



COLUMBIA

COLLEGE OF
DENTAL MEDICINE

Division of Periodontics

2020

YEAR-END NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Division Director

December 23, 2020

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Residents, Staff and Friends,

As 2020 is drawing to its close – arguably, not a moment too soon – I take the opportunity to reflect on the happenings of the past 12 months. And I am doing so with mixed feelings of awe, disbelief, sorrow and gratitude.



Feelings of awe and disbelief, because of all the calamities that the COVID-19 pandemic has so abruptly and rapidly bestowed on us and our society. What started as a normal year, in which our transition to the EPIC electronic health record system was anticipated to be our “major” institutional challenge, soon developed into an unprecedented sequence of months during which all sense of normalcy was upended. The pandemic forced us to change the way we work, the way we teach, and the way we interact with our students, patients and one another; in short, it forced us to change the entire way we function.

Feelings of sorrow, because our society has been engulfed in a foul circle of emotional and financial uncertainty, misinformation, disease, and – tragically – death of so many around us. Our thoughts are with those who suffer and grieve, and with all who are at the forefront of the battle against the spread of the virus and work tirelessly to help the affected to heal. In our own institution, this new painful reality mandated budgetary restructuring and has forced us to part with junior faculty members. Moreover, safety concerns have understandably forced many faculty members to withdraw from their clinical supervisory roles; the void that their absence has created is palpable, and we are all looking forward to the time when they can resume the generous sharing of their time and experience with our students. Lastly, none of us can have escaped feeling the pain that racism and pervasive injustice continue to inflict upon our society, as too many tragic events of the past year laid bare.

But thankfully, the final, prevailing feeling is one of gratitude. Gratitude to all who rose to the occasion and met the challenges with determination, hard work, ingenuity, and a profound sense of community; to the students who continue their didactic learning in front of their computer screens during endless Zoom sessions and who develop their clinical skills under the hardest of conditions; to the staff and faculty who continue to cover our clinics with devotion until their faces get deeply marked by their protective gear at the end of their shifts; and to everyone in our great University whose determination and work ethic unmistakably signal that this hardship, too, will soon be something of the past. And to the core values of Columbia and its unwavering commitment to perpetuate the fight for a just, inclusive society until racism has no longer a place to hide.

This year, although our academic events were exclusively virtual, and the traditional social activities that we all cherish had to be postponed for better times, our spirits still remained high. As you can see in the pages that follow, we collectively produced a robust body of scholarly work, while our faculty continued to receive awards and honors and to attract significant extramural research funding. Although less extensive and colorful than years past, the 2020 Newsletter attests that our Division is strong, and our future remains bright.

I am wishing you and your families a Joyful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy 2021!

With my sincere thanks for all you do,

Handwritten signature of Panos N. Papapanou.

Panos N. Papapanou, DDS, PhD

Publications

Citations

Our Division has a strong record of scholarly activity. The table below describes the cumulative citation record of faculty with publicly available Google Scholar profiles (accessed 12/16/2020). The table reports total and most recent 5-year citation record, h-index (number of publications cited at least as many times), and i10-index (number of publications cited at least 10 times).

Faculty Member	Citations		h-index		i10-index	
	All	Since 2015	All	Since 2015	All	Since 2015
Chesnoiu Matei, Ioana	122	77	4	4	4	2
Dard, Michel	5,879	3,443	42	35	111	95
Eskow, Robert	562	159	12	7	14	7
Fine, James	1,217	258	20	9	24	9
Formicola, Allan	2,159	845	25	13	45	18
Grbic, John	4,104	818	36	15	47	20
Greenstein, Gary	7,007	2,410	45	27	92	52
Han, Yiping	5,973	3,992	33	27	42	37
Kang, Philip	44	29	4	4	1	0
Kebschull, Moritz	3,009	2,338	28	24	41	35
Lalla, Evie	11,385	4,435	47	34	61	58
Linden, Eric	49	22	3	3	2	1
Mitchell, Dennis	2,600	724	24	13	28	16
Momen-Heravi, Flora	3,181	2,799	27	26	41	37
Papapanou, Panos	20,951	10,270	71	47	149	127
Sanz-Miralles, Elena	72	72	3	3	2	2
Shariff, Jaffer	110	110	5	5	5	5
Tarnow, Dennis	17,134	7,485	64	46	139	120
Wolf, Dana	507	237	7	7	7	6

Members of the Division are listed in boldface.

Akinkukbe, A., **Papapanou, P.N.** (2020) The “sufficient cause” model framework applied to the periodontitis-systemic diseases link. *Journal of Periodontology*, Epub ahead of print, doi: 10.1002/JPER.20-0148.

