



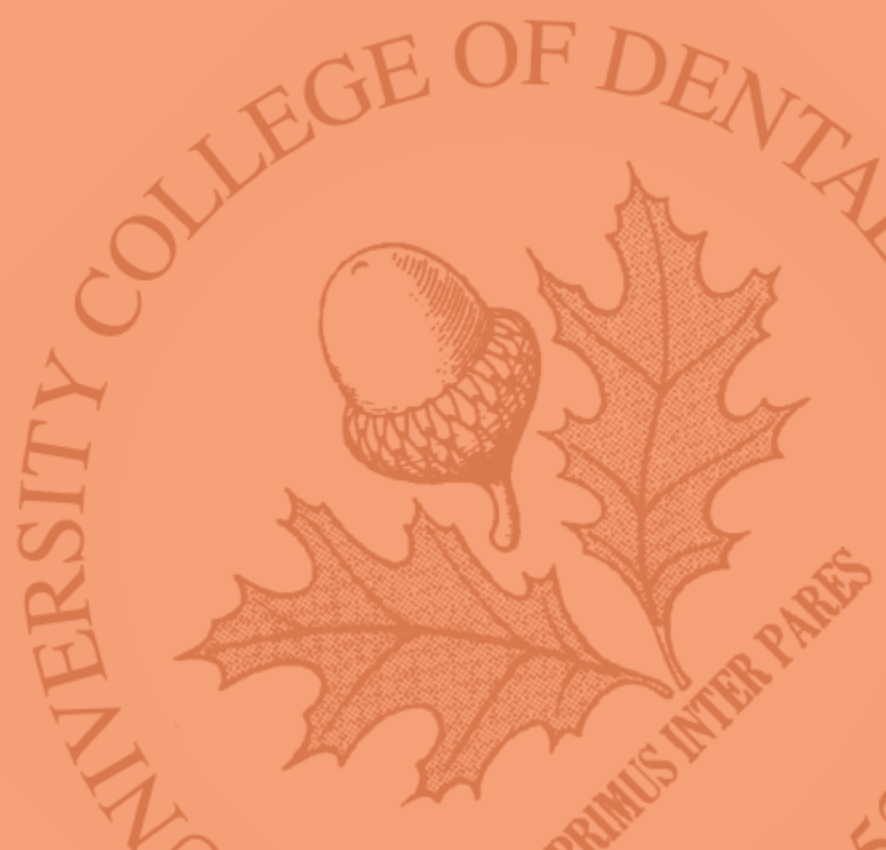
# primus

spring 2010 vol 15

**VC 7 reconstruction**  
centers on patient needs



Columbia University College of Dental Medicine



# primus

spring 2010 vol 15

*published annually by the*

*Columbia University College of Dental Medicine*

## 2010

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Thanks to staff, alumni and students who shared their photographs for this issue of *Primus*.

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# from the Dean


To Alumni and Friends:

As the 2009-2010 academic year comes to a close I have been reflecting on what a very busy and very successful year it has been.


In June we began the renovation of the patient intake triage radiology and emergency areas on the 7th floor of the Vanderbilt Clinic (VC) building and a complete renovation of the sterilization area on VC 8. The entire project, which is on track to enhance both the patient care experience and speed of the patient intake process, is described in some detail in this issue of Primus. In August of 2009, we welcomed the Class of 2013, whose exceptional DAT scores are also the subject of an article in this Primus. This will be the first CDM class to complete their degree under our new curriculum, which is the most important change to undergraduate dental education at Columbia in more than 90 years. Our preliminary assessment of the first year of the new curriculum indicates a dramatic increase in the value of small group education and very high student satisfaction. To cap our year of achievement, in September 2009 we underwent a visit by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, an event that occurs every seven years. We had been preparing for the visit for almost two years, and our efforts were rewarded with outstanding results. Our predoctoral program received no recommendations, the site visit team identified seven areas of excellence and gave terrific reviews to our postdoctoral programs in orthodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics and endodontics.

Any one of these major enterprises would represent a significant challenge for a dental school, and CDM took on all three at the same time. The successes we have already achieved and those we anticipate in the future would not be possible without the dedication of our faculty the cooperation of our trainees, and the hard work of our staff.

These three constituencies deserve my thanks, and yours.

Sincerely  
  
Ira B. Lamster DDS, MMSc  
Dean



A woman wearing a blue surgical cap, glasses, and a blue gown is working in a sterilization room. She is standing next to a large, stainless steel sterilization machine. The room has white walls, a clock on the wall, and various medical supplies on shelves in the background.

In VC8's greatly enlarged, up-to-date sterilization room, new machines and systems of processing instruments give both staff and patients the assurance of germ-free care in the clinics.

“If you keep doing what  
you’ve always done,  
you’ll keep getting what  
you’ve always gotten.”



# Changes for Clinics: Better for Patients

The story behind major renovations just completed by Columbia University Health Care Inc. for CDM's Vanderbilt dental clinics on I68th Street can be summed up in one old axiom and one contemporary catch phrase.

