



THE BITE

The newsletter of UBC Graduate Orthodontics | Spring 2017



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I would like to take this opportunity to personally update you on the UBC Dentistry Graduate Orthodontics Program which launched in 2010 with some of you as its first students!

As of this year, thirteen students have graduated from the program with a combined MSc in Craniofacial Science and a Diploma in Orthodontics, and we have now increased

the first year enrollment to six—including two international students and one PhD candidate.

Orthodontics—as you well know—is complex, multi-faceted specialty, and here at the UBC Faculty of Dentistry we recognize the importance of assisting our graduate students to pursue leading-edge, translational research that advances both our academic environment and best practices in orthodontics.

Read on for news of our alumni, and current students in this, our inaugural UBC Dentistry Grad Orthodontics Newsletter, “The Bite”.

Dr. Edwin HK Yen

UBC Dentistry Orthodontics Community Update

Class of 2013

Dr. Reza Aran



Reza and his family live in Port Moody since graduation. He opened his new Orthodontic practice near Coquitlam Centre in November 2013. Reza and Asef have an orthodontic office in Pitt Meadows, BC. He also took over an existing satellite office in Cranbrook BC. His Daughter, Nilou, is in second year of health sciences at SFU.

Dr. Asef Karim



Asef is in private practice in Richmond BC (transitioned with Dr. Robin Jackson) and in Pitt Meadows BC (new practice with classmate Reza). He is the current President of the Dental Specialists Society of BC and member of the UBC Dentistry Board of Counselors. He loves seeing the world with his family, recently traveling to the Mayan Ruins in Chichen Itza and to Thailand.

Dr. Melanie Mattson



In private practice in Tsawwassen and East Vancouver. Living in East Vancouver. On the board of the Vancouver and District Dental Society. Greatest experience since graduation was participating in a volunteer dental outreach trip in Vietnam this past April.

Class of 2014

Dr. Esther Feldman



After graduating from UBC, I immediately moved to sunny California, where I'm currently enjoying my second year of private practice. I was lucky to be invited to join a high-end pediatric dental practice in West LA. My network has grown dramatically in a short time, and I'm grateful to work with so many talented, like-minded colleagues and specialists. A very special shout out to Dr. Barer and Dr. Lo for their continued support, guidance, and two cents every time I need it!

Dr. Stacey Kirshenblatt



Upon graduation from UBC, I moved back to my hometown of Toronto and worked as an associate in Toronto and in Scarborough. In March 2016, I opened a practice ("OrthoSmiles") with a partner, Dr. Brian Laski, in midtown Toronto. Our second office is located in downtown Toronto. Check out our website: www.laskiorthosmiles.com

Dr. Isaac Tam



Here's the scoop and I do miss UBC grad resident life! After graduation, I settled back into my paediatric practices in Vancouver and Delta. Having gone through the experience of the ABO was rewarding and added more perspective case finishing, so I highly recommend everyone to go through the process. One of the highlights post-graduation was seeing my baby brother go through the same gauntlet in his orthodontic residency. His monologues on daily life brings back a lot of good memories and occasionally keeps me up at night. We've established a strong UBC orthodontic alumni

that meets quarterly, and as part-president of the society, I'm proud of the contributions of the alumni to help our UBC orthodontic community grow. I look forward keeping in touch with everyone within residency and beyond.

Class of 2015

Dr. Deepak Arora



I am currently working as an Associate with Doc braces and taking care of patients at Charlottetown and Summerside locations in Prince Edward Island.

Dr. Kevin Lee



Life after residency had been busy for Kevin. He became a RAMBO (Real American Board Certified Orthodontist), and is now practicing in Vancouver and Surrey with Dr. Lun Wang and a couple of other offices. Life has become a whole lot more busy and exciting with Evelyn, Kevin and Sherry's baby daughter, who was born on Jan 15, 2017!

Dr. Megan McFadden

Megan and Dan are living in Vancouver, enjoying all the outdoor activities close by. Megan is happily working three days a week as an associate in Squamish.

