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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Dental Medicine*

primus

winter/spring 2008 vol 13



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CDM turns 90

Columbia University Medical Center

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Front cover: A gallery of leaders in dental education at Columbia University, from 1916 to the present: William J. Gies, Leuman M. Waugh, Alfred Owre, Willard C. Rappleye, Maurice J. Hickey, Houghton Holiday, Gilbert P. Smith, Melvin L. Moss, Edward V. Zegarelli, Allan J. Formicola, and Ira B. Lamster.

Front cover images, and pp.4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, archival CU dental school photos, courtesy of Douglas McAndrew and Columbia University Medical Center; Archives & Special Collections; p.12, diagram, courtesy Jeremy Mao, DDS, PhD, CDM; .14, detail of checkerboard DNA-DNA hybridization courtesy of Panos N. Papapanou DDS, PhD, CDM; p.17, photo, New York Beacon, August 16-22, 2007; p.26, Seymour Lipton, Herbert Ferber photos, Smithsonian Archives of American Art.

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## 2007

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# CDM at 90: from the Dean...

In a recent interview with the New York State Dental Journal (NYSDJ) editor, Elliott M. Moskowitz, DDS, MSci, Dean Ira B. Lamster spoke about the challenges and rewards of leading one of America's premier dental schools. He was also asked about CDM's future in carrying out its mission. In this PRIMUS issue, examining Columbia's dental school after 90 years, we include some of Dean Lamster's expectations for CDM's coming years from the NYSDJ article.

DR. MOSKOWITZ: What is your vision for Columbia [CDM] in the next five years?

DEAN LAMSTER: The Columbia University College of Dental Medicine is uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between medicine and dentistry. I appreciate the fact that dentistry is a distinct profession, but with close ties to medicine... therefore, defining our role in the health care system is a critical goal for the future. We see our predoctoral program evolving into training that allows greater time for electives and for more interactions with medicine and public health. We are continuing to expand our offsite clinical care initiatives, as well as... dental and craniofacial research in the context of [the] health sciences...

DR. MOSKOWITZ: What differences do you see in the student body at Columbia today as compared to previous eras?

DEAN LAMSTER: Our student body is outstanding. Like all dental schools in the United States, Columbia is seeing a large number of applicants... those accepted at CDM are among the finest students applying to dental school. They come to us with a variety of experiences prior to entering the college. Many are interested in what we may think of as nontraditional [dental] careers, including academics, research, business – [CDM has] a combined DDS/MBA program... a combined DDS/MPH program... a newly introduced DDS/MA in education... [and we] have also just started our first DDS/PhD program in Bioinformatics. Further, many of our students understand the importance of community service and act on those beliefs while at Columbia.



## ...and from CUMC/NYP Leaders

At CDM's 90th Anniversary gala held in Low Library, two of the evening's chief speakers were not dentists, but a psychiatrist and a cardiologist. Dr. Herbert Pardes, President and CEO of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and Dr. Lee Goldman, Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences and Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, both spoke of the dental college's 90 years of long and successful partnerships with the other health sciences schools and the hospital on Columbia's Medical Center campus. Lois Jackson, DDS '77, Peds '80, President of the Association of Dental Alumni, also brought greetings to the Gala guests.

**DR. PARDES**, former vice president for the Health Sciences and dean of the medical school at Columbia, recalled his personal closeness to CDM stemming from the shared years of basic science studies for dental and medical students. He called the dental students "exemplary," admired the emphasis placed on research by the college, and thought no dental school in the country does a better job than CDM in the care of patients – especially the indigent. Dr. Pardes cited the college's "core principle" as "striving for excellence, while still serving the community," and took note of its high standing among rival institutions, referring to an annual outpouring of... "3,000 [applicants] clamoring to come to CDM."

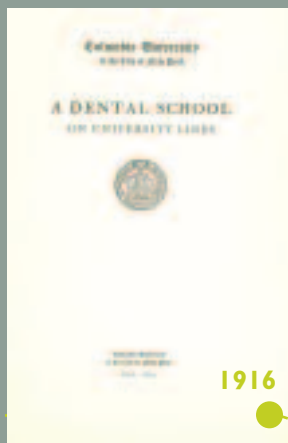
**DEAN GOLDMAN**, who came to CUMC in 2006, especially praised the strong interrelationship of dental and medical education at Columbia, saying that the relatively small campus of the Medical Center made "togetherness inevitable," and adding that he was "proud to be part of it." Underlining his respect for CDM, the Dean named the school as "one of the true jewels in the crown of Columbia University." Speaking of CDM's graduates, Dr. Goldman asserted that "their light shines on us; we bathe in their success."

**DR. LOIS JACKSON** welcomed school alumni, faculty and friends at the celebration. She singled out John Toumanis '87, who brought 15 of his classmates and their spouses to the gala. Dr. Jackson then announced the names of those being recognized for 25 years or more of full-time service at CDM.



# A Dental School “on University Lines”

## ENTERING THE SECOND CENTURY



Columbia University's interest in oral health education began in the early decades of the 20th century with the absorption of a number of New York State's proprietary dental schools, where dentistry was taught as a technical trade rather than a scientific profession, and students needed no college preparation to earn a dental degree.

Columbia became the first university in the nation to open a dental school requiring applicants to have completed two years of preprofessional university education, a stipulation the University later increased to three years. Dr. William Gies, a biochemist on Columbia's medical faculty, interested in research on caries and periodontal disease, joined a group of six prominent New York dentists to propose a dental school for Columbia. In 1916,

the doctors' now historic booklet, “A Dental School Along University Lines” outlined high standards for the new enterprise. Dr. Gies later produced the 1926 Carnegie Commission Report, “Dental Education in the United States and Canada,” which became a blueprint for American dental schools.

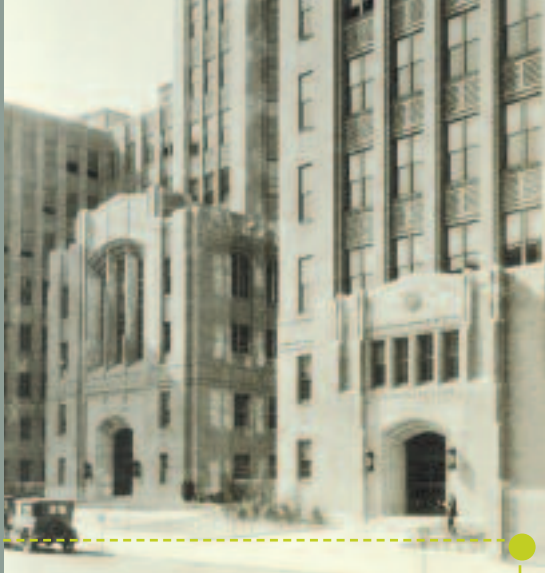


Even after the United States entered World War I in 1917, Columbia's dental students were all men. But the introduction of the nation's first “Courses in Oral Hygiene for Women” at a university attracted young women as imaginative in dramatizing the need for preventive dentistry as they were intelligent in learning, and successful in practicing, their subject.

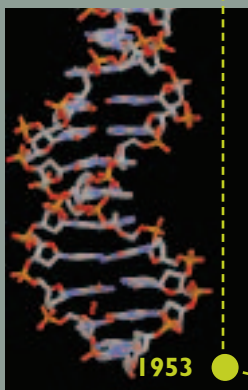
In 1928, one year before the Great Depression, Columbia University opened the world's first academic medical center: Its fledgling School of Dental Surgery was the first to be integrated at a single site with other professional health institutions. Five years later, the dental school was placed under the direction of the medical school, and later made part of the Faculty of Medicine – but regained its independence in 1959. Although scarce resources caused progress in basic science, medicine, and research to falter in the mid-60s, an expansion of studies in oral biology, the creation of new divisions, and an increase in the University's financial support were soon realized under the leadership of Dean Melvin Moss. His successor, Dean Edward Zegarelli, raised funds for widespread facility renovations, built up the Hospital Dental Service, reinstituted the Dental Residency







Program, and initiated the DDS/MPH double degree. In 1978, Dean Allan Formicola came to SDOS at a time when it was believed that the introduction of fluoridation to public water supplies would soon render dental care unnecessary, and that too many dentists were being trained. But the assumption proved to be untrue. Soon, SDOS decided to recruit more widely and become even more selective, thereby greatly raising the number and quality of its applicants – who now consistently come from the highest academic brackets in the nation. Dean Formicola's introduction of new patient care programs, especially for the underserved, attracted major new funding and national recognition. The school's initiation of community health care activities became an accepted model for other dental schools.



Since 2001, Ira B. Lamster, who followed Dr. Formicola as dean, has strengthened the sense of community at CDM, encouraging increased interaction among faculty, alumni, and students, and introducing stronger outreach with new publications. His emphasis on interdisciplinary projects across the CUMC campus, and the decision to rename the dental school the College of Dental Medicine, embody Dr. Gies's original vision for the relationship between dentistry and medicine. In its 10th decade, with an ongoing commitment to investigating the oral health-systemic health link and working in the most advanced areas of scientific and technical knowledge, CDM's contributions to education,

patient care, and research in the field of dentistry continue to grow in importance. Since Columbia University first accepted dentistry as integral to the health sciences and as a true university discipline, its College of Dental Medicine has been committed to preparing students for careers that allow them to emphasize biomedical sciences, practice general dentistry, or pursue advanced training in hospitals and dental schools. Its mission focuses on three areas: education, research, and patient care, each significant by itself, and all immeasurably strengthened by their interrelationship.

The future of dentistry is already perceptible at CDM. As Leslie W. Seldin '66, Chairman of the Oversight Committee for the ADA's 2001 *Future of Dentistry Project*, wrote: "It is clear that in this complex and ever changing world, isolation is not a viable option. This is a clarion call for dentistry's international community to come together in a coordinated effort to improve the world's oral health... advances in the diagnosis and treatment of oral disease are being made throughout the world. Sophisticated informational technology will benefit both the public and dental professionals. Cooperative efforts will no longer require that individuals be in the same room. Instead, interaction can occur almost instantly among persons separated by continents. However, science and technology cannot solve all problems. Political will, social responsibility, and the willingness to set aside cultural differences are also necessary... All people, whatever their status, whatever their age, wherever they live, should have the right to good oral health. [and because of]... easy access to information through electronic media, dental consumers will be more aware of the... important role that oral health plays in general health."

CDM's strength and leadership in helping to forge the best of dentistry's future are reflected in the pages of this publication.





...The Trustees and the Faculty of Medicine of Columbia University have, by formal vote, approved the establishment of a school of dentistry... It is proposed to make the dental course at Columbia one of four years, the first two years of which are to be identical with, and part of, the medical course. The preliminary educational requirements are to be the same as those for admission to the medical school.

A Dental School On University Lines, May, 1916



# Education



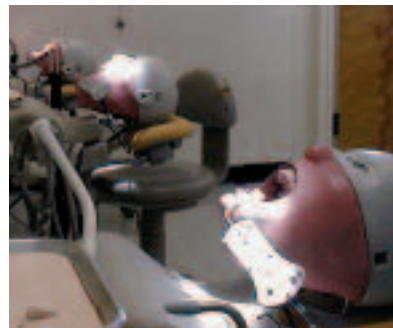
# Still Learning at 90

Since admitting its first two students in 1916, Columbia University's dental school has maintained the nation's highest standards of education, fulfilling the vision of Dr. William Gies for a university system of pre-professional preparation, strongly based in the biomedical sciences. CDM's candidate pool has grown in



both quantity and quality. Today, the excellence of their academic credentials ranks CDM applicants second among those of all 57 dental schools in the nation. ● As emphasis on the underlying pathophysiology of oral disease has increased, so has the need for predoctoral students to be well-informed on the advancement of scientific research in their field. Student involvement in dental research at Columbia has a long history, starting in 1920 when Dr. Gies established the William Jarvie Society for Dental Research, where Columbia students and faculty meet to hear from speakers who have contributed significantly to the field. The annual Birnberg Day, begun after

WWII to provide formal support for student research, also encourages research-related careers that could help cure a chronic shortage of dental academics. ● New methods in teaching have moved preclinical studies from the examination of just one area of science, or a single procedural method, to the use of case-based models. These underscore the need for integrating knowledge from multiple sources to provide comprehensive treatment for the full spectrum of oral health problems. Students, working under the guidance of a faculty mentor, hone technical skills at their own speed, and acquire technological capabilities to keep pace with the innovations of electronic simulation models for clinical diagnosis, imaging, and treatment. Education continues outside the classroom, when students have opportunities



to work in CDM's research laboratories and its Vanderbilt Clinics, or at its treatment sites around Northern Manhattan. They may also broaden their knowledge and experience in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean, where CDM has reciprocal academic agreements, or has taken on volunteer clinical activities among underserved populations. ● About 95% of CDM graduates commit to, and are accepted in, postdoctoral studies – an extraordinarily high number among dental schools nationally. Over the past quarter century, the College of Dental Medicine has also given dental students opportunities to earn dual academic degrees, combining the DDS with studies in another field at Columbia. Currently there are candidates for the DDS/MBA; the DDS/MPH; the MA and PhD in Science Education; or the DDS plus both the MBA and MPH. Columbia's remarkable achievements in dental education have always depended on its fine faculty, of which more than 400 are volunteers.





