended the luncheon in the University Museum honoring Dr. Robert Vanarsdall (GD’72).

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL FACULTY/ALUMNI MEETING
Alumni and faculty at the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Faculty/Alumni Meeting.
1950’s

Jack Butz (C’52, D’56) has written a book, My 50 Golden Years (Exlibris), which describes his life and adventures with 12 different Golden Retrievers and four children over a 50-year span in Vermont and Florida.

Alan E. Deegan (D’59) was recognized by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (AAOMS) with the 2009 Presidential Achievement Award. The award is presented in recognition of important, long-standing contributions of benefit to the specialty by AAOMS fellows and members. When presenting the award to Dr. Deegan, AAOMS President Dr. R. Lynn White noted, “Duke Deegan is one of those rare individuals whose integrity and very presence leaves a lasting impact on the specialty.”

Dr. Deegan was a director of the OMS National Insurance Company from its inception in 1988 until 1998. During that time, he also chaired OMSNIC’s Risk Management Committee and was instrumental in developing risk management materials and protocols that remain in use today. Dr. Deegan joined the U.S. Army shortly after receiving his dental degree from Penn Dental Medicine. He completed his OMS residency at Baylor University and Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver. He also received his master’s degree from Baylor. After a 36-year active and reserve stint in the Army, Dr. Deegan retired with the rank of Brigadier General. He is a recipient of the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star, and U.S. Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

1960’s

Jack S. Ginsberg (D’66) and his wife, Micki, received Moorestown, New Jersey’s “Citizen of the Year” award for outstanding community service.

Stephen R. Matteson (D’62) was recently elected editor of the Texas Dental Journal, which is the oldest continuously published dental journal in the U.S. He was also inducted into the International College of Dentistry at the recent ADA meeting in Hawaii. Steve has retired from the faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and lives in that city with his wife, Mary Ann.

1970’s

Glenn Schreiber (D’78, FEL’84) has joined Total Confidence Dentistry in West Chester, Pa. to provide endodontic treatment to patients in the practice. Dr. Schreiber owned a family general dentistry practice in Ambler, Pa., for almost 18 years, beginning in 1981. Besides treating patients at the West Chester office of Total Confidence Dentistry, he provides endodontic care for patients at four other offices in the Philadelphia area and South Jersey.

Francis P. DiPlacido, Jr. (D’62, GD’66) was honored posthumously by the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) with a Humanitarian Award at AAOMS’ 91st Annual Meeting in Toronto in October 2009. Additionally, he had been previously honored as the first recipient of the Frank DiPlacido Humanitarian Award by the Southeastern Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons in Costa Rica at their annual meeting in April 2009.

He and his wife, Noreen, spent the last decade contributing to patient care beyond the United States, making many trips to Honduras and founding a maxillofacial surgery project ‘New Faces for Honduras’, in conjunction with CURE International and now continuing with The Ruth Paz Foundation. Dr. DiPlacido was in private practice in Fort Myers, Fla., for nearly 40 years, before retiring in 2007. He was a lifelong active member of many associations in the dental and oral surgery field. Among those, he had been President of the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, and served as a councilor of the International Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. He also had been President of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare (AAAHG), and was a Fellow of both the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists.

Dr. DiPlacido was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Eddystone, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Noreen, their three children, and five grandchildren.

Peter M. Greco (D’79, GD’84), Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics at Penn Dental Medicine, is serving as President of The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) for 2009-2010. The oldest specialty board in dentistry, the ABO is the only certifying board recognized by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association for the specialty of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics. Dr. Greco, who earned his Board certification in 1989 with recertification in 2002, is an ABO representative of the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists; the ABO consists of representatives from eight regions of the United States and Canada that comprise the constituent organizations of the American Association of Orthodontists. Along with his role as President, Dr. Greco serves on the Clinical Examination and Public Relations Committees. He is also a liaison to the American Association of Orthodontists and the Graduate Orthodontic Resident Program.
Larry Snyder (D’81) says “Hello to anyone who remembers me.” Dr. Snyder is recently retired after selling his 20-year-old, solo general practice. Now he is enjoying having more time for his 6- and 7-year-old daughters and other family, friends, and alumni affairs. “Life is good. I’d love to hear from any of my classmates.”