Class of 2016

Dr. Abdulkadir Bukhari



It was a great opportunity to be a part of the graduate orthodontics program. I look forward to pursuing my PhD and explore the path of research. He completed the clinical program in August 2016 and started the PhD component in September 2016.

Dr. Carly Dool



In October 2016, I joined Floreani O'Toole Orthodontics in my hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario as a full-time associate in their 25th year of practice! I have been adjusting well to Northern living and plan on keeping busy this winter with ice fishing, cross-country and downhill skiing. Additionally, I am an active member in the Interdisciplinary

Study Club, the Sault Ste. Marie Dental Society, as well as the STRIVE young professional group.

Dr. Travis Gibson



We're here in New York for the year for fellowship at NYU. Having a good time, though the boys (Sullivan on the left and Oscar on the right) are keeping us too busy to have seen anything much of New York yet.

Dr. Jonathan Paxon



Life and work after graduation has been busy but my family is starting to settle into life on Vancouver Island in Campbell River. I have been working with Dr. Helpard since September 2016 and am learning a lot. Our four boys are growing up fast and keeping us busy and active. Never a dull moment.



Faculty

Dr. Fernanda Almeida



Dr. Almeida received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1995, and in 2000, her Master of Science from the Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is an alumna of UBC, where she completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Dental Sciences) in 2005. Dr. Almeida has been involved in oral appliance research and the treatment of patients with obstructive sleep apnea since 1996, and her research is focused on oral appliance side effects, compliance, titration modalities, imaging and treatment outcome. With other UBC Dentistry faculty, Almeida has designed an interdisciplinary program in dental sleep medicine for the clinical specialty graduate programs in orthodontics and pediatric dentistry. She is also a member of the executive board and research chair of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

Dr. David Kennedy



I still remain enthusiastic about teaching in the grad program. Each year, we are trying to make it a little bit better than the previous

year. It is very stimulating to be around the bright young minds of our graduate students. They make us proud. I look forward to seeing many of our Alumni either at the March 2017 UBC Continuing Education course in Hawaii or at the April 2017 AAO in San Diego.

Dr. Ben Pliska



Ben is continuing in his full-time appointment in the program, with his research focused on the overlap between sleep disorders and orthodontics. Look for him representing UBC Orthodontics on the programs of the upcoming Moyer's Symposium and annual AAO meeting.

Dr. Liat Tzur Gadassi



I graduated from the orthodontic program at the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem, Israel. Having moved to Canada 2 years ago with my family, I have been privileged to join UBC's first DSATP program in orthodontics, allowing me to successfully become a board certified specialist in Canada. Being part of the program has been a great opportunity to learn, meet wonderful people and become a part of the

local orthodontic community. I currently split my time between practice, teaching and exploring beautiful BC with my husband and three children.

Dr. Sid Vora



Siddharth (Sid) Vora has joined the Department of Oral Health Sciences as Assistant Professor in the Division of Orthodontics. Dr. Vora obtained his dental surgery degree from the University of Mumbai, India, in 2002; a Doctor of Philosophy (Oral Biology) in 2009 from Boston University; and a Master of Science in Dentistry and a Postgraduate Certificate in Orthodontics from the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle in 2012.



Meet the current group of Alumni-in-Residence!

Class of 2017

Samah Al Furiji



My name is Samah. I was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I obtained my BDS degree in 2011 from King Saud University in Riyadh. After graduation, I worked as a general dentist then I joined King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences as a teaching assistant in orthodontic department. My personal goals would be to give back to my community after becoming a knowledgeable and devoted specialist in the field and play a role in the realm of education. Beyond dentistry, I enjoy reading, cooking, travelling and horse riding.

Hadeel Alohal



My name is Hadeel Alohal, 3rd year orthodontic resident at UBC. I was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. I completed my undergraduate studies at King Saud University in Riyadh, Capital of Saudi Arabia, then worked as Gp. in King Abdulaziz Medical City.

Beyond dentistry, I enjoy sports, yoga, attending classic music concerts and traveling. After graduation, I am excited to go back home and gather with my family and friends again. My future orthodontic journey will continue with my lovely workplace King Abdulaziz Medical City.