The first, "If you keep doing what you've always done then you'll keep on getting what you've always gotten," offers a clear rationale for undertaking such extensive changes. In the case of the Vanderbilt dental clinics, real change not just cosmetic dressing, was called for; nothing else could revive them and strengthen CDM's role as northern Manhattan's dental safety net. The second, "patient-centered care" captures the shape and intention of those changes. Both underlie the commitment to undertaking the considerable improvement of the clinics.



Approximately 80 percent of CDM dental patient visits are made to the 7th, 8th and 9th floors of the Vanderbilt Clinic (VC) Building in the Columbia University Medical Center Complex on West 168th Street. The remainder of patients are seen at clinics throughout schools, in a mobile dental van and locations dedicated to CDM's ElderSmile program for seniors. The most common point of entry for this network is the VC 7 3800-square-foot patient intake area. Patient registration, triage assessment, oral radiology and emergency care all take place in this complex, which, until this year, had not been substantially modernized since the 1970s. The lack of physical upgrading eventually resulted in unwieldy methods of managing the needs of an increasing patient population whose survey results showed a noticeable drop in satisfaction with the intake process. Alarmed by the rising inefficiency of the dental clinics, the College assigned a committee to study the situation.

Their report underlined the reality of three serious problems occurring during the introductory visit of every dental patient to the on-site oral health care system.

1. The waiting time for new VC 7 dental patients was almost two hours;

2. Thirty percent of patients who first visited the clinic in need of essential oral health services never returned to receive the care recommended for their condition;

3. Less than ten percent of dental patients who were treated for an emergency condition that required follow-up actually returned to the VC clinic for that care.

Vice Dean for Administrative Affairs Ronnie Myers discusses the new design of the VC7 clinic with Dr. Jessica Hilburg, while Dr. Mary Lee Kordes '86 works with a student.



Vice Dean for Administrative Affairs Ronnie Myers took on the responsibility of overseeing both the physical and programmatic revisions for the clinics, the success of each depending on that of the other. Dean Myers worked with the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), nonprofit specialists in establishing and strengthening patient-centered approaches for the improvement and

“Team members recorded the number of stops each patient had to make during their initial clinic visit, how long

expanse of health care, to devise a program that would improve patient experience at the clinic. At the beginning of March, when reconstruction of VC 7 was complete, Dean Myers and a team representing each service area in the clinic began the task of tracking a group of fourteen patients during their intake cycle time. The aim was to examine causes behind the extensive waiting period for each intake patient, to change those problems and to create a model for the perfect patient intake, with an ideal overall time of one hour, compared to two or more hours of wait time in the past. Team members recorded the number of stops each patient had to make during their initial clinic visit, how long it took for them to complete each activity and how much of their time was wasted in waiting for the next activity to begin. After gathering their statistics, the group met with a PCDC representative to map the figures, which revealed where the obstacles to a smooth intake came up. Based on the pattern of stop-and-go times shown on the map, and other observations about patient preferences and habits, the clinic group began to draw up the plan for change.

Student and instructor  
confer during clinic





The first decision was to open the clinic at 8 am, one hour earlier than previously. Many patients seemed to prefer an early morning appointment and the change would allow more patients to be seen each day. Lunch hours for staff were also altered, so that more of them would be available at any one time to help patients complete the intake process.

The physical reconstruction that supports the new patient-centered efficiency of the clinics will also greatly expedite the intake procedure.

it took for them to complete each activity and how much of their time was wasted in waiting for the next activity.’

On VC 7 a triage area of six operatories allows patients to remain in the same place, in one chair, as they are guided through registration, receive oral examinations and oral radiology, and are assigned to, and meet, their dentist. They will no longer be shunted from chair-to-chair, room-to-room, where they wait to fulfill the next intake requirement. Instead, clinic personnel will bring each step of the intake process to the patient. Three operatories are dedicated to assessment and treatment of dental emergencies and three others are used exclusively for advanced radiology services, including panoramic and cone beam radiography. There is a reading room for evaluation of both standard and advanced radiographs, all of which will be digital, making processing environmentally friendly and reporting rapid.

VC7's new centrally-located dispensary where students and instructors get quick service with no more waiting in line.



On VC 8, a modernized and now much larger sterilization center has been built around all new equipment: an ultrasonic rinser/drier, up-to-date washing system, two autoclaves with increased capacity, and a pass-through arrangement with a dirty door on one side and a clean door on the other, increases working efficiency and employee safety. The sterilization center's new configuration also accommodates greater demands in patient care by making room for moving the dispensaries from congested corridors to the center of both clinic floors. With this relocation, waiting time for instruments and supplies is markedly reduced.

The physical reconstruction that supports the new patient-centered efficiency of the clinics includes a triage area of six operatories, where first-time clinic patients can complete all steps required for intake in one place.