Interactive electronic systems of all types are in wide use as study aids at CDM.

### FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TAKE CDM'S FIRST LAPTOP EXAMS

In April 2007, first-year CDM dental students had the option of taking an exam for Oral Histology, Growth and Development on their laptop computers. Senior Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Letty Moss-Salentijn described a three-year transition from laboratory instruction involving microscopes to an electronic laboratory using a large selection of web-based images and an interactive labeling program developed by staff at the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL). Dean Salentijn said, "Until 2007, we administered examinations with microscopes, projected images, or printed images. All [of these] have well-known disadvantages. The next logical step was an electronic laboratory examination." Images from the exam file were copied into the students' laptops. Exam questions and answers were both on paper, so there was no need to use the keyboard, except for navigating through the slides, which had a distinctive background color, intended to be visible to the proctor at all times. Nine students decided on the traditional exam, which also could have become a backup if any of the computers had crashed. In the only near mishap, an accidentally deleted file was immediately recovered and copied into the laptop again.

### HRSA/MCHB GRANT SUPPORTS CDM'S NEW PEDIATRIC TRAINING PROGRAM

CDM has received a federal grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for Leadership Training in Pediatric Dentistry to support a new five-year program, "Alternative Careers in Pediatric Dentistry." The award will promote careers for pediatric dentists in education, research, administration, and child advocacy, including dental care for socially and medically vulnerable children. The training program, stressing health services research, public policy, and public health, with training in clinical care, was developed in collaboration with New York Presbyterian Hospital, Children's Hospital of New York, and the Mailman School of Public Health. It will provide a new fellowship for either a hospitalist or a Head Start Fellow; will engage trainees in the Washington, DC, pediatric oral health policy environment through the Children's Dental Health Project; and will organize an annual regional symposium for all pediatric dentistry trainees in the greater New York area. Professor of Clinical Dental Medicine and Clinical Health Policy and Management Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH, chair, Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is project director, and Associate Professor of Clinical Dental Medicine Steven Chussid, DDS, director, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, is the co-director.

### MORE CDM ORAL HEALTH TEAMS WORKING IN AFRICAN VILLAGES

CDM has sent its second and third groups of faculty and students to Africa as part of its involvement in the Millennium Villages project. Under the leadership of Columbia's Earth Institute and its director, Jeffrey Sachs, teams of Columbia dental clinicians and health care workers are spending time in impoverished villages throughout the African continent. Last fall, Associate Professor Steven Chussid, division director of Pediatric Dentistry, traveled with second-year pediatric dental resident Priya Madhiwala and two students, Philip Mann '10, and Helen Park '10, to Tanzania. They were accompanied by Associate Clinical Professor Steven Syrop '80 and Ian Zlotolow DMD, a maxillofacial surgeon from the University of the Pacific, both members of an earlier Millennium Villages team, to work with the residents of Mbolla village.

The team performed dental examinations and assessed need for improvement of oral health in the village. Their recommendations will help to form a health care program as part of an overarching plan to mitigate poverty for the population of

Mbolla. Dr. Chussid described the experience among Mbolla's "happy, warm people" as "professionally and personally amazing and rewarding," and one he would be happy to repeat.

To date, the Millennium Villages project has reached nearly 400,000 people in 79 villages across 10 African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda).



left: Dr. Steven Chussid and Dr. Priya Madhiwala examine a patient in Mbolla, a Millennium Village in Tanzania, Africa.

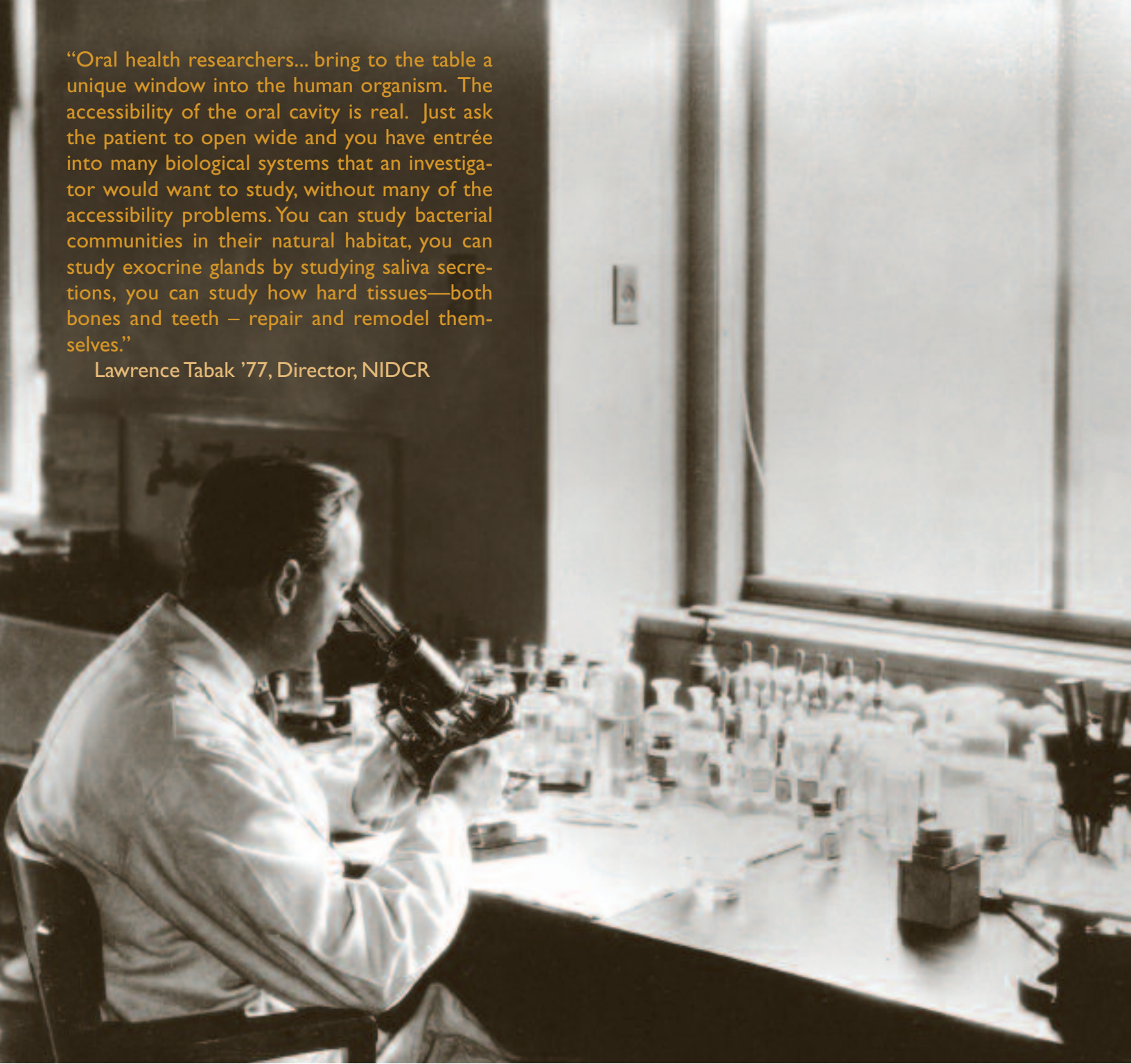
below: Students prepare for clinical visits during CDM's annual mission to Jamaica.





“Oral health researchers... bring to the table a unique window into the human organism. The accessibility of the oral cavity is real. Just ask the patient to open wide and you have entrée into many biological systems that an investigator would want to study, without many of the accessibility problems. You can study bacterial communities in their natural habitat, you can study exocrine glands by studying saliva secretions, you can study how hard tissues—both bones and teeth – repair and remodel themselves.”

Lawrence Tabak '77, Director, NIDCR

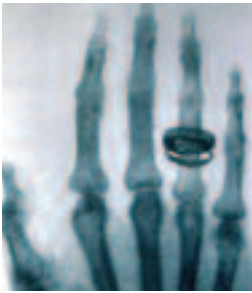


# Research



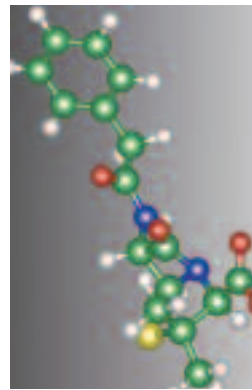
# Evolution of a Scientific Discipline

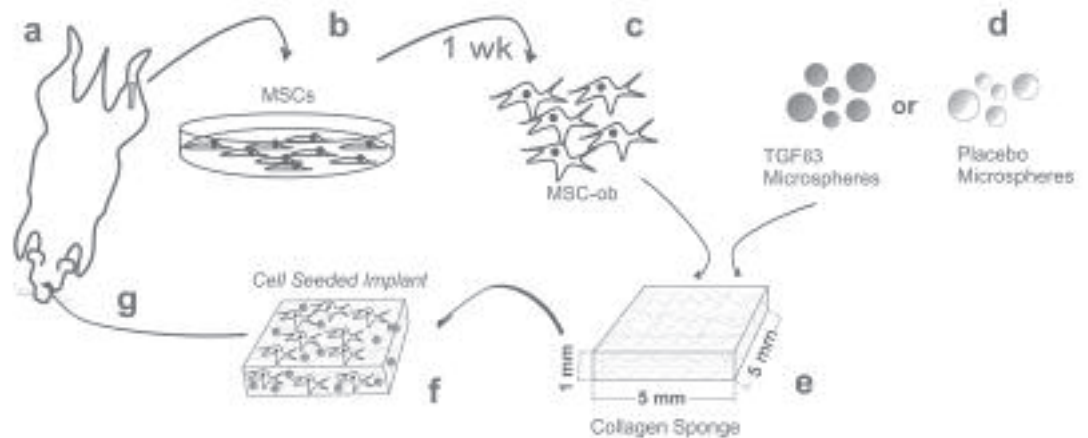
For centuries, most people believed religion, rather than science, was the best explanation of how the world worked. But, with William Roentgen's discovery of X-rays and Marie Curie's isolation of radium, science gained



greater credibility. By 1928, the year Alexander Fleming gave the world its first powerful antibiotic, penicillin, the benefits of medical science had become widely accepted. In the same year, Columbia University opened the nation's first comprehensive medical center, designed to bring patients the most advanced scientific therapies available. • Few dental schools have had a research program as strongly integrated with a medical center and university as that of the Columbia University

College of Dental Medicine. Ninety years ago, Dr. William Gies urged the incorporation of biomedical sciences in dental education, advocating research in the basic biology of oral structures and the pathology of oral-facial disease. Columbia's oral health research scientists have since proved him right, making many essential contributions to the development of modern dental medicine. They include, among others: Charles Bodecker, for work on the structure of tooth enamel; Edmund Appelbaum, for pioneering use of microradiography, as well as demonstrating fluoride's benefits in dental health; and Leuman Waugh, for studies on the relationship of diet to the formation of caries, salivary composition, and periodontal status, all based on his firsthand observations of the destruction of dentition in Eskimo populations when they began eating fermentable carbohydrates. • Today, CDM faculty and graduate students pursue the relationship of oral health to general health in areas including the influence of oral infection on cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, on adverse pregnancy outcomes, and on diabetes. Community service health programs, created in response to such research, also offer clinical research opportunities for students. Some of these programs are designed to help dental patients give up smoking, while others explore methods for understanding social issues that influence oral health. • The cutting edge of scientific discovery – in genetics, molecular and cell biology, immunology, adult stem cells, pharmacology, and materials and computer sciences – is fundamental to CDM's research mission. Sophisticated animal models and tissue engineering therapies, for instance, are already the foci of interest in its classrooms and laboratories. Under CDM's leadership, collaborations have been developed with the Center for Skin and Mucosal Biology in the Department of Dermatology at P&S, and promising research collaboration is ongoing with the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the School of Engineering.





### CDM LAB SUCCESSFULLY BIOENGINEERS SUTURE FOR CRANIOSYNSTOSIS REPAIR

The surgical procedure to repair craniosynostosis, a skull growth abnormality that may restrict brain development and occurs in one of every 2500 live births, is currently treated by highly invasive surgery. Now, for the first time, it has been demonstrated that this surgical trauma can be minimized in rats by replacing the current craniotomy, which uses autologous tissue grafts, with a new kind of autologous cell-based therapy. College of Dental Medicine researchers in the tissue engineering laboratory of Jeremy Mao, DDS, PhD, working with colleagues at the University of Wisconsin and Rush University, have developed a system of creating biologically viable cranial sutures to correct craniosynostosis without causing further severe damage to other bony structures of the child's head.

Previous attempts to deliver cell therapy have been frustrated by the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient

supply of healthy donor cells, and complicated by a lack of carriers to provide adequate structural support and mechanical strength for their accurate delivery to the targeted site. Additionally, these cells are lineage-specific and often incapable of maintaining long-term viability in regenerated tissue, due to loss of mitotic potential, programmed cell death, and necrosis.