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Yoon, A.J., Wang, S., Kutler, D.I., Carvajal, R.D., Philipone, E., Wang, T., Peters, S.M., LaRoche, D., Hernandez, B.Y., McDowell, B.D., Stewart, C.R., **Momen-Heravi, F.**, Santella, R.M. (2020) MicroRNA-based risk scoring system to identify early-stage oral squamous cell carcinoma patients at high-risk for cancer-specific mortality. *Head Neck*, 42(8):1699-1712.

Publications

Book Chapters

Demmer, R.T., **Papapanou, P.N.** (2020) Causal inference and risk in the health sciences. In: *Risk Assessment in Oral Health. A concise guide for clinical application*. 1st Edition. Chapple, I., and Papapanou, P.N., (Eds), Springer Publications, 7-22.

Lalla, E., **Papapanou, P.N.** (2020) Modifying factors. In: *Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry*, 7th edition; Lang, N.P., Sanz, M., Giannobile, W.V., Berglundh, T., (Eds), Wiley, Copenhagen. *In press*.

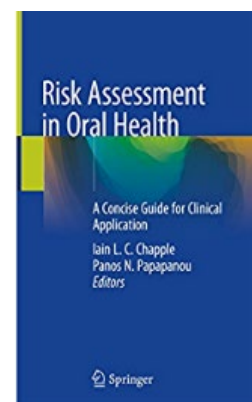
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Szabo, G., **Momen-Heravi, F.** (2020) Extracellular vesicles and exosomes: biology and pathobiology. In: *The Liver: Biology and Pathobiology*. 6th Edition. Arias, I.M., Alter, H.J., Boyer, J.L., Cohen, D.E., Shafritz, D.A., Thorgeirsson, S.S., Wolkoff, A.W., (Eds), Wiley Publishing, Indianapolis, IN, 1022-1027.

Edited Book

Risk Assessment in Oral Health. A concise guide for clinical application. 1st Edition. Chapple, I., and **Papapanou, P.N.**, (Eds), Springer Publications, 1-243.

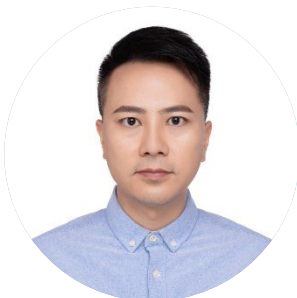




Angela Ward, EdD, joined the Division as an Assistant Professor of Hygiene Sciences (in Dental Medicine) at CUMC last February. A practicing dental hygienist with a doctoral degree in education, Angela has developed numerous patient education materials around a variety of topics at the intersection of oral health and public health, with particular focus on tobacco cessation efforts. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist; a recipient of a National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice; and a Credentialed Trainer for EPIC, the shared medical-dental electronic health record.

Angela has been involved in research projects at CDM for nearly two decades, first as a project coordinator and manager and then, beginning in 2016, as an associate research scientist. During that time, she earned an MA in health education and an EdD from Teachers College at Columbia University. Prior to that she received an AAS/dental hygiene degree from Hostos Community College and a BA from the University of Kent at Canterbury in England.

Postdoctoral Research Scientist



Xun Wu was born and raised in Southern China and graduated from the Guangxi Medical University with a BS, MS and PhD degree in Stomatology. He completed a dental internship as well as a residency and obtained the title of Deputy Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He has practiced the full-scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery for nearly 20 years, with a particular interest in the research of the rehabilitation of cranio-maxillofacial defects and oral cancer. He joined the team of Dr. Fatemeh Momen-Heravi at CDM as Visiting Scholar. He hopes to establish a bridge and a long-term reciprocal academic cooperation between CDM and GMU after his visiting scholar program. In his spare time, he enjoys museums, hiking, and meditation.

This year six new residents joined the division – welcome to the Postdoctoral Periodontics Class of 2024!



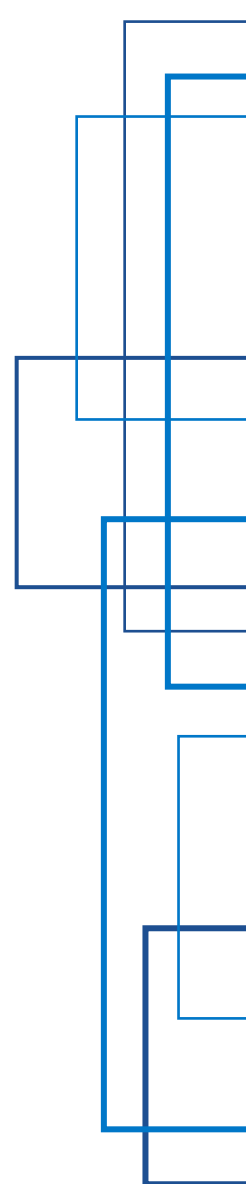
Dr. Chris Nam Jun Cho was born in Seoul and raised in Chungju, South Korea until he immigrated to Vancouver, Canada at the age of 13. Chris obtained his BA/DDS through a 7-year program at **New York University** and just completed his 2-year GPR Program as a Chief Resident at **Stony Brook**, where he enjoyed management of complex restorative and implant cases and developed a keen interest in surgical aspects of dentistry, especially periodontal and implant surgery. He is an aficionado of soccer, loves cooking, and enjoys beer and music in his free time.