1. A dedicated three-operatorial emergency care area for assessing and treating dental emergencies;
2. A dedicated area for advanced radiology services including panoramic radiography;
3. Separate waiting areas for triage advanced radiology services and emergency services;

AVC7 patient now receives all intake services in the same room, relaxing in a comfortable chair while members of the staff come to them to perform each activity on the intake roster.







4. A radiology reading room for evaluation of all radiographs;

5. A new sterilization area to improve employee safety and accommodate the increased patient care activities;

6. Relocation of the instrument dispensary to open additional space and relieve congestion.

With PCDC support, clinic providers and staff are developing a stronger “service first” patient intake and treatment method. They are making evidence-based decisions based on documentation of clinic workflow, and retraining staff to improve outcomes. This process-based consolidation of service in a space designed for efficiency should result in making patients happier, providing increased and improved patient care, expediting emergency treatment, and helping to reduce costs for the clinics.



# Class of 2013 Leads Nation in DAT Scores

In the past six years Columbia's College of Dental Medicine applicant pool has increased by nearly 100 percent.

This impressive rise topped the national trend for dental applications in the same period. But that's not all!



CDM's current first-year class arrived in the fall of 2009 with an average DAT score of 21.7 percent, the highest in the nation! The distinction did not come about by chance.

In 1961, the cover of the Columbia School of Dental and Oral Surgery (now CDM *Alumni Magazine's* winter issue carried the title of its leading article, "Dental Admissions; A Matter of Growing Concern." The problem was blamed chiefly on lack of scholarship and/or interest among the applicants, as well as their failure to fulfill application requirements on time, or even at all! The author, Dr. Joseph Cuttita '39, also called for more recruiting efforts by alumni and helping undergraduate advisors understand dentistry as a career. Twenty-five years later, the admissions process was finally redesigned, from top to bottom.

Since then, applications to CDM have increased annually on an average of 15 percent, keeping Columbia ahead of national trends by at least five percent. The College has succeeded in its quest for the best, but Dr. Cuttita's warnings to applicants should still be taken seriously. When Associate Dean for Admissions Joseph McManus and Senior Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs Martin Davis are asked over and over again, "How do I get accepted to dental school at Columbia?" the answer is emphatic: "Get the ADEA Official Guide!" Every question about entrance to dental school is answered fully in its pages. The two deans can also never say enough about beginning paper work for the admissions process much, much earlier than might seem necessary. They also insist that preparing for dental education could start as early as high school and when it's time to choose one's college courses.

opposite:

l. to r. Dr. Joshua Tuzman '03, Dr. Albert Thompson '60, Dr. Renuka Bijoor '03 Peds '05 Dr. Stanley Freeman Dr. Mark Tenner '62, Dr. Louis Rubins '60.

Admissions Committee members discussed the season of work just past during a well-earned annual luncheon at the Faculty Club. l to r: Dean McManus Dr. Esther Rubin '82 Dr. Genevieve Fernandes '96 Dr. Colleen Cournot '78 Dean Martin J. Davis '74 Peds '75 Dr. Marina Bonaparte '93.





“...after exploring medicine during my time as a college student, I found that it wasn’t for me. I was still interested in the biomedical sciences, so I decided to try out dentistry...”  
Jessica Lee ’13



“I think this profession is the perfect blend of medicine, art, creativity, and cultivating relationships with people.”  
Garrick Alex ’13



“I always thought I wanted to be a physician, but after attending Columbia’s Impressions Program, I fell in love with dentistry.”  
Ramya Kanukollu ’13



“When I became a dental assistant at my orthodontist’s office during high school and college, I got a taste of just how wonderful helping patients really is.” Anna-Beatrice le Goff ’13

It has not been long since many applicants to dental schools had first been rejected by medical schools. That is no longer true. In fact, the trend seems to be proceeding in the opposite direction. Dental degree candidates now describe their decision to apply for dental school as being a first choice, based on the many advantages and scope of interests it offers. Many expect to outearn physicians.

As to why they chose Columbia over the eight, nine, ten, eleven or even fourteen other dentals schools where they were also accepted, the answers ranged from an appreciation for the small size of CDM’s classes, the medically-based didactic experience, and the excellence of Columbia’s reputation to the myriad specialty and postgraduate career choices a Columbia degree offers.

But, their reactions to the admissions interview experience may be even more significant for their final choice. “I felt very much at home,” is a common comment. Others describe the stress level as “low, and the people very easy-going.” For some, the fact that each enrollee receives a handwritten congratulatory note from both Dean McManus and Dean Davis, something none of the other colleges are known to do, also draws appreciation. One student describing the interview said, “I was impressed by the passion that the faculty has for the field and left more excited about dentistry than when I arrived.”

The committee meets every Friday morning from fall through winter, a demanding schedule, but one no member ever seems to complain about. According to Dr. McManus, applicants for admission to CDM are drawn to Columbia by the “enlightened approach of the admissions committee.”

He adds that most of the committee members are alumni of the College or are on the faculty, which gives them a great sense of pride in the high quality of education offered to the successful entrant. Committee members are enthusiastic about their part in the process and the opportunity to serve the College.