To counter these problems, Dr. Mao's team created a biocompatible implant seeded with mesenchymal cells (MSCs) aspirated from the patient's (rat) bone marrow. The MSCs, which can differentiate into multiple cell lineages and heal many kinds of tissue damage, are packaged in a collagen sponge with controlled-release, biodegradable capsules of transforming growth factor (TGFβ), an inhibitor of ossification in synostosing cranial sutures. Image-based, histological, and immunohistological assessments of the resulting engineered suture showed a biologically-derived bone-soft tissue-bone interface.



### CDM JOINED BY P&S AND NPDC FOR NYAS PERIO-SYSTEMIC HEALTH FORUM

On January 18, 2008, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, The New York Academy of Sciences, and The National Periodontal Disease Coalition sponsored a symposium: *From Basic Science to Clinical Practice and Policy: A Medical Dental Dialogue on the Relationship between Periodontal Disease and Systemic Health*, held at the Academy's new location, World Trade Center 7. CDM faculty Dr. David Albert and Dr. Burton Edelstein were speakers for the event, and Dean Ira Lamster and Dr. Panos Papapanou acted as moderators. The symposium, which drew an audience of approximately 200 health professionals, addressed the rapidly increasing awareness of the link between oral and systemic health, providing a rare opportunity for dentists and physicians to hear and participate in discussions on prospective research in this area.



## NIH SCIENCE AWARD FUNDS CANCER STUDY

Assistant Professor of Dental Medicine Angela Yoon '03 is the principal investigator for a four-year study on the early identification and chemoprevention of oral squamous cell carcinoma. Dr. Yoon's research is supported with a K12 Career Development Award through Columbia's NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). CTSA's allow for integration of clinical and translational science, providing the most advanced and successful health care treatments, with more rapid delivery to patients.

Dr. Yoon, with her colleagues in pathology and at the Herbert Irving Cancer Center, the Institute of Cancer Genetics, and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, has shown that the molecular biomarker checkpoint kinase 2 (pChk2) is an oral cancer identifier; a defense mechanism

against DNA damage activated at the onset of carcinogenesis. Their finding that Chk2 marks "lesions at risk" for malignant progression was published in the December 2007 issue of *Cancer Epidemiological Biomarkers and Prevention*, with an image of pChk2 immuno stain on the cover.

For the study's clinical trial, which opened in January 2008, Dr. Yoon's research team obtained FDA approval to test the drug EGCG (Epigallocatechin Gallate), a biologically active flavonoid found in a green tea extract. EGCG has been shown to have an antitumoral effect and is a promising agent for returning cancer-prone cells in the oral cancerized field to their normal phenotype. The EGCG agent will be given daily, in oral suspension, to clinical trial participants. This mouthwash delivery is convenient and economical, and will have minimal systemic side effects.



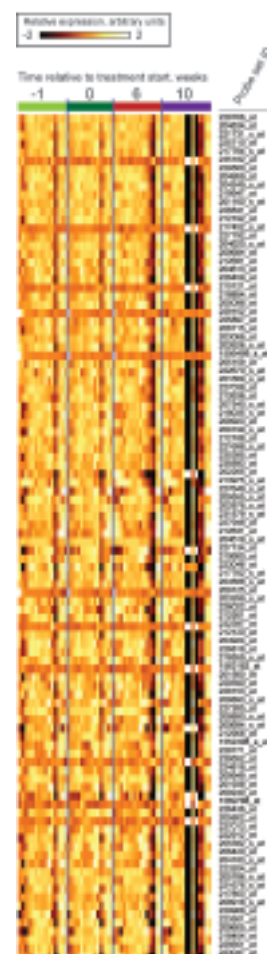
## PERIODONTAL TREATMENT MAY REDUCE ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Panos N. Papapanou, DDS, PhD, director of the Division of Periodontics, who published findings in 2000 on distinguishing between patients with differing forms of periodontal disease solely through the analysis of gene expression in gingival tissues, has turned similar methodology to assessing the relationship between periodontitis and atherosclerosis. With the collaboration of CDM colleagues and others from biostatistics, cardiology, epidemiology, medicine, public health, and neurology at CUMC, as well as an expert in gene expression from the University of British Columbia, Dr. Papapanou's new studies show the effects of periodontal therapy in the global gene expression of vascular endothelial and peripheral blood mononuclear cells, and on their role in atherogenesis.

The team's investigation is intended to increase understanding of how intensive treatment for severe periodontal disease – taking into account any pre-existing susceptibility to atherosclerosis – may generate changes to key cells involved in atheroma formation. In a first study testing the anticipated systemic anti-inflammatory/anti-atherogenic effects of peri-

odontal treatment, the scientists recruited patients with severe periodontitis. Before treatment was begun, two blood samples, taken a week apart from the patients, were tested for serum markers relevant to atherosclerosis and gene expression of blood monocytes. Over the same period, dental plaque samples from the participants were analyzed with checkerboard DNA-DNA hybridization to determine the levels of periodontal pathogens. After a six-week period of local, mechanical, anti-infective treatment, including any extractions or endodontic therapy needed, two more blood samples, taken a month apart, underwent the same analysis. These samples showed that the treatment had altered gene expression of blood monocytes in a way consistent with an anti-atherogenic effect.

The study appears to be the first to examine the relationship between treatment of a localized infection – periodontitis – and global gene expression signatures of peripheral blood cells. The results, published in the October 2007 *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, present a comprehensive view of periodontal therapy's early effects on systemic inflammation.







“We need to prepare dental students to provide care to... patients who present with chronic diseases and social service needs, and develop a program to train future leaders in the field... .Dentists need to recognize and understand these problems and consider the systemic concerns.”

Ira B. Lamster, Dean

# Patient Care



# A Single Tooth: A Whole Patient



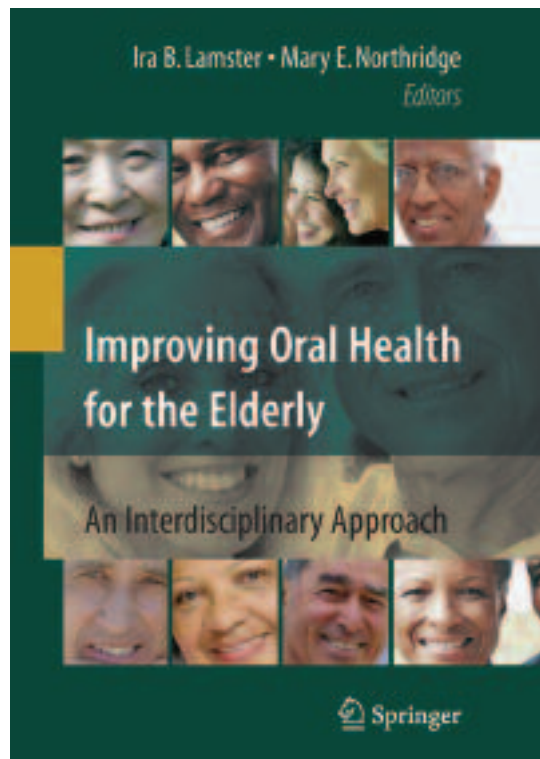
Dentistry began with patient care. For thousands of years, people with aching teeth have sought relief, but, for most of history, practitioners plied their trade with little knowledge and crude working methods. Before the French physician Pierre Fauchard expanded knowledge of oral biology and revolutionized dental practices in the 18th century, basic dental treatment consisted of removing teeth to cure pain, and – occasionally – in the hope of forestalling disease throughout the body. ● Clinical care, emphasizing help for patients who are underserved, often for lack of financial resources, or because they have special social and physical needs, has always been sig-

nificant in Columbia's dental curriculum. Early to recognize that children's dental care should be different than that for adults, the dental school was one of the first to establish a pediatric clinic. Today, the College of Dental Medicine provides general dentistry, oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and other services through its Faculty Practice, Postdoctoral and Specialty Practice, and Predoctoral Clinic. Patients range from preschool children to elderly patients, some who may be housebound or in long-term care. School-based clinics, community health centers, and a mobile dental van provide dental services at on- and off-campus locations throughout Washington Heights, Inwood, and Central Harlem. ● CDM is, in fact, the only major institution providing this range of oral health interventions in Northern Manhattan, filling such needs for more than half of the city's underrepresented, underserved, uninsured, and underinsured. These services make children aware of the importance of maintaining oral health, teaching them how to care for their teeth, and giving them treatment to repair dental problems. The ElderSmile program, established by CDM in 2004, has greatly improved the oral health of seniors, and also enhanced their sense of overall physical well-being.

● In the opening years of the 21st century, the dental college's clinics recorded more than 100 thousand visits yearly, approximately half for Medicaid recipients, some completely uncompensated – a cost of many millions of dollars to the College and University. ● Elder Smile's services also incorporate a crucial training aspect. The current shortage of dentists who are educated and equipped to manage dental issues in this aging population is minor compared with what it may be in 2025, when the over-65 population is expected to nearly double. CDM's faculty, residents, and students are the providers for ElderSmile and the College's other community dental services. Stephen Marshall, DDS, MPH, associate dean for extramural programs, says, "That is our framework for education. Residents and students... rotate into a site and provide... care under the supervision of the attending dentists."







#### DR. LAMSTER AND DR. NORTHRIDGE, PUBLISH SENIOR ORAL HEALTH BOOK

"Experts say they can gauge a person's age to within five years from the examination of a single tooth, if the person has any teeth left to examine. . . By the age of sixty, Americans have lost, on average, a third of their teeth. After eight-five, almost forty per cent have no teeth at all."

Atul Gawande, MD, MPH, *New Yorker* staff writer for science and medicine, and assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, opens his recent essay, "The Way We Age Now," with two full paragraphs on the state of oral health among the elderly. His discussion is closely allied to the subject of a new book, *Improving Oral Health for the Elderly: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, published this winter by Dean of the College of Dental Medicine Ira B. Lamster and Mailman School of Public Health Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences Mary E. Northridge. The authors are part of the team responsible for the 2004 establishment of the ElderSmile program at CDM, which brings dental care to men and women who are homebound or

living in long-term care nursing homes. The authors note that "Gawande's article speaks of how ill-prepared the medical profession is to deal with the burgeoning numbers of seniors in the United States, [but] the situation is even more dire in the dental profession." In earlier collaborations, they have focused attention on the egregious dearth of public health attention and public policy interventions addressing this underappreciated health disparity. The necessity of engaging interdisciplinary ideas and action to meet the oral health care needs of older adults is the book's main theme. To underscore this point, the authors invited social workers, policy analysts, physicians, public health researchers and practitioners, demographers, and dentists from different specialties to contribute chapters to this work. They were delighted to find that coauthors who had not been convinced of the oral/systemic health connection before writing their contributions were persuaded during the course of their own research to change that opinion. Dr. Lamster and Dr. Northridge close the preface to their work, saying: "Our hope is that this volume will be used by public health researchers interested in aging, physicians interested in the connections between oral disease burden and a variety of systemic diseases, dentists interested in effectively treating older patients, policy makers interested in reforming access to – and reimbursement for – prevention and treatment of dental diseases, and those responsible for both large and small health initiatives directed towards improving the quality of life for seniors and their families, friends, and caregivers, that is to say, all of us."



right: Dr. Lynn Tepper, a gerontologist, introduces ElderSmile's oral health services.