Michael S. Shreck (D’84), a practicing periodontist in New Hyde Park, N.Y., assumed the office of President of the 1,550-member Nassau County Dental Society (NCDS) in January 2010. Dr. Shreck has held every elective office in the Nassau County Dental Society and has chaired the Membership & Communications Committee and served on the New York State Dental Association’s Council as well. He was a founding member of the Nassau-Suffolk Oral Health Coalition. Dr. Shreck founded the Society’s award-winning Give Kids A Smile Day, held annually on the first Friday of February at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Nassau County. More than 1,200 children from underserved school districts are examined and educated about good oral health habits by volunteer dentists at this program. Dr. Shreck, his wife Jennifer Smith Shreck, who is a CPA, and their three daughters, Danielle, Samantha, and Jessica are long-time residents of Lido Beach. In addition to his busy specialty practice, Dr. Shreck teaches at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

Miguel Vidal (D’00) has been recognized as one of the “Ten Under 10” by the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS). In an effort to highlight the impact that new dentists are having on the dental profession, the MDS Standing Committee on the New Dentist created the Ten Under 10 Award Program in 2005. To qualify for this recognition, dentists must have graduated from dental school within the past 10 years, be an MDS member, and have made significant contributions to the profession, their community, and/or organized dentistry. “Through my position at Massachusetts General Hospital, I am involved with the Harvard-wide General Practice Residency Program from a clinical and didactic standpoint,” says Dr. Vidal. “I was fortunate to have mentors who were very approachable and giving of their time. I feel it is my responsibility to do the same.” After graduating from Penn Dental Medicine, Dr. Vidal received his specialty certificate in prosthodontics from the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry. He maintains a private practice in Winchester, Mass., and is the staff prosthodontist at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Vidal resides in Boston with his wife, Sonia Wu (D’00) and their daughter.

Jennifer R. Mengers-O’Brien (C’02, D’07, GD’09) married Daniel A. Siller Pinette (WG’05) in November 2009.

2008–09 HONOR ROLL OMISSIONS
In preparing the 2008–09 Honor Roll, every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness in recognizing all who have generously supported Penn Dental Medicine. However, we regret that omissions did occur and would like to recognize the following donors for their contributions during the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. We offer our sincere apology and generous thanks to the following:

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Lewis E. Proffitt, D’73, WG’80

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In Memoriam

Dr. Joseph Foote, Jr. (D’74, GD’80)

It is with great respect and admiration that Penn Dental Medicine remembers Dr. Joseph Foote, Jr. (D’74, GD’80), 61, who died February 26, 2010 of lymphoma. A long-time member of Penn Dental Medicine community, Dr. Foote earned his DMD degree at Penn Dental in 1974 and completed his postdoctoral residency in oral surgery here as well in 1980. He shared his skills and knowledge with students since 1986, when he joined the faculty of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and held the position of Clinical Associate Professor since 2001. Since 1989, Dr. Foote also had been chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center. He maintained offices at Penn Medicine at Radnor and at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia.

“During his 30-year career, hundreds of dentists and physicians referred complex patients to him. He was nationally recognized for his particular expertise in microsurgical repair of maxillofacial nerve injuries and was clearly the ‘doctor of last resort’ for patients with debilitating facial pain,” says Dr. Peter Quinn (D’74, GD’78), Schoenleber Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr. Foote’s brother-in-law.

Dr. Foote’s family. One woman said he “saved my face after a devastating car accident.” Another praised his “care and compassion” and several patients wrote that Dr. Foote always asked after their families whenever they visited the office.

Penn Dental Medicine is deeply saddened by the loss of such a great clinician, teacher, and friend to so many. A scholarship fund has been established in memory of Dr. Foote. Contributions can be directed to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr. Foote’s brother-in-law.

An obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer noted that, after learning of his death, patients sent numerous e-mails to Dr. Foote’s family. One woman said he “saved my face after a devastating car accident.” Another praised his “care and compassion” and several patients wrote that Dr. Foote always asked after their families whenever they visited the office.

Penn Dental Medicine is deeply saddened by the loss of such a great clinician, teacher, and friend to so many. A scholarship fund has been established in memory of Dr. Foote. Contributions can be directed to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr. Foote’s brother-in-law.