“The process is often like sifting through raw diamonds for the one which can be shaped and honed into a real gemstone.”  
Helen Weinberg '04

As Dr. Joshua Tuzman '03 explains, “Each applicant we interview has already been weeded out from thousands of others – so, it goes without saying that they are special before they even set foot in the door. I love to find out if they have done anything that involves their community. You can really find out a lot about a person just by seeing what they do for or with others.”

Alumni Association President Margot Jaffe '80 says she also searches for applicants with a passion for helping people. She also looks for “an artistic interest, self critical, non-arrogant insight, a well thought out plan for the future, confidence in their own abilities, a desire for excellence and for learning, openness to new ideas, mental toughness, and a particular sparkle in their eyes.”

Clockwise from the bottom left: Dr. Albert Thompson '60, Dr. Joshua Tuzman '03, Dean Martin J. Davis '74, Dr. Lynn Tepper Dr. Jed Best, and Dr. Thomas Magnani '80.

“My Columbia interview was a conversation, not an interrogation.”

# On and Off Campus

## New Faculty Bring CDM New NIH-Funded Research

**DR. ULRIKE SCHULZE-SPÄTE** has joined the Division of Periodontics, Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences, as Assistant Professor of Dental Medicine. Dr. Schulze will continue her NIH-funded translational research on osteoclastogenesis and bone metabolism at CDM. Her work combines in vitro and in vivo applications to determine physiologic and pathophysiologic mechanisms in bone metabolism associated with periodontal disease and its relation to systemic disease. A Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, she holds a DMD (1999) and PhD (2002) from the University of Leipzig, Germany. She completed postdoctoral training in Oral Biology and Bone Metabolism at The Forsyth Institute, Boston, a residency in Periodontology and Implantology at Boston University, and earned a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (2006). Dr. Schulze, who was an instructor in the Department of Oral and Developmental Biology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (2004-2006), a staff associate at The Forsyth Institute and an assis-



stant professor in Periodontology and Oral Biology at the BU Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University, also has didactic and clinical responsibilities in CDM's pre- and post-doctoral Periodontics programs.

**DR. ATHANASIOS ZAVRAS** has been appointed Associate Professor of Dental Medicine at the College of Dental Medicine and director of the new Division of Oral Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Section of Social and



Behavioral Sciences. Internationally recognized in oral and molecular epidemiology, Dr. Zavras's NIH-funded research explores using quantitative sciences in environmental-behavioral-genetic interactions for cancer risk assessment and responses to pharmacotherapies. He led the Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health programs at Harvard's Schools of Public Health and Dental Medicine and initiated major oral cancer and studies on bisphosphonate-associated osteonecrosis. An active member of the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, and Senior Clinical Investigator at the Forsyth Research Center, he was a technical expert for WHO on tobacco control and at the European Commission. He holds a DMD from the University of Athens, an MSc in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health, and a PhD in Medical Sciences in Biology and Epidemiology from Harvard Medical School. He has certificates in pediatric dentistry from Tufts and dental public health from Harvard. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

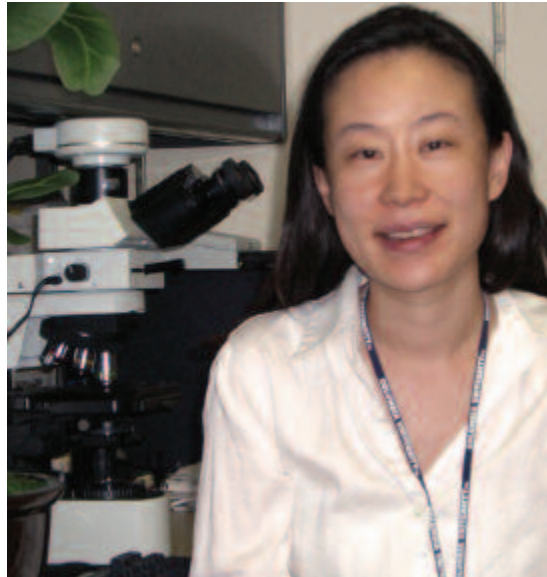


# On and Off Campus

## Administrative & Faculty Promotions

### Dr. Yoon Named 2010 John W. Richter Assistant Professor of Pathology

Dr. Angela Yoon, DDS, MA, MPH, has been named the John W. Richter Assistant Professor of Pathology at the College of Dental Medicine. The annual appointment, effective January 11, 2010, was made in recognition of Dr. Yoon's research in oral cancer and her dedication toward "enhancement of the missions of the Columbia University Medical Center and the CDM."



Dean Ira Lamster has announced a number of important promotions in administrative positions this year all of which became effective on April 1, 2010.