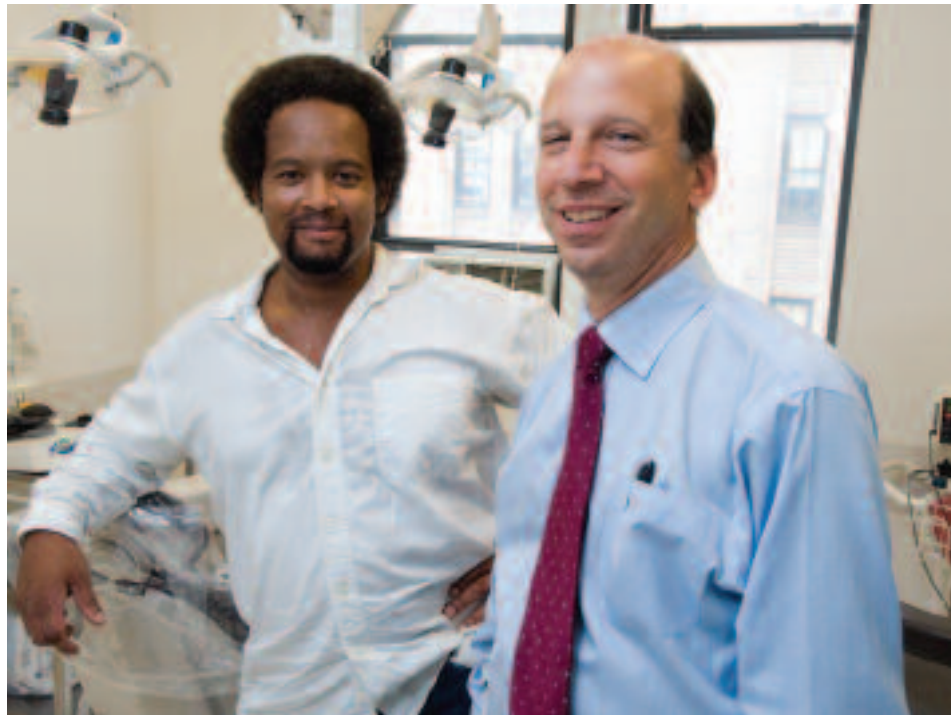
## COLUMBIA TO DIRECT MAJOR GRANT FOR ORAL HEALTH AND DEMENTIA

Kavita Ahluwalia DDS, MPH, assistant professor of clinical dental medicine in Community Health is the lead investigator for one of nine Alzheimer's and Oral Health awards, totaling \$7.9 million. This support comes from the New York State Department of Health in a first-time effort to improve the oral health of long-term care nursing home residents, many of whom are living with dementia. Dr. Ahluwalia will oversee the development and implementation of a training program for staff at the Isabella Nursing Home in northern Manhattan, where CDM already maintains a program of oral health care and restorative dentistry. Assistant Professor of Clinical Dental Medicine Dr. Gregory Bunza, who supervises the CDM dental team at the Isabella clinic, says that the professional care provided to his patients will lose effectiveness without good followup from the nursing staff. The new program will train nurses in practices that address problems arising at the intersection of oral health and dementia. As Dr. Ahluwalia points out, quality of life is greatly diminished by oral discomfort; elderly people with bad teeth and other mouth problems are often irritable, unreasonable, and even aggressive. The role of the care-giver can be pivotal to changing this pattern and Dr. Ahluwalia will seek to advance new nursing tactics and routines that can improve outcomes for such patients.

The state award comes after Isabella's attempts over several years to obtain help for its older patients whose dementia and poor oral health affect one another adversely.

## CDM TO TREAT ABUSED WOMEN WITH BADLY DAMAGED TEETH

When the College of Dental Medicine recently announced a new program providing dental treatment to battered women who had suffered severe damage to their teeth and jaws, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Ronnie Myers said, "If we can be of help to... victims of domestic violence in any way, we will have fulfilled one of our major missions of patient care." Inspiration for the new service came from



Jeremiah Drake, a northern Manhattan resident and artist at the Riverside Theatre in Morningside Heights. Drake, who says his father "brutalized" his mother, became determined to raise consciousness of the physical dangers women often face in their relationships with angry men. In two visual art pieces, "The Slashing of the Icon," and "Restoring the Icon," Drake worked with images of famous African-American women in the arts, who had also been victims of beatings. He knew, however, that creative statements alone could not help such women to recover from the physical destruction they had suffered. Aware of the network of community health programs offered by Columbia's Medical Center, Drake decided to approach the administration at the College of Dental Medicine with his project. He asked if they would be willing to treat abused women in need of dental reconstruction, and sometimes quite extensive maxillofacial surgery, who were unlikely to have the funds necessary for such specialized care. When CDM agreed to accept up to 40 qualified patients a year, each on the recommendation of one of three community organizations – Safe Horizon, the Dove Program at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and the Washington Heights/Inwood Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Drake said that he thought the College was "just as excited" about the venture as he was. The artist's determination to alleviate suffering for battered women has also fostered work with Harlem Hospital to create legal avenues providing medical assistance to needy persons injured in a domestic struggle.

Artist Jeremiah Drake with Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Ronnie Myers



### STUDY FINDS BEST DENTAL HEALTH HABITS AMONG HISPANIC YOUTH

A major report on the oral health of low-income minority adolescents in northern Manhattan was published in the November 2007 issue of the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. The study, by CDM Associate Dean for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Dennis Mitchell, with Mailman School of Public Health Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Luisa Borrell '94, and other colleagues, showed that Hispanic youth report better dental health habits than their non-Hispanic peers.

Questionnaires filled out by more than 3,000 young people ages 12 to 16, who live in Washington Heights/Inwood and Central Harlem, as well as reports on their examinations at a school-based dental clinic, formed the data base for the study. Ninety-four percent of Hispanic children reported daily brushing, as compared to 83 percent for African-Americans, and 85 percent for other participants. Hispanic children were also more likely to floss.

Dr. Borrell emphasized that gathering data on Hispanic subgroups other than Mexican-Americans, for whom there is recent national data, will help to underscore differences among Hispanic populations, and show the need to examine health outcomes in each subgroup. She also said that the study "...needs to be interpreted with caution, as we did not have information on the education and income of the participants' families."

### ONGOING AETNA GRANT IS VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR CDM PATIENT STUDIES

There are very few national data bases on dentistry. The exception is the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and its subsidiary program, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which offer pertinent data about dental practice and patients. Columbia was fortunate to obtain a grant some years ago from the Prudential Insurance Company, which was continued after Aetna Insurance bought Prudential. This ongoing resource gives research scientists from the College of Dental Medicine access to records that may reveal connections between oral and systemic health. Dr. David Albert, director of the Division of Community Health and associate professor of clinical dental medicine at CDM, says that he and his Columbia colleagues have used this reliable historical data for numerous research projects.

Insurance records are especially useful in the investigation of public health issues because of their potential to contain both medical and dental data for the same person, revealing any associations that may exist in the two health areas. In one current study, Columbia researchers have examined three years of Aetna records on adverse birth outcomes among 29 thousand women, living in almost every state in the nation. The data sets are so complete that they show every infection, medical diagnosis, and dental treatment for each patient. CUMC's data coordination center is converting this information into a format suited to analysis. A connection between oral health and birth problems could be valuable to both health professionals and insurance companies, for whom preterm child delivery and low birth rates can be an expensive problem.

The particular records made available to the CDM researchers do not list patients by name, or give any other identifying data.

Dr. Asma Muzaffar, dentist for Columbia's mobile dental van, and Dahuanna Grullon, her dental assistant, treat patients and teach good oral health habits in the Northern Manhattan neighborhoods that Columbia serves.



# Alumni and School News

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# Alumni Notes

**ALEXANDER ALTERMAN '35** celebrated his 99th birthday last March. Dr. Alterman's practice at West 186th Street in New York City is now run by his youngest son, a graduate of Tufts dental school.

**JAY W. FRIEDMAN '48, MPH** is retired, but continues to work as a dental public health advocate. He pioneered the development of systems for evaluating the quality of dental care and is author of *The Intelligent Consumer's Complete Guide for Dental Health*, originally published by Consumer Reports Books.

## **HOWELL ARCHARD '55 SHARES BOOK COLLECTION WITH CDM**

Dr. Howell Archard '55 (below, left, with Dr. David Zegarelli) has made a gift of historic volumes on dentistry and pathology to the College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Archard's gift reflects a long-held fascination with dental history and an appreciation for the dental scholars at Columbia who first sparked his interest in the subject. Dr. Laszlo Schwartz, whose dental history course introduced Dr. Archard to historic studies, knew the German scientist Curt Proskauer and had access to his valuable collection of antiquarian volumes on both medicine and dentistry. They became sources for Dr. Schwartz's course and inspired Dr. Archard to build his own collection of rare, early publications in the field, when he was able to do so later in life.

After earning his DDS, Dr. Archard entered the US Public Health Service in Alaska, where he opened Barrow Point's first hospital dental clinic. Returning to Columbia, he interned with Dr. David Zegarelli and worked in the Division of Stomatology. Following further training in oral pathology at the National Institutes for Health, he became chief of the Section of Diagnostic Pathology in the Laboratory of Oral Medicine, National Institute of Dental Research. Dr. Archard later took a position at the Institute of Dental Research, University of Alabama in Birmingham, and then joined the SUNY Stony Brook faculty, where he taught oral pathology for 18 years.

**RALPH S. KASLICK '57** is a former provost at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) and former professor and dean of the University's College of Dentistry. Dr. Kaslick has been inducted into FDU's Heritage Hall in Teaneck, NJ, where exceptional individuals, who have had a major impact on shaping the campus, are celebrated.

**JOHN M. SCAROLA '60** (below, right) was installed as president of the American College of Dentists on September 27, 2007. The ACD is active in a wide range of mission-related initiatives, including ethics, leadership, and dental history. Dr. Scarola is a clinical professor at CDM. He is a past president of the New York Academy of Dentistry and of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics. Dr. Scarola will receive CDM's Distinguished Alumni Award at Reunion Day on May 9, 2008.



**JOSEPH SCANCARELLO '62, PROSTH '66** has served as volunteer head coach for the West Point Cadet Skeet and Trap Team since 1989. In 2005, West Point dedicated the "Dr. Joe Scancarello Skeet and Trap Lodge" in recognition of his service. Dr. Scancarello was an associate professor at CDM for many years and also taught at Fairleigh Dickinson University. From 1967 until 1985, he attended the New York Mets as their dentist.

**SHIRLEY WALTERS FAULKNER, HYG '72** published her first book, *Voices in the Wind*. Supported by UNESCO with a grant of \$10,000, the book is a history of Anegada, the second largest island in the British Virgin Islands, where her great-grandfather settled in 1776. Returning to the Caribbean after receiving a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Teachers College, Ms. Faulkner taught at several schools and lectured extensively on the "Historical Foundation of Education, Curriculum and Development in Early Childhood Education."

**ALBERT KURPIS '74** has published a book (below, left), *Amazing Smiles Through Cosmetic Dentistry*, his complete guide to redesigning smiles through dentistry. A former volunteer faculty member at CDM, Dr. Kurpis has been granted two US patents for his implant innovations. Dr. Kurpis practices as a full-time cosmetic dentist in Ridgewood, NJ. His daughter, Lauren, is in the class of 2009 at CDM.

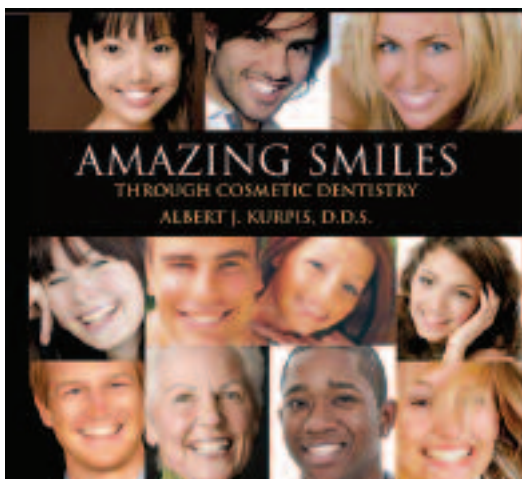
**OLIVIA MASRY '75** volunteers with the Indian Health Services at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in Tohatchie, New Mexico. She previously volunteered at the Navajo Indian PineHill Medical Center in Ramah, New Mexico.

**NANETTE MEGILL '76** is dean of the Canadian National Institute of Health Inc., an innovative health care college providing programs in dental hygiene and dental radiology. She has written numerous teaching manuals, including "Principles of Client Assessment," and "Oral Medicine," and is co-author of a manual on "Pain Management for Dental Hygienists." She lives in Ottawa with her son and daughter, and enjoys painting, traveling, and cross-country skiing.

**SUSAN MEYER YAWGER, HYG '77** has worked in dental hygiene for more than 30 years. She also owns a women's clothing store in Morristown, NJ.

**KAREN LEWKOWITZ '82** and her husband, Dr. Robert Shpuntoff, have two daughters, Hilana, a freshman at Princeton University, and Ariana, an eighth grader. Dr. Lewkowitz and Dr. Shpuntoff, who have an orthodontics practice in Little Neck, NY, are both past presidents of the Queens County Dental Society. Karen is the current chair of the Children's Dental Health Month for Queens County and is also an alumni representative for the CDM Long Island/Queens Alumni Study Club.

below, left to right: Harold Herbst '62, Philip Terman '62, Richard Lichtenthal '62, Robert Tauber '62, Dean Ira Lamster, and Mark Tenner '62, gathered at the Westchester Country Club for Dr. Tauber's induction as President of the New York State Dental Association's Ninth District Dental Association, which comprises a membership from Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange counties.





**FRANK J. PALMACCIO '88**, a past president and current member of the Nassau County Dental Society's board of directors, as well as its Executive Board, has been elected to a two-year term as one of the Society's three governors for the New York State Dental Association, which represents more than 13,000 New York dentists.

**KRISTEN AND CHRIS BONACCI, DDS '92, MD '95** (below, left) were the hosts for a CDM gathering held last summer at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD. Alumni living in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area, were invited to enjoy each other's company as they reminisced about

Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation, Quakertown Study Club, and the Association of Dental Alumni Divisional Excellence in Oral Radiology. She has received a Certificate of Merit from the American Society of Dentistry for Children.

**LOUIS PANNULLO, PERIO '98** is an accomplished classical pianist who has performed in New York City's illustrious Carnegie and Steinway Halls.