Hajer Alsabban



Hajer was born and raised in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She obtained her dental degree in 2009 from King Abdulaziz University. She then joined the Ministry of Health (Saudi Arabia) as a GP and worked for four years. In 2014 Hajer moved to Vancouver and joined the MSc/Ortho program at UBC. In her spare time, she enjoys scuba diving, traveling and she loves spending time with her family.

Evan Ayers



A 2010 graduate from the University of Manitoba's DMD program, Evan practiced general dentistry in the lower mainland before returning to school to become an orthodontist in August of 2014. Evan's research thesis

involves examining the contribution altered craniofacial morphology makes to paediatric obstructive sleep apnea. Evan looks forward to completing the program this coming August, aiming to provide orthodontic treatment to the people in his home province of British Columbia.

Jason Zimmerman



My name is Jason Zimmerman. I received my Honors Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dental Surgery degrees from the University of Western Ontario, graduating in 2014. I then immediately started my orthodontic education here at UBC and I will be graduating in 2017, after which I will be moving back to Ontario.

Bingshuang Zou



I came from Beijing, China 3 years ago with my family. Having been engaged in teaching, research and practicing in Orthodontics for almost 16 years in Peking University, I find it really excited to join the DSATP program in UBC and get to know so many brilliant professors, instructors and students. In the leisure time, I enjoy skiing and hiking with my family and friends in the breathtaking mountains in BC.

Class of 2018

Suliman Alsaeed



Suliman was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He earned a Bachelor Degree in Dental Medicine and Surgery from King Saud University in 2014.

Afterwards, he worked as a teaching assistant - Orthodontic Department- at KSAU-HS in Riyadh, prior to being accepted into the graduate orthodontic program at UBC in 2015. In his free time, he enjoys watching soccer games, traveling, and spending time with his friends and family.

Kathleen Martin



My name is Kathleen and I am a Master's student studying orthodontics here at UBC. I was born and raised in London, Ontario, and I completed a BSc in Life Sciences at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, followed by a DDS at Western University in my hometown of London. Beyond dentistry, I enjoy cycling, hot yoga, playing piano, camping and traveling. I am very excited to be studying

orthodontics at UBC, living in Vancouver, and to get firsthand proof of the license plate slogan, "Beautiful British Columbia."

Robert Mintenko



Born in Winnipeg, MB, Rob moved at an early age to Regina, SK where he went on to complete his pre-dentistry science courses at the University of Regina. Rob obtained his dental degree in 2013 from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, SK,

following which he practiced general dentistry for two years in Regina prior to being accepted into the graduate orthodontic program at UBC. During his university summer breaks Rob was involved in running a door-to-door sales program in the United States for fellow university students alongside a pest control business based in Austin, TX he owned with two other business partners from the prairies. The opportunity not only allowed practical business experience to be gained but Rob happened to meet his wife, Daniela, while working in Jacksonville, FL. Rob and Daniela recently got married in February 2016, and with their two dogs, Teddy and Crazy, look forward to moving back to Regina where Rob plans to open his own orthodontic practice.

Negar Salimi



I was born in Iran. I moved to New York when I was 4 years old. I received my dental degree from Azad University in Tehran, Iran. I moved to Canada in December of 2009 with my son and I started the Phd/Orthodontics program in 2012 here at UBC. I am very excited to be able to fulfill my longtime dream of becoming an orthodontist. In my free time I enjoy running and cycling and spending time with my son.

Class of 2019

Bassam Alalola



My name is Bassam Alalola, born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Graduated with my B.D.S degree from King Saud University in 2014. I was fortunate to be working as a teaching assistance at KSAU-HS. Before being accepted into the orthodontic residency program at UBC, I joined a fellowship program at the University of Connecticut, division of Orthodontics. Interested in both

the academic and clinical aspects of Orthodontics. In my free time, I enjoy taking part in Sunday league Soccer matches and movie reviews.