#### DR. LETTY MOSS-SALENTIJN

Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

#### DR. JEREMY MAO

Senior Associate Dean for Research

#### DR. RONNIE MYERS

Vice Dean for Administrative Affairs

#### DR. JOHN ZIMMERMAN

Associate Dean for Information Resources

#### DR. STEPHEN MARSHALL

Senior Associate Dean for  
Extramural Programs

#### DR. JAMES FINE

Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Programs

#### SARA PATTERSON

Senior Associate Dean for Finance

DR. LOUIS MANDEL Associate Dean for  
Extramural Hospital Programs

#### DR. MARTIN DAVIS

Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs

#### DR. JOSEPH MCMANUS

Associate Dean for Admissions

#### DR. DENNIS MITCHELL

Senior Associate Dean for Diversity  
and Multicultural Affairs

# On and Off Campus

## Student Life



### Corwyn Hopke '11 Elected President of ADEA for 2010-11

CORWYN HOPKE '11 (left) was elected president of the ADEA at its Annual Session & Exhibition in February in National Harbor, MD. **ERIC FRANK '11** was elected to the Oversight Committee of ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dentistry; **DAVE SIMHAE '12** became Chair of the Council of Students, Residents and Fellows (COSRF); and **GARRICK ALEX '13** is the new Northeast Regional Representative to ADEA COSRF.

During the ADEA meeting, **WAYNE STEPHENS '10** and **ZI WANG '10** were awarded ADEA Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Products Preventive Dentistry Scholarships.

Eric Frank '11 is seen in conversation with Dr. Ronniette Garcia, Ortho '03, AEGD '07, while Dr. Michael Leifert, Ortho '04 talks to another student behind them and Dr. Jessica Hilburg of the Adult Dentistry faculty is seen at the right.



Students, faculty and alumni enjoy the reception.



### CDM Alumni and Faculty Mentors Meet Students at Annual Reception

Students, faculty, and alumni gathered in the Tauber Room at Butler Library on March 16 for the annual Mentor Reception co-sponsored by the Association of Dental Alumni and CDM'S American Association of Women Dentists. The reception offers students a chance to interact with alumni and faculty and discuss future career options. It was held in the Tauber Room, named in memory of **MAURICE TAUBER PHD**, Melvil Dewey Professor of Library Service and father of **DR. ROBERT TAUBER '62**, CDM volunteer faculty member in Adult Dentistry.



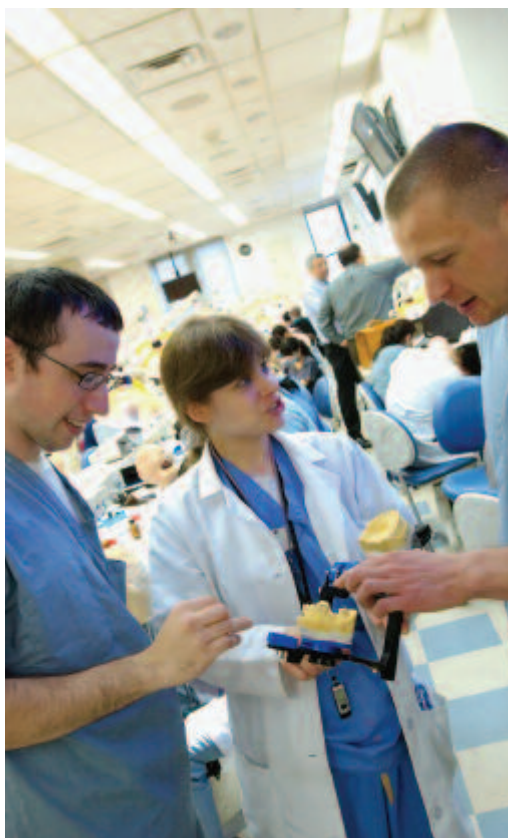
## Student Life



The American College of Dentists New York Section honored Bansari Modi '10 at their Annual Awards Banquet, held at the Penn Club this winter. Ms. Modi was joined by Senior Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs Martin Davis (left) and outgoing ACD/NYS president Dr. Thomas Connolly '77, Perio '80 (right) for a photograph.

### CDM Students Raise Funds for Haiti Earthquake Relief

ASDA worked with all four classes at CDM this winter to raise funds for the earthquake victims in Haiti. The result of their efforts reached \$2,003 with the Class of 2013 bringing in the top figure of \$654 and the ASDA board providing a match of \$500. The funds went to the World Food Programme.



Petro Matsyshyn '11 and Peter Grieco '11 discuss an orthodontic question with Dr. Candice Zemnick, Prosth '05, '06. Both men received student awards to attend the American College of Prosthodontics meeting in Chicago this winter.

A story in Primus Notes 2010 winter issue omitted information about funding for Leora Walter '11, who is doing research in Lima, Peru. Ms. Walter's Fogarty Clinical Research Scholarship Fellowship is supported by the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research.

# On and Off Campus

## Student Life



top Dr. Marshall discusses a student's work with Dr. Jeremy Mao senior associate dean for research.

right, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs Letty Moss-Salentijn reviews a project.



