

FACULTY Q&A

SHARING PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL PATHS

WHILE THE PENN DENTAL Medicine community may know the School's faculty by what they teach or the research they conduct, this Q&A faculty spotlight aims to get a bit more personal glimpse of them as individuals. In this issue, we talked with Dr. Peter Quinn (D'74, GD'78), Schoenleber Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Vice Dean for Professional Services, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, and Senior Vice-President for Clinical Practices, University of Pennsylvania Health System.

What drew your interest to oral surgery?

As a third-year dental student at Penn, in 1973, I did an externship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. I observed Dr. Edward Henefer, a full-time Penn faculty member, perform an orthognathic procedure on a young man with a significant congenital facial deformity. From that day forward, it was clear to me that I wanted to pursue a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Fostering close ties between dentistry and medicine has been an integral part of your time here at Penn, how has that impacted your professional perspective?

One of the unique aspects of Penn Dental is its broader view of dentistry as an integral field in health care in general. In 1984, Dr. Barry Hendler, Chairman of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the time, began the first Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency/MD program at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, where I received my own medical training. In 1989, we transitioned the program so that the medical degree was now granted by Penn's Perelman School of Medicine. This "dual degree" training offered me the "best of both worlds" in both medicine and dentistry, and I had the privilege of being the first faculty member to Chair both the Faculty Senate in the dental school and the Medical Board at HUP.



Q&A with Peter Quinn (D'74, GD'78)

You have been active in building support for students/programs at Penn Dental. What has been most rewarding about those efforts?

Because of the generosity of Dr. Louis R. Schoenleber, a Penn Dental graduate of 1943, I was able to secure an endowment from Dr. Schoenleber's estate that is now worth approximately \$20 million. This has insured foundational support for all three of our missions (research, education, and patient care) in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Penn. I am also extremely proud of initiating the Dr. Joseph W. Foote Scholarship program at Penn Dental to honor my close colleague, Joseph W. Foote, DMD, MD, a dental school classmate and brother-in-law who passed away in 2010.

What advice from a mentor have you carried with you?

Dr. Claude LaDow, the past Chairman of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Penn, advised me in 1974 that if I wanted to stay in academic dentistry/medicine that I should remember two things: "Don't take it personally and don't take it home."

What do you view as your greatest professional accomplishment?

I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at both Penn Dental and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) for 22 years (1986-2008). My particular area of expertise was reconstructive surgery of the temporomandibular joint, and Penn gave me the opportunity to develop the first FDA-approved stock total joint prosthesis for the temporomandibular joint. The clinical trial was the longest in FDA history (from 1995 to 2005), and now, it is the most widely used stock prosthesis both in the U.S. and internationally. It also afforded me the opportunity to operate and lecture on this technique in over 20 countries in Europe, Asia, and South America.

What excites you most about Penn Dental today?

Penn Dental has remained in the forefront of promoting integrated dental education within a great University. I have had the privilege of having interaction with the Veterinary School, the Engineering School, the Wharton School, the Medical School and the Nursing School, just to name a few, in my 31 years as a faculty member. Lastly, I think the best compliment I can give to the School is that both of my children, Abigail Peterson, Class of 2002; and Noah Quinn, Class of 2004; are graduates of Penn Dental. Hopefully, some or all of my seven grandchildren, will follow in their footsteps.

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

My "Penn Ultimate" historical dinner companions would be Benjamin Franklin, Dr. John Morgan (Penn Medicine founder) and Dr. Thomas Evans (Penn Dental's greatest benefactor). ■