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# UBC DENTISTRY



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*To Advance Oral Health through Outstanding Education, Research, and Community Service*

## Dean's Message

*Dear Colleagues,  
I am pleased to provide you a copy of the inaugural issue of Impressions from the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Dentistry.*

You have no doubt already noticed a major change in the appearance of this publication. This new look and feel is consistent with our approach to oral health care in the 21st century—and is consistent with the forward thinking of all the members of our Faculty. We have replaced the previous Good Impressions newsletter with what we believe is a more informative publication about the accomplishments of the Faculty of Dentistry.

In each issue of Impressions, we will focus on activities that directly address our three strategic priorities: Enhancing the Student Experience, Amplifying Research Productivity, and Increasing Community Involvement. The feature articles will highlight the UBC Faculty of Dentistry's recognized leadership and key role in shaping the future of the profession.

The article describing Dr. Karen Gardner's development of an international peer review program will show how dental students from around the world share their educational experience. In so doing, they begin to develop the skills in self and peer critique that are so essential to becoming an outstanding oral health care professional.

The article on Dr. Chris Overall's basic research demonstrates the role that new discoveries will have in changing the nature of oral health care in the future—in particular, how the processes of tissue inflammation and destruction can be better understood and eventually controlled. For his outstanding research achievement, Dr. Overall has been awarded a Tier I Canada Research Chair, one of two awarded to the Faculty of Dentistry and one of the highest distinctions a scientist can receive.

The article about Dr. David Sweet's extremely important community service activities in the BOLD lab demonstrates how his unique forensic odontology expertise is crucial throughout the world. Dr. Sweet's international accomplishments were recently recognized when he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada—a first for a member of our Faculty.

Drs. Gardner, Overall and Sweet are just three of the outstanding faculty members who are contributing to the eminence of the Faculty of Dentistry. Each issue of Impressions will bring you more stories of the contributions our faculty are making to the achievement of our strategic priorities.

I hope you enjoy our new publication. It has been exciting to develop a new medium that communicates the outstanding achievements that occur in our Faculty. We welcome any feedback you might have about this publication and any interest you may have to participate in the activities you read about.

All the best,



Charles Shuler, DMD, PhD  
Dean and Professor, Faculty of Dentistry



# NEWS

## New Specialty Graduate Program in Endodontics

Approved in May 2008 by the UBC Faculty Senate, the new UBC Dentistry three-year specialty graduate program in endodontics enrolled three residents this September. The residents all have international backgrounds, with solid experience in teaching, research and clinical activities.

“Advanced endodontic training requires dedicated specialist teachers and specialized equipment, instruments and materials,” remarks Dr. Markus Haapasalo, professor of Endodontics. Previously, BC and Western Canadian dentists had to go to either Toronto or the United States for safe and effective higher-level training in endodontics.

Along with Haapasalo, Dr. Jeff Coil, assistant professor of Endodontics, and Dr. Ya Shen, clinical assistant professor, have developed an ambitious program that is attracting worldwide attention from dentists. *“Our program is designed to be a ‘Made in BC’ education involving clinical endodontics and research on the highest international level, together with service to community,”* says Haapasalo. He points out the cutting-edge endodontic research taking place at UBC Dentistry: endodontic disinfection, new and effective irrigation solutions (one with a patent pending), biofilm models and, also attracting

industry interest, the characteristics and performance of new nickel–titanium rotary instruments.

Haapasalo is excited to have the support of the British Columbia Society of Endodontists. He hopes UBC Dentistry’s new graduate program will not only train advanced endodontic specialists able to treat and save teeth with challenging endodontic problems, but will also contribute to a vibrant community of endodontists in BC and internationally.

The graduate endodontic clinic at UBC Dentistry will be accepting referrals to endodontic treatment from BC dentists.

## New Program for the Medically Complex Patient at VGH—A New Opportunity for UBC Dental Residents

UBC Dentistry general practice dental residents are now able to expand their experience in the newly established Oral Care Program for the Medically Complex Patient (OCPMCP) in the Dentistry Department at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). Medically complex conditions include unstable cardiovascular hematological diseases, pericancer treatment states and organ failure, commonly of the kidneys or liver. The OCPMCP provides needed alternative outpatient oral care/dental service for these patients, as community dental facilities might be less adequately equipped to provide a safe and efficient patient care environment.

“UBC Dentistry dental residents will now have exposure to a much wider patient population through this program at VGH,” remarks Dr. Christopher Zed, head of VGH Dentistry Department and associate dean of UBC Dentistry.

VGH’s specialized oral care program consists of dental hospital residents and certified dental assistants with institutional dentistry experience. Dr. Samson Ng, program director, a certified specialist in oral medicine and oral pathology, and clinical assistant professor at UBC Dentistry, explains: “The unique feature of this program is the integration of medical sciences and dental technology to optimize care for patients with medical concerns.”

Samson adds, “In addition to the oral care program, general dentistry service is also provided to the public through a dentistry team coordinated by Drs. Renee Duprat, Asif Tejani and Sara Bishara Bisha.”

For further information and referral, contact Dr. Samson Ng at the VGH Dentistry Department (604) 875-4006.



## Clinic Hours Adjust for Dental Hygiene Students

Evening and weekend clinic hours have been scheduled for the Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre to increase flexibility for both patients and Dental Hygiene degree students. “The goal is to be of service to families and individuals who work or attend school on week days,” says professor Bonnie Craig, director of the Dental Hygiene Degree Program at UBC Dentistry.

While the hope is that these new times will appeal to people who may not currently access oral health care, the other important benefit is for the dental hygiene student. By opening the clinic in the evening and on the weekend, a broader patient population will be available to the students. “We want students to develop increased social responsibility and a commitment to community service, and to do so they need to experience a diverse patient population,” Craig says. “One way to achieve this is by reaching out to address some of the unmet needs of the community—those whose life circumstances may prevent them from coming during regular business hours.”

Clinic sessions for Dental Hygiene degree students will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

## BOLD LAB HELPS DEVELOP AN INNOCENCE PROJECT AT UBC

For the past few years, Dr. David Sweet, director of the Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) lab, and Dr. Iain Pretty have been working a high-profile crime case in the United States with Peter Neufeld and Vanessa Potkin of the Innocence Project in New York and Dr. David Senn of the University of Texas at San Antonio. The case involves the conviction of a Mississippi man on what they believe is flawed forensic bite mark evidence. The Innocence Project reports that a new person has been arrested and has admitted to the crimes. (Visit [innocenceproject.org](http://innocenceproject.org) for up-to-date information.) Work for the Innocence Project is completed by consulting experts without charge.

Sweet and the BOLD lab is also involved in a similar death penalty case in Seattle through Innocence Project Northwest.

Closer to home, the Faculty of Law at UBC is in the process of establishing an Innocence Project of its

own and is encouraging students to get involved with reviewing cases. Sweet gave his first talk at the Faculty of Law, introducing law students and faculty to issues in forensic odontology. These include identification of the victims of crime through dental records and, more significantly, the study and analysis of bite marks on human skin when teeth are used as a weapon in violent crimes.

Sweet will bring in other Innocence Project case information as examples for UBC. In the future, however, Sweet believes that the Faculty of Law’s own Innocence Project will be working more on actual cases, as well as the background information he provides.

Sweet’s experience in giving evidence in court will also prove invaluable, because there is wide interest in how to make evidence presented by expert witnesses effective and understandable.

## BOLD Lab Milestone: 800 and Counting

The director of the Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) lab, Dr. David Sweet, reports that its case numbering system reached 800 when a new case arrived from Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, earlier this year. This signified the 800th forensic case that the lab had completed since its inception in 1997. “This is an average of 80 cases per year, a tremendous workload for the BOLD lab staff,” remarks Sweet.

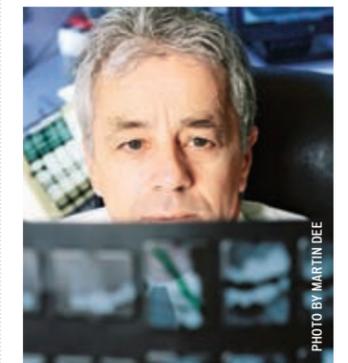


PHOTO BY MARTIN DEE

## CEREC 3D SYSTEM RECEIVED BY UBC DENTISTRY

Sirona Dental Systems GmbH, through their authorized CEREC dealer, Patterson Dental/Dentaire Canada, generously provided a CEREC 3D system to UBC Dentistry for three years. This will enable the faculty to develop expertise in using CAD/CAM approaches in patient care. "We support the future of the profession and recognize that access to this kind of technology may be lagging in schools," says Gary Doroshenko, a branch manager with Patterson Dental/Dentaire. Andrea Wink, director of development at UBC Dentistry, sees this as an excellent example of how manufacturers, suppliers and educators can work in partnership.