### Jarvie Society Presents Birnberg Day 2010

Dr. Sally Marshall, interim executive vice chancellor and provost University of California, San Francisco, and professor of Biomaterials and Bioengineering, Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, gave the 2010 Birnberg Day Lecture "Remineralization of Dentin" on March 25. Twenty-five research projects were presented by predoctoral students and seven by postdoctoral students. Chosen to represent CDM at annual national meetings in 2010 are: Caitlin Magraw '12 and Darya Luchinskaya '12 for the Hinman Student Research Symposium; Bradley M. Pinker '12 for the ADA annual meeting; and Nhu-Uyen Cung '10 for the national Oral Health meeting. Lisa Van Eyndhoven '12, Eric D. Frank '11, Kelly Fleming '11, and June Harewood '11, earned honorable mention.

As winner of the Oral Health Division for Birnberg Day 2009, **STACI ROBINSON '11** was invited to present a paper at National Oral Health Conference in April in St. Louis.



CDM's Korean-American Dental Student Association (KADSA) participated in the American Cancer Society Asian Initiatives Community Health Fair on April 10 at the Bowne Street Community Church in Flushing, Queens. Several health organizations provided breast cancer, colon cancer, hepatitis B, and alcohol/depression screenings to the Asian community in the NYC area. CDM's KADSA group often works with health care organizations on community service projects.



## Student Life



### More Kids: Bigger Smiles

“Give Kids a Smile Day” was held on Friday, February 5. More than 1,000 children from across northern Manhattan and the Bronx received free dental screenings, treatments and oral-health education from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine faculty and students as part of the American Dental Association’s annual national effort. CDM teams discovered 147 children with cavities, assigned 11 to orthodontic care, and gave 19 emergency referrals.



### New Lunch Boxes For Dental Care

On March 19, Columbia University dental students presented a new national initiative, “Lessons In a Lunch Box” at Incarnation Elementary School in Washington Heights. Colorful lunch boxes, giant models of mouths and huge toothbrushes set the scene for CDM students to demonstrate brushing and flossing for healthy teeth and to discuss good food choices for preventing tooth decay. The young audience – kindergarten through third grade – talked about toothaches and losing teeth. At the program’s end, the children happily explored their new lunch boxes and carrot cases packed with a sparkle toothbrush, strawberry toothpaste and Tootie Frutti dental floss!

I. to r., Ryan Maneevese '12, Shimul Patel '11, Christine Park '11, (also seen at left with a young patient), Iva Leroy '11, Marcus Couey '12, and Michael Abrams '11, members of CDM's 2010 GKAS team.



Curious and excited, children at the CDM students' presentation of the “Lessons in a Lunch Box” program open their shiny new boxes and find them filled with treasures to help keep their teeth healthy.

# On and Off Campus

## CDM DDS/MA Program Flourishes

Roseanna Graham, DDS/MA, PhD with Bansari Modi '10, graduating this year from Columbia's dual degree program.



In the past decade  
CDM students have  
taken advantage of new  
dual degree programs  
offered to them at  
Columbia University

Assistant Professor in Operative Dentistry, **ROSEANNA GRAHAM '08**, has just made history – again. As a student at CDM, she says, “I wanted to extend my knowledge about teaching dentistry and proposed combining my DDS requirements with studies at Columbia University’s Teachers College.” Dr. Graham got her wish, thereby becoming the first CDM dual degree candidate for a DDS/MA. “I wanted to be the best educator I could possibly be... for the students.” This May, she became the first DDS/MA at Columbia to also earn a PhD in

Science Education and will teach in the same program where she earned her Masters degree.

**BANSARI MODI DDS/MA** was born in India but grew up in northern New Jersey. During the admissions process for dental school, she asked her interviewers for their thoughts on teaching. Their positive responses about the dynamic environment and student interaction reinforced her interest in academia. She also noticed that the CDM faculty “truly enjoyed their work.” Although she found time management of both Teachers College classwork and dental classes was definitely a challenge, she says, “I still enjoyed it very much. That’s the key point. The dual-degree program is truly worthwhile.”

**FRANCIS OH DDS/MA** is a nontraditional candidate who went through other careers (teaching and business) before choosing dentistry. Dentists, he says, are often blessed with opportunities to really get to know their patients and their families. But he recognized dental education as “an intense experience, a profession grounded in detail, which makes it easy for students to develop narrow visions and interests. In the dual degree program,” he says, “I met people outside dentistry who, while knowing nothing



Dr. Oh works with a student in the clinic.



about periodontitis or implant overdenture, were passionate about their own arts and crafts. I felt the experience allowed me to become more rounded, perhaps more complete. It was less 'what I could do with another degree,' but more 'how can I appreciate my time even more here at CDM.' The actual degree itself is more of a sweet dessert after a scrumptious dinner. I am also studying for my PhD at TC at the same time I am in my Prosthodontics residency at CDM. Again, I'm not working toward my PhD degree with a grand goal such as, 'I will redefine dental education!' I do have my own dream and ambition, but – more importantly – I believe in enjoying and appreciating the journey. CDM has given me all the support and tools to enjoy my journey."