**LAURA D. GREENWALD '03** has been a pediatric dentist on a Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona for the past two years as part of her



their years at Columbia, and to hear about CDM's 90th anniversary gala and the opening of a major fund raising campaign for the dental college. CDM Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs Martin Davis '74, Peds '75 (seen above, center; with Ejiro Enateri Esi '03, Sam Mogharei '93, and Ashur Chavoor, Ortho '53) spoke briefly at the well-attended party.

**MARY CRESSEVEUR-REED '95** is the only recipient in the Lehigh Valley of this year's Academy of General Dentistry Fellowship Award, its second highest honor. Dr. Cresseveur-Reed is a member of the American Dental Association, Pennsylvania Dental Association, Lehigh Valley Dental Association,

National Health Service Corps obligation. She lives on the reservation with her husband, Adam, three-year-old son, Noah, and three-month-old daughter, Ayla Eden. Dr. Greenwald is a board-certified diplomate of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

**RAJ LOTWALA '04** (above, right) is completing a two-year term as a dentist in a federal prison in North Carolina as part of his National Health Service Corps obligation. He reports that his Columbia training and GPR at NY Methodist prepared him well for this position.

# Obituaries

M. BARNETT GILMAN '24, who celebrated his 105th birthday in June, 2007, died on February 23 at his home in Florida. Dr. Gilman, an orthodontist, became a lawyer as well, helping many of his patients, especially the elderly, with legal problems. He was a loyal Columbia graduate throughout his long life.

WILFRED ARNOLD '37

JUNE C. CORTESE, HYG '38

GERTRUDE MONKTON, HYG '40

SAUL AXELROAD '41

LESTER ZACKHEIM '42

HARRY SHPUNTOFF '43

ROBERT S. WOLFRAM '43

JOSEPH R. MCELROY '46

BERTRAM J. WEISSMAN '46 was an assistant clinical professor of dental medicine within the Section of Hospital Dentistry, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and served on the faculty with distinction for more than 32 years.

CAROL ANN YOUNG, HYG '46

ROBERT F. WALSH '47

WALTER H. FORDHAM, JR., ORTHO '47

HAROLD D. BAURMASH '48, ORAL SURGERY '53, passed away on June 30, 2007. Dr. Baumash served on the faculty as Clinical Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the School of Dental and Oral Surgery for many years, and as an attending oral surgeon at Presbyterian Hospital and Harlem Hospital. Dr. Baumash, who was a leader in his field, published more than 75 articles on oral surgery research and practice in professional dental journals.

EMIL MELLOW '51, Col (Ret) US Air Force, was one of many returning GIs in his outstanding class, most of them about 27 years old. Dr. Mellow's fellow dental officers respected and admired him as an accomplished officer and a true gentleman.

CARMINE A. CARUCCI '52

BERNARD H. WASSERMAN, PERIO '52 was a beloved member of the CDM faculty, serving as an associate professor in the Division of Periodontics for 55 years.

PANDELIS CAMESAS '53 was an adjunct faculty member at CDM for many years. He had a private dental practice in Astoria, NY, for 41 years.

CHARLES E. RAY, DDS '53

LAWRENCE MARDER '54

WILLIAM H. MCKENNA, ORTHO '54

ARTHUR INGERMAN '55

ROBERT J. KELLEY '55

GEORGE M. SAUNDERS '56

ALVIN D. CEDERBAUM, PERIO '59 served as an adjunct assistant professor in the Division of Periodontics for many years.

HENRY SELIGMAN '60

JAMES V. SURBER, PERIO '70

HELEN D. BURRELL, ORTHO '73

RIKTA AMIN-GOLDSTEIN '82

DANIEL MALAKOV, ORTHO '00

The College is also saddened to share news of the untimely passing of Assistant Clinical Professor JOHN MICHAEL COLELLA. Dr. Colella served with distinction as a member of the volunteer faculty at Helen Hayes Hospital.

*The passing of three emeriti faculty was briefly noted in the summer 2007 Primus Notes newsletter. A more complete description of their tenure at CDM and many accomplishments in their profession follows.*

SIDNEY HOROWITZ, ORTHO '49, the Edwin S. Robinson Professor Emeritus of Dentistry, passed away on December 13, 2006. Dr. Horowitz served as director of the Division of Orofacial Growth and Development at CDM. In addition to achieving important pioneering

research in the field of craniofacial anomalies and their treatment, as well as in orofacial growth and development, he is the author of a textbook and more than 50 scientific articles in his field. In 1979, he was named associate dean for Academic Affairs; in 1985, he was appointed the Edwin Robinson Professor of Dentistry; and in 1988, he became vice dean of CDM. With the exception of a five-year stint as associate director of the Cleft Palate Program at the NYU Medical Center, Dr. Horowitz remained a member of the Columbia family until his retirement in 1991.

AUSTIN KUTSCHER '46 passed away on May 30, 2007. Dr. Kutscher was professor emeritus of Dentistry (in Psychiatry). He was first appointed as a research assistant in 1947 at the dental school and became director, New York State Psychiatric Institute Dental Service, in 1970. He was a leading figure in both oral medicine and thanatology, and his text, *Pharmacotherapeutics of Oral Disease*, was a standard in its time. He established the Foundation of Thanatology in 1967, which supported research and symposia on problems surrounding dying and bereavement.

NICHOLAS DISALVO '45, PHD '52, ORTHO '57 passed away on June 8, 2007. Dr. DiSalvo joined the Columbia faculty in the Department of Physiology in 1947. In 1958, he was promoted to the rank of professor of dentistry and appointed director of the Division of Orthodontics. He served in that position until his retirement in 1987. Active in organized dentistry, Dr. DiSalvo chaired and served on many committees for the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists. He was a member of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists, Eastern Component, and served as its president in 1973 and 1974.

# The Zegarellis: TEACHING DENTISTRY AT COLUMBIA FOR SEVENTY YEARS



David Zegarelli '69, Peter Zegarelli '78, Dean Edward Zegarelli '37

The Zegarelli brothers, David '69 and Peter '78, agree that their father, Edward Zegarelli '37, dean of SDOS from 1973 to 1978, was "universally loved and admired," and always described as "the best teacher I ever had – anywhere." In his dedication to teaching, they say, "he wore out the rug," walking up and down while practicing his lecture. Though faultlessly prepared, he always gave the impression of being an impromptu speaker. In his honor, CDM presents the Edward V. Zegarelli Teaching Award annually to an outstanding faculty member.

Asked to bring the school's antiquated clinical facilities up to par with its phenomenally good educational programs at a time when other dental schools were closing, Dr. Zegarelli said he hoped that he would not be "the last Dean." In fact, he did pull the school out of physical decline through successful fund raising, rebuilding three entire floors of the school. Being a child of the Depression, his sons say, made him "a fighter." Choosing dentistry because a high school essay on careers was assigned the day he had a dental appointment, he first entered Fordham. Finding himself placed in a pharmacy program, he soon left for Columbia. The Dr. Edwin S. Robinson Professor of Dentistry, Dean Zegarelli was a lifelong distinguished scientist in oral medicine, widely published and honored in his field. He died in 2001.

Dr. David Zegarelli knew he would be a dentist by the time he was 10. As an undergraduate at Columbia, he was on crew, played football, and studied zoology and art history. At SDOS, he became enamored of microscopy, eventually making oral pathology his life work. His postgraduate studies were in anatomic pathology at P&S, at SUNY, and at Roswell Park Memorial Institute – an important, in-depth residence. He was impressed by the Institute's "Cigarette Hall of Fame," inscribed with names of celebrities who died of tobacco-related diseases like lung cancer, and by its success in getting signed autopsy permissions from 99 percent of entering patients. Director of Columbia's Oral Pathology Division, Dr. Zegarelli has risen from assistant to full professor during his 35 years at Columbia. He examines and identifies thousands of pathology specimens annually, and has more than 60 publications to his credit.

Dr. Peter Zegarelli also attended Columbia College, the only predental student to declare "from the get-go." Asked if he had decided between Harvard and Yale for graduate school, he chose to follow his father and brother to Columbia, receiving "a great education." Being son of the dean and brother of a faculty member was, "a bit difficult... I was probably graded a little harder." Columbia was also where he met his wife, Carol. While visiting her sister, an SDOS student (Eleanor Olsen '84), Carol broke a tooth. It was Rosh Hashana and Peter, an Italian Catholic, was on duty alone when the sisters came to the medical campus for help. Struck by his patient's beauty, Peter asked her sister for Carol's phone number. They are still happily married.

Following a residency at Booth Memorial, Peter Zegarelli entered general dentistry and has built a "terrific practice, with wonderful patients." An assistant clinical professor at CDM, Dr. Zegarelli also holds two patents: an eyeglass frame supporting a standard face mask – which prevents headaches – and the first disposable mask for patients protecting both eyes and nose, all marketed by Crosstex. Dr. Zegarelli anticipates more patents.



# FATHERS AND SONS:

## Columbia's Perrinos

When Dr. Michael Perrino '76 was growing up in Schenectady, where he still lives and practices, his father – a butcher – had a number of customers who were physicians and dentists. One of the dentists, Dominick DeLuke '44, was a major influence on young Mike, introducing him to the world of science and dentistry – and to a career. All four of Dr. DeLuke's sons attended Columbia's dental school. Although Michael Perrino looked at several other schools, none impressed him as much as Columbia, and he joined the DeLuke family there.

Dr. Perrino has never regretted his choice. He still counts Drs. John Lucca, Edward Cain, Ennio Uccellani, and Dean Edward Zegarelli as being essential to his education. He also served on the student council, which let him get to know the faculty even better, and gave him a chance to visit other schools, gauging their standing in comparison to Columbia – which stood every test.

It is obvious that Dr. Perrino has influenced his sons, Mike '07 and David '11. Both followed him to an undergraduate degree at Union College, but then branched off on a different path for a few years.

Mike, who first majored in psychology, took a research position at the Forsyth Institute in Boston, growing dentin and enamel in zebra fish. Eventually, he succumbed to the lure of Columbia, and after earning his DDS, is now in his first year of postdoctoral training in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program at Columbia University Medical Center. He is extremely enthusiastic about his choice and "loves being in the OR!"

David, the second Perrino son, also a Union graduate with a combined biology/psychology major, followed his brother to the Boston area, where he worked for a pharmaceutical group doing research on Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's chorea. After a few years, David says his father's work "opened my eyes to what dentistry had to offer." He sees himself both as a practitioner and business owner, "like my dad." After deciding to enter dentistry, he considered schools in Boston and the western half of the country, but Columbia was "the place I was excited about." He also says it would be tough to deny he liked the fact that his brother would be at the same school.



Michael Perrino '07, Michael Perrino '76, and David Perrino '11

# Dentistry & Artistry

Lipton '27 / Ferber '30:

Columbia's Abstract Expressionist Sculptors

SEYMOUR LIPTON '27 and HERBERT FERBER '30 both achieved major recognition in the art world during the middle of the 20th century. Graduating only three years apart from Columbia's new school of dentistry, Lipton and Ferber were both drawn to working with their hands, and are best known in the world of art for large sculptural works in metal.

Lipton, influenced by the socialist environment of the 1930s, was deeply concerned with the poor and downtrodden. While supporting himself with his dental practice, he carved pieces in stone and wood that reflected an awareness of the plight suffered by people without economic or social status. World War II intensified Lipton's sense of the destructive nature of humanity and his work became more deeply involved with the challenge evil presents, sometimes incorporating the irrational qualities of Surrealism.

During the mid-1940s, Lipton taught at Cooper Union and the New School for Social Research. In the 1950s, he welded constructions from Monel, a new rust-proof metal. His images were never literal translations of the visible world; they could symbolize intangible ideas or universal concepts, and were often reminiscent of the biomorphic – sometimes lyrical, sometimes demonic. Lipton was represented

in New York's most important art galleries and received a number of major corporate commissions, earning him a leading position in the Abstract Expressionist movement.

Herbert Ferber was known by his middle name as an artist, but added his family name, Silvers, when writing in scientific journals. Dr. Silvers' dental practice not only financed his life as a sculptor and painter, but was important for the artists to whom he provided dental care, either free, or at very low rates. Ferber discovered a talent for the anatomical drawing assigned to him at dental school, and decided to attend art school at night while studying dentistry. In the same period, he also traveled to Europe, where he discovered German Expressionism.

Ferber's early work was symbolic and, like Lipton's, carved in wood and stone. Later, he worked in metal, using a blowtorch, soldering or welding his signature jagged shapes together. Abstract Expressionism also embraced Ferber, and his twisted organic forms were widely exhibited and collected. At one point, he made innovative pieces able to stand without bases, and then moved on to sculptures that were architectural in scale. In the last decades of his life, Ferber devoted much of his time to painting.

below:  
Seymour Lipton (left) and  
Herbert Ferber Silvers (right)



# Francine Liftig HYG '42

## A Lifelong Passion for Painting

FRANCINE LIFTIG HYG '42 has been painting since the age of 14. Daughter of a physician, married to a dentist, and mother of a dentist, Mrs. Liftig's career in dental hygiene complemented her family's career; but painting has remained central to her life. It has become even more important as she has grown older. "It is," she says, "therapy," when most needed.

