MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JUNE 20 - 24, 2011
(MONDAY - FRIDAY)

Cast Gold Restoration
Dr. Margaret A. Webb
Don’t miss this unique opportunity!
Times: 8 am - 6 pm (format and times vary slightly each day)
Location: Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre and
John B. Macdonald Building, Faculty of Dentistry
This is an intensive five-day hands-on course. Each day begins with a lecture before
proceeding to the hands-on clinical day. In addition to working on individual patient
cases, participants will gain more in-depth knowledge of laboratory procedures.

SPRING, SUMMER, FALL 2011

EVENTS FOR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Welcome to Practice Event
April 28, 2011 (Thursday)
UBC Alumni Weekend
May 28, 2011 (Saturday)
9th Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament
September 10, 2011 (Sunday)
UBC Dentistry Family Day
September 24, 2011 (Saturday)

MORE EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

A Taste of an Executive MBA for Dental Alumni
May 7, 2011 (Saturday)
Alumni Culinary Adventure in France
June 22 - July 3, 2011 (Wednesday - Sunday)
Alumni Wine Reception at UBC Meeting, Kelowna
October 21, 2011 (Friday)

More information about these events can be found on pages 32 – 33 in this issue of
Impressions or www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni

SPRING 11

IMPRESSIONS

2 Dean’s Message
12 UBC’s Children’s Dental Program:
A Win-Win Situation
22 Grad Students in Endodontics
28 Alumni Class Notes and Events
3  News
16 Reaching Out to Combat Oral Cancer
26 The Chrysalis Student Lounge:
A Transformational Gift
35 CDE Calendar

UBC DENTISTRY

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Dear Colleagues,
Welcome to the spring 2011 edition of UBC Faculty of Dentistry’s Impressions.

The 2010-2011 academic year has been noteworthy for many accomplishments. The five graduate specialty programs and the postgraduate Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology (OMOP) Postgraduate Hospital Residency Program have outstanding students who are providing specialty care to a large number of patients. The graduate programs are also working very well together, collaborating on a complex patient treatment planning seminar that will become a prominent aspect of our graduate and postgraduate education.

We have also completed two significant renovation projects in the past few months. One half of the previous dental clinic on the second floor of the John B. Macdonald Building has been converted into the sizable Computer Learning Centre and six seminar rooms. These provide additional sites for student learning and enhance the educational experience. The student lounge has also been renovated thanks to a very generous donation from the Chrysalis Dental Centres. The lounge, which had its grand opening in January 2011, gives all students a place to relax between classes and at the end of the day. Planning is now underway to renovate the plaster lab in the John B. Macdonald Building, and that construction should begin in April 2011. Although it has been a challenge to work and learn in a building under renovation, everyone in the Faculty of Dentistry has been very patient with these projects that are greatly improving our facilities.

The feature articles in this edition of Impressions focus on some major initiatives in the Faculty of Dentistry. The contributions by Dentistry faculty members and the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program at the BC Cancer Agency Research Centre have made some impressive progress on understanding the etiology, diagnosis and management of oral cancer. Their achievements have also been recognized by a large multi-centre clinical trial to investigate the use of tissue fluorescence as an important adjunct in cancer therapy.

Another article highlights the achievements of students, staff and faculty to address the oral health needs of children who have limited access to oral health professionals. This project requires careful coordination of university and community resources and personnel to achieve critical improvements in the oral health of children.

Throughout this issue, we highlight the individual accomplishments and contributions of many members of our British Columbia dental community who enhance our teaching, research and service outcomes in significant ways.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Impressions. We are excited by what we—our students, staff and faculty members—have accomplished in 2010 and the opportunities that have arisen in 2011. And we always look forward to sharing these achievements with you.

All the best,

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

Dr. Michele Williams Shares in CDA Oral Health Promotion Award to BC OCPP

The Canadian Dental Association has presented the Oral Health Promotion Award to the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program (BC OCPP) and two of its founding pioneers, Dr. Miriam Rosin and UBC alumnus and clinical professor Dr. Michele Williams (DMD 1988). Both are part of a team of scientists and clinicians that has worked tirelessly to develop a program to heighten the awareness of oral cancer and the need for early detection.

Rosin and Williams led a working group in creating Guideline for the Early Detection of Oral Cancer in British Columbia 2008, which has been adopted as a standard and widely circulated in BC and the rest of Canada. The Guideline is available online at www.dentistry.ubc.ca/go/guideline.

In addition, their team has established a variety of community outreach programs that are linked to the central BC Cancer Agency/BC Cancer Research Centre, Vancouver General Hospital and the University of British Columbia Faculty of Dentistry. There has been a special emphasis on outreach to high-risk, under-served groups such as the poor, new immigrant populations and the elderly, who have limited access to care and information.

Through their work, Rosin and Williams have defined the pathway to reducing the incidence of oral cancer and have led the way to researching new technologies for recognizing and diagnosing oral cancer. For more information, read “Reaching Out to Combat Oral Cancer” on page 16 in this issue of Impressions.

Terry Wintonyk (L), manager of Communications and editor-in-chief of Impressions, receives the Meskin Journalism Award from Dr. Fred Bremner, president of the AADJE, at the awards ceremony in Orlando, Florida.

UBC Dentistry’s Impressions magazine won the 2010 Meskin Journalism Award, presented by the American Association of Dental Editors (AADJE), for excellence in dental student publications. The award was presented at an AADJE ceremony in Orlando, Florida, in October.

Impressions magazine was launched in the fall of 2008, with a mandate to focus on activities that directly address Dentistry’s three strategic priorities: enhancing the student experience, amplifying the research volume, and increasing community involvement. Feature articles highlight the Faculty’s recognized leadership and key role in shaping the future of the dentistry and dental hygiene professions. It is now in its sixth edition.

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Canadian Forces Partners With BOLD

Mass casualties and disaster victim identification (also known as DV1) are chilling scenarios that most of us would rather not think about. Add a military component—the Canadian Forces—and our minds may immediately conjure a collapse in society, even armed conflicts. How could it not, with the daily news-grind reminding us that Canadians are serving in military missions overseas? Similarly grim circumstances, however, can occur anywhere in the world—including Canada. Earthquakes, tsunamis, fires, explosions, collapsed buildings and floods happen every day. If the consequences are massive, the Canadian Forces (CF), with its specially trained teams, could be the first national or international responders on the scene to identify human remains. Indeed, CF teams were key elements in the DV1 responses to the 1998 Swissair crash in Nova Scotia and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. CF teams have also been dispatched by the Government of Canada in recent years to assist in identifying remains of fallen Canadian WWI soldiers in France and WWII airmen in Burma.

The CF has traditionally received standard DV1 training from the US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington DC, completing an iterative suite of programs, including the use of WinID, the US DV1 database computer application. Given their potential for deployment into a variety of international jurisdictions, however, the CF is now seeking to also hold credentials reflecting international police organization Interpol’s DV1 standard, and to train with Canadian civilian colleagues they may one day be working alongside on major DV1 missions at home or abroad.

The Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) lab, under the aegis of UBC Dentistry, and core members of the BOLD-sponsored BC Forensic Odontology Response Team (BC-FORT), are providing dental personnel from the Canadian Forces with formalized, advanced training in post-mortem and ante-mortem data collection and handling. The training will establish familiarity with the Interpol DV1 standard, including use of DV1 System International—Interpol’s DV1 database computer application manufactured by PlassData. The course will also include responding to a simulated mass casualty incident.

Achieving interoperability between CF and civilian DV1 partners, matched with professional competencies and credential equivalency of CF dental officers to civilian DV1 colleagues, takes planning and preparation—a task well-executed by Dr. David Sweet OC, director of BOLD. Sweet is currently chief DV1 scientist at Interpol (Lyon) and a forensic advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva).

Colonel James Taylor DMD 1984, the Canadian Forces senior ranking dental officer, remarks: “I very much appreciate Dr. Sweet’s leadership and sustained effort to support the Canadian Forces with this advanced training. I consider the BOLD institute and its approach to be a very appropriate Canadian benchmark for training in forensic odontology and DV1.” The training, according to Taylor, is part of an ever-evolving inter-institutional relationship that enables the CF to better serve Canada and Canadians.

Sweet has pioneered techniques that have become global industry standards in forensic odontology, including techniques for disaster response. He founded BC-FORT, one of the most highly trained groups of responders capable of handling a mass disaster in Canada or acting on behalf of Canadians who perish outside our national borders. BC-FORT members were recognized as world leaders in DV1 during the response to Thailand’s 2005 tsunami. Sweet was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2008 for enhancing Canada’s reputation as a leader in forensic odontology and for his contributions as a teacher, researcher and consultant.