**NEERAJ PANCHAL DDS/MA**, who is in the first year of his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at the University of Texas Southwestern-Parkland Hospital, writes about his decision to enter the dual degree program: "CDM provides the basic building blocks for dentists to excel in all aspects of the profession. The dual degree program gives students the opportunity to



attend the top education school in the country, while still continuing their dental curriculum. I was inspired, especially by Drs. Klyvert, Zubiaurre and Graham, to pursue a Master's Degree in Education. Their mentorship, passion, and

continuing guidance can never be re-paid. My plans for a career in academic oral and maxillofacial surgery was a major reason for applying to the program. I wanted to have a base in educational theory before I started my career in dental education."



**ZI WANG '10** son of a neurosurgeon and psychiatrist, avoided his parents' "hectic" profession to become a software engineer. But, while working on a project for a periodontist, he saw a way of life that was attractive. Leaving his native Shanghai, he entered CDM, which he says was "a great decision." At CDM, he enjoyed teaching in the Academic Success Program and as an assistant for Human Anatomy and Dental Anatomy. He realized that "practicing while staying in academia would produce the most meaningful and rewarding career for me." When he talked to upperclassmen who had completed the MA program, they advised him to apply for the dual degree. In the program, he says, "I found myself [with a] very different crowd of students at TC... generally older and much more experienced. It was difficult to catch up to their level, and there was a big learning curve, but in the end it was all worth it."

**NEERU SINGH DDS/MA**, now in an OMFS residency at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx, made the decision to enter the dual degree program in education and dentistry, she says, because, "I always knew I wanted to go into the health care field. I was so positively influenced by my Dad, a family physician, and my Mom, an art therapist, who always stressed the importance of art. I found dentistry to be the perfect combination of these two points of view. Then, I felt that I could not give up the opportunity of applying knowledge about teaching to the field of dentistry and enrolled in the DDS/MA program. I am a very visual learner and have always had to find different ways to process information, so 'learning styles' became a fascinating area to investigate for my thesis. My goal in pursuing the dual degree program was to explore ways to engage students in order to enhance understanding and long-term learning."



# On and Off Campus

## CDM Alumni Notes

I. to r. Mrs. Nicholas Di Salvo  
Dr. Thomas Cangialosi, Ortho '75,  
Director of the Division of  
Orthodontics, Dean Ira  
Lamster Allan Di Salvo and  
Dr. Donald Di Salvo MD '78



A portrait of **NICHOLAS A. DI SALVO '45, DDS, PHD ORTHO '57**, Director of the Division of Orthodontics from 1957 until his retirement in 1987, was unveiled at a luncheon during the Orthodontic Alumni Society Spring Meeting at the Faculty House on March 12. The meeting featured guest presenter Dr. Jack Fisher, adjunct professor, University of Louisville, who spoke on "Orthodontic Mini Implants and Lasers." Mrs. Di Salvo established the Nicholas Di Salvo Scholarship Fund in 2007 to support orthodontic postdoctoral students. The portrait is now hung in the orthodontic conference room.

"A Special Care Scrapbook" was the topic of the **EIGHTH ANNUAL DR. SOLOMON N. ROSENSTEIN LECTURE IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY** on January 27. The lecture was presented by Dr. Evan Spivak, director of the Special Care Treatment Center and adjunct professor of Pediatric Dentistry at UMDNJ. The Rosenstein Visiting Professorship and Fellowship was established in memory of Dr. Solomon N. Rosenstein who served as Director of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at Columbia for more than 35 years, and was a pioneer in dental care for special needs patients.

I. to r. Mr. Elliot Rosenstein,  
Mrs. Beverly Rosenstein,  
Dr. Roger Rosenstein, Dr. Steven  
Chussid, director of Pediatric  
Dentistry Dr. & Mrs. Evan  
Spivak, and Dr. Rima Rosenstein.





**IRWIN MANDEL '45**, professor emeritus at CDM, received the inaugural 2010 AADR Distinguished Mentoring Award on March 3, at the 39th AADR Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Washington, DC. The new award provides national recognition of outstanding efforts by mentors at all career levels who foster and promote research training and career development for students, trainees and junior faculty.

In October, The New York State Dental Foundation also honored Dr. Mandel with the 2009 Foundations of Excellence Award in Research “for commitment to applying creative,

### CDM Connects:

Our Columbia Dental Alumni Facebook Group has over 500 Fans! Join today and get the latest news and event photos.

The CDM alumni website posts dental positions available across the U.S. Go to [www.dental.alumni.edu/alumni](http://www.dental.alumni.edu/alumni).

We are communicating more through email. If you aren't receiving our email announcements, send message to: Melissa Welsh at [mmw7@columbia.edu](mailto:mmw7@columbia.edu).

You can also update your information in the Columbia Online Directory at [www.alumni.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.columbia.edu) or call the Alumni Office at 212-305-6881.