Dr. Richard Hong was born and raised in Southern California. He graduated from the **University of California Los Angeles** with a BS in Psychobiology and attended **Tufts University** School of Dental Medicine for his DMD. During dental school, Richard researched the effectiveness of vertical bitewing radiographs over horizontal bitewings in diagnosing periodontal disease. He enjoys cooking and spending time at cafés.



Dr. Meghan Pandya was born and raised in New Jersey. She received her B.A. in Mathematics with honors from **Bryn Mawr College**, her DMD from the **University of Pennsylvania** and completed two years of GPR at **NYP Weill-Cornell Hospital** (including a year as chief resident) prior to coming to Columbia. In her free time, Meghan is a self-proclaimed foodie and enjoys exploring the city, hiking and researching skincare and beauty.





Dr. Gretel Gisela Pellegrini received her DDS and PhD from **University of Buenos Aires School of Dentistry (UBASD)**. After a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at **Indiana University School of Medicine (IUPUI)**, where she researched the effects of bioactive compounds resulting from metabolism of the anthocyanins/flavonoids from berry extracts on bone turnover, she obtained her DDS as an Advanced Standing student at **Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (CDM)**. Gretel is joining the Periodontics Program at CDM in order to merge her two passions: Dentistry and Bone Biology. She also loves music; besides playing the cello, guitar and keyboards, Gretel founded the UBASD Chamber Orchestra and played the cello at IUPUI and at Columbia University Irving Medical Center's Symphonic Orchestra.



Dr. Constance Kang Ting Teoh was born and raised in the perpetual summer of **Singapore**, obtaining her Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the island-nation's only **dental university** in 2016. Since then, she has been practicing general dentistry in various settings ranging from mobile pedodontic clinics for public schools, to Singapore's largest specialist dental center. Most recently, she served as dental officer with the Singapore Navy. She developed a keen interest for periodontics and is excited to now have the opportunity to pursue this full time at Columbia. Constance enjoys pottery in her leisure time and has a huge weakness for desserts.



Dr. Peter Xu was born in China and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. He obtained his bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology at the **University of British Columbia** and was a member of the university's biomolecular design competition team. He then obtained his DDS at the **University of Toronto**. Peter enjoys cooking and rock climbing in his free time.

Dr. Julie Connolly was inducted into the International College of Dentists. She holds multiple leadership positions as President of the New York Academy of Dentistry, Vice-Chair of the New York Selection of the American College of Dentists, and member of the New York State Dental Association, Council of Ethics.

Dr. Yiping Han became a finalist for the Equalize 2020 prize, the nation's first pitching competition for academic women inventors.

Dr. Philip Kang was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Dental Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Kang was elected by his fellow Post-doctoral Periodontics Program Directors to serve as a Vice Chair of the American Academy of Periodontology Post-doctoral Committee for a period of two years.

Dr. Moritz Kebschull became co-chair of the EFP S3-level guidelines to treat stage IV periodontitis in the United Kingdom and Germany. He was appointed as Associate Editor for the journal publications *Frontiers in Dentistry* and *Frontiers in Oral Biology*. He is also the recipient of two research awards he jointly shares with his doctoral student: the German Society for Periodontology Dissertation Award and the Award for the Best Presentation.

Dr. Evanthia Lalla was elected Councilor of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Periodontal Research Group. She also completed the prestigious Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program at the Drexel University College of Medicine. ELAM is a year-long part-time fellowship focusing on the skills required in today's complex health care environment and special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. She and **Dr. Dana Wolf** represented the College of Dental Medicine as members of the Columbia University Faculty Liaison Network, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education. Dr. Lalla led the College of Dental Medicine in joining *Time's Up Healthcare*, an initiative that engages health professional schools and institutions to push toward equitable and dignified employment. Of note, CDM is the first standalone dental school in the nation to join.

Dr. Flora Momen-Heravi became a finalist for the V Foundation Cancer Survivorship Research Fund and was awarded the *Ann D. Haffajee Fellowship* by the AADR and the *Early Career Faculty Travel Award* by the *American Association of Immunologists*. She also served as the Special Issue Guest Editor for the Journal *Cancers* in an issue dedicated to molecular targets for head and neck cancer.