But, her success in the art world demonstrates that she is a very serious painter. In Florida, where she and her husband lived for 10 years, Mrs. Liftig won many awards and prizes from the Manatee Art League in Bradenton, the Longboat Art Association in Longboat Key, and the Sarasota Art Association. She was a member of the National League of American Pen Women in Washington, DC, and the Sarasota Art Association of Petticoat Painters.

The Liftigs now live in Connecticut, where she has won awards from the West Hartford Art League and the Wintonbury Art League in Bloomfield. She is a member of the Connecticut Watercolor Society and the West Hartford Art League. Her works are in private collections in France and throughout the United States, including the permanent holdings of the University of Hartford Health Center, where she recently exhibited. A review of that show describes her as being "fascinated with interactions of people, expressing her observations more effectively in paint than in words... in her paintings, characters are captured in a moment of intense emotion, or activity, inviting the viewer to ask: "What's going on, and what might happen?"

This poem, written by an admiring friend, was inspired by Francine Liftig's paintings.

FRANCINE LIFTIG:  
SHE PAINTS PEOPLE

She paints people she knows  
She studies photographs to know people  
people she has not met  
fill her home gallery  
people in provocative poses  
asking questions of themselves,  
of you.

She paints people in her thoughts  
on early morning walks  
along Connecticut's small roadways  
along wooded winding paths,  
people who come to life in bold  
color, on broad canvases  
catching your eye as you  
enter her domain.

Paintings of people  
show a composition  
complete, a conjecture,  
a vision inviting you  
to participate, join in  
the conversation.

She paints people  
She paints their souls  
their spirits, their minds.  
She paints her soul,  
her evolution  
over time.

Constance T. Driscoll





## Phil Terman '62: The Guy has Chops

CDM's AEGD director, Dr. Philip Terman, is a successful performer – whether grooving on his clarinet in a jazz club, or repairing an ailing embouchure in his dental office. Dr. Terman insists, however, that his stellar capabilities in music and dentistry are overshadowed on all counts by his wife. “She’s the real story,” he brags.

Born in New York, the son of an obstetrician who was also a professional violinist, Phil Terman first chose a life in jazz. “Later,” he says, “I stumbled into an academic career.” As an undergraduate at the University of Denver, Phil continued to play around the Southwest, including gigs with Stan Kenton. After graduation, he returned to New York, and because his father had hoped he would enter the health professions, chose to study dentistry at Columbia. He loved his time there and feels he owes the school a great deal. As a way of “giving back and sharing his knowledge,” Dr. Terman joined the faculty at CDM, where he remains today.

The choice of maxillofacial prosthodontics as his subspecialty led to work in dental reconstruction for cancer patients at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. It also gave him technical skills that, combined with his experience as a musician, make him especially adept at treating patients whose ability to play wind instruments depends strongly on maintaining a healthy mouth. Those grateful patients have included Duke Ellington, Sonny Rollins, Dizzy Gillespie, and Stéphane Grappelli! He met his wife, Toni, twice – the first time while working as a musician in Las Vegas – and then again through a trumpet player he had treated, who recommended she choose him for her dentist. The second time, Dr. Terman says, they were married “in minutes.” A well-known entertainer, Toni has a website, [CopaGirl.com](http://CopaGirl.com), which recounts her years at the famous Copacabana Club and discusses her books, *Copacabana Sexcapades* and *Laugh Your Fat Off*, both coauthored with her husband.

top: Phil and Toni Terman

bottom: Dr. Terman at  
his other job.



In addition to writing and teaching, Dr. Terman attends to his private practice ten hours a day, and appears with Toni and his jazz quartet at New York’s famous Friars Club, where its members – comedians and other celebrities – make up the appreciative audience.



# NINE DECADES OF ACHIEVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

ON OCTOBER 20, 2007, IN THE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED AND DRAMATICALLY LIGHTED SETTING OF LOW LIBRARY ROTUNDA, FACULTY, ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE CELEBRATED ITS 90TH BIRTHDAY. JAMES WINSTON BENFIELD ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL OPERATIVE DENTISTRY RICHARD LICHTENTHAL '62, (BELOW WITH HIS WIFE, CAROLE) TOOK ON THE ROLE OF MASTER OF CEREMONIES WITH CHARACTERISTIC HUMOR. A DELIGHTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE APPLAUDED EACH INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS FROM A GALAXY OF COLUMBIA'S DENTAL SCHOOL STARS. AMONG THOSE HONORED WERE:

IRWIN MANDEL '45 is a legendary figure in the history of the College of Dental Medicine. His pioneering research on the role of dental plaque in tooth decay and periodontal disease has been vital to advancing the discipline. Also known for his studies of salivary composition as it relates to dental and systemic disease, Dr. Mandel has been affectionately called "the General of the Salvation Army." His honors, both numerous and well-deserved, include the American Dental Association Award for Excellence in Dental Research, and his current role as preventive dentistry consultant to NASA's manned mission to Mars project. Receiving his dental degree from Columbia in 1945, Dr. Mandel, who began as a research assistant in 1946, gave up his private practice in 1968 to devote all his efforts to research and teaching. He founded the Division of Preventive Dentistry at Columbia in 1971 (the first such department in the country), later founded and directed Columbia's Center for Clinical Research in Dentistry, and also served as associate dean for research before becoming emeritus in 1992. Dr. Mandel spoke warmly of the dental school's atmosphere, sup-



portive of student research, and of a group of role models among the faculty who made themselves and their laboratories available. At Columbia's 250th anniversary celebration, Dr. Mandel was honored with a symposium, "Irwin D. Mandel: His Legacy in Oral Health Care." He is also the recipient of CDM's 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. In acknowledging the recognition given him during the gala evening, Dr. Mandel graciously shared the praise with his family, colleagues, and students.

LAWRENCE TABAK '77, (below, left, with Dr. Irwin Mandel) has been working at the forefront of dental research since his days at Columbia as one of Irwin Mandel's research students. In 2000, Dr. Tabak became the seventh director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the



National Institutes of Health, where he heads a team of more than 500 scientists, administrators, and staff, with an annual budget of approximately \$389 million. Under Dr. Tabak's leadership, the Institute is funding research on the prevention of tooth decay, the use of adult stem cells to heal bone fractures and defects, the transfer of

# A Gala

Dean Ira Lamster, Dean Lee Goldman, Clinical Professor Louis Rubins '60, and Gregg Lituchy '84.



Professor Emeritus Ennio Uccellani '48, Marilyn Yablon, and Clinical Professor Murray Schwartz '53, Perio '58.



far right:  
Dale and Professor Emeritus Norman Kahn '58, with Charlotte Mandel



Clinical Professor Charles Solomon '58 with his wife, Brenda.



Associate Professor Laureen Zubiaurre with her husband, Assistant Professor Bruce Bitzer, Prosth '92



Administrative Manager Zoila Noguerole, a Gala honoree, with Carmen Montalvo, director, Clinical Operations.



# Evening



left: Henry Schein President Stan Bergman with Dean Lee Goldman.



below: Marc Leavitt, with Professor Allan Formicola and Harriet Leavitt



far left: Alumni Vice President Margot Jaffe '80, Peds '81, Ortho'85, Associate Dean Martin Davis '74, Peds '75, and Alumni President Lois Jackson '77, Peds'80.

left: Associate Professor David Montaheni with his wife, Esther.



Director of Alumni Relations ad Continuing Education Melissa Welsh (second from left) with her husband, Kevin Daly, Rose McAndrew, and CDM information specialist Doug McAndrew, a Gala honoree.



Eleanor and Herbert Frommer '57, with their son, CUMC Deputy Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, Ross Frommer.

replacement genes into the salivary glands for therapeutic purposes, and the exploration of periodontal disease as a possible risk factor in premature birth and pain management. Dr. Tabak has published extensively on the structure, biosynthesis, and function of salivary mucins, the pathogenesis of salivary gland disease and dysfunction, and the use of saliva as a diagnostic fluid. His current research focuses on sugars that are essential for normal embryonic development, play significant roles in both innate and acquired immunity, and are structurally important in membrane-bound proteins.

SUSAN KARABIN '81, PERIO '85 (right) was recognized as an outstanding member of her profession and specialty, with the drive and determination that inspires other young professionals. As a dental assistant just out of high school, she was considered so promising by her employers that they urged her to obtain a college degree and go to dental school. After graduating from SDOS, she entered the school's postgraduate periodontics program, where she excelled. Her professors, Bob Gottsegen '43, Perio '48, and Paul Tannenbaum '61, Perio '67, saw Susan as the associate and future partner they needed in their practice, as well as someone who could be a long-time faculty member in the Division of Periodontics. She fulfilled all those expectations, and also became active in organized periodontics. Dr. Karabin has been president of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists and the New York Academy of Dentistry. In October 2007, she became the first woman in more than 80 years to be elected president of the American Academy of Periodontology.

CDM Capital Campaign Chair THOMAS CONNOLLY '77, PERIO '80 (bottom, with Michael Stearns, Johnson

& Johnson, and Daniel Zedeker '83, president 1852 Society), spoke of the unparalleled legacy established in the 90 years since Columbia University created a partnership with the school now known as the College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Connolly praised the mutually rewarding affiliation that has provided a full range of medical/dental services to patients at

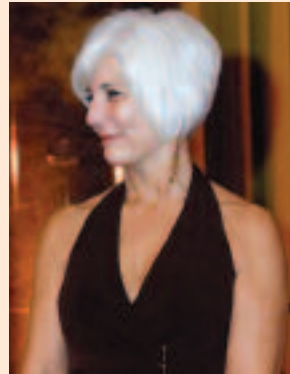
Columbia's Medical Center, while producing generations of the nation's finest researchers and practitioners in oral health care. He spoke of the students in attendance at the gala evening as CDM's true legacy, saluting their achievements, their perseverance, their dedication, and their commitment to oral health care. He reminded the audience that a major goal for the capital campaign launched this fall is raising

funds to support scholarships. CDM graduates, Dr. Connolly noted, carry an average debt load of \$196,000, and many of them also have sizeable student loans remaining from their undergraduate years. He added that even though dental professionals have the expectation of being reasonably well-compensated, a debt load of that size for a recent graduate can be daunting. And, the need to repay such a debt might direct the new professional away from less lucrative, but deeply rewarding areas of research and

academics, where oral health expertise is greatly in demand. He closed by asking Gala guests to share their good fortune in supporting the future of CDM.

ROBERT P. RENNER, '61 PROSTH '71, who was away on a mission and unable to attend the gala, was singled out for his work in establish-

ing dental clinics for Native Americans in the Southwest and for children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. He was honored in absentia. "Dr. Bob," a hero to the children he treats, is also an inspiration to countless Columbia dental students and graduates who have followed his example.



# Faculty News



**JENNIFER BASSIUR, DDS**, assistant professor of clinical dental medicine in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and director of CDM's Center for Oral, Facial, and Head Pain, appeared on CBS 2 News discussing the symptoms and treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder.

**JED M. BEST, DDS, MS**, associate clinical professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, has been installed as the 2007-2008 President-Elect of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

**MO CHEN DDS, MS, PHD**, who earned his degrees at Jilin University in China and at the University of Rochester, has joined the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory at CDM as postdoctoral research scientist.

**COURTNEY H. CHINN, DDS, MPH, PEDS '03** has joined the Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Health, as an assistant professor. He has also been appointed to the Columbia University Head Start Health Advisory Board, with which he worked closely during his recent Head Start Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry. With Social and Behavioral Sciences Section Chair Burton L. Edelstein DDS, MPH, and in collaboration with the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Chinn trained pediatric dentists at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in disease management, health behavior modification, health education, environmental health, and pediatric oral health policy.

**BURTON L. EDELSTEIN, DDS, MPH**, professor and chair of the Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is one of three authors for: *SCHIP Dental Performance over the First 10 Years: Findings from the Literature and a New ADA Survey*, published in 2007 by the American Dental Association.

**JAMES B. FINE, DMD**, assistant dean for Postdoctoral Programs, and associate professor of clinical dental medicine in the Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences, Professor **JOHN T. GRBIC MS, DMD, MMSC**, director, Division of Oral Biology, and Professor **PANOS N. PAPAPANOU, DDS**, director, Division of Periodontics, and chair, Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences, have been inducted as Fellows in the American College of Dentists.

Two recent graduates of CDM's pediatric residency program have won honors for their scores in the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Qualifying Examination. **MARY BETH GIACONA '04, PEDS '06**, assistant clinical professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, received the John R. Roche award for earning the highest score in 2005-2006, and **MARTIN CORMAC MACDERMOTT '05, PEDS '07** earned the Richard C. Pugh Achievement Award for his position in the top three percent of those taking the examination in 2006-2007.

**MARGOT H. JAFFE '80, PEDS '81, ORTHO '85**, assistant clinical professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, was chosen to participate in the highly competitive Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Leadership Institute. As part of the three-year program, Dr. Jaffe will undergo training at the renowned Kellogg School of Management.