Sharifa Alebrahim



I was born in Al Jubail, in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. At a young age, I developed an interest in dentistry since I was an Ortho patient myself and I was touched by the efforts the doctors made to make me as happy as possible. This is why

I attended King Saud University in Riyadh, the capital, where I graduated with a Bachelor of dental Surgery. Then, I moved to Canada and I graduated with a Master of Dental Sciences from McGill University. During my free time, I like to discover the city attractions and play computer games.

Piyush Heda



I received my BDS and MDS (Orthodontics) degree from Bharati Vidyapeeth University in India. After moving to Canada in 2012 I successfully completed NDEB examination process and worked as a GP in beautiful country town in BC "One Hundred Mile

House". I'm extremely fortunate to be a part of UBC and am thoroughly enjoying my time here as an MSc (Orthodontic) resident.

Matias N. Grimminck



Matias obtained his DDS degree from University of Chile in 2000, and his Orthodontic Specialty degree from Maimonides University in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2010. After successfully challenging the NDEB in 2012, he has worked as a GP in private and

community practice in the Vancouver area, and as a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor for the UBC DMD program at the Portland Community Dental Clinic in DTES. He has also participated as a Research Volunteer in the Department of Materials Engineering at UBC. Matias is currently a first year resident in the MSc/Ortho program at UBC.

Samuel Tam



Sam is a Vancouver-native who returned home in 2011 to start practicing dentistry. He received his Doctorate of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. Sam then completed a Hospital Dentistry Residency

program at Vancouver General Hospital and Specialty Residency Program in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania & Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Sam is excited to embark on his next chapter of learning in the MSc program in Orthodontics here at UBC. Prior to his dental training, Sam graduated with a BSc in Biology from Brown University. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, cycling, and playing ice hockey while fitting in time for dental aid and relief mission trips abroad.

PhD Students

Adrian Danescu



Dr. Adrian Danescu obtained his dental degree from University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Faculty of Dentistry in Bucharest. He received a merit scholarship throughout the duration of the six-year program. Following his graduation, he completed

an internship program and worked in a hospital-emergency department. After moving to Canada, he obtained a MSc in Human Anatomy from University of Manitoba, and then he started a PhD in Craniofacial Science at University of British Columbia. Currently he is enrolled in a dual PhD/clinical degree in Orthodontics. He is the recipient of Canadian Institute of Health Research and Four Year Fellowship doctoral awards. Adrian enjoys a variety of outdoor activities and spending time with his family. He will be starting the clinical program as of September 2017.



Continuing Dental Education Highlight

UBC Dentistry's new Ortho CE program was held at the beautiful Fairmont Orchid on the Big Island of Hawaii, mid-March. It was a roaring success with over 70 participants and has already been scheduled to take place again next year. Save the dates from March 26 to 30, in 2018!

Looking Ahead to the Future of the Orthodontics Program at UBC Dentistry

We hope you enjoyed the update on the UBC Dentistry orthodontics community. However, we are also acutely aware that financial pressures can undermine the graduate student experience, and present an obstacle for those who would like to take their careers in this direction. With this in mind, we have recently undertaken a fundraising initiative and distributed a letter to the BCSO that includes the following call-to-action:



The Case:

The UBC Faculty of Dentistry would like to establish the UBC Graduate Orthodontics Fund to support:

- graduate student research in orthodontics
- attendance at research symposiums and conferences – local and international
- stipends for PhD program students
- American Board of Orthodontics certification process

Proposed "Treatment Plan":

We all have been asked by fellow colleagues, friends or family members to take on a courtesy case.

What I would like to suggest is that in this professional favour there lies an opportunity to enhance our profession's development and reinforce the value of your highly specialized skillset: When you accept such a courtesy case, please consider asking the individual to make a charitable gift (suggested \$4,000 depending on their circumstances) directed to support the UBC Graduate Orthodontics Fund. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all eligible donations.

We look forward to updating you with the success of this initiative.

Please watch <http://dentistry.ubc.ca/alumni/gradortho> for updates and continue to send us your news.

With all my best wishes for your continued and ongoing success,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edwin Yen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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