Dean Charles Shuler has recognized that these new technologies will play a major role in the future of oral health care. "The past 40 years have seen a very rapid rate of change in the way oral health care is delivered and there is every expectation that dentistry will continue to change at a rapid rate," he says. Shuler asserts that it is important to dental students that the most recent advances in dentistry are available to them while they are in school. "It is important to ensure that our new graduates are familiar with these new technologies, so that they have the competencies necessary to enter general dental practice."

Clinical assistant professor Dr. Mark Fogelman is taking the lead role in developing faculty expertise with the CEREC 3D CAD/CAM technology and optimizing its introduction to dental students. Fogelman and several other members of the Divisions of Operative Dentistry and General Dentistry will spend this fall term gaining a thorough understanding of the CEREC technology for patient care. This encompasses treatment planning, appropriate design and achievement

of tooth preparation, capturing tooth preparation with an optical impression acquisition unit, design of the restoration using the computer-aided design (CAD) software, production of a restoration using the computer-aided manufacture (CAM) software (combined with the precision milling chamber), and final bonded cementation procedures. CEREC 3D technology enhances fundamental operative dentistry and, in particular, enables preservation of the periodontium and conservation of tooth structure while providing an esthetic, tooth-coloured restoration.

"Breaking down the technological process and achieving expertise in its use are the first steps," Fogelman says. "The next step will be to integrate it into the existing dental curriculum so students are exposed to this technology during their dental education and are better prepared for their future careers." From an academic perspective, Fogelman is interested in the research behind adhesive dentistry. "Our approach to its implementation in both the curriculum and clinic is based on a solid understanding of traditional restorative techniques and the possibilities for future groundbreaking procedures," he says.

Once the CEREC 3D technology is well established at UBC Dentistry, the expertise gained will be shared with the alumni and the dental professional community through hands-on continuing education. The CAD/CAM technology can change the roles of all the members of a dental practice team. "The CEREC 3D system is an example of ways that UBC Dentistry is progressing," Shuler says, "to ensure that our curriculum and the experience of our students are at the cutting edge of the profession."

## Clinical Radiology Paper Still Popular

Associate professor and chair of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology, Dr. David MacDonald, has a hit. His paper "Fibro-osseous Lesions of the Jaws," first published in *Clinical Radiology*, was the third most downloaded paper for 2004 and 2005, and it continues its legacy as one of the 25 currently most downloaded articles from ScienceDirect ([www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)).

## Onward to 2010

With the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games barely past, already the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games loom on our horizon. The Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) for the 2010 Winter Games manages all Olympics volunteers. While VANOC collected names of volunteers through their central website, Dr. Christopher Zed, associate dean of UBC Dentistry, and Dr. Mark Parhar were busy motivating prospective dental volunteers. "Now that VANOC's central volunteer sign-up is closed, we will be receiving their list of potential dental volunteers for the 30 to 40 volunteers needed," Zed says.

Guided by lessons learned from Beijing 2008 and from the International Olympic Committee, Zed and his group will focus next on developing the dental treatment protocols and the physical plans (layout, equipment and supplies) for the two polyclinics. Zed anticipates that the polyclinics, located in the Vancouver and Whistler Villages, will be ready early in 2010, well in advance of the February 12 opening of the Games. The volunteer team, once selected, will be assembled some time in late fall 2008.

Visit [dentistry.ubc.ca](http://dentistry.ubc.ca) for updates.

# Dental Hygiene Research Team Wins Prestigious Grant



Clinical assistant professor Pauline Imai and clinical module coordinator and instructor Penny Hatzimanolakis have been awarded the prestigious Canadian Foundation for Dental Hygiene Research and Education (CFDHRE) grant for 2008. The \$12,060 grant will be used to conduct a clinical trial comparing the abilities of an interdental brush and dental floss to reduce plaque and bleeding in patients with intact papillae. "What we are looking for is to determine whether the Curaprox interdental brush is an effective, easy-to-use alternative to dental floss," Imai says.

The CFDHRE credited this project as being very innovative, with a high level of importance to the dental hygiene profession. The CFDHRE funds dental hygiene research and education in order to enhance the oral health and well-being of Canadians.

## FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION IN 2008

RECIPIENT	AWARD/RECOGNITION
Dr. Edwin Yen, Professor	Honoured Member Award, College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia
Dr. Christopher Zed, Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean	Award of Merit, College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia
Dr. Marcia A. Boyd, Professor Emerita	Distinguished Service Award, British Columbia Dental Association; William J. Gies Award for Outstanding Achievement, ADEAGies Foundation
Dr. David Sweet O.C., Professor	Honorary Membership Award, British Columbia Dental Association; Officer of the Order of Canada
Dr. Christopher Clark, Professor	3M-ESPE National Dental Teaching Award, American Dental Education Association

## Graduation Class 2008

May 27, 2008, marked the 40th anniversary of dentists and dental hygienists first graduating from UBC Dentistry. Dr. Marvin Christianson, a graduate of the Class of 1968, attended this year's events. He witnessed the graduation of the first DMD class to complete their entire clinical education in the Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre. Here is a look at the numbers for all graduates:



Visit [dentistry.ubc.ca](http://dentistry.ubc.ca) for news updates.

# THE LAST ACT

*Dr. Sweet*

BY HEATHER CONN

Most people know Dr. David Sweet, founder and director of UBC's Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) lab, by his impressive list of "firsts" in DNA recovery methods and forensic odontology standards. But the last act of patient care—the respectful and compassionate treatment of the dead while gathering forensic evidence—defines the heart of this warm, empathic dentist beyond his world-class achievements.

Whether he's in the morgue, attempting to match a bite mark on a murder victim to a suspect or taking dental data from an unidentified body following Thailand's 2005

tsunami, Sweet characterizes himself as a truth seeker who brings a glimpse of humanity to the last moment of a person's life. "When a woman is raped and murdered, they [killers] have tried to erase her and dispose of her," says the tanned, trim scientist seated at a table in his office. "We're giving back her identity."

One morning in Thailand, before his work day began, Sweet attended the cremation for a Canadian victim of the tsunami. As Buddhist monks made preparations, he and other Canadian team members placed papier mâché flowers on the body, a symbolic good-bye gesture honouring the man's soul. Sweet later

burned a CD of music to play as the man's ashes were scattered at sea, a ritual requested by the victim's family.

With such a tradition of respect, Sweet recalls his shock and disappointment when he saw a junior colleague leave bits of alginate (dental mold material) on the chin and inside the mouth of a victim in the morgue. "Because she was deceased, it didn't matter to him," he said. In response, Sweet gently cleaned the woman's lips with a plush towel and removed bits of alginate from her mouth. His colleague asked: "What are you doing?" Sweet replied: "She's my patient. I'm caring for her. This



is someone's daughter." He says that as a result of this experience, his colleague now demonstrates esteem for all victims he attends. Such an approach conveys "the compassion of dentistry," in Sweet's view.

A recent appointee to the Order of Canada, Sweet brings a passionate sense of service to his teaching, research and casework, which keeps him at the BOLD lab for ten-hour days. That's when he's not acting as chief scientist in disaster victim identification for INTERPOL, the International Criminal Police Organization; speaking at international conferences; consulting for the RCMP and police agencies in Canada and abroad; providing key expert testimony in criminal cases such as British Columbia's Robert Pickton murder trial; training law enforcement officers, lawyers and judges; and promoting his lab to potential fundraisers.

"The analogy we think of is 'shaking hands and kissing babies,'" he says of his attempts to gain secure, ongoing funding for the BOLD lab from government agencies or corporate donors. "I've spent more time promoting the lab than putting my belly at the bench where more discoveries can be made." The UBC tenured professor adds ruefully: "Research has had to go by the wayside. We're still doing it, but not as full-fledged as it should be."

In 1992, Sweet was the first person in the world to successfully conduct DNA analysis on incinerated teeth. Three years later, he made a landmark discovery, proving that you could analyze DNA from bite marks on a submerged victim. His method provided crucial evidence in a BC murder case, drawing on a technique for retrieving saliva from bite marks that Sweet had developed as a PhD forensic student in Spain. Over three decades, he has received the university's Faculty of Dentistry award for meritorious service eight times, an unparalleled feat.

In 1996, Sweet started the university's innovative BOLD lab, receiving a half-million-dollar start-up grant from the provincial government. His groundbreaking expertise

and vision, later augmented by BOLD's technology and equipment, has enabled him to pioneer techniques that have become global industry standards in forensic odontology:

**Enhanced DNA recovery** – development of the "double-swab" technique, a more precise advance in matching suspects to bite marks on victims, using genomic DNA from salivary stains and now applied to other evidence such as fired shell casings from guns;

**Improved bite mark tracing** – creation of a computer-assisted teeth-to-bite mark technique to make visual bite mark comparisons;

**Cryogenic grinding** – this revolutionary method, which extracts DNA from hard tissues from skeletal remains, allows forensic investigators to revisit old and "cold" cases to access DNA that was previously unrecoverable;

**Leading disaster response** – founding of the BC Forensic Odontology Response Team (BC-FORT), Canada's best-trained group of dental responders capable of handling a mass disaster in this country or on behalf of Canadians who die in other nations. Sweet says: "In Thailand [tsunami response], BC-FORT members were put in leadership positions because their skills and work were head and shoulders above what others were doing."