**PHILIP KANG, DDS**, who holds a certificate in AEGD from Harvard and a certificate in Periodontics from the University of Pennsylvania, has joined the Division of Periodontics as assistant clinical professor.





### CDM'S GEORGE JENKINS and the TRIPLE THREAT SUCCESS

George Jenkins, DMD, is an assistant professor of clinical dental medicine in the Division of Operative Dentistry at CDM. He is also co-author of a best seller, director of an educational/medical foundation ([threedoctorsfoundation.org](http://threedoctorsfoundation.org)), and has his own dental practice in Harlem. Dr. Jenkins shares his success with two friends, Rameck Hunt and Thompson Davis, also doctors. The three young men grew up together in the inner city of Newark, NJ, where they made a pledge to each other – to overcome any obstacles put in the way of attending college and becoming doctors. They have achieved that goal with amazing success.

Dr. Hunt, an internist at the Princeton University Medical Center; Dr. Davis, an ER physician at Newark's St. Michael's Medical Center and two other hospitals, and Dr. Jenkins have just published their third successful book. In it, they write about memories of their fatherless childhoods, but include interviews with their fathers, conducted by other writers. Dr. Jenkins is planning a reunion with his father as soon as his work allows.

The Three Doctors Foundation is another project close to the hearts of these three energetic and accomplished young doctors. Their foundation is dedicated to improving quality of life among inner city youth and their families, with a year-round program of activities in education, sports, mentoring, and health awareness.

GAIL JOINER, DDS, PEDS '04 is a full-time assistant clinical professor of dental medicine in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, providing patient care and resident teaching at Community DentCare sites and the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy.

In January 2008, SHANTANU LAL, BDS, director of the Predoctoral Pediatric Dentistry Program at CDM, became an associate professor of clinical dental medicine in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry.

EVANTHIA LALLA, DDS, MS, associate professor of clinical dental medicine in the Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences, organized CDM's presence at the September 2007 NYC American Diabetes Association EXPO in the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Dr. Lalla was helped by Paul Belusko '08, seven postdoctoral students, and four dental students from the CDM class of 2009. The group talked with hundreds of people who stopped at the CDM booth about the "oral link" to diabetes. CDM was the first oral health group to participate in the event.

JEREMY MAO, DDS, PHD, professor in the Section of Growth and Development, has received a grant of approximately \$2.5 million from the National Institutes of Health to support the development of soft tissue grafts, engineered from a patient's own adult stem cells, for surgical reconstruction of disfigurements stemming from malignancies and injuries. Dr. Mao is also the editor of a new book, *Translational Approaches in Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine*.

For two months, beginning in mid-August 2007, Associate Dean for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs DENNIS MITCHELL, DDS, MPH was the oral health spokesperson on the popular, nationally syndicated "Steve Harvey Morning Show." Dr. Mitchell was heard live in five-to-ten minute segments, discussing oral health topics and answering the "Question of the Day." Colgate-Palmolive, sponsor of the weekly segments, recommended Dr. Mitchell for this role. Dr. Mitchell was also recognized by the American Academy of Periodontology at its annual

meeting in 2007, where he received the Academy's Clinical Research Award for "Treatment of Periodontal Disease and the Risk of Preterm Birth," written with CDM colleagues, and published in 2006 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**EDUARDO MOIOLI, PHD**, postdoctoral research scientist in the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory, lectured on tissue regeneration and stem cells at CompMed 2007.

Professor **PANOS N. PAPAPANOU, DDS, PHD**, director, Division of Periodontics and chair, Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences, received the Educator Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics and the Clinical Research Award, both from the American Academy of Periodontology.

**MARGHERITA SANTORO, ORTHO '98, DDS '00**, associate professor of clinical dental medicine in the Division of Orthodontics, recently became an Affiliate Member of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists.

**STEPHEN ST. JAMES, DDS**, formerly a member of the faculty at the University of the Pacific, has joined the Division of Periodontics as assistant clinical professor of dental medicine.

**SONIA VARLAMOS '00, MDS**, has joined the Division of Periodontics as assistant clinical professor of dental medicine.

#### CDM PERIODONTIST EARNs AAP TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

**DANA WOLF, DMD, MS**, assistant professor of clinical dental medicine in the Division of Periodontics, and director of Predoctoral Periodontics at CDM, is the recipient of an American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Teaching Fellowship. The award, created in 2006, supports outstanding periodontal educators in the first three years of their careers, who are nominated by the chair of periodontics at their institution.

Dr. Wolf earned her DMD at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and her MS in periodontics from CDM in 2005. The AAP Fellowship is only the latest of honors acknowledging her work. At Harvard, Dr. Wolf was the recipient of an award for excellence in predoctoral periodontics from the Northeast Society of Periodontics; in 2005 the AAP Foundation selected her for the Abram and Sylvia Chasens Teaching and Research Fellowship; and, in her third year of residency at Columbia, she became the Melvin L. Moss Periodontal Research Fellow. She has published peer-reviewed articles in the *Journal of Periodontology*, co-authored a book chapter (in press) on the relationship between periodontal disease and systemic disease in the elderly, and participated in research projects funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

**RUJING YANG, MD**, a scientist with expertise in stem cell biology, has joined the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory as postdoctoral research scientist.

**THE POSTDOCTORAL PERIODONTICS PROGRAM AT CDM** celebrated its 60th anniversary on May 2, 2008. Dr. Jan Lindhe, former Dean of the Universities of Göteborg and Pennsylvania and one of the leading clinical researchers in periodontology today, will be keynote speaker for the occasion.

John Zimmerman, DDS, assistant dean for Information Resources, trades cyberspace for airspace to climb the Trapps, a cliff in "the Gunks" (the Shawangunk Ridge), at the Mohonk Preserve in New York State.



(top) Dr. Letty Moss-Salentijn, Senior Associate Dean, received the Dr. Melvin L. Moss Senior Faculty Recognition Award, which was presented to her by Associate Dean for Student & Alumni Affairs Martin Davis.

(center) Dr. Candice Zemnick, Prosth '05, assistant professor of Clinical Dental Medicine and Director of Predoctoral Prosthodontics, received the Dr. Stanislaw H. Brzustowicz Junior Faculty Award from fellow faculty member Dr. Mark Tenner '62.

Three new part-time volunteer faculty: **HOWARD ANSTENDIG, DMD, MS**, assistant clinical professor; **RONNIETTE GARCIA, DDS**, assistant clinical professor; and **MONICA TEREDESAI, DMD**, instructor, have joined the Division of Orthodontics.

More than 200 CDM alumni, faculty, and students attended a November 27, 2007, reception at the Marriott Marquis, held in conjunction with the **GREATER NEW YORK DENTAL MEETING**. They were welcomed by Dean Ira Lamster, Alumni President Dr. Lois Jackson, and Campaign Chairman Dr. Thomas Connolly.

Two CDM faculty members, Drs. Letty Moss-Salentijn and Candice Zemnick, were honored during the reception for their outstanding commitment to teaching.

## ENDODONTICS CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

At the 40th anniversary celebration of the Division of Endodontics in March 2007, faculty members (left to right) Jack Levi, Endo '74, Fredric Goodman, Charles Solomon '58, and Robert Ambinder, who have all taught in the Division for more than 30 years, were honored by Division Director Gunnar Hasslegren (center). The all-day event began with the annual Naidorf Lecture, presented by Dr. Kamran Savavi of the University of Connecticut. Following a Faculty Club luncheon, the afternoon program consisted of alumni, faculty, and postdoctoral students speaking on the future of endodontics. The day concluded with a reception, where a special tribute honored the memory of Joseph Leavitt, founder and first director of the Endodontics Division. Mrs. Harriett Leavitt and her son, attorney Marc Leavitt, were special guests; Marc described his father's love of the profession and his dedication as an educator and practitioner. Dr. Syngcuk Kim, current Director of Endodontics at the University of Pennsylvania and former director of the Division of Endodontics at Columbia, also spoke to the gathering.





# Events Calendar & CE Courses

Wednesday, April 23	CE course: "Are you Ready to Sell Your Practice?" 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center.
Friday, April 25	CE course: Aging and Oral Health: Baby Boomers and Their Parents. 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Columbia University Club.
Saturday, April 26	Alumni Luncheon at the Nation's Capital Dental Meeting. 12:00-1:45 p.m. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC.
Friday, May 2	Tenenbaum Lecture in Periodontics featuring Dr. Jan Lindhe and 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Periodontal Postdoctoral Program. Columbia University Medical Center.
Friday, May 9	Class Reunion Day honoring graduates of classes ending in 3's and 8's. 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center.
Tuesday, May 13	7th Annual Henry Chang Jr. '74 Memorial Golf Outing. Hollow Brook Golf Club, Cortlandt Manor, NY.
Wednesday, May 21	Columbia University Commencement. 10:30 a.m. Morningside Campus.
Thursday, May 22	CDM Graduation Ceremony. 11:00 a.m. Columbia University Medical Center
Wednesday, June 4	Alumni Reception at New Jersey Dental Association Annual Convention. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Trump Taj Mahal Casino, Atlantic City, NJ.
Wednesday, June 11	CE course: Precision Implantology: Using Advanced Radiographic and Computer Technology. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CUNY Graduate Center.
Friday, June 13	Postdoctoral Graduation Ceremony. 10:00 a.m. Columbia University Medical Center.

For further information regarding these events and courses, please contact Melissa Welsh at 212-305-6881 or [mmw7@columbia.edu](mailto:mmw7@columbia.edu).

# Student News

## ASDA SECOND DISTRICT HOLDS 2nd ANNUAL MEETING AT CDM

On November 17, 2007, CDM's chapter of ASDA was host to the 2nd District's annual meeting. Delegates from dental schools in New York and New Jersey attended the event, which was held in the Winter Garden Conference Room of the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital on the Columbia University Medical Center campus.

Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs Martin J. Davis '74, Peds '75 opened the program, stressing the need for student involvement in national organizations like ASDA in order to meet two major challenges facing dentistry today: access to care and the shortage of dental educators. Dr. Maitreya Padukone, President of the New York County Dental Society, speaking from her personal experience as a former immigrant dentist from India, praised the value of organized dentistry. Jason Hansen, Legislative Liaison for State Government Affairs at the ADA, gave an update on dental issues currently in legislation.

At a reception after the meeting, given by Dean Ira Lamster in the Winter Garden lobby, delegates honored Marvin Baptiste '08 and Wayne Stephens '09, the first students from the same school to become presidents of the nation's two oldest dental student organizations in the same year. Marvin was elected to head the Student National Dental Association

(SNDA) and Wayne, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), for 2007-2008. Other CDM students elected as officers for these organizations during 2007-2008 are: Philip Josephs '08, who is serving as the Representative to SNDA's Corporate Round Table; Armando Retana '10, who was elected SNDA's Northeast Regional Representative; Amanda Hochstein '10, who is the National Member-at-Large to the ASDA board; and CDM Student Government President Neeru Singh '08, who has been named Delegate of the Year for ASDA's 2nd District.

During the ASDA event, for the second consecutive year, CDM's ASDA chapter received the P&G national "Crest Healthy Smiles" Community Service Award of \$600 and a plaque. Their winning community outreach project provides oral health education to elementary school children in Harlem and Washington Heights.

MARVIN BAPTISTE '08, who leads the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) this year, sees an increased responsibility for his membership as future health care providers who will be invested in the elimination of existing oral health disparities. SNDA was established in the early 1970's as a support system and network for those who have traditionally been underrepresented in dentistry. While in office, Marvin's goal is to strengthen the pipeline of minority students interested in dentistry, and to

(left to right) Armando Retana '10, Joe Akkara '09, Amanda Hochstein '10, Brooke Loftis (ASDA President 2006-2007), Payam Afzali '09 (project coordinator), Wayne Stephens '09 and Marvin Baptiste '08, with the 2007 Crest Healthy Smiles award, presented to CDM at the ASDA annual meeting.



produce competent and compassionate health care providers who remain abreast of social dynamics and possess the tools necessary to effect change.

**WAYNE STEPHENS '09** is 2007-2008 president of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), the nation's largest unified voice of dental students from all 57 US dental schools. The first student from the College of Dental Medicine and the first African-American to become official spokesperson for ASDA's 17,000 member organization, he hopes for a future in which dental students become leaders in addressing major issues such as providing increased access to dental care. Looking toward a career in health care systems management, he will begin earning an MBA degree next year through the CDM joint degree program at Columbia's Graduate School of Business.

#### CDM STUDENT KORI DARLING '09: "AMAZING IN HER RESILIENCY"\*

Longtime member of the extraordinarily athletic MOMIX dance group; mother of two very small, and probably very active, children; full-time, awfully busy dental student, the woman has an unusual life and a name to match. Kori Darling admits to being "a pretty intense person," and the description fits.