Columbians gathered to honor Dr. Mandel at the NYSDF Luncheon: Richard Oshrain; Dr. Bernard Telsey Perio '60; Dr. Herbert Oshrain, Perio '58; Melissa Welsh, alumni director; Zoila Noguerole administrative manager; Dr. Norman Kahn '58, professor emeritus; Dr. Allan Formicola, dean emeritus; Dr. Ira Lamster dean, Dr. Murray Schwartz '53, Perio '58, professor Periodontics; Dr. Irwin Mandel, professor emeritus and luncheon honoree; Dr. Louis Mandel '46, OMFS '51, professor Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Beverly Cummings, administrative aide; Dr. James Geduldig '82; Dr. Laura Bardach '80; Dr. Lois Jackson '77, Peds '80; and Dr. Karen Lewkowicz '82.



# On and Off Campus

## CDM Alumni Notes

science-based methods to foster greater understanding of, and to improve, overall oral health.”

**DR. JOHN GRIPPO '53**, an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Western New England College in Springfield, MA, assisted in obtaining a grant of \$393,450. from the National Science Foundation. The grant will be used to buy an Instron E3000 Electrodynamical Test Instrument and a Veeco Multi Mode V Scanning Probe Microscope. Dr. Grippo presented “The Relationship of the Dynamics of Occlusion to Root Surface Lesions” during a CE Course on “The Exposed Root Surface” held at CDM in January.

**DR. JOSEPH SCANCARELLO '62**, has been volunteer head coach of West Point's cadets Skeet and Trap Team for the past seventeen years. In 2005, the Dr. Joe Scancarello Skeet and Trap Lodge was named in his honor on the West Point campus. Dr. Scancarello's many accomplishments include teaching maxillofacial prosthodontics at Columbia and Fairleigh Dickinson dental schools, serving as team dentist for the New York Mets and winning multiple skeet shooting championships.

**DR. URI HANGORSKY '74** is now Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. In his new post, Dr. Hangorsky will have oversight of the academic/student service divisions within the School, including academic affairs, student affairs and admissions. He is also Clinical Professor of Periodontics and was Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs from 2004 to 2009. Dr. Hangorsky served CDM as an informal adviser

for during the College's recent self-study for accreditation.

**DR. LEWIS GROSS '79** announces that his new novel *Montauk Tango* has just been released. It relates the saga of a family's journey in the aftermath of 9/11 from Tribeca to running a restaurant in Montauk, NY.

**DR. MICHAEL SHRECK, PERIO '88** is president of the 1,550 member Nassau County Dental Society, where he has been involved with the Society's award-winning “Give Kids A Smile Day.” He was also a founding member of the



Nassau-Suffolk Oral Health Coalition. In addition to a busy specialty practice, Dr. Shreck teaches at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and chairs the

Membership and Communications committee of the New York State Dental Association's Council. Most recently, Dr. Shreck represented Nassau County at the Annual Meeting of the American Dental Association as a New York State delegate.

**DR. JAGRUTI DESAI '91** and **DR. RUBINS NOEL '92** attended the 6th annual World Business Forum (WBF) in New York City as part of Aspen Dental's inaugural Leadership Summit. Dr. Desai is the owner of two Aspen Dental practices in Central Pennsylvania (Mechanicsburg and Harrisburg), and Dr. Noel owns six Aspen Dental practices in western New York (Cheektowaga, Hamburg, Lockport, Buffalo, Tonawanda, and Niagara Falls), and one in western Pennsylvania (Erie).

**DR. FARIBA KALANTARI '92** is practicing in Hollywood California and is co-chair of the small business committee and co-chair of the health committee for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. She is also the president-elect for the Iranian American Dental Association.

Dr. Albert Kurpis '74 entertained Dean Ira Lamster and, then candidate for governor Chris Christie during the fall of 2009 at the Kurpis home in New Jersey.





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DR. EUGENE GROSS '07 reports, "Currently, I am brigade dental surgeon for the 172D Infantry Division stationed in Schweinfurt, Bavaria, Germany. We returned from a nine-month deployment to Iraq in December. Working in a tent in such an austere environment definitely put my abilities to the test, as well as being the only dentist there for about 10,000 people. I am currently working in the dental clinic helping in the care of over 12,000 soldiers, their families, and other associated Department of Defense contractors and government employees."

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DR. ROHINI TANEJA '07 graduated from the BU Pediatric Dentistry program last July, moved back to California, got married in September, bought a house in Sacramento, is becoming a part-owner in a Pediatric Dentistry practice and is expecting her first baby this August.

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Peter Frandsen '09 and wife Emily welcomed their first child, a son, William Shigeki Frandsen, on October 10, 2009.

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## Yankee Dental Congress

Thirty alumni from the Classes of 1967 to '09 joined Dean Lamster and Alumni Director Melissa Welsh at the Annual Alumni Luncheon held at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel during the Yankee Dental Congress on January 29.



Brigade Dental Surgeon Eugene Gross '07 treats a fellow soldier in an army tent in Iraq.



below Tom Pagonis, Endo '93, Denise Chow '