"There are no other labs in the world like this," Sweet says. "We're breaking new ground. We have the potential to make a lot more discoveries."

With popular television shows like *CSI* and *Cold Case Files* (the BOLD lab appeared in a "Stanley Park Skulls" episode), forensic science has garnered high-profile attention, accessible to millions worldwide. Dubbed the "dental detective" by Global National Television, Sweet has appeared on CBC Television, the Discovery and Learning Channels, and other media programs in response to heightened public interest about BOLD's casework.

Observers might well assume, therefore, that Sweet's world-leading lab attracts ready

support from those who fund cutting-edge research. However, he cites numerous examples where powerful decision-makers have expressed admiration and excitement over the lab's successes, but have provided no financial backing.

Currently, the BOLD lab requires at least \$150,000 a year to stay afloat; it maintains a staff of six, besides Sweet, including a professor emeritus and an international consultant. Other than small donations from dentists, BOLD's survival depends completely on fee-for-service casework, a business model introduced by Sweet. He jokes that his grey hair belies his frustration over having to do criminal casework almost exclusively just to "pay the rent," rather than conducting pivotal research.

"It's an odd irony," Sweet admits. "The Canadian government doesn't support us, but we certainly support the government and justice system. We do great things for society." He easily describes his ideal working scenario: to receive annual income from an endowment or ongoing contracts that provide \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year. He would maintain an autonomous and "independent centre of excellence" that combines teaching, research and some casework.

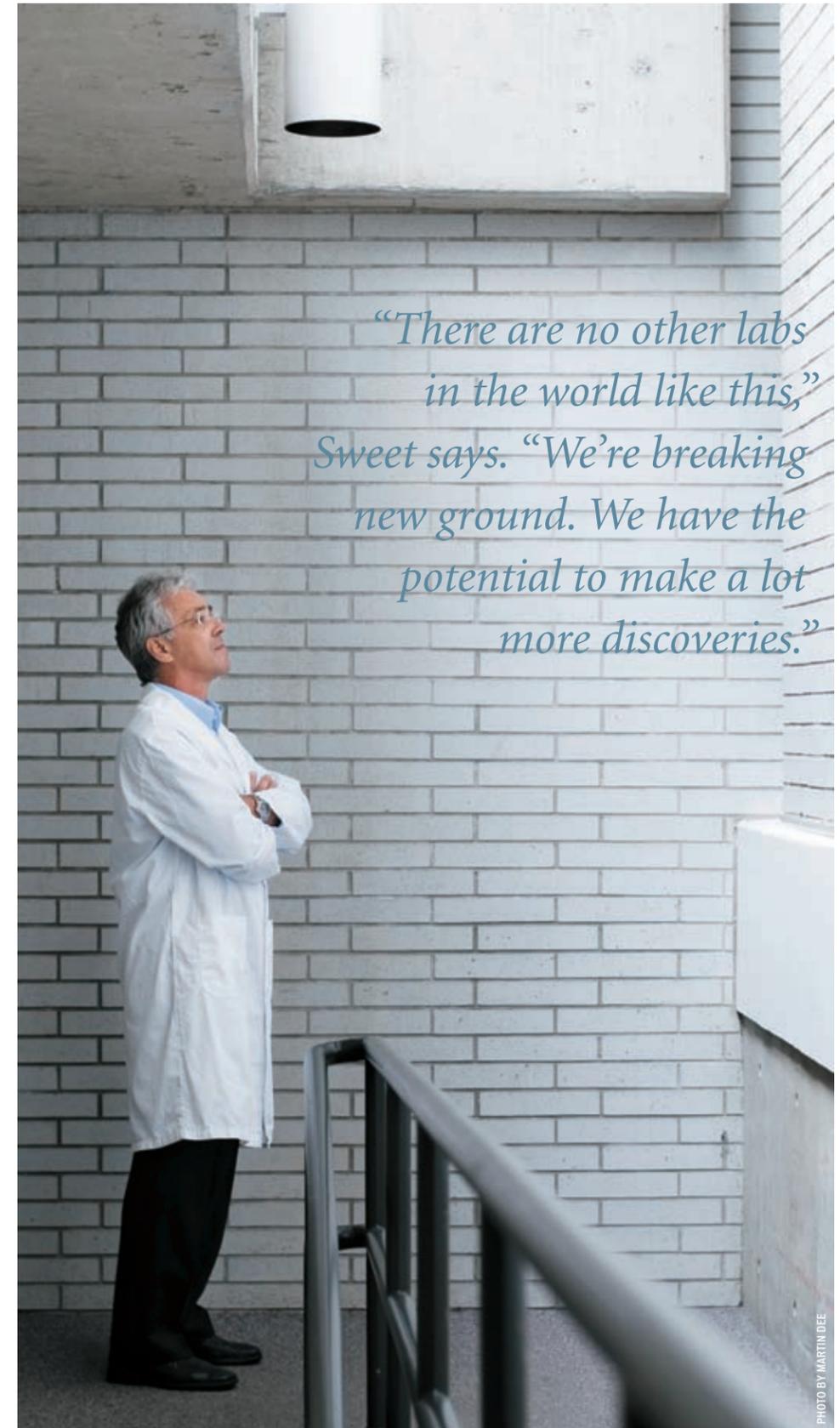
To ensure BOLD's future, why doesn't he seek out grants like other researchers do? He tried, only to discover that traditional science does not fund death-related studies and related forensic research. Canada has no national institute of justice, as in the US, that supports such work. Since his area of focus does not fall under basic science or medical research in any traditional sense, the typical funding agency will not consider it.

Hence, Sweet is concerned about succession planning and a future legacy for grad students. A 1978 UBC Dentistry graduate himself, he has had to cancel his grad student program due to this lack of funding, while interested candidates continue to phone and e-mail him regularly regarding admissions. "We're supposed to be passing the baton so that people can break new ground," he laments.

Yet Sweet is excited about the potential of new technology that will soon be available at BOLD, which will allow successful recovery of ever-tinier amounts of DNA following destruction of evidence by criminals or through natural processes.

To unwind from work demands, Sweet turns wood on a lathe. His career and daily hobby share parallels: both require intense focus, allowing him pleasure and satisfaction in exposing something hidden. He gives away or donates the large bowls and platters he makes, from wood such as snake bark maple and metasequoia, to colleagues and contributors or to various charity organizations. In his career and recreation, he always gives back: "That's really important for me."

The BOLD lab is under the aegis of UBC Dentistry. For more information about supporting the BOLD lab, contact Andrea Wink, Director of Development, at 604-822-6808.



*"There are no other labs in the world like this," Sweet says. "We're breaking new ground. We have the potential to make a lot more discoveries."*

# DENTISTRY RESEARCH THE OVERALL APPROACH

BY MARI-LOU ROWLEY

*From periodontology to systems biology, UBC Dentistry professor and Canada Research Chair Christopher Overall's discoveries are not only leading to better dental care, they are providing novel insights into human immunity and disease.*



PHOTO BY BRUCE MCGAUGHEY



Christopher Overall likes to climb mountains, cycle across continents and tackle large, complex problems. As a student in dental surgery in Australia, he remembers the day when he decided to go into research. “It was a beautiful sunny May day, autumn in Australia, about 4:00 in the afternoon and I was in the microbiology and immunology lab,” Overall recalls. “My professor came up and asked me what I was going to do with my life. When I told him I was going to become a dentist, he said, ‘No, you are going to become a scientist.’”

Overall became both.

## Blazing a Trail to the Top

Before embarking on his research career, Overall travelled around the world, climbed the high peaks of the Himalayas in Nepal and cycled 5,000 kilometres across Europe. He also interned in a prosthodontic practice in Australia, where he completed a master's degree in periodontology and oral biology. Overall moved to Canada in 1984 and completed a PhD in biochemistry at the University of Toronto, under professor and mentor Jaro Sordek. In 1989, Overall came to UBC to do post-doctoral studies with future Nobel laureate Michael Smith. “I was keenly interested in his research in site-directed mutagenesis, or reprogramming segments of DNA—and I thought he would win the Nobel Prize.”

Today, as CRC chair in Metalloproteinase Proteomics and Systems Biology, Overall is at the forefront of his research field. He teaches in the Department of Oral Biological and Medical Sciences in the Faculty of Dentistry, and supervises periodontics and general dentistry one day a week in the Faculty of Dentistry Specialty Clinic as part of his teaching commitment to the residency program. He is also a member of the Canadian Proteomics Network, The Canadian Arthritis Network of Centres of Excellence, the UBC Centre for Blood Research, and the UBC Prostrate Centre.

“In Australia, I really enjoyed the hands-on preventative dentistry, but I also wanted to do the science. Now I realize that to do both requires 150 percent of your time.”

## Periodontology Research— Finding the Key to Immune Response

Periodontology, or the study of the gums (gingiva), alveolar bone and ligaments that support the teeth, is a primary branch of preventative dentistry. While plaque and bacteria build-up on the teeth and gums can lead to periodontal disease, multiple causes have been identified. Overall's research

examines what happens at the molecular level, specifically at the level of the proteome (see text box below).

Until recently, it was commonly believed that a group of enzymes called matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) were responsible for periodontitis by mainly degrading the extracellular matrix, or collagen, in the gingiva, bone and ligaments that hold teeth in place. Overall wanted to identify other functions of these enzymes. He and his lab separated all the genes in the connective tissue in human gingiva by using gingival fibroblasts (cells that provide a structural framework for many tissues) as the source of the DNA. They were able to place these genes into the DNA of yeast cells and use a technique called a yeast two-hybrid screen, which can identify proteins that will bind with a segment of MMP enzyme used as the bait. They discovered a protein called MCP-3<sup>3</sup> that acts like a molecular beacon or a green traffic light capable of

## OVERALL LAB SYSTEMS BIOLOGY PRIMER

Proteins are the building blocks of all living organisms. They comprise the main components of the physiological and metabolic pathways of cells. While genes provide the code, or instructions for constructing proteins such as enzymes and antibodies, the proteins themselves do the work. Every biological process in every living organism involves a complex cascade of interactions between proteins.

Proteomics is the large-scale study of the structure, function and interaction of proteins.

Proteome is the collection of all proteins in the body of an organism. It is estimated that there are 250,000 to 300,000 proteins in humans and fewer than half have been catalogued and only about 10,000 fully characterized.

Proteases are enzymes that begin the process of breaking down proteins. They are the largest enzyme family in humans.

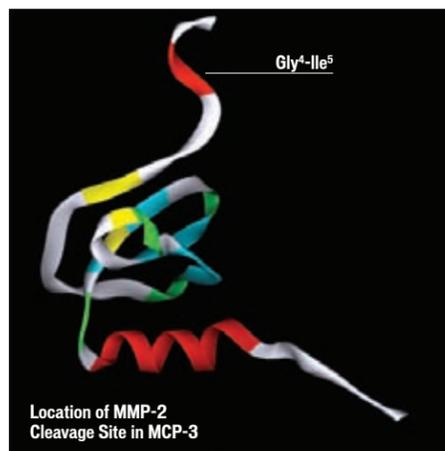
Metalloproteinases are the largest subset of proteases. They function as molecular recognition switches, and produce irreversible actions on every protein in the proteome during cell synthesis, maturation, functional activation, modulation, and signalling.

directing white blood cells—or leukocytes—to the site of injury or bacterial infection such as gingivitis or periodontitis.

In the process, they found that instead of just chewing up and destroying the collagen matrix, the MMP enzymes were also cutting the MCP-3<sup>3</sup> protein, biting off the first four amino acids at the end of the molecule (see diagram). This resulted in a profound change in the behaviour of the protein, effectively turning the green traffic signal to red, and stopping the cascade of leukocytes to the site of inflammation. “What we discovered was the off signal for inflammation,” Overall explains. “Without this off signal inflammation becomes chronic, causing destruction of cells and tissues.”

This ground-breaking research has resulted in a ‘seismic shift’ in the understanding of immune response. All innate immunity—or the body’s first response to injury or disease—is controlled by the MMP activity.

“This is a great example of how basic research, using what some would call an esoteric screening process, can lead to a fundamental new discovery—in our case a new pathway for how inflammation is regulated,” says Overall. “I really have to credit the faculty and staff in Dentistry, particularly dean Charles Shuler, Ed Yen, Paul Robertson, John Silver, and Don Brunette. Their support has been crucial to my research.”



## Degradomics—Unravelling Protease Webs and Cascades

In order to understand how the subgroup of MMP proteases sculpts protein molecules and irreversibly changes their function, Overall and his lab have piloted several novel techniques, and have established a new research area in the process. Degradomics is the application of genomic and proteomic techniques to study protease–substrate interactions in an entire organism.

“Think of the connection between all of these proteins, enzymes and their inhibitors as a spider’s web. If one section of the web changes—due to a sudden insult of bacteria, injury, or diseases like cancer and arthritis—it has ripple effects on the entire web,” Overall explains. “There are about 569 proteases and 200 inhibitors in humans, and we are mapping out all of the interactions of proteases with each other and with all the substrates they are touching,” he says.

The Overall Lab has developed several novel technologies for their degradomics research, leading to surprising and vital discoveries, such as how HIV infection can lead to dementia. In one approach, Overall’s team developed the CLIP-CHIP®, a DNA microarray chip that has every protease, inhibitor and gene variants on the chip for both mouse and man. The CLIP-CHIP® is the only complete, dedicated protease chip that is distributed freely around the world—and it is the first registered trademark of UBC. “Using nearly 100 CLIP-CHIPS we have profiled 23 human tissues and we are now looking at different disease states, such as HIV, cancer, periodontitis and arthritis,” Overall says.

“This work wouldn’t have been possible without Ross MacGillivray, director for the Centre for Blood Research at UBC. He was instrumental in bringing dentistry into the centre, and providing fantastic lab space in the collaborative environment of the Life Sciences Centre.”

The next step is drug discovery. “This type of research is really important because we can link basic discoveries and mechanisms back to different disease states, and that allows us to identify drug targets,” he says. As a clinician, researcher and consultant to pharmaceutical companies like British Biotech and Novartis, Overall’s research vision and experience is definitely multidimensional—much like the protease webs he studies.

“To me, this is the best life, because every day is different, and it is wonderful to be involved in worldwide, collaborative research that can have such a wide-ranging effect—in dentistry and in overall health and wellness.”

*“As my career has demonstrated, by starting off in dentistry with a clinical and medical background, and then moving into research, you have a better idea of the important questions that need to be addressed.” – UBC Dentistry Professor Christopher Overall*

## UBC Dentistry Research Day ORAL CANCER: EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 · 8:00 am - 4:15 pm  
UBC Student Union Building Ballroom

### Introduction of the Clinical Case

• Dr. Edward Putnins, Professor and Associate Dean of Research & Graduate/Post-Graduate Studies

### Evidence-based Review of Benign, Pre-malignant and Malignant Lesions of the Oral Cavity

• Dr. Eli Whitney, Assistant Professor and Director, Oral Medicine & Oral Pathology Residency Program

### Advances in Chairside Assessment of Oral Lesions (e.g. toluidine blue & fluorescence visualization)

• Dr. Catherine Poh, Assistant Professor and CHIR Clinician Scientist

### Protease Activity at the Invading Tumor/Stroma Interface

• Dr. Ulrich auf dem Keller, Post-Doctoral Fellow (Overall Lab)

### Early Detection of Oral Cancer: New Technologies for Quantitative Pathology/Cytology

• Dr. Lewei Zhang, Professor and Chair, Division of Oral Medicine, Oral Diagnosis & Oral Pathology

### Strategies to Reach Medically-Underserved High Risk Individuals

• Ms. Brenda Currie, PhD student (Poh Lab)

### Translational Research: The Challenge of Knowledge Transfer from Bench to Chairside

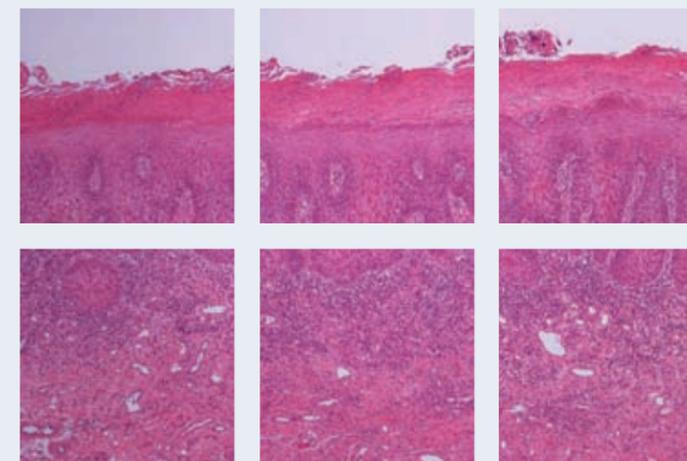
• Dr. Michele Williams, Clinical Professor and Director, UBC Oral Mucosal Disease Program; Oral Medicine Leader, BC Cancer Agency

### Alumni Presentation: Identification of Salivary Diagnostic Markers for Early Oral Cancer Risk and Detection

• Dr. David Wong, Professor and Associate Dean of Research, UCLA School of Dentistry

Lunch Provided. Research Poster Award Presentation and Viewing.

Information and Registration: [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/researchday](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/researchday)  
Agenda is subject to revision. See website for updates.



## The First Step – Blogging at UBC Dentistry

BY CATHERINE LOIACONO

As the demand for more trained professionals increases and as more students train abroad to receive their dental degrees and return home to practise, UBC Dentistry recognizes the need to establish a global standard in dental care to bridge international training gaps.

“We want to increase the understanding of various approaches to dental treatment in different parts of the world and why this impacts on professional recognition between countries,” says Dr. Karen Gardner, clinical assistant professor at UBC Dentistry. In an initial effort to establish this global standard, UBC Dentistry is first in the world to offer its students a global learning experience with the launch of the International Peer Review (IPR) teaching initiative. This teaching collaboration with four other universities from around the world uses a blog format.

UBC Dentistry’s newly launched IPR in blog format invites dentistry students from UBC, the University of Saskatchewan, the University

of California, San Francisco, the University of Birmingham in the UK, and the University of Melbourne in Australia to share notes on common dentistry practices. “It is a first step in a dialogue to address differences in international professional dental education—with significant potential,” says Gardner. “It is a great teaching tool to train our future dentists.”

Gardner, who leads the initiative, pairs interested dentistry students from the different universities. The paired students write an introductory letter describing their work. They invite each other to view pictures and post comments about the techniques used at their institution. They also provide feedback to each other based on skills taught at their home university.

IPR in blog format allows dental students to recognize differences in dental treatment and to defend their conclusions in an evidence-based format. Students gain confidence in

their education and become aware of different approaches to the same problems as well as the rationale behind these approaches. Students also learn to appreciate why a procedure may be done differently in another country.

Gardner adds that IPR will also help Canadian dental students who train abroad understand where differences in their training may occur and why gap training of up to two years may be required to fulfill the practice standards of another country.

“As dental professionals work more globally, an international standard in dental education needs to be established as a baseline to understand and measure education and qualifications,” says Gardner. “This model shares practices. The hope is that as it continues to grow, eventually there will be convergence, which will lead towards standards in care across the globe.”

*With the success of its blogging format, UBC Dentistry’s IPR project is poised to go further.*

## DR. KAREN GARDNER WORKS TOWARDS GLOBAL STANDARDS IN DENTAL CARE

University of  
British  
Columbia

University of  
Saskatchewan

University of  
Birmingham

University of  
California  
San Francisco

## The Next Steps – On Course with International Peer Review

BY TERRY WINTONYK

The International Peer Review (IPR) project at UBC Dentistry provides solid ground for students to engage in international dialogue online in blog format and to participate in international continuing dental education. What, then, are the next steps towards global standards in dental care? With the success of its blogging format, UBC Dentistry’s IPR project is poised to go further.

Dr. Karen Gardner, clinical assistant professor, has secured funding from Universitas 21 (U21), an international network of 21 leading research-intensive universities in thirteen countries, to take the IPR project into their participating faculties and schools of dentistry. The University of Queensland, University of Hong Kong, National University of Singapore, and the University of New South Wales have committed to integrating the project into their dentistry curriculums. And already, dentistry faculties and schools outside the U21 consortium have expressed a wish to be included.

The U21 grant also provides funding to construct Diastemas—a web-based platform modelled on the hugely successful online community TakingITGlobal.org. Attracting the attention of media and industry that supports the interests of young adults, TakingITGlobal connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action on issues in their local and global communities. This highly interactive, well-developed, financially sustainable model of a global online platform is the IPR project’s vision for Diastemas, its future online site.

Once launched, dental students around the world will login and begin connecting, by publishing work and communicating about learning issues encountered in their dental education. As peer-to-peer interaction expands, the platform can quickly adapt online tool sets to meet the demand for new and cutting-edge ways of e-learning exchanges.

The enthusiasm of dental students at UBC Dentistry has broken into full gallop. Currently, sixteen third-year and twelve fourth-year dental students are now participating. They recognize themselves as leading the world in this international endeavour and are getting involved in the site’s development in anticipation of learning with students and practising dental populations worldwide.

Through powerful online tools, this e-learning exchange has the potential to run deep global tracks among students, and between students and practitioners. Students are eager to share its value and ease of use, and it has rich prospects for fostering lifelong learning and mentorship in clinical dentistry.

## Dental Hygiene Graduate Reflects on the Online Experience

The appeal of learning outside a traditional academic setting is gaining ground. Blogs, e-learning exchanges, entire courses and examinations delivered by WebCT, and study groups are becoming very popular among dental professionals, whether completing their education at university or after graduation through continuing dental education. These days, at any point along one's career timeline, learning is certain to be experienced online.

At UBC Dentistry, all the Dental Hygiene Degree Program completion courses are online. A recent videotaping of interviews with dental hygiene graduates revealed some interesting insights about their online learning experiences. Here is what one graduate said.

**UBC Dentistry:** How did you learn to manage your time, with your courses, personal and practice life?

**Simone:** Time management for the courses did require planning and organization. I found the flexibility [of online courses] was very encouraging. I also found my colleagues also studying in the program to be very encouraging as well. I was studying as a new mom—with a newborn at home. Certainly that did create some challenges, but it did encourage me to be organized with my time and not to delay in getting my studies done . . . It was very doable, but again, it did require a lot of focus, commitment and dedication.

**UBC Dentistry:** How did you make the transition from a traditional classroom setting to an online learning environment?

**Simone:** I found the transition was easy. But again, I was motivated. I wanted to finish my degree. It might have created a bit of a challenge if I hadn't been motivated to finish. I also found being committed to my group members really encouraged me to stay on track.

**UBC Dentistry:** What resources provided did you find helpful?

**Simone:** The encouragement and feedback from the instructors . . . There's a wonderful online resource through the library—the librarian was wonderful . . . The colleagues within my program were very helpful as well . . . The big thing was the quick feedback. I got feedback from the instructors quicker than in a traditional setting actually, and that's the beauty of online studies.

**UBC Dentistry:** What was your experience with group work?

**Simone:** For the most part good. How I used to approach group work was that I would pretend I was the only person doing the assignment. That would be my contribution, and hopefully the other group members would follow suit. I learnt so much from other people's ideas. So it was not only my ideas that were contributed, but it was everyone else's and just from that I learnt a lot. I also found that, in the courses, there was a lot of opportunity for peer feedback for our assignments and I found that just incredibly helpful. I don't think there's any way I could have done as well as I did if it hadn't been for the peer feedback.

**UBC Dentistry:** How did you find the Dental Hygiene Degree Program in general?

**Simone:** It is third- and fourth-year university studies, which require commitment, dedication and hard work. What I liked most about the program was the opportunity for group work, for learning so much from my colleagues in my class. I appreciated their encouragement—their feedback . . . I appreciated the opportunity to give them feedback, and I really appreciated the encouragement from the instructors.

## AN UNFAMILIAR SETTING FOR UBC DMD STUDENTS

BY TERRY WINTONYK

On Sunday, May 18, 2008, Delta's Sungod Arena burst alive with colour and music as women and children of Punjabi heritage came together to celebrate. UBC Dentistry was an honoured guest among the 3,000+ attendees, community booths and information tables. Organized by the non-profit organization Trinjan—The Punjabi Folk, the Festival of Mothers and Daughters, *Mela Mawan Dhyian Da*, is an annual event that showcases cultural performances and, more recently, includes a women's health fair.

"This community service request came through UBC president Stephen Toope's office," remarks Dr. Lawrence Rossoff, Dentistry clinical assistant professor. "Trinjan wanted UBC to participate in their health fair, and our dean, Charles Shuler, quickly seized the opportunity as a chance for dental students to break out of their regular learning environment and experience an unfamiliar setting."

Rossoff quickly understood that UBC Dentistry could play a unique role, beyond handing out oral health information. After getting a feel for what the community and the festival organizers wanted, Rossoff determined that this health fair was an ideal venue for providing oral health screenings to a population segment that may not be accessing dental care and was not readily available to students.

Trinjan was excited to have UBC Dentistry take part in their health fair and took advantage of the language skills of dental student volunteers Kamaldeep Panag and Ramitpal Singh Khurana, then both fourth-year students. Panag and Khurana, together with Rossoff, spent the month preceding the event appearing on Punjabi-language radio and television shows, introducing themselves and the parameters of the service they would



*"Trinjan wanted UBC to participate in their health fair and our dean, Charles Shuler, quickly seized the opportunity as a chance for dental students to break out of their regular learning environment and experience an unfamiliar setting."*

be offering. “We had to be clear about who we are and what we will do,” Rossoff remarks. “It was also a great opportunity to promote our UBC Dental program—the services we provide and the outreach we already perform.”

The challenge of dental students going out into a community is twofold: the service has to meet the expectations of the recipients as much as it has to fulfill the needs of the dental students. UBC Dentistry has volunteered itself from time-to-time in the community, but with the dean’s vision to mobilize students earlier in their education and the students’ hunger to get out and serve, the Faculty needs to build a bridge for this model into the dental education curriculum. It is an evolution of the curriculum agenda into what the Faculty calls Professionalism and Community Service (PACS), and which Rossoff coordinates.

Dental students in all years will be able to participate in a new level of community service—one that is different from the third- and fourth-year community rotations and that pushes beyond a didactic medical–dental curriculum. “The experience for a beginning dental student is extraordinary,” says Rossoff, hardly able to contain his enthusiasm.

With years of experience in serving marginalized populations in environments from prisons to long-term care facilities, Rossoff and the PACS coordinators are eager to take students to non-traditional settings. The aim is to break down any barriers of fear and uncertainty students may have and to create a generation of dentists receptive to reaching beyond the comfort of their offices. This is uncharted waters. Trinjan’s health festival came at an ideal time for UBC Dentistry to begin to experience responding off the campus as both a service and an educational opportunity.

Three students (Harjinder Kang, currently a fourth-year DMD student, and now alumni Drs. Ramitpal Khurana, DMD 2008, and Kamaldeep Panag, DMD 2008) took part in the health fair along with two UBC alumni

(Drs. Ruby Bhullar, DMD 2007, and Jatunder Riar, DMD 2003), five community dentists (Drs. Harry Dhanju, Jas Dhanju, Chung Lui, Roshanak Rahmanian, and Gurpreet Surdhar), and Rossoff. Their booth was set up in a central spot on the arena floor, surrounded by flashing colours and the ebb and flow of the mingling crowd. Chairs set up side-by-side served as screening stations.

The dentistry volunteers welcomed people as they gathered oral health literature and collected free oral hygiene aids. Following a carefully planned process, the volunteers gave those interested in an oral health screening a brief interview and then, if they were willing, a consent form to sign.

Many parents came with concerns about the development of their young children’s teeth, and of the women who came for oral health screenings, most were over 50 years of age. The participants ranged in age from two years to 78, according to Rossoff. Over 70 percent of the more than 100 oral health screenings performed that day led to visually identifiable referrals for patients to follow up with a dentist. The most significant case involved then fourth-year DMD student Panag, who identified an undiagnosed pathology.

“The volunteer alumni led the screenings and we could not have done this without them,” explains Rossoff. “Everyone came prepared, right down to equipping themselves with flashlights for the less-than-ideal conditions.” For the students, the experience in professional pride and self-awareness was unparalleled, having for the first time been addressed as “Doctor,” in their first non-structured patient encounter.

It is a great concern that many people do not have access to regular dental care or are not even aware of its importance. UBC Dentistry sees itself as part of a solution, training young professionals to step into situations and fill a void that has existed for far too long.

It takes education to be a dentist, Rossoff reminds us. But to practise dentistry takes

practice. “Participation at this health festival is just the tip of the iceberg for the student experience at UBC Dentistry,” says Rossoff. “Many students are coming to us with an already existing holistic approach to health care and an insatiable hunger to serve.” Rossoff explains that UBC Dentistry is aiming to satisfy their appetite by building community service into the dental curriculum. And, after they graduate, he suggests: “They could certainly use the mentorship and role modelling of experienced dentists already practising in these communities.”



UBC president Stephen Toope (centre left) and Dr. Lawrence Rossoff (centre right) receive appreciation from Trinjan-The Punjabi Folk.

PHOTO BY BRUCE MCGAUGHEY

## THE LINES NEVER CEASE

Victor Law, a fourth-year DMD student, knows he cannot learn in school what he gains by volunteering. This past summer, he once again volunteered for Medical Aid for Vietnam ([medicalaidforvietnam.org](http://medicalaidforvietnam.org)), an organization that provides medical and dental services to the poor in Vietnamese villages.

“What drew me back was knowing that I had the ability and, therefore the responsibility, to help relieve these people of oral pain that for some has lasted for years,” he says.

Victor, a native Vancouverite, has volunteered for community programs, conferences and dental health fairs since he was sixteen. He first volunteered for Medical Aid for Vietnam in 2005, when he was inspired by the Doctor, Patient and Society (DPAS) program—a precursor of UBC Dentistry’s Professionalism and Community Service (PACS) program—to look into the community responsibility aspect of his future profession. Through DPAS and his other dental courses, he became aware of the oral health disparities affecting those in poverty.

Up until Vietnam, he had never seen the kind of poverty he saw in its villages. “Throughout my experience, I did not examine even one healthy mouth of teeth. And I have never seen such destruction and decay [in the villages]—it compares to the chaos of a war movie,” he laments. Everywhere, long lines of often malnourished children and frail elderly greeted him as he stepped off a bus or a boat.

“These people simply live with the pain as their teeth crumble slowly and excruciatingly as they continue to survive life day to day.” Sometimes, when he gripped a tooth with a forceps, parts of the tooth crumbled away because there was barely any crown left. Other times, what crumbled was actually a cake of calculus that had built up from years of poor oral hygiene.

Victor knows the people are not to be blamed for their plight. They have had no one to teach them proper oral health hygiene and no money to afford a dentist, even if there had been one readily available.

Medical Aid for Vietnam, with its 15 years of experience, is highly proficient at setting up everything in advance, including notifying the villagers and reserving space for a temporary clinic. Not everyone can be treated, however, as the need is great in the many villages. The lines never disappear at the end of the day.

The never-ending lines brought sorrow and burden to Victor’s heart. As time ran out each day, he watched helplessly as unserved people were dismissed.

“I pushed myself to be better, to be more efficient and to be more adept,” he says. Looking back, Victor knows he developed better skills and managed to increase the number of patients served from 15 to 40 per day.

Still, he knows the lines never cease. And, he says, more help is needed. “I know I have to return.”



UBC Dentistry mourns the loss of one of its greatest friends, Dr. George Ng, who died unexpectedly in July of this year. He was a passionate man, committed to the oral health profession and to his family. One could not help but be drawn in by his charismatic charm and infectious smile.

Born in Hong Kong in 1937, George immigrated to Canada in 1965. He obtained his DDS and MSc degrees and a diploma in Pedodontics from the University of Toronto, and soon after graduation made his way to Vancouver, where he met Karen, his wife of 39 years. His support for UBC Dentistry began at the time of dean emeritus, Dr. S. Wah Leung.



Drs. George Ng and S. Wah Leung were the founding members of the Chinese Canadian Dental Society in BC. George was the society's first president. He pioneered promoting dental health education to the Chinese community and was a regular speaker in the local media.

George had an unbridled enthusiasm for philanthropy. The great spirit of generosity that George and his family have shared with UBC Dentistry was underscored recently when the Ng family "adopted" an open operatory in the Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre.

In addition to receiving several professional accolades for his community involvement, including the Canada Volunteer Award Certificate of Merit, George was awarded a Fellowship in the American College of Dentists and the Certificate of Merit from the College of Dental Surgeons of BC. As an active community leader, George believed that it was part of his "social responsibility to give back to the community and support the future of dental professionals." A champion for the prevention of early childhood caries, George's interests also included research and publishing articles in dental journals.

George was proud to see his daughter Vania, son-in-law Chris and son Carter follow in his footsteps to become dental professionals. Now, with the arrival of his grandson Calvin, the family legacy in dentistry is sure to continue through generations.

In George's memory, the Ng family created the Dr. George C. Ng Endowment Fund to continue George's generosity and dedication to the oral health profession.

UBC Dentistry will miss George Ng.

## *In Memory of Dr. George Ng*

## MAKE IT COUNT



Student awards recognize scholastic achievement and the core values of the oral health professional. The Thompson Okanagan Dental Society Executive recently voted unanimously to double their current award in support of an undergraduate dental student. Their award recognizes and rewards a student with high academic standing, strong leadership, and an excellent attitude.

By supporting an existing student award or bursary you will help enhance a student's experience by lessening financial constraints and acknowledging professionalism, respect and charisma in all future oral health professionals.

To support existing student awards and bursaries or create a new one of your own, please contact Jane Merling at 604-822-5886 ([merling@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:merling@interchange.ubc.ca)).



# CLASS NOTES AND EVENTS

Share your news with classmates, faculty, and friends. Look for reunion announcements and events for all alumni. Submit alumni stories and keep in touch at [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni)

## 1970s



David Sweet  
DMD 1978

Announced on July 1, 2008, Dr. David Sweet has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Sweet is the founder and Director of UBC's Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) lab, a world-leading organization. Through his leadership the BOLD lab is well known within the Canadian justice system and recognized around the world for forensic odontology research, training, casework, and pioneering techniques in forensic practice.



Carol Tsuyuki  
DMD 1978

On March 7, 2008, the UBC Dentistry Class of 1978 had their 30th reunion at the Pan Pacific Hotel following a reception given by the UBC Dental Alumni Association. Almost 50 people joined in to celebrate the event. The warm hugs, big smiles and ready laughter started in earnest at the class photo session. It was very heartwarming to experience the camaraderie among our classmates, spouses and faculty members.

Dr. David Sweet did a great job as the MC for the evening. Guests included Dr. Marcia Boyd, who gave a wonderful verbal "trip down memory lane." The famous slide show of clinic antics (shown every five years) still managed to induce heavy belly laughter. Door prizes were generously donated by Sinclair Dental,

Schein-Ash-Arcona, Patterson, and 3M, while the specialists of the class (Drs. Braverman, Fulton, King and Maplethorpe) kindly provided wine with the delicious meal. Dr. Al Woo documented the evening online with his fantastic photos.

A feeling of "family" permeates the Class of 1978. Everyone has their unique strengths and interests. Congratulations were in order for Drs. David Sweet and Ed O'Brien, who received top awards from the BC Dental Association. Dr. Jill Turney is an international level Scrabble competitor. Drs. Stan Soon, David Danskin and Check Sam have done voluntary work in Southeast Asia.

The call for help to organize the event was met by a swift response. Many individuals helped Drs. Carol Tsuyuki and Al Woo make it the best reunion to date. Thank you to all who contributed.

Twenty-four of our 38 graduates attended. Let's make 100 percent attendance at the 35th Reunion in March 2013!



Wayne Peace  
DMD 1973

Wayne Peace and fellow DMD 1973 classmates celebrated their 35th year reunion on September 5 - 7, 2008 at the Aerie Resort & Spa, Malahat, Victoria, BC.

### DMD 1974 REUNION

35th Year Reunion · Summer 2009

Contact Daniel Ng DMD 1974 at [daning@telus.net](mailto:daning@telus.net) or Jenn Parsons at [dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca) for details.

### DMD 1979 REUNION

30th Year Reunion · June 5 - 8, 2009

Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa  
Enjoy sharing memories on the golf course or over a glass of Nk'mip wine.

Special CDE guest speaker to be announced soon.

Contact Paul Andersson DMD 1979 at [drpaulandersson@shaw.ca](mailto:drpaulandersson@shaw.ca) for details.

## 1980s



Michael Racich  
DMD 1982

Twenty-five years. Say it's not so! Where has all the time gone? I guess we've all been having a little too much fun. That must be the only explanation.

Well, on the last weekend in September 2007, the CLASS (capitalized here since we really were "classy") of 1982 met at Whistler for two days to recreate, reminisce and ruminate about our dental school experience and catch up with one another. I'm happy to report that all were in good spirits—especially with the fine hospitality of the Barefoot Bistro and Quattro—and in good health. Everyone appears to be comfortable with their lives. Biggest surprise of the weekend—we all looked so young!

### KEEP IN TOUCH

at [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni)

### DMD 1983 REUNION

25th Year Reunion  
September 26 - 30, 2008

Holland America Cruise (Veendam)  
Vancouver to San Diego

For more information contact Jenn Parsons at [dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca)

### DMD 1984 REUNION

25th Year Reunion · Summer 2009

For more information contact  
Bhasker Thakore DMD 1984 at  
[bhasker@shaw.ca](mailto:bhasker@shaw.ca) or Jenn Parsons at  
[dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca)

### DMD 1989 REUNION

20th Year Reunion · March 6, 2009

A 20-year reunion dinner will be held at the Five Sails Restaurant at the Pan Pacific Hotel following the Annual Alumni Reception at the Pacific Dental Conference.

Registration information coming soon at [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni)

Contact Ray Fong DMD 1989 at [raymond\\_fong@telus.net](mailto:raymond_fong@telus.net) or Ernest Lam DMD 1989 at [ernest.lam@utoronto.ca](mailto:ernest.lam@utoronto.ca) for details.

## 1990s



Michelle Chang  
DMD 1998

DMD 1998 celebrated our ten-year graduation anniversary with a reunion during the Pacific Dental Conference in Vancouver last March. We had an amazing turnout—31 out of our 39 graduates.

The reunion brought classmates out from the Lower Mainland, Victoria, Nanaimo, Revelstoke, Kamloops, Fort St. John, Calgary,

and even Mexico. Having left about 23 children behind at home, we met up at the UBC Alumni Reception, where we had our class photo taken and impressed some other classes with our turnout. Our class was always a close-knit group. Even with the challenges of distance, family life and grad school, we still seem to stay in touch and have a good idea of what most of us are up to. But we were quite excited to see so many of us in one place at the same time.

After some catching up at the reception, we made our way to the Transcontinental Restaurant in Gastown, where we all enjoyed a lovely three-course dinner. With spouses/partners, 43 people attended the meal—including five expectant moms at various stages of pregnancy. All in all, it was a great evening of socializing and camaraderie.

Thank you to the Class of 1998 for making our reunion a success. Thank you for all your help, Jenn and Kathy. Looking forward to keeping in touch and meeting again in another ten years!

### DMD 1999 REUNION

10th Year Reunion · March 6, 2009

A 10-year reunion dinner is planned at the Transcontinental Restaurant following the Annual Alumni Reception at the PDC.

Registration information coming soon at [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni)

Contact Renate Simmons DMD 1999 at [renatesimmons@shaw.ca](mailto:renatesimmons@shaw.ca) for details.

### PLANNING A REUNION?

Call Alumni Relations for ideas at 604-822-6751

### SHARE

Share an alumni story or update for "Class Notes" to [dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca)

## 2000s



Hugh Kim  
MSc Perio 2005

Hugh Kim is a 2008 IADR/Unilever Hatton Award recipient. He won first place in the Senior Category (Basic Science) for his work titled: Filamin A regulates cell spreading and survival via beta-1 integrins. Hugh is currently at the University of Toronto.



Lila Nabi  
DMD 2002

In February 2007, I and UBC Dentistry alumni Mehrnaz Izadnegahdar (DMD 2002), Brent Hehn (DMD 1996, MSc 1997) and Phoebe Tsang (DMD 2002) joined Kindness in Action (KIA) to volunteer in Barquisimeto, a small, musically affluent town southwest of Caracas, Venezuela.

KIA is an organization that began with four dentists in 1993 and now has over two hundred dental volunteers working on week-long projects all around the world. It is entirely volunteer-based and less than 1 percent of funds goes toward administrative costs. KIA aims not only to provide dental health services, but to educate and empower the people of developing countries.

We were part of a team of 34 dentists, hygienists, CDAs, and non-dental compadres, and our mission was centred in a local orphanage called The Christian Foundation of Children and Aging. Our one-week journey was exceptional; within moments, we forgot about our comparatively luxurious dental operatories at home and cherished our bare essentials. Our operatories here were light-less, chair-less, suction-less, X-ray-less, and AC-less gymnasiums. We shifted quickly from realizing what we did not have, to realizing what we did have and making it work.

Queues of excited children accumulated. Our team came together swiftly, trying to accomplish as much dentistry to stabilize their oral health conditions as possible. Patients ranged from three to 30 years old, most experiencing dentistry for the first time ever.

We saw rampant tooth decay, primarily caused by diet. The consumption of refined sugars, particularly the substitution of cola drinks for water, lack of knowledge about the importance of oral hygiene, and limited access to fluoride have all contributed to poor oral health in Latin American countries. Our services mainly consisted of restorative amalgam fillings, stainless steel crowns, extractions, hygiene, fluoride treatments, and most importantly, dental education.

Despite our broken Spanish, our connection was unforgettably evident on the last day, when the children sang us a beautiful, heartfelt song to show their appreciation and gratitude. Our journey was most enlightening, making us appreciate and embrace the most basic yet most important of all human qualities—humanity.

For more information about Kindness in Action, visit [kindnessinaction.ca](http://kindnessinaction.ca).



Jessica Kuo  
DMD 2007  
Eileen Lo  
DMD 2007

Midway through our fourth year of training, we were invited to lead the dental component of the Global Health Initiative program developed by the UBC Faculty of Medicine. Both of us have strong interests in pediatric dentistry and community health, so we accepted the roles with great enthusiasm.

With nine medical students, we were assigned to the Munsel-Ling School, a boarding school in a remote village in the Spiti Valley. The Spiti Valley (3,700 metres above sea level) lies in a remote mountain desert in the Indian Himalaya, near the Tibetan border. Although geopolitically part of India, culturally it is Tibetan. From September to May, the valley is covered in heavy snow and the temperature approaches -40 C. Besides the rough climate,

the lack of health care professionals poses additional challenges to the people there.

Our goals were to establish health records for all students at Munsel-Ling and to treat the prevalent diseases, including dental caries, anemia, intestinal worms, and malnutrition.

After six months of planning, we embarked on our journey to the Spiti Valley at the end of May. It was a long journey, and the three-day jeep ride from Delhi to the mountain was a challenging and adventurous experience. Due to heavy snowfall and mudslides, the road conditions were very poor as we approached the upper Himalaya. We drove on windy mountain roads, on vaguely discernable paths, on rocks and glaciers, and through rivers and waterfalls created by melted ice. We watched, horrified, as rocks slid down the mountain paths where our jeep had just passed. Fortunately, our experienced local driver handled all with composure and delivered us safely to our destination. We were greeted with breathtaking views of the Himalayas and warm welcomes from the villagers.

We were surprised and alarmed by the prevalence of dental caries. The school had 400 students ranging in age from four to seventeen. During screening, 115 students presented with dental pain; two-thirds had rampant caries. Many students could not eat or sleep properly because of tooth ache. Due to limited resources, we had to triage the students to treat the ones with most severe conditions.

We emphasized oral health education, realizing that prevention on a community basis would be needed to help fight this “endemic” disease. The school is currently in the process of developing a school-wide tooth brushing program. The district hospital will also be hiring its first dentist next spring. The community is eager to improve its people’s health condition.

The people, the isolated yet dramatic landscape and the extreme climate in the valley brought us into another world, one that we had never imagined. During the two weeks we stayed at the school, we ate the delicious local cuisine, played with the children and hiked up and down the steep slopes of the Himalayas. This was an eye-opening and extremely rewarding experience for us, both professionally and personally. We truly

appreciate the hospitality and the inspiration from the school and village.

We would like to extend our special thanks to our former dean, Dr. Yen, for his generous support, as well as to our faculty members for their invaluable advice during the planning process. If you would like to be involved in the program in the future, contact Jessica Kuo at [JessicaKuo@hotmail.com](mailto:JessicaKuo@hotmail.com).

## In Memoriam



Jo Gardner  
BDSc 1998

Ms. Willa Jo Gardner passed away peacefully on August 5, 2008. Jo began her academic career in 1947 with a diploma in dental hygiene. In the spring of 1998 she at 72 years of age realized a personal goal she held for more than 50 years when she graduated with a Bachelor of Dental Science (Dental Hygiene) degree. She commuted to UBC from Madeira Park on the Sunshine Coast and delightfully found herself studying with people she herself had taught during her 18 years as an instructor in UBC’s dental hygiene diploma program. Jo was often heard saying that no education is wasted and quickly put her knowledge to work, offering classes in dental care to a local seniors’ group. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jo’s name to the Alzheimer’s society of BC or the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

## More Events for all Alumni



### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DENTAL HYGIENE WINE RECEPTION

October 23, 2008 · 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm (program starts at 7 pm)

Uber Lounge  
(Beside Steamworks in Gastown)  
375 Water Street, Vancouver, BC

Cost: \$30 – Individuals  
\$20 – Students

Enjoy the wine tasting compliments of Penfolds and fine appetizers. Mingle with your classmates. Shop at the silent auction. Listen to jazz. Cash bar.

RSVP before October 17, 2008 to [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni)  
Or call 604-822-6751

### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

November 13, 2008

UBC Olympic Hockey Arena

### ANNUAL ALUMNI RECEPTION

March 6, 2009 · 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Pan Pacific Hotel, Oceanview Suite at the Pacific Dental Conference

### THE UBC CLASS OF 1989 CONTINUING EDUCATION

Half-day session on multidisciplinary diagnosis and treatment planning at the Pacific Dental Conference.

Dr. Ernest Lam (DMD 1989) is organizing in honour of his 20-year reunion. He and three of his classmates have volunteered their time to the Pacific Dental Conference and everyone is welcome to attend.

To register go to [www.pdconf.com](http://www.pdconf.com)



### TALES FROM THE BAYS

March 2009

A 40-year retrospect of UBC Dentistry alumni on film. Screenings during the PDC Alumni Reception. Watch for more information in the mail.



## Stay in Touch

The alumni relations department at UBC Dentistry can help you stay connected with your fellow graduates, plan and promote reunions, and keep you informed of upcoming educational opportunities. To learn more, please contact Jenn Parsons, Manager of Alumni & Community Affairs at [dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca) or 604-822-6751.

Stay connected to more than 1,700 alumni. Share your news, thoughts, or comments. [www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni](http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni)

### ← GOT EXPERIENCE?

Be a mentor. Contact Alex Hemming at [alexaug@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:alexaug@interchange.ubc.ca)

### ALUMNI PARTNERS



*Thank you to all the alumni sponsors and prize donors over the past year. 2007 & 2008 GOLF TOURNAMENT*

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# THANK YOU

*Thank you to all volunteers and industry support for our educational programs. CAST GOLD RESTORATION* • Dr. David Thorburn •

Dr. Margaret Webb • Dr. Randy Allan • Dr. Kevin Doyle • Dr. Ross Fraser • Dr. Chris Hacker • Dr. Suzanne Philip • Dr. Mike Thomas • Dr. Laurie Vanzella • Dr. Ross Wright • Dr. Maurice Wong • Mr. Akos Mankovits • Staff of Garden Court Dental Lab • Brasseler Canada • EC Moore Company • Garden Court Dental Lab • Jensen Premium Dental Products • Patterson Dental Canada Inc • Kerr Corporation • Suter Dental Manufacturing Co. Inc. **THE FESTIVAL OF MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS** Dr. Ruby Bhullar DMD 2007 • Dr. Jatinder Riar DMD 2003 • Dr. Chung Lui • Dr. Harry Dhanju • Dr. Jas Dhanju • Dr. Gurpreet Surdhar • Dr. Roshanak Rahmanian • Sunstar Butler *UBC Dentistry is thankful to all who volunteered their time this year. We apologize if your name or organization was missed.*

## CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION 2008/2009

### OCTOBER 08

- 4 (SATURDAY)  
Early Orthodontic Treatment:  
An Evidence Based Approach  
Dr. David Kennedy
- 9 (THURSDAY EVENING)  
Real-Time Video Conferencing Consultations  
for Clinical Oral Pathology in BC  
Dr. Chuck Shuler & Dr. Samson Ng
- 15 (WEDNESDAY EVENING)  
**NEW STUDY SERIES SEMINARS!**  
UBC Advanced General Dentistry  
Seminar Series\*
- 18 (SATURDAY)  
Endodontics: Exciting Technology,  
Hidden Pitfalls (Hands on Course)  
Dr. Alan Gluskin
- 25 (SATURDAY)  
Building a High Performance Dental Team  
Ms. Sandy Chernoff

### NOVEMBER 08

- 1 (SATURDAY)  
Sweet Impressions and Biting Remarks:  
My Opinions about Recent Casework  
Dr. David Sweet
- 13 (THURSDAY EVENING)  
Restoring Severe Anterior Attrition  
Dr. Peter Walford
- 15 (SATURDAY)  
Advance Local Anaesthesia (Hands on Course)  
Dr. David Isen
- 22 (SATURDAY)  
Predictable Esthetics: A Hands-on Experience  
with Indirect and Direct Restoratives  
Dr. Mitch Conditt
- 29 (SATURDAY)  
Simple Implant Live Surgery  
Dr. Chris Wyatt, Dr. Tassos Irinakis

### DECEMBER 08

- 6 (SATURDAY)  
From Gums to Guts: Periodontal Medicine  
and New Development  
Dr. Mark Ryder

### JANUARY 09

- 14/21 (WEDNESDAY EVENING)  
**NEW STUDY SERIES SEMINARS!**  
UBC Advanced General Dentistry  
Seminar Series\*
- 31 (SATURDAY)  
Implants for Fixed Prosthodontics  
Dr. Scott Dyer

### FEBRUARY 09

- 7 (SATURDAY)  
Restorative Materials: What, Where, Why  
and When (Part 2)  
(Hands-on Course)  
Dr. Charles Wakefield
- 11 (WEDNESDAY EVENING)  
**NEW STUDY SERIES SEMINARS!**  
UBC Advanced General Dentistry  
Seminar Series\*
- 14/15 (SATURDAY & SUNDAY)  
**ANNUAL VERNON SKI SEMINAR**
- SATURDAY  
Medical Emergencies in Dentistry  
Dr. Daniel Haas  
(7 hours of instruction)
- SUNDAY  
Make My Day - Developing a Courtesy System  
for your Dental Office and Life  
Dr. Scott LeBuke  
(3 hours of instruction)

### APRIL 09

- 18 (SATURDAY)  
"If You Can't Beat 'em, Enjoy Them" &  
"But Aren't They Just Baby Teeth?"  
Dr. Greg Psaltis
- 24-26 (FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY)  
Inhalation and Oral Sedation in Dentistry  
Dr. David Donaldson, Dr. Mark Donaldson  
and Dr. Fred Quarnstrom

**\*NEW STUDY SERIES SEMINARS:**  
Dr. Jeff Coil, Dr. Chris Wyatt, Dr. Dennis  
Nimchuk, Dr. Dorin Ruse, Dr. Eli Whitney,  
Dr. Burton Goldstein, Dr. Charles Shuler,  
Dr. David Macdonald, Dr. Phil Barer,  
Dr. Charity Su

### 2008 FALL THURSDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES FOR REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS

### OCTOBER 08

- 16 Clinical Periodontal Therapy:  
What can we expect?  
Dr. Michelle Lee

### NOVEMBER 08

- 6 Take a Look...Save a Life!  
Ms. Denise Laronde, Ms. Brenda Currie,  
Ms. Heather Biggar

- 27 The Challenge of Patient Management  
Minimize the Risk  
Ms. Debbie Preissl

This calendar is subject to change.

**FOR FULL DETAILS OF CDE COURSES AND TO REGISTER VISIT [DENTISTRY.UBC.CA/CDE](http://DENTISTRY.UBC.CA/CDE)**

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