BOLD Lab Graduate Student Asked to Visit Crime Scene, Advise Police

In many UBC labs, supervisors and graduate students often have to wait for opportunities to apply their research outcomes and newest discoveries in order to help the public at large. In forensic science, when the chance to directly and immediately apply results from projects arises, the applications can border on the “dramatic.”

Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) graduate student Laura Mai is currently working with her supervisors, BOLD’s director Dr. David Sweet OC and Dr. Andre Marziali from Engineering Physics, to test an innovative technology to clean forensic DNA evidence manufactured by PlassData. The course will also include responding to a simulated mass casualty incident.

Law enforcement agencies and the military use identical techniques for handling theResults of SCODA’s promise has circulated outside the URC research labs, and now detectives from the Vancouver Police Department and homicide investigators from the RCMP have contacted Laura, seeking her assistance with problematic cases. Actual crime scene exhibits have been submitted to BOLD lab for her test.

In one extreme case, plans are underway for Laura to accompany police sleuths to the crime scene to advise them on how best to collect and preserve the contaminated trace evidence.

This interest in applying SCODA technology even before Laura’s research project is complete indicates its significant potential to assist in identifying and prosecuting criminals.

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Between the Covers—New Books by Faculty Members

Oral Healthcare and the Final Ender: A Clinical Perspective provides dentists, dental hygienists and other health care professionals with comprehensive, practical instruction on managing the multifaceted oral health care needs of frail elders. The book—with Dr. Michael I. MacEntee, professor of Prosthodontics & Dental Geriatrics, as the senior editor—provides a broad and thorough perspective on clinical issues such as pain, dry mouth and periodontal disease. It also thoroughly reviews pertinent social and ethical issues, access to care and the practicalities of providing high-quality oral health care to an aging population.

Dr. Chris Wyatt, associate professor and chair of Prosthodontics & Dental Geriatrics, and Dr. Frauke Müller, professor and chair of Gerodontology and Removable Prosthodontics at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, are associate editors.

Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology: A Diagnostic Approach provides clinicians of various disciplines and skill levels—including non-radiologist readers and seniors—a practical and systematic approach to diagnostic techniques that affect the face and jaw. Written by Dr. David MacDonald, associate professor and chair of the Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology and a recognized expert in the field, the book contains a multitude of clinical images, practical examples and workflows to facilitate differential diagnosis. To reflect the scope of humanity, the book presents common and significant lesions in four broad ethnic groups, then focuses on appropriate imaging. Several chapters are co-written with a medical radiologist, Dr. Morry Martin, chief of Diagnostic Radiology, BC Cancer Agency, to bridge the gap between current textbooks in oral and maxillofacial radiology and those to do with the head and neck. The neck and base of the skull are locations where lesions are likely to be found.

Both titles are published by Wiley-Blackwell and may be purchased at www.wiley.com/go/dentistry
Dr. Chris Overall and research associate Dr. Georgina Butler will investigate ‘moonlighting proteins,’—that is, proteins that have different activities depending on where they are located. Certain proteins that normally function inside the cell can, on occasion, occur outside the cell where some play important signalling roles in inflammation. Overall and Butler’s research, titled “Moonlighting Intracellular Proteins in the Extracellular Matrix,” secured five-year funding—just over $877,000—from the CIHR.

Inflammation, tissue proteins are dissolved by proteases called matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), which are made by most tissues and white blood cells that fight infection. MMPs destroy tissue by dissolving collagens—rope-like protein structures that add strength to tissues—that normally function inside the cell can, in joints and gums, causing loose teeth in gum disease and swollen, sore joints in arthritis. However, MMPs also orchestrate healing and the way white blood cells protect the body from infection by cutting cell signalling proteins. Understanding the moonlighting proteins, how they send signals and how MMPs change those signals is important to fully understand the ways in which inflammation destroys tissues and causes disease.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has awarded UBC Dentistry professor Chris Overall and his team funding to study tissue destruction and cancer growth. The Overall Lab has developed new techniques employing gene chips and proteomics to identify thousands of proteins at a time in tissues, giving a comprehensive view of diseases such as cancer and inflammation.

Their methods specifically detect the stubs that remain after proteins are dissolved by enzymes called proteases. These protein stubs enable the researchers to decipher which signalling proteins are turned on or off by the proteases. Cells behave differently when the signals are in the “on” or “off” position, so if switching by proteases goes wrong, disease can result. The protein stubs can be important tell-tale signs, called biomarkers, that could aid in diagnosing disease. This research could lead Overall and his team to home in on targets for the development of new therapeutic drugs to treat cancer and inflammation.

This year’s Research Day explored how research conducted at UBC is being translated into new approaches for managing geriatric patients. A dynamic day of presentations underscored the importance of the topic, given that people are now living longer with their teeth, which represents a new challenge for oral health professionals. The frail elderly population is particularly vulnerable to dental problems, which can negatively impact their quality of life. Members of Dentistry’s Division of Prosthodontics, as well as Dr. Lynn Beattie, professor emeritus in UBC Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Geriatric Medicine, collectively addressed the systemic and oral physiological changes that occur with aging, how best to educate future dental professionals, and how to effectively manage the oral health needs of frail people.

Dr. Asuman Kiyak, professor and director of the Institute of Aging at the University of Washington, delivered the keynote address: “The Future of Oral Health Care for Frail Elders.”

Research Day 2011 brought together faculty, students, staff and several visiting students and professors from Australia and Korea. The event took place on the UBC campus in the Student Union Building ballroom.

Dr. Chris Overall Secures Funding to Research Breast Cancer Growth

The CIHR has awarded Dr. Chris Overall and co-investigator Dr. Shoukat Dedhar, from UBC’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, funding—totalling just over $890,000 over five years—to investigate proteolytic signatures in breast cancer.

Death from cancer mainly occurs when the tumour spreads from its original site to other sites in the body (metastasis). In breast cancer, proteases dissolve the tissue, allowing malignant cells to spread, entering blood vessels and finally going to organs such as the lungs. In cutting signalling proteins, proteases cause the cancer cells to change their behaviour, usually for the worse. Tumours in mouse mammary glands are a good model for human breast cancer.

“We found that highly malignant breast cancer cells make matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) and other important proteases called ‘matriptases.’ Certain of these proteases are found in primary tumours that metastasize in mice, but are absent from those tumours that do not spread. It is important to know what they do at this stage in helping cancer grow and spread,” Overall explains. “Our gene chips and proteomics techniques can uncover changes in proteins and how they are cut to give proteolytic signatures that occur in breast and lung cancer.” Thus, Overall and his team can decipher the actions of proteases that make tumours more cancerous.

In UBC Dentistry’s Division of Prosthodontics & Dental Geriatrics, as well as Dr. Lynn Beattie, professor emeritus in UBC Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Geriatric Medicine, collectively addressed the systemic and oral physiological changes that occur with aging, how best to educate future dental professionals, and how to effectively manage the oral health needs of frail people.

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UBC Dentistry is grateful to the following Research Day 2011 Silver Sponsors.
Dr. Lawrence Rossoff

Grant Fellowship to the ACD

Dr. Lawrence Rossoff, clinical assistant professor, was awarded Fellowship in the American College of Dentists (ACD) last October during its Annual Meeting and Convocation in Orlando, Florida.

Rossoff, who teaches preventive and community dentistry and preclinical instruction, is one of three core faculty members leading the Faculty of Dentistry’s Professionalism and Community Service (PACS) program, a dynamic model combining classroom learning with community-based outreach initiatives. Throughout his career in dentistry,

Rossoff has passionately served—often as a volunteer—the most socially stigmatized populations: medically underserved residents of inner-city neighbourhoods and people in prisons. Students, colleagues and other outreach team members are often inspired by his infectious enthusiasm.

The American College of Dentists is the oldest national (US) honorary organization for dentists. Its members have exemplified excellence through outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to dentistry and society.

More Community Programs

New Dental Clinic Launched in the Downtown Eastside

With over 60 percent of the local population experiencing oral/facial pain, Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside is a community in need of more oral health programs. UBC Dentistry and the First United Church—a long-standing community-based outreach initiative—that strives to meet the unmet health needs of residents—have partnered to operate a dental clinic located at the church. Dentistry began rotating general practice residents through the one-chair clinic in January; dental and hygiene students will follow in the future.