Honors & Awards

Faculty

After an international search, **Dr. Panos N. Papapanou** was appointed by the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) as the next Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, the premier international title in Periodontology and the official publication of the EFP. With a 2019 impact factor of 5.241, *JCP* is the highest ranked journal among those publishing original research in Dentistry, Oral Surgery and Medicine (Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate Analytics). Dr. Papapanou's tenure as Editor-in-Chief will commence on April 1st, 2021.

Dr. Elena Sanz-Miralles was awarded the 2020 Nevins BioHorizons Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship by the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation.

Students

Nadia Mezghani, a CDM pre-doctoral student mentored by **Dr. Momen-Heravi**, was selected among the finalists for the Consortium for Translational Orthodontic Research (CTOR) award, for her work on the role of midkine in head and neck cancer. The award recognizes student research that has the potential to advance patient care in clinical dentistry utilizing basic science.

The following Post-doctoral Periodontics Program Awards were announced in June 2020:

Dr. Shebli Mehrazarin received the *Appel Periodontics Award* upon graduation, in recognition of overall excellence in his post-doctoral studies.

Dr. Sung Min Lee was awarded the *Kenneth Siegel Scholarship*, in recognition of her stellar performance during the second year of her residency.

Dr. Darell Ong and **Dr. Tom Rubinstein** shared the *Murray Schwartz Scholarship*, in recognition of their superior performance during the first year of their residency.

Incoming 1st-year resident **Dr. Gretel Pellegrini** was awarded the *Ralph and Jessica Kaslick Scholarship* which supports a CDM DDS graduate who has been accepted to the CDM Post-doctoral Periodontics Program.

New Research Grants

Dr. Yiping Han

- ◆ “Investigation of FadA adhesin from *Fusobacterium nucleatum*”
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research R01 DE029532-01A1
Role: PI (\$2,778,245 total costs)
September 2020-August 2025
- ◆ Novel probiotics for the prevention of colorectal cancer”
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center Intra/Intra-Programmatic Pilot Program Opportunity, Columbia University Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Role: Co-PI (\$60,000 total costs)
January 2020-June 2020
- ◆ “Antibody therapy to treat orphan disease familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)”
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center Accelerating Cancer Therapeutic Pilot Award, Columbia University Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Role: PI (\$75,000 total costs)
August 2020-July 2021

Dr. Fatemeh Momen-Heravi

- ◆ “The role of monocyte macrophage signaling in the pathogenesis of periodontal disease”
NIH/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research Small Grant Program for New Investigator R03
Role: PI (\$324,000 total costs)
May 2020-April 2022
- ◆ “Collaborative projects in in oral dysplasia and carcinoma”
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Research Center Multi-PI Planning Grant
Role: MPI, together with Dr. Alison Taylor, Department of Pathology and Cell Biology and Dr. Chao Lu, Department of Genetics and Development, CUIMC; and Dr. Angela Yoon, Division of Oral Pathology, CDM (\$30,000 total cost)
March 2020-February 2021
- ◆ “Using Engineered Exosomes for Genome Editing of Lung Cancer Targeting KRAS Mutation”
Translational Therapeutics (TRx) and Accelerating Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) Program Inventor Award, Columbia University Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Role: PI (\$32,000 total costs)
July 2020-June 2021

New Research Grants

Dr. Fatemeh Momen-Heravi (continued)

- ◆ “Understanding the pathophysiology of diabetes and periodontics: a novel approach using single cell RNA sequencing and immune profiling”
Anne D. Haffajee Award, American Association of Dental Research
Role: PI (\$10,000 total costs)
March 2020-February 2021
- ◆ “Biological mechanism and risk factor of head and neck cancer in blacks.”
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research “Science of Patient” Grant,
American Association of Cancer Research
Role: PI (\$750,000 total cost)
December 2020-December 2023

Events

- ◆ Professor Tord Berglundh, Institute of Odontology, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden was the named presenter of the *31st Annual Benjamin Tenenbaum Memorial Lecture* titled “*Peri-implantitis and Periodontitis; their similarities and differences*” on April 2nd.

The event had to be cancelled because of the COVID-10 pandemic and will be rescheduled for the next academic year.

- ◆ Professor Leonardo Trombelli, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy delivered the 19th Bernard S. Moskow Memorial Lecture in Periodontics on November 20th via teleconference. His lecture title was “Implementation of Risk Assessment Tools in Clinical Periodontal Care”.

After his lecture, Professor Trombelli delivered a seminar to the Periodontics residents titled “A simplified surgical regenerative procedure”.