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Virginia H. Evans (DH’26)
Mahwah, NJ, November 14, 2008

Harry W. Salzberg, (C’29, D’30)
Delray Beach, FL, March 18, 2006

Dominic J. Angeloni (C’29, D’31)
Gladwyne, PA, March 12, 2009

Miriam Baylin (DH’30)
Havertown, PA, February 24, 2010

Walter H. Schick (D’34)
Schenectady, NY, September 4, 2007

Evelyn K. Lichtenstein (DH’37)
Douglassville, PA, December 10, 2007

Joseph Relkin (D’38)
Maplewood, NJ, July 11, 2008

Jordan H. Schwartz (D’38)
Frederick, MD, February 9, 2010
Survived by his brother-in-law, Daniel Rosen (C’44, D’49)

Mortimer I. Slavin (D’39)
Green Valley, AZ, September 2, 2007

Leslie Freeman (D’40)
Boynton Beach, FL, June 14, 2008

E. E. MacQuarrie (DH’40, ED’67, GED’79)
Barnegat, NJ, January 28, 2010

Herbert M. Steinman (D’40)
New Haven, CT, January 18, 2007

Nathaniel Rattner (D’41)
Forest Hills, NY, January 11, 2010

Harry Ungerleider (D’41)
Saint Petersburg, FL, December 25, 2008

Daniel Gordon (C’41, D’42)
Dallas, PA, September 7, 2009
Survived by his son-in-law, Gary M. Nataupsky (D’79)

Warren P. Weitman, Sr. (C’41, D’43)
Sterling, VA, October 19, 2006

Sidney Canarick (D’42)
Boca Raton, FL, October 7, 2009

Arthur Gellis (D’42)
Boca Raton, FL, January 1, 2009

Barbara F. Martz (DH’42)
Willow Street, PA, November 28, 2009

Abraham H. Lazarus (D’43)
Jackson, NJ, April 6, 2008

Harold N. Ehrlich (D’43)
Bryn Mawr, PA, November 28, 2009

Norman H. Joondeph (D’43)
Palm Beach, FL, January 1, 2007

Irving Tash (D’43)
Lake Worth, FL, September 27, 2007

George G. Stewart (D’44)
Woodbridge, CT, November 23, 2009

Vincent J. Moretti (D’44)
Cranston, RI, August 25, 2009

Robert E. Platner (D’45)
Naples, FL, February 12, 2010

Herbert R. Sleeper (D’45, GD’48)
Naples, FL, April 24, 2008

Irene Murphy Degarmo (DH’46)
Ponte Vedra, FL, December 25, 2008

Nancy Reidel Downs (DH’46)
Dallas, TX, October 23, 2009

Jack Magill (D’47)
Boca Raton, FL, February 10, 2010

Howard S. Kramer, Jr. (D’48, GD’57)
Norristown, PA, January 12, 2010

Warren D. Chader (D’50)
Rexford, NY, February 13, 2010

Ralph R. Hill, Jr. (GD’50)
Yakima, WA, March 25, 2010

Ira D. Gilbert (D’50, GD’51)
Holyoke, MA, December 9, 2007

Robert W. Hertzon (D’50)
Blandon, PA, September 12, 2006

Peggy S. Cooper (DH’51)
Bristol, VA, May 31, 2008

Frank L. Giolitone (D’51)
Depauw, IN, November 30, 2007

Helen J. Pankiw (D’51)
Rochester, NY, January 1, 2006

Georgia M. Pistolas (DH’51, ED’51)
Washington, DC, January 9, 2010

Wadea Kassab (C’48, D’52)
Wallingford, PA, October 19, 2009

Kristen Dalane (D’53)
Midlothian, VA, May 9, 2008

Nathaniel Goldberg (D’53)
Wellington, FL, August 15, 2009

James B. King, Jr. (D’53)
Rochester, NY, July 1, 2009

David M. Lubin (GD’53)
Hallandale Beach, FL, January 12, 2008

Thomas H. Newmann (C’53, D’55)
Livingston, NJ, February 25, 2010

James R. Denman (D’56)
West Chester, PA, November 11, 2009

Robert S. Dustin (D’56)
Randolph, VT, August 5, 2009
Survived by his wife, Karen Jensen Dustin (DH’56)
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Scientific research overall got a $21.5 billion boost from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — the largest increase ever in federally funded research, page 10.
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A reminder that Penn Dental Medicine alumni receive a 25% discount on course tuition for most Penn Dental Medicine CDE programs. A new selection of courses will begin in Fall 2010 — for information on these as the program develops, visit www.dental.upenn.edu/cde or call toll free at 866-736-6233.

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Join faculty, staff, parents, and fellow alumni in welcoming the Class of 2014 to Penn Dental Medicine at the Class of 2014 White Coat Ceremony, August 16, 2010, at the Annenberg Center’s Zellerbach Theatre.

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