Clinical Radiography Instructor Excels at Professional Development

Neala Welburn, clinical radiology instructor, continues to excel in her professional development: she recently received a diploma in Adult Education from Vancouver Community College. In addition to completing this challenging and competitive program in 2010, Welburn also received a certificate of participation in the UBC Dentistry Problem-Based Learning Tutor Training Workshop. This follows a previous busy year of accomplishments. In 2009 Welburn received her Provincial Instructors Diploma from Vancouver Community College and completed the Carolina Institute for Dental Radiology Educators course from the University of North Carolina. Welburn teaches clinical radiology in the Doctor of Dental Medicine program, the Dental Hygiene Diploma program and clinical specialty programs.

Read or download the report at www.elders.dentistry.ubc.ca/scopingreview

TFRI Awards $5M to Dr. Catherine Poh

The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) has awarded Dentistry associate professor Dr. Catherine Poh and members of the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program team a $5 million grant. This grant will support a Canada-wide Phase III randomized surgical trial to further evaluate fluorescence visualization (FV) as a visual enhancement tool in oral cancer surgery. The trial—involving multiple centres and disciplines—is already running in BC and will soon be underway across the country.

Poh is a pioneer in the use of FV, a light tool that uses optics to detect cancerous margins and helps surgeons determine the extent of the high-risk tissue. Poh has seen recurrence rates in oral cancer reduced from 25 percent to almost zero through application of FV.

For more information, read “Reaching Out to Combat Oral Cancer” on page 16 in this issue of Impressions.

Read, listen and watch more detailed news coverage about the UBC Dentistry First United Oral Health Program at www.dentistry.ubc.ca/go/fuohp

Vernon to Receive General Practice Residents

Residents from Dentistry’s General Practice Residency Program will begin to rotate to Vernon’s First Nations Friendship Centre. The centre, located in downtown Vernon, a city in south-central British Columbia, is slated to open its new Community Dental Access Centre in spring 2011. Dental residents rotating to the clinic will provide necessary care to individuals in the North Okanagan area who are experiencing dental pain or infection, and who cannot afford treatment in a private clinic. Fourth-year dental and hygiene students are also planned for rotations to this clinic site, to broaden their scope of educational experience and community service.
New Appointments: Full-Time Faculty

Dr. Sang Wan Shin: Hamber Foundation Visiting Professor in Dental Geriatrics

Since fall 2010, the work of Prof. Sang Wan Shin has enriched UBC Dentistry. Shin is from the Department of Advanced Prosthodontics, Graduate School of Dental Hygiene, Konkuk University in Seoul, South Korea. A visiting professor under the Hamber Foundation Visiting Professorship in Dental Geriatrics, he has been working with Drs. Michael MacEntee and Ross Bryant to review dental geriatrics publications. The trio are also conducting a detailed comparative study of the educational programs in dental geriatrics at UBC, University of Southern California, and Boston University. Shin is also reviewing treatment outcomes of implant-supported overdentures.

Prof. Shin is co-president of the International Congress of Prosthodontists and of the Asian Academy of Osseointegration, and president of the Implantology Research Group of the Academy of Osseointegration. He is also a visiting professor at Michigan State University, East Lansing, and visiting scholar in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. Von Bergmann is a member of the editorial board of the Contemporary Issues and Trends in Science Education series. She was co-founder of the Hong Kong Accord on Global Science Education (2008) and is an expert panel member for the Board of Science Education, US Congressional Committee for Evaluation of the NASA Pre-College Science Education (2006-2008). Von Bergmann’s research expertise includes: problem-based learning; inquiry teaching; learning and assessment; college science teaching and evaluation (physics and mathematics education); history and philosophy of science in science education; opportunities to learn for science teachers; and science curriculum studies in K-12.

Obtaining a science degree in dental hygiene prepares graduates for community practice, clinical practice, administration and teaching—there are limitless opportunities in a growing and global profession. Qualified dental hygienists holding a bachelor's degree can continue their education and earn a master's degree such as the MSc in Craniofacial Science at UBC. Furthermore, many dental hygienists holding a master's degree aspire to more advanced studies at the doctoral level.

Four Years in the Making—A Milestone for the Dental Hygiene Degree Program

The 2010/2011 academic year marks an important milestone for the Dental Hygiene Degree Program at UBC. For the first time, students in all four years of the Entry-to-Practice (ETP) option are on campus together. When the Dental Hygiene Degree Program began in 1992, students entering the program were dental hygienists with diplomas who chose to complete their Bachelor of Dental Science in Dental Hygiene (BDSc (DH)) degree. In September 2007, the Faculty of Dentistry began offering the four-year ETP option, in which students train to become dental hygiene students while getting their BDSc (DH). Every year since, a new class—and new curriculum for this option—has been launched.

"After years of planning and creating a new curriculum, having all four years of classes finally at UBC is a dream come true," says Prof. Bonnie Craig, director of the Dental Hygiene Degree Program. She has been instrumental in envisioning and starting up the degree program at UBC, as well as in developing its curriculum.

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Fernanda R. Almeida, DDS, MSc, PhD, has been appointed associate professor in the Department of Oral Health Sciences, focusing on research in curriculum and instruction in health sciences education. She received her Master of Science in Science Education in 1994, and a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction, Science Education in 1998, both from the University of Southern California. Prior to UBC, Dr. von Bergmann held an appointment as associate professor in Science Education at the University of Calgary, where she was coordinator of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Education, and an evaluation consultant for the Faculty of Science. She has also been a visiting professor at Michigan State University, East Lansing, and visiting scholar in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. Von Bergmann is a member of the editorial board of the Contemporary Issues and Trends in Science Education series. She was co-founder of the Hong Kong Accord on Global Science Education (2008) and is an expert panel member for the Board of Science Education, US Congressional Committee for Evaluation of the NASA Pre-College Science Education (2006-2008). Von Bergmann’s research expertise includes: problem-based learning; inquiry teaching; learning and assessment; college science teaching and evaluation (physics and mathematics education); history and philosophy of science in science education; opportunities to learn for science teachers; and science curriculum studies in K-12.
UBC’S CHILDREN’S DENTAL PROGRAM: A WIN-WIN SITUATION

BY HEATHER CONN

When two yellow school buses full of young out-of-towners and their parents or caregivers arrive Tuesday afternoons at the UBC Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre, there is no red carpet, no uniformed greeter, no white-gloved handshake. Yet, these five- to 12-year-olds, some rambunctious and noisy, others silent and solemn, receive a more important, long-lasting form of VIP treatment.

For some of the youngest ones, who struggle in while holding the hand of a parent, this visit marks their first time at a dentist. These children come from hard-working, primarily immigrant, families in communities as far away as Abbotsford, Delta, Surrey, Port Moody and Richmond. The cost of dental services in private dental offices is a barrier for these families who do not qualify for publicly funded dental benefits. Referred by dental public health staff at Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health, the children receive free, basic dental care provided by UBC Dentistry students.

Only one other dental school in Canada offers a similar program where children are based to a university-based clinic for treatment: the University of Manitoba sends kids and students by bus to and from rural communities around Winnipeg. The UBC version is classic win-win: children who otherwise would not access dental care receive much-needed treatment, while dental students gain hands-on training in clinical pediatric dentistry and provide a rewarding community service.

“Most of the students have not yet interacted with child dental patients,” says Dr. Tracy Wong, coordinator of the program and clinical assistant professor in the UBC Faculty of Dentistry. That’s one reason why she passionately endorses this version of community service learning, whereby students gain clinical skills while fulfilling their social responsibility as future practitioners. “They see many challenging children with high treatment needs. We’re bringing the community to the clinic.”

They learn how to calm a youngster before an injection, using child-appropriate language such as “Your tooth is going to sleep, and then we can chase the sugar bugs away” or “It’s going to feel numb, fat and fuzzy.”

Dr. Tracy Wong.
Wong admits that some of the dental students are tentative and somewhat nervous at first, but once they successfully integrate their skills and knowledge and apply them to child patient care, they gain confidence and realize they will enjoy having children in their future practice. (On average, one UBC dental graduate a year chooses to specialize in pediatric dentistry.)

The Children’s Dental Program exposes UBC’s fourth-year dentistry students to children of diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages, levels of care and behaviour. They learn first-hand an array of skills: how to explain procedures gently to a child, apply behaviour management when a youngster won’t comply, and how to counsel parents about preventive oral care, whether it’s a change in diet or use of fluoride toothpaste.