Now in her third year at CDM, Kori has made a rather amazing transition from performing for an audience of hundreds to concentrating on giving her all to just one patient – a comparison that doesn't even take her complicated family life into account. The soon-to-be Dr. Darling is helped in achieving her multifaceted goals by a husband who matches her in A-for-achievement. Dr. Adam Klotz holds an MD from Mt. Sinai, but he and Kori did not meet in a medical setting, as might be imagined. It was, instead, as dancing partners in a 1991 production of "Alice in Wonderland." Dr. Klotz, who began dancing as an undergraduate at Princeton, continues to appear regularly with the ballet corps of New York's Metropolitan Opera.

During the day, while Kori is in class at Columbia, Adam is a stay-at-home dad for their two little

boys, Eli, and his very new brother, Isaiah. At night, Kori comes home to child care and study, while Adam is at work in the ER at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, or performing. When scheduling or study problems come up, Kori says the grandparents are very generous with their help.

Kori doesn't dwell much on her former career, although she was a dedicated dancer: there is far too much going on in her current life. But she loved the life when she led it, traveling far and wide around the world dancing, and receiving admiring reviews from prominent dance critics. Asked if she could compare the discipline of dancing with that of dentistry, Kori found parallels in spatial awareness and personal dedication. Overall, she described dental practice as a greater obligation, saying that dentists have "responsibility for a person's health," whereas, on stage, "I could usually cover up a slip."

\* Anna Kisselgoff, *New York Times*,  
October 5, 2002

CDM Student Kori Darling in a  
MOMIX dance performance in 2002





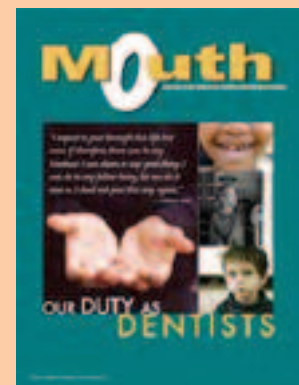
Susan Ferrante from Colgate-Palmolive presents Philip Josephs with the Jong Award at the APHA conference in November 2007.

The American Public Health Association (APHA) has awarded **PHILIP JOSEPHS '08** the highly competitive Anthony Westwater Jong Memorial Community Dental Health Preprofessional Award, cosponsored by Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, for his work improving minority student recruitment and retention. Philip, a leader of student organizations at both the local and the national level, has been recognized with the Mailman School of Public Health Dannheiser Scholarship, as well as numerous national academic awards. During this past academic year, Philip was president of the Student National Dental Association. An elected member of the American Student Dental Education Association, Philip is founder and director of Columbia University's Symposium in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, an effort to recruit undergraduate minority students into the dental profession.

A second award was presented at the APHA meeting to CDM Community Health Section Administrator Piyumika Kularatne, a doctoral candidate in Health Education at Teacher's College, for research entitled, "Development of a Tailored Health Communication Resource for Low Literacy, Precontemplation Stage Smokers, Using Mixed Research Methods."

#### SPECIAL OLYMPICS GRANT TO ORAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM

**EMILY DREISMAN '09** and **NEERAJ PANCHAL '10** have received a Healthy Athletes Health Professions Student Grant from the Special Olympics to develop a pilot program for "nonverbal oral hygiene promotion of individuals with neurodevelopmental disorder/intellectual disability," an oral hygiene intervention for special athletes.



*Mouth*, the quarterly journal of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), recently published "Substance Abuse in Dental School," an article by **BEN LIU '09**. *Mouth* is dedicated to keeping dental students informed on current topics of interest to its readers. Liu's piece directly addresses life in dental school, emphasizing the stress that may lead to substance abuse by students, especially when the demands of their academic assignments and clinical training overlap. He also points out that "nearly all dental schools" offer counseling, as well as other forms of treatment to help students overcome any difficulties they are facing in their academic life.

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# CDM Development Report 2006-2007

# Winslow & Seldin Endow Tuition Aid

Leslie W. Seldin '66, associate clinical professor of dental medicine, and his wife, Constance P. Winslow, assistant clinical professor in Orthodontics, have made a significant gift to the College of Dental Medicine. At their request, the \$50,000 endowment they have established will be used to aid students at the dental college who need tuition help. Dr. Seldin notes that CDM's costs are lower than those of other leading private dental schools for applicants who are promising students but do not have the means to pay full tuition, adding that the school must have support to continue this liberal policy.

Saying, that "education is the base for the future of our profession," Dr. Seldin underlines the dire need for dental scholarships. He points out that most

dental school graduates take away not only a doctoral degree in dentistry, but an enormous debt, close to \$200,000. Both Dr. Seldin and Dr. Winslow, who are members of CDM's volunteer faculty, say that "connecting with the next generation" is one of their most satisfying experiences. They stress that they are truly "giving from the heart" when they make a gift to help the students they teach.

Many of dentistry's professional associations, in which Dr. Seldin has played a leading role, are dedicated to raising recognition of the need for dental education. He and his wife hope that they will help to spread that awareness in the dental community through the example of their own contribution.

The son of a dentist, Leslie Seldin knew his father enjoyed his profession, and "ergo, I became a dentist." After graduating from Columbia's dental school in 1966, he joined his father in a private practice, which he maintained until retiring from active patient care two years ago. Dr. Seldin has remained involved in the profession through his commitment to many of its worthy institutions. He and Dr. Winslow have shared their expertise and interest in the field of dentistry with the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, Maryland, a Smithsonian affiliate, where Dr. Seldin is presently the Chair Elect. He has recently served as General Chairman of the Greater New York Dental Meeting and is now the chair of the Dean's Advisory Council at CDM.



## CDM STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduates of private dental institutions in the United States face a staggeringly high debt level, averaging \$196,600. CDM was able to keep the 2006 mean debt burden at \$184,040, well below the national average, but with rising costs, it has now increased to around \$193,670.

High student debt represents a significant threat: to the financial health of students and their families; to diversity among dental students and dentists; and to students who clearly prefer to study at Columbia, but may have to choose schools offering large financial aid packages, in cities with a lower cost-of-living.

Additionally, they may choose specialties based on profit potential, rather than education or research. Such choices may increase health disparities and reduce access to treatment for already underserved populations. Minority dental students, and those from modest financial backgrounds who receive tuition aid, are more likely to enter primary care fields, to serve in underserved communities, and to research diseases that disproportionately affect minorities.

There is no better place to support student scholarships than the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine.







# 1852 Society

## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

CDM is fortunate to have supporters whose interests span the range of oral health specialties. Their generosity has enabled each of our academic programs and clinical practices to thrive. These far-sighted individuals are more than dedicated stewards of an illustrious tradition of research, care, and education: they are helping us realize a vision of oral health care for the 21st century.

## 1852 SOCIETY

The 1852 Society recognizes the College's most generous benefactors. Named to commemorate the earliest date connected with the history of the College, the 1852 Society comprises CDM alumni and friends who have made significant gifts to CDM during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007). We also proudly recognize our young alumni who have made extraordinary gifts in the same time period.

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# Gala Groups in the Spotlight

As part of the 90th Anniversary celebration, A college-wide event was held on October 3, 2007, for all CDM students, faculty, and staff. The College of Dental Medicine honored both full-time staff and part-time and volunteer faculty who have been at the school for 25 years or more. The brightly decorated space in the Winter Garden of the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital on the Columbia University Medical Center campus made for a festive occasion at which the honorees received well-deserved praise, sincere thanks, and individual gift bags.

## FACULTY HONOREES

top right, left to right: Joseph DeLisi '81, Operative Dentistry; Robert Isaacson '58, Ortho '62, Orthodontics; Robert Tauber '62, Operative Dentistry; Bernard Riklin, Operative Dentistry; Dean Ira Lamster; Daniel Epstein '56, Operative Dentistry, Dante Torrese '75, Operative Dentistry; Louis Rubins '60, Prosthodontics; Monroe Gliedman '52, Ortho '54, Orthodontics; Louis Mandel '46, Oral Surgery; Rekha Gehani, Ortho '80, Orthodontics; Murray Schwartz '53, Perio '58, Periodontics; Michael Marouni '80, Ortho '78, Orthodontics; and Martin Davis '74, Peds '75 (presenter).

## STAFF HONOREES

bottom right; front row, left to right: Wolodymyr Procyk, Sterlization; Elsa Hernandez, VC9, Juanita Young, VC9; Beverly Cummings, Community Health; Marlene Sanchez, VC9; Francina Wearing, Clinic Business Office. back row: Lillian Collazo, Admissions; Mildred Jenkins, VC8; Dean Lamster, Julianne Brown, Clinic Business Office; Miriam Herrera-Abreu, Periodontics Research.

Also honored, but unable to attend, were: Serain Cintron, Instrument Maker; Ethel Thompson, VC9.





Full-time faculty and officers of administration who have been at the College of Dental Medicine for more than 25 years were honored during the 90th Anniversary Gala. From left to right: Douglas M. McAndrew, manager, Biomedical Communications; Richard M. Lichtenthal '62, chairman, Section of Adult Dentistry; Ronnie Myers '79, Peds '80, associate dean for Clinical Affairs; Professor Allan J. Formicola, DDS; Martin J. Davis '74, Peds '75, associate dean for Student and Alumni Affairs; Letty Moss-Salentijn, DDS, PhD, senior associate dean for Academic Affairs; David J. Zegarelli '69, professor of dental medicine (stomatology and pathology); Zoila Nogueroles, administrative manager; Stella Efstradiatis '89, professor of clinical dental medicine, Orthodontics; Thomas Cangialosi, DDS, Ortho '75, chairman, section of Orthodontics; Dory Calev '76, Endo '80, associate professor of clinical dental medicine, Endodontics.



Members of the class of '87 turned out in force for the 90th Gala celebration in October. Left to right: Drs. Rajeev Gupta, Joyce Johnson, Eileen Morrissey, John Toumanios, David Weedon, Lesley Roth, Vicky Evangelidis-Sakellson, Basil Pallis, Alejandra Costantino, James Ward, and Gabriela Lee.



CDM students who attended the 90th Anniversary Gala, seen with faculty mentor Assistant Clinical Professor of Dental Medicine Michelle Mirsky '77. Front row, left to right: Wenyan Zhu '09, Ajay Ganti '09, Mina Kim '10, Armando Retana '10, Dr. Mirsky, Neeru Singh '08, Adam Vaghari '08. Back row, left to right: Shuba Rani Soni '09, Marvin Baptiste '08, Wayne Stephens '09, Philip Josephs '08, Neeraj Panchal '09.



# PRIMUS notable

**Q.** You have been in the NY State Assembly for more than a decade, and were a dental surgeon for 35 years. Are you better known as Assemblyman or Doctor Miller?

**A.** When I was first elected, I was called “Doctor,” which actually made it easier to establish relationships in Albany. Now everyone is addressed as Assemblyman – to maintain equality. In college, my nickname was “the Bugle,” which I got for shooting off my mouth, but even if they knew it, my colleagues in government would be too polite to use it.

**Q.** What made dentistry your first career choice?

**A.** I was a strong student in all aspects of science. Choosing was hard, so I said, “If I pass French, I’ll be a dentist; if not, I’ll be an electrical engineer.” I was accepted in both medical and dental schools, but knew that as a physician I’d spend every night in the hospital, while dentistry offered a meaningful health career without loss of life style.

**Q.** Did you maintain your practice after being elected to the Assembly?

**A.** Yes, for a while. But in 2002, a drunken driver hit me head on. Although I made an almost complete recovery, I knew that any incident raising questions about my disability might be unfavorable to my remaining in dentistry.

**Q.** Why did politics become part of your life – did you lose interest in dentistry?

**A.** Not at all. I loved my 35 years of dental practice, which I shared with a Columbia classmate. I entered politics because I was concerned about a downturn in the economics of Dutchess County, where I live. Though I’m a Republican, I had supported a very good Democratic assemblywoman, but when Governor Cuomo’s fortunes began to fall, I saw an opportunity to run for her seat. I did, and I won.

**Q.** What do you consider most important in your legislative work?

**A.** I’m the ranking member on the committee for higher education, overseeing scope of practice for all New York State professionals, including those in health. I support professional advancement through education, not politics, and serve on the committee on election law. I also work for Planned Parenthood, gay marriage, expanding the middle class economy, and solving the health care crisis. I’m always in trouble for voting all over the map – but I wasn’t elected to be a “rubber stamp.”

## JOEL MILLER ‘67





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- ISO: 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140
- Non-Standardized (Accessory sizes): XF, FF, MF, F, FM, M, ML, L, XL
- Special Taper Points: 04, 06

## گوتا فقط متا

- ✓ انعطاف پذیری بسیار بالا در حین کار
- ✓ بی رقیب در قیمت و کیفیت
- ✓ رادیو اپستی عالی
- ✓ مناسب جهت پر کردن کانال به روش تراکم جانبی و عمودی
- ✓ با بهترین بسته بندی ضد ریزش برای کاربری آسان
- ✓ پرفروش ترین در جهان



## کن کاغذی

موجود در انواع سایزها با قدرت جذب بالا، استریل و فاقد لایت  
در بسته بندی ۲۰۰ عددی کشویی ضد ریزش