“This forms part of the all-important “treatment triangle,” says Wong; a relationship of mutual support, care and information shared between the dentist, patient and parents or caregivers.

“It’s a lot of balancing of child, student and parent needs,” says Dr. Rosamund Harrison, UBC’s chair of pediatric dentistry. “Some of the families were doing well in their home countries and had access to dental care. Then, they immigrated to Canada where they have low-paying jobs and simply don’t have the money for dental treatment. They sometimes feel a little uncertain having student dentists provide their children’s dental care, but are quickly won over on seeing the care and attention their child receives.”

Some children arriving at the clinic, which is full of unfamiliar smells and shiny instruments, are understandably afraid, says Wong. The UBC curriculum responds directly to such concerns. In addition to tutorials, lectures and simulation, an online learning component called Our First Visit is available 24/7 for students. It offers practical prompts such as “How do you introduce the dental visit to a child and make them feel safe and comfortable?” and “What behaviour management techniques will you use to gain and maintain the co-operation of a young child?”

Students have two main concerns about pediatric dentistry, says Wong: giving local anaesthetic and dealing with a crying child. They learn how to calm a youngster before an injection, using child-appropriate language such as “Your tooth is going to sleep, and then we can chase the sugar bugs away” or “It’s going to feel numb, fat and fuzzy.” Students also learn how much their body language, tone of voice and touch affect children’s responses. “You can kneel down to the child’s level. Have eye contact, use distractions and humour.”

To address language differences, Wong tries to match a student and child who share a mother tongue. She keeps a list of UBC dental students who speak various languages and are able to interpret. Most visiting children are South Asian, although families from Africa, Russia, the Philippines, the Middle East, China, Cambodia, Latin America and other countries have participated.

UBC’s dental students watch and learn from pediatric dental specialists and general dentists who commit a half-day a week to teach in the clinic. (There are nine instructors for 46 students and 46 children.) “It takes a lot of dedication on their part,” says Harrison. “They see this as an important way of giving back to UBC, to the Faculty of Dentistry and to the community.”

One student was amazed to watch her supervising pediatric dentist soothe a young patient who was “wailing away, completely inconsolable” during an attempt to apply fissure sealants (plastic coatings applied to a tooth’s chewing surfaces to prevent decay). The student shared the success online with her classmates: “She [the dentist] explained that we were first going to place a grey ‘pillow’ [bite block] in the child’s mouth, and that once the ‘pillow’ was in place, the child was to close her eyes and fall asleep. Within one minute of placing the bite block in the child’s mouth, the child closed her eyes and fell asleep for the rest of the appointment.” The student concluded: “Children will listen and be agreeable to treatment if they know what to expect.”

Wong recalls one shy, 12-year-old girl whose teeth were malformed and discoloured due to a genetic condition. She never smiled. In addition, her teeth had a lot of calculus (hardened plaque). In response, an UBC student cleaned her teeth and used white composite restoration (fillings) to veneer the teeth and improve their appearance. “It was just amazing,” Wong says. “This girl had a hand mirror and she couldn’t stop smiling and looking at herself. Her mom was ecstatic.”

One new immigrant father, who had just started his own business, was so happy with UBC’s Children’s Dental Program that he started his own business, was so happy with UBC’s Children’s Dental Program that he gave a donation and rallied all of his business associates to donate. Besides such private donors, the Faculty of Dentistry funds the program and also has benefitted from sponsorship by the Tzu Chi Foundation, Variety — The Children’s Charity and the CKNW Orphan’s Fund.

“I am very happy,” says Patricia Rettis-Martinez of Surrey, whose three oldest kids, ages 11, 8 and 5, received care through the program. “Providing the buses is a really great way to get to the facilities. Thank you so much for the good program.” From Peru, Rettis-Martinez is now a Canadian citizen. She also brought her three-year-old twins for their first dental visits, which included oral examinations and preventive counselling. After all, healthy dental habits begin at a very young age.

The Children’s Dental Program began in the mid-1970s as a six-week summer clinic for students between their third and fourth years. Currently, UBC Dentistry integrates aspects of pediatric dentistry into each undergraduate year, although it is fourth-year students, sometimes with the help of their third-year buddies, who deliver care in the Children’s Dental Program.

Students who require more complex dental work have the opportunity to receive care in UBC’s new graduate program in Pediatric Dentistry. While services in this program are not free, the fees are about 20 percent less than the fees customarily charged in general practice.

With many years of experience in dental public health, Wong believes that, overall, UBC’s program contributes to an important cultural shift in dentistry and education. In her view, the welcoming symbol of an open door on a yellow school bus—access to all—expands and empowers student learning.
REACHING OUT TO COMBAT ORAL CANCER

BY MARI-LOU ROWLEY

UBC’s Faculty of Dentistry clinicians, researchers and colleagues from across BC are leading the fight against oral cancer by bringing innovative diagnostic tools into communities most at risk. Now, with a major grant from the Terry Fox Research Institute (Terry Fox Foundation), their research is going Canada-wide.

Oral cancer is a silent killer. Until recently, marginalized populations—the poor, the elderly and immigrants—were most at risk. Now, a growing number of cases are found in the young and upwardly mobile. Yet most people don’t know oral cancer is a health threat. There are no runs for the cure, no coloured ribbon campaigns and no early warning symptoms. The statistics are alarming. Of the 3,200 people diagnosed with oral or oropharyngeal cancer each year in Canada, 40 to 50 percent will die within five years. Recurrence occurs in 30 to 40 percent of cases, and treatment of late-stage oral cancer can cause disfigurement, impairment of speech and eating, and diminished quality of life. That’s why UBC dentists, researchers and colleagues at Simon Fraser University and the BC Cancer Agency have joined together in an interdisciplinary, multi-institutional effort to develop new diagnostic tools, screening methods and treatment protocols to improve outcomes for oral cancer patients.

“Oral cancer is a devastating disease that hasn’t shown a lot of change in prognosis for decades anywhere in the world. We wanted to find a way to better manage it,” says Dr. Miriam Rosin, director of the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program (BC OCPP) at the BC Cancer Agency Research Centre. A translational scientist and professor in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology at SFU, and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC, Rosin has been working tirelessly over the past two decades to bring together a network of researchers and clinicians in a province-wide program to raise awareness of oral cancer and engage the community in early prevention and risk management.

Rosin and UBC Dentistry clinical professor and oral medicine specialist Michele Williams were co-chairs in drafting Guideline for the Early Detection of Oral Cancer in British Columbia 2008 (see resource links). The comprehensive approach to screening and lesion assessment includes recommendations for taking patient history, conducting visual examinations, using optional screening tools, and establishing guidelines for diagnostic biopsies and referral pathways. “We recognize that dental professionals have a key role to play in detection and prevention of oral cancer, so we have tried to facilitate this as much as possible,” says Rosin.

Helping Dentists at the Front Lines of Detection

Rosin and UBC Dentistry faculty Drs. Catherine Poh, Lewei Zhang and Michele Williams and researchers at the BC Cancer Agency are involved in an ongoing eight-year longitudinal study that is evaluating a set of innovative technologies to better guide clinical decisions on patient risk and treatment. Funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, an arm of the National Institutes of Health in the US, the work of the BC OCPP is recognized as having the potential to provide more effective and potentially life saving early detection programs throughout Canada, the US and worldwide.

“This study is unique in the world, and it has been fundamental to the success of our program,” says Rosin. “We now have over 400 patients with precancerous lesions that we are following over time.”

Dr. Michele Williams (L), Dr. Lewei Zhang (C) and Dr. Miriam Rosin.
With support from the BC Dental Association and the Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, Rosein, Williams, and former student and now UBC Dentistry assistant professor Dr. Denise Laronde conducted oral cancer focus groups with dentists and dental hygienists on issues such as education, barriers to treatment and diagnostic tools.

"Dental professionals themselves told us the main issue was a need for diagnostic protocols and clear referral pathways," Laronde states.

While the gold standard for diagnosis is still the biopsy, the procedure is costly and invasive, and many dentists lack the experience to perform the procedure. To aid in the collection of tissue samples, BC OCPP researchers have developed a brushing method that is easy to perform and non-invasive. In tandem, the group has developed highly sensitive molecular tools that can analyze the smaller tissue samples.

In addition to income and lifestyle risk factors, patients also face many barriers to treatment that Poh and colleagues also work to address. "Recently, we had a patient come in with a sore throat, which he assumed was because he was trying to quit smoking. It turned out he had an early stage of oral cancer," says Poh, citing one example. "As well as having financial issues, he didn't want to leave the Downtown Eastside because that's where he felt safe. So it was difficult for him to go for radiation treatment." Her team arranged for him to talk to a family counsellor at the BC Cancer Agency, who then arranged for transportation.

Poh and colleagues also run a mobile cancer screening program in community centres in the Downtown Eastside to reach patients who might not come to the dental clinic. Immigrant populations, particularly those from China, India and Southeast Asia are at high risk because of low awareness and cultural practices such as chewing tobacco and betel quid. "In talking with patients, we realized the screening has to be free, painless, fast and close by," she notes.

An unexpected finding of Poh's early studies of FV was that regions of tissue showing loss of autofluorescence often extended unevenly beyond the clinical boundaries, and sometimes go more than one centimetre. These changes even appeared at former lesion sites that were no longer clinically apparent. "In a way, surgeons are cutting blindly, because we know that there can still be some positive margin beyond the clinical boundary, as well as local recurrence," she says. "Now we are using the tool to help surgeons outline the surgical margins, and initial results are very promising—with recurrence rates reduced from 25 percent to almost zero."

"In the first 200 patients we identified two with oral cancer, and now the average in that community is one in 150 screened patients, compared with one in 10,000 in BC, Canada and the US," says Poh.

Perhaps the best news for dentists and patients is that most oral premalignant lesions (OPLs) will not progress into cancer. The current screening program in community centres that Poh and colleagues also work to address. Taking Oral Cancer Screening to the Streets

The largest risk factors for oral cancer are smoking and heavy drinking, which are often combined with poor diet and oral hygiene.

"As part of our study we were looking at what community would most benefit from oral cancer screening," says Catherine Poh, oral pathologist and associate professor of dentistry at UBC. “Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside is one of the poorest and most at-risk neighbourhoods in Canada."
been working to characterize molecular and genetic markers that help identify which OPLs will progress to cancer. She has worked with physicists at the BC OCPP to develop an in-house computer imaging system that is able to analyze 110 different nuclear features, such as size, shape and even the texture of certain cells. Using previous data that compares normal and cancerous cells, the imaging system visually and quantitatively differentiates subtle differences in OPLs to provide better diagnosis and identification of high-risk lesions.

This work is fundamental to another major goal of the BC OCPP—streamlining the referral process to provide timely evaluation and treatment for those at highest risk, while avoiding over-treating patients who have low-risk lesions. The team developed a five-step approach to patient management (see diagram). To date, nearly 3,000 dentists in BC participate in the screening network.

Dealing with Devastation—The Front Lines of Cancer Patient Care

Since there is such a low awareness of oral cancer, its diagnosis often comes as a surprise to patients. Depending upon the stage of the disease, the reality of treatment and prognosis can be an even bigger shock. The best case scenario is a 36-day course of radiation along with chemotherapy, which can cause pain and inflammation in the lining of the mouth; dryness, which makes eating and swallowing difficult; changes in, or loss of, taste; increase in oral infections; irritation from dentures and dental appliances; problems with jaw movement; and teeth decay and breakup. Patients with more progressed cancers often have to undergo disfiguring surgery which can involve removal of a portion of the jaw.

“Every patient has different emotional reservoirs and some are remarkably stoic,” says Dr. Allan Hovan, provincial practice leader of Oral Oncology at the BCCA and clinical assistant professor of dentistry at UBC. As provincial practice leader, he is in charge of dental services at BC’s five regional cancer centres in Vancouver, Surrey, Abbotsford, Kelowna and Victoria (a sixth will be opening in Prince George soon). At the BC Cancer Agency, Hovan works alongside Williams—who leads the prevention program initiatives—at the front lines of patient care, including pre-treatment assessment, managing treatment side-effects, and prosthodontic rehabilitation, or “putting patients back together again after surgery.”

“This continuum of care is part of the mandate of the BC Cancer Agency,” says Hovan, who notes that as a not-for-profit centre, as part of patient care they are able to spend generous amounts of time answering questions, providing information and referring patients to professional counsellors, nutritionists and support groups that are available.

Hovan and Williams are spokespersons for the BCCA’s program in Oral Oncology, giving talks to the medical community and the general public on oral cancer risk factors and prevention. Hovan notes that oral health is not a priority for many individuals or for the health care system. Dental care is not covered by provincial programs, and many individuals who have private dental insurance don’t use it. “Fifty percent of people either don’t go to the dentist or can’t afford to, so that’s where the system breaks down.”

HPV—A New Risk for Oral Cancer

Increasingly, inflammation and viruses are factors in disease. A well noted example is herpesviral cancer—cancer in the uppermost region of the throat—which has been strongly linked to infection with the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). Oral cancer is no exception. Recently diagnosed head and neck cancers have been attributed to the human papillomavirus (HPV), the same virus that causes cervical cancer.

“The total number of new cases of oral cancer diagnosed per year in BC is about 500, and conservatively 125 of these cases, or 25 percent, are now HPV-related,” says Hovan. Unlike oral cancers caused by smoking and drinking which occur on the cheeks, gums, sides of the tongue and floor of the mouth, HPV-related oral cancers tend to occur at the base of the tongue and the tonsil area. They also tend to affect younger, non-smoking, non-drinking adults—predominantly males. “The demographic of the oral cancer patient is changing,” says Hovan. Approximately 90 percent of cervical cancers are HPV-16 related and, of those oral cancers attributable to HPV, most are similarly related to HPV-16. Fortunately, HPV-related oral cancers tend to carry a better long-term prognosis than those oral cancers caused by smoking and/or drinking and respond particularly well to combined-modality therapy (radiation and chemotherapy).

But, again, early detection is the key. “As dentists, we need to continue to incorporate thorough head and neck examination as the standard for the patients in our practices,” says Hovan.

Making a Difference

The UBC and BC OCPP team has become renowned nationally and internationally for their research and outreach in the early detection of oral cancer and related care. A full issue of the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association was dedicated to their research, which has generated global interest. As a result, Rossin has been invited to speak to dentists and oral cancer specialists all over the world, from Mexico City and the Dominican Republic to India. “Often successful technology or procedure developed here don’t go across Canada—or anywhere else—because they are not built around communities of care,” she says. “But people are different, diseases are different, causes are different. In order to transfer research so that it has a global impact, you need to be able to retell it to be effective in new communities.”

Closer to home, UBC dental students are benefiting from the BC OCPP team’s knowledge and expertise. “We now have graduate students who are excited about the next generation will be the champions of this work, says Williams. “It has been a real privilege to work with such an enthusiastic and dedicated group.”

“One thing that I like to tell dental students and health professionals is that they need to think scientifically, not just technically. Not ‘here is a cavity, how do I repair it?’” adds Zhang.

Resource Links


“Fifty percent of people either don’t go to the dentist or can’t afford to, so that’s where the system breaks down.”

Dr. Denise Laronde and Dr. Allan Hovan.
GRAD STUDENTS IN ENDODONTICS TRANSLATE CLINICAL SKILLS AND CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH INTO FRONT-LINE CARE

BY TERRY WINTONYK

UBC Dentistry graduate students are involved in cutting-edge development of novel irrigation fluids. Dr. Markus Haapasalo, chair of the Division of Endodontics and head of the Department of Oral Biological and Medical Sciences, is a leading expert in endodontic treatment and research. He recently developed an all-in-one irrigant, called Qmix, which is used for the final rinse of a root canal to eradicate bacteria that may persist in a biofilm. Additionally, it removes the smear layer. Because of its effective multi-faceted action, Qmix, developed with industry support, will soon be marketed internationally for use as a root canal irrigant.

Dr. Houman Abtin
Dr. Wei Qian
Dr. Neda Tabatabaei

The community service experience, given its breadth and diversity, is invaluable for students trained in endodontics; it would be a better bet. Faculty of Dentistry graduate student Houman Abtin said he learned the traits and skills that anyone in knee-buckling pain would hope to find.

“If I’m capable of saving the patient’s tooth without causing discomfort,” says Abtin, “I’d want 10 years of experience as a mission worker or a master’s degree in Craniosacral Science with a diploma in endodontics, the treatment of diseases of the tooth root and pulp. Abtin says he has learned a lot from working with diverse populations, thanks to a community outreach program at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH).

“Sometimes a person needs dental care, but is also hooked up to a heart monitor or could be receiving immune suppressant drugs for an organ transplant,” says Abtin.

Despite these challenges, the rewards are immense, says Abtin, recalling how impressed he was by the regenerative power of one particular patient. One 83-year-old male patient at VGH complained of toothache in his back molar. Abtin removed the diseased tissue from the root and saw from the man’s X-ray that bacteria had caused substantial bone loss around the molar root. However, during a check-up 10 months later, Abtin found the patient had up to 10 millimetres of bone growth around the treated tooth.

“When a root canal is irrigated and bacteria are cleared out, the bone can grow back 90 percent of the time,” says Abtin. “It’s an amazing feeling to know that my treatment has created an environment where the body can repair itself.”

The community service experience, given its breadth and diversity, is invaluable for helping students deal with the interpretation, says Dr. Jeffrey Coil, head of the graduate program and an associate professor who teaches oral biological and medical sciences.

Coil explains that students yet to arise and augment their clinical skills and also translate their cutting-edge research into front-line care. “For instance, graduate students will have studied the most effective treatments for root canal disinfection, looking at different combinations and concentrations of irrigants such as sodium hypochlorite, EDTA, and chlorhexidine.”

Adapted with permission from UBC Public Affairs, published in UBC Reports, Dec. 3, 2010.

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By LORRAINE CHAN

Community Service Cures Root Canal Blues

The Endodontics Specialty Program at UBC—Contributions to Research and Service

BY TERRY WINTONYK

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Graduate students in the graduate specialty program in endodontics have worked alongside Drs. Markus Haapasalo, Jeffrey Coil and Ya Shen on this leading clinical research that is grounded in basic science and involves industry collaboration.

According to Coil, “It’s both basic and translational research—the students’ involvement at this breadth and depth of the development of novel irrigation fluids is unique for our clinical specialty graduate students. Combine this with an experience of diverse patient populations in the community and, with a solid acumen in the science, they’re well prepared for applying the latest treatment modalities.”

Adapted with permission from UBC Public Affairs, published in UBC Reports, Dec. 3, 2010.

The endodontics specialty program at UBC is one of only two in Canada and the only one in Western Canada. In this program, the study of irrigants is rounded out with investigations into bacterial communication (biofilm), irrigation physics (fluid dynamics), and materials and tools such as new nickel-titanium rotary instruments. Graduate students are encouraged to participate in all these areas.

From its inception, the program has accepted referrals to endodontic treatment from BC dentists. “Graduate residents provide complex treatment management,” Coil says. “Patients are assigned within days and treatment is prompt.” Coil points out further benefits of treatment in the graduate program: “We have the ability to consult with other disciplines such as prosthodontics, periodontics, pediatric dentistry and orthodontics [all clinical specialty graduate programs at UBC Dentistry].

A case referred here from the community is going to receive comprehensive attention; it is possibly the best place to be.”

UBC Dentistry launched its graduate endodontics specialty program in 2008. Now in its third year, the program has a full load of students in all three years, and the first graduates—Drs. Houman Abtin, Wei Qian and Neda Tabatabaei—will be completing their program this spring. These graduates will contribute to a vibrant community of endodontists in BC and internationally. Future patients and the endodontic community alike will benefit from their advanced endodontic training.

Looking to refer a case? Download referral forms at www.dentistry.ubc.ca/referral.
Dr. Joanne Walton, associate dean of Academic Affairs, credits Zul’s strong desire to build his own professional credentials. “I thought about pursuing a master’s degree in education, but also knew that UBC’s Faculty of Dentistry was an appropriate fit for graduate studies because of its pioneering reputation in dental hygiene education.”

A previous bachelor’s degree in Nutritional Sciences from UBC, and a diploma in Dental Hygiene gave him the academic prerequisites for grad school. “When time came to develop my research question, I struggled initially,” he recalls. “I was more inspired to tackle an issue related to dental hygiene education rather than one in the traditional oral health sciences. I didn’t know what I truly wanted to research until my graduate supervisor, Prof. Bonnie Craig, asked me: ‘What gaps exist in dental hygiene literature that i lack?’”

Instantly Zul came up with his answer: “No one has investigated how advancing one’s dental hygiene education beyond a diploma impacts on the quality of client care.”

In 2005 Zul was the valedictorian for the VCC education has set the course for his career and has given the profession some research results it needs.

If your practice would like to participate in the Summer Student Practitioner Program, contact Alex Herming, manager of Student Services, at 604-822-3036 or alexas@interchange.ubc.ca.

Zul’s research findings stemmed from interviews with dental hygienists across Canada who had first earned a diploma and then returned to school for their dental hygiene baccalaureate degree. The most prevalent themes included the participants reporting a higher level of critical thinking and problem solving after earning their degree, using primary rather than anecdotal sources of research to make client recommendations, and ability to communicate disease processes to clients with increased knowledge and confidence. The evidence was clear that the dental hygiene baccalaureate degree does have a positive impact on client care.

Research findings such as this may provide impetus for the advancement of educational credentials for the dental hygiene profession. Government agencies have put forth specific criteria for any health care profession to meet if that profession desires to change or advance their educational credentials. Evidence such as Zul’s—findings—that additional credentials or education result in improved quality of patient care—is one such criterion.

In 2010, Zul published articles in the Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene and in the International Journal of Dental Hygiene. His final paper presenting the bulk of his findings will be published in the Journal of Dental Education in the spring of 2011. Zul credits his success to his graduate committee. “My research experiences and this outcome was a reflection of the vision that my research committee had for me from the very beginning. They set me up for success.”

But to his credit, success is no stranger. In 2005 Zul was the valedictorian for the VCC School of Health Sciences when he received his diploma in Dental Hygiene, and he received the College of Dental Hygienists of BC Overall Excellence Award for academic excellence and clinical proficiency. In 2010, he received the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association Outstanding Research Award for his master’s research. And in Zul’s words, conveying his biggest outcome: “My research experiences and this outcome has given to value and respect research! It has changed my career and my purpose.”

The doors are wide open for Zul. Alongside his teaching aspirations and his new role as father come May, his future plans include ongoing research and a PhD in Educational Studies through the UBC Faculty of Education.

Zul Kanji’s groundbreaking research in dental hygiene education has set the course for his career and has given the profession some research results it needs.

The Purpose of This Dental Hygienist’s Education—To Bring Out the Best

BY TERRY WINTON

If you practice would like to participate in the Summer Student Practitioner Program, contact Alex Herming, manager of Student Services, at 604-822-3036 or alexas@interchange.ubc.ca.
The Chrysalis Student Lounge
A Transformational Gift

Dr. Mark Koen, a 1997 graduate of the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, together with his business partner, Dr. Tran Bongard, founded the Chrysalis Dental Centres, establishing new approaches to completely revolutionize long-term care facilities located in Vancouver’s Chinatown.

Dr. Tran Bongard, a leader in geriatric dentistry and research, has developed a multi-level program to “adopt” two long-term-care homes. This program will support a multi-faceted team learning environment involving the Geriatric Dentistry, DMD, Dental Hygiene and graduate programs, while having a significant impact on the quality of long-term care for more than 200 seniors at risk. This program provides truly accessible oral health care to these seniors, as well as a stable and ongoing learning and research opportunity in dental geriatrics for our students and faculty. When funding support for this community program came to a close, the Faculty re-evaluated the program and assessed the link to UBC Dentistry’s core values of enhancing the student experience, providing community service and optimizing research.

Chrysalis Dental Centres has very generously supported the renovation of the student lounge in the John B. Macdonald Building (JBM). This renovation has more than doubled the space for students to spend their time in between patients and classes.

The new lounge is an outstanding multi-use space for students, featuring floor-to-ceiling storage lockers and a fully operational kitchen with four microwaves to serve the large student population and social functions. The next step in the project will deliver new, comfortable furnishings for relaxing, studying and socializing, and a glass wall to make use of the outside balcony, which is currently inaccessible due to building code requirements. Two large doors open to expand the lounge into the foyer, which will provide individual study and expanded social space—a smart idea for large student functions.

The faculty of Dentistry greatly appreciates Chrysalis Dental Centres’ vision in providing the support for renovating the student lounge—now called the Chrysalis Student Lounge. Having an alumnus step forward and make a difference that has such a tremendous impact on our students is a great testament to the growth of alumni commitment to the success of the Faculty.

Dr. Mark Koen: “Life is not all about receiving. It’s about giving as well. I saw renovating the student lounge as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of something significant. It’s my own school, a place that raised me and made me into a dentist, which was my dream.”

“My dental office is called Chrysalis, and like its namesake, it is all about transformation. We transform patients’ lives every day. Like my dental practice, I wanted to be part of the transformation at UBC Dentistry—and what better way than to give back to my school in the form of renovating the student lounge. I wanted to call it a ‘chrysalis’ lounge because it marks the new beginning of a different era.”

“I strongly believe that the future of dentistry is in the students, and it excites me to see their enthusiasm—especially the third- and fourth-year students. They’re a different breed. They’re exciting to be with, and I think they will really carry dentistry forward.”

It is an honour for me to contribute to the renovations of the lounge where students can free their minds and enjoy time with colleagues, professors and friends. I think it’s a wonderful environment.”

“Make it Count”

UBC Dentistry has many opportunities available to support enhancing the student experience. More renovations in the John B. Macdonald Building are planned to effectively use the space for teaching, research and community service. Space for a clinical research centre and the clinical specialty graduate programs are two pressing projects. The Faculty of Dentistry greatly appreciates Chrysalis Dental Centres’ vision in providing the support for renovating the student lounge—now called the Chrysalis Student Lounge. Having an alumnus step forward and make a difference that has such a tremendous impact on our students is a great testament to the growth of alumni commitment to the success of the Faculty.

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“I strongly believe that the future of dentistry is in the students, and it excites me to see their enthusiasm—especially the third- and fourth-year students. They’re a different breed. They’re exciting to be with, and I think they will really carry dentistry forward.”

“It is an honour for me to contribute to the renovations of the lounge where students can free their minds and enjoy time with colleagues, professors and friends. I think it’s a wonderful environment.”

“When it comes to blazing a trail, the Class of 1986 are certainly leading the way. With an impressive track record of reunion activity and donating to UBC Dentistry, they are one of the first groups to have ever formally combined a reunion celebration with fundraising as a class gift. A unique and inspiring achievement!”

“We wanted to mark our 25th anniversary by creating a fundraising initiative that directly supports students on a long-term basis,” says class representative and Dean’s Advisory Board member Bob Coles. “This is our way of supporting the next generation of dental professionals and showing appreciation for our own dental education at UBC. Hopefully, other reunion classes will follow suit.”

Enhancing the student experience was the UBC Dentistry strategic plan theme that resonated strongly with these classmates, who are considering several project ideas where the funds raised will directly benefit students. These include establishing a legacy fund and series of bursaries, furnishing the recently renovated student lounge, and funding opportunities for students to travel abroad and volunteer with disadvantaged populations.

UBC Dentistry has had a long relationship with the Simon K.Y. Lee Senior’s Care Home and Villa Cathay Care Home, two long-term-care facilities located in Vancouver’s Chinatown. With past support from the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, UBC has been able to provide free oral health assessments and care for residents of these facilities. The positive impact of providing dental care for residents of long-term-care facilities such as Simon K.Y. Lee and Villa Cathay cannot be overstated. The sooner dental disease and problems are detected and treated, the more comfort and potential of life-threatening infections are minimized.

When funding support for this community program came to a close, the Faculty re-evaluated the program and assessed the link to UBC Dentistry’s core values of enhancing the student experience, providing community service and optimizing research.

Dr. Chris Wyatt, program director of the Graduate Prosthodontics Program and a leader in geriatric dentistry and research, has developed a multi-level program to “adopt” these long-term-care facilities through a newly created dynamic educational model. This program will support a multi-faceted team learning environment involving the Geriatric Dentistry, DMD, Dental Hygiene and graduate programs, while having a significant impact on the quality of long-term care for more than 200 seniors at risk. This program provides truly accessible oral health care to these seniors, as well as a stable and ongoing learning and research opportunity in dental geriatrics for our students and faculty.

Funding to support this concept of community service learning is critical to its success. The Peter Young Foundation sees the value of this program in meeting needs and has generously provided the start-up funds to launch the program. “This generous gift will support not only the clinical education of dental students, dental hygiene students, general practice residents and graduate prosthodontics residents,” says Wyatt, “but will also provide much-needed dental care at no cost to frail elderly patients residing in two long-term-care homes.”

This latest fundraising initiative by the Class of 1986 is in addition to generously sponsoring an operatory in the Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre a few years ago.

UBC Dentistry’s New Initiative: Adopt a Long-Term-Care Facility

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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

1970s

Dip DH 1971 REUNION
40th Year Reunion
Friday, March 11, 2011
After 40 years the fun has not stopped for the Dip DH 1971 class. Dinner at Goldfish Pacific Kitchen follows the Annual Alumni Reception at the Pacific Dental Conference on March 11. In May, classmates are planning to cruise between Seattle and Vancouver.

DMD 1971 REUNION
40th Year Reunion
Friday, March 11, 2011
Dinner at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club will follow the class photo session at the Annual Alumni Reception at the Pacific Dental Conference.

1980s

Dip DH 1981 REUNION
30th Year Reunion
Friday, March 11, 2011
Golf is on the agenda for the Dip DH 1981 reunion on Predator Ridge in Vernon, BC. Other activities include gourmet dinners in Vernon and trips to the spa.
For more information, contact Genny Chu at chugenny@hotmail.com

1990s

DMD 1991 REUNION
20th Year Reunion
Friday, March 11, 2011
Sigrid Coil and Sandra Finch are planning a dinner at Oru Restaurant in the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel following the Annual Alumni Reception.
For information, e-mail scoil@telus.net or sbfinch@telus.net

2000s

DMD 2001 REUNION
10th Year Reunion
Friday, March 11, 2011
Suzy Huphas has taken on the leadership role to plan a 10-year reunion for her class. They will be dining at the hip Gastown restaurant Bona, at its new Water Street location.
For information on this reunion, e-mail suzyhk@yahoo.com

DMD 2007
Richard Chau
DMD 2002
The Sutton family is pleased to introduce the newest addition: Sienna Jean, born January 6, 2011, in Toronto, Ontario, to proud parents Kirk and Allin Sutton. Grandpa Garry Sutton DMD 1972 is happy too. Perhaps a third generation dentist to come?

DMD 2011 candidate
Sanaz Najian
Aidin Ghotbi is pleased to announce his engagement to graduating student Sanaz Najian.

KEEP IN TOUCH
www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni

For ideas, contact Jenn Parsons, manager of Alumni & Community Affairs, at 604-822-6751 or dentalum@interchange.ubc.ca
A group of us from the Class of 2010 flew from across Canada to meet in Whistler this past January, as we did all four years as students. The group included: Alvin Lo (now living in Ontario); Mike Sander, Ryan Ansay and Hussien Nasir (Alberta); Emery Bland and Mike O'Brien (the Sunshine Coast); Greg Marasa (Surrey); Mehr Poualad and Mike Webster (Fort St. John), and Jan Kantoch (Vancouver). Our plan is to do this trip every year until we can’t ski or snowboard anymore—although, admittedly, we have already been doing spa days for the last two years.

### Almost Alumni

Almost Alumni

Caroline Cannon DMD 2011 candidate
Daniel Roznyk DMD 2011 candidate
Ayat Saleh DMD 2012 candidate
Sayona Faraj BDS 2013 candidate
Julie Keen BDS 2013 candidate
Lylian Menderz BDS 2013 candidate
Kira Buryl BDS 2014 candidate
Jessica Church DMD 2014 candidate

Almost Alumni

Almost Alumni

Daniel and Caroline are pleased to announce their engagement. Daniel popped the question on a recent trip to Seattle, Washington, at the beginning of November. There is a lot to look forward to after dental school for these two! Congratulations.

Almost Alumni

Almost Alumni

Posing for a “family portrait” wearing sweaters that Bill Cosby would be proud of, these students are enjoying the inaugural Dental Hygiene bzzr garden. The Dental Hygiene and DMD students enjoyed socializing together while raising funds for the UBC Dental Undergraduate Society.

Almost Alumni

Almost Alumni

Danae and Kristina are this year’s DMD students/alumni representatives for the UBC Dental Undergraduate Society. They are currently working on organizing an event for DMD students and young alumni at the upcoming Pacific Dental Conference on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. If you are a DMD graduate of the last five years, please join third- and fourth-year students for an informal night at Library Square starting at 7 p.m. Also, they are working with Nick Sadow DMD 2006 to create an online discussion forum between alumni and students. They are excited about these upcoming projects and look forward to seeing many of you at their future events.

### In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Jim Slichter DMD 1975

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. James Michael Slichter on Thursday, October 21, 2010, in Ajloun, Jordan, at the age of 60. Jim had been on vacation with his friends and family when he suffered heart failure. Jim was well respected and will be greatly missed by his many colleagues in the dental profession.

He loved his varied and successful career and was fortunate to have completed many travel adventures over the past few years. Jim will be lovingly remembered by his wife Phyllis, his father, George, his sister Maureen, his husband Stuart and their two sons Gavin and Glenn, Phyllis’s sister Louise, her husband Roger and their children Carolyn and Dennis and their families. Michael Fung DMD 1975 has set up a memorial fund to remember Jim. To make a donation, please contact Niki Williams-Walsh at mtw@interchange.ubc.ca

### Almost Alumni

Almost Alumni

Jessica started vaulting (an equestrian sport) three years ago in Victoria, BC. Currently, she is the BC (Zone 5) provincial champion. She is also on a canter team, in the individual category, that is aiming to compete at the next World Equestrian Games in 2014 in Normandy, France. Jessica became a certified equestrian coach in January 2010 and trains three days a week in Chilliwack and Washington State. This picture shows one of Jessica’s gymnastics stunts at the Spanish Full Fair in September 2010 during a Cirque du Soleil-themed demonstration.

### Recent Events

Recent Events

In July 2010, a team comprised of eight UBC students (six from Medicine, one from Dentistry and one from Nursing) travelled to two rural communities in Honduras (Santiago and San Isidro) for three weeks. We worked with a Honduran NGO called PRODID to provide health education to the local women and children. As dental student of the group, I was responsible for leading the oral health care education component of the project. In short, I held oral health care workshops in the school for grades one to six, taught them about the basics of tooth anatomy, the sequence of events that lead to cavities, and proper oral health care practices. I also covered personal hygiene practices such as proper hand washing. In addition to education at school, an oral health care workshop was also held for the mothers of the community, focusing on the causes and prevention of baby caries. Baby caries are caused by prolonged exposure to sugar—from the practice of feeding babies with a bottle, for example. (This had been noted during visits from past team members.)

### In Memoriam

In Memoriam

While we were there, our group participated in a municipal health fair, where I was able to present an oral health programme to visitors from neighbouring communities. Aside from education, I was able to work with two local Honduran dentists to provide fluoride varnish treatments to 90 children in grades five and six. We were also able to provide all the schoolchildren in the two communities (about 360 total) with toothbrushes and toothpaste. Aside from the dental component of the project, I assisted my team with the other components of the UBC Global Health Initiative (GHI) Honduras Project, which included men’s/women’s reproductive, maternal and neonatal, sexual and respiratory health, as well as family planning.
Events for Students and Alumni

UBC Dentistry Family Day
SuperChefs of the Universe entertained aspiring young chefs at Family Day this past September 25. The tooth fairy, Katrina, looked the part in her fabulous fit-for-a-princess dress. DMD and Dental Hygiene students explained clinic techniques to children of all ages. With over 300 people in attendance, alumni, students, faculty and friends felt a part of the Dentistry family.

Community Volunteer Clinical Program—Abbotsford
The Abbotsford Food Bank Dental Clinic has been another great opportunity for UBC dental students to volunteer their time to help make these days possible and to further their educational experience.

3rd Annual Battle of the Bands: Faculty/Alumni vs. Students
Three bands battled it out on January 14, 2011, in this third annual Battle of the Bands. A record number of guests filled the ballroom of the Thea Koerner Graduate Student Centre. Thank you to Pat Madaisky & Co., Scotiabank and Long & McQuade Musical Instruments for sponsoring the event.

ANNUAL ALUMNI RECEPTION PACIFIC DENTAL CONFERENCE 2011
Friday, March 11, 2011 6 - 6 pm
Second Floor Lobby, Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre
Commemorating anniversary class photos to be taken of: 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2010. No RSVP is necessary, but if you would like to organize a class reunion to follow the reception, contact Jenn Parsons at dentalm@interchange.ubc.ca

SUMMER STUDENT PRACTITIONER PROGRAM MEET & GREET
Friday, March 11, 2011 7:30 - 8:30 am
All BC dentists are invited to a networking breakfast in the Coal Harbour Suite of the Pan Pacific Hotel to meet third-year dental students during the Pacific Dental Conference. Also, information on the Summer Student Practitioner Program (SSPP) will be shared. To RSVP e-mail, Alex Hemming, manager of Student Services, at alexaug@interchange.ubc.ca

WELCOME TO PRACTICE EVENT
Thursday, April 28, 2011 6 - 8 pm
Mentors from the UBC & BCDA Dental Mentorship Program are invited to attend a reception at UBC Sap’s Bistro for the graduating class of 2011, sponsored by the BCDA and CGSPI. Mentors, please contact Alex Hemming, manager of Student Services, at 604-822-9326 or alexaug@interchange.ubc.ca

More Events for Alumni

DMD 2012 candidate
Saturday, May 28, 2011
UBC Point Grey Campus
Mark May 28, 2011, in your calendar for another outstanding Alumni Weekend experience at UBC.

9TH ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sunday, September 18, 2011 1- pm
(shotgun start)
Save this date for the golf tournament. This event sells out fast, so to reserve your foursome today, e-mail dentalm@interchange.ubc.ca

ALUMNI CULINARY ADVENTURE IN FRANCE
June 22 - July 3, 2011
Learn to cook this summer in the Loire Valley, France, at the Walnut Grove Cookery (www.walnutgrovecookery.com). For more information on this alumni travel adventure, contact Jane from North South Travel at 1-800-665-1882 or jane@nstravel.bc.ca

VISIT THE PHOTO GALLERY
View photos of past events at www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni

ALUMNI PARTNERS
Choose from our selection of partner benefits.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
Follow Alumni & Community Affairs @dentamalumni

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.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS
If you are a dentist or dental hygiene professional and would like to donate a few hours to mentor a DMD or Dental Hygiene student, contact Alex Hemming at alexaug@interchange.ubc.ca

ALUMNI ACCESS TO DMD 2012 CONTEST
Enter to win a WestJet trip for two, compliments of North South Travel! All alumni and other oral health professionals are invited to enter.

Staying connected to more than 1,900 alumni. Share your news, thoughts or comments. www.dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni
Thank you to all our volunteers and industry supporters.

3RD ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS: FACULTY/ALUMNI VS. STUDENTS

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION 2011 – 2012

2012 · Nelson Chen DMD 2012 · Deziree Desroches DMD 2012 · Yingrong Dong DMD 2012 · Amir Farkas DMD 2012 · Trevor Gibson DMD 2012 · Dr. Duncan Higgins · Victoria Ho (faculty) · Michael Magnuson DMD 2001 · ScottMartyna DMD 2001 · Bill McDonald DMD 1977 · Nicholas Premontre DMD 2002 · Dr. William Roosevelt · Dr. Larry Rossby (faculty) · Peter Rossby DMD 2012 · Joelle Valdes DMD 2012 · Mark Vaak · Evan Wiers DMD 2012

8TH ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

APRIL 2011

A Three-Day Cadaver Course

BC DENTAL COMPONENT SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Gregory Ames · Robert Myers DMD 1998 · Sajal Amin · Daniel Booth · Adam Byam DMD 2012 · Alex Byam DMD 2012 · David Charles · Dr. Anwar Chaudhry · David Chia DMD 2011 · Dr. Margaret A. Webb · Sue Cadili · Dr. Tassos Irinakis

UBC FACULTY OF DENTISTRY & BC DENTAL ASSOCIATION DENTAL<br>


UBC DENTISTRY FAMILY DAY

UBC FACULTY OF DENTISTRY & BC DENTAL ASSOCIATION DENTAL<br>

Clinical Participation courses 2011 – 2012 (Limited Enrolment)

Clinical Topics in Dentistry Program

Clinical Topics in Dentistry is a series of recorded educational programs that enable dental professionals to learn independently at their own pace. Topics are recorded by local professionals performed at the mid-winter meetings of the Chicago Dental Society and the Illinois Dental Society.

For more information and to receive a catalogue, call 1-866-988-0123. For complete course listings, go to www.udc.ca/cde and click on “Clinical Videos.”

http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/cde/cde.html

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FOR FULL DETAILS OF CDE COURSES AND TO REGISTER VISIT DENTISTRY.UBC.CA/CDE

A Three-Day Cadaver Course

Thursday evening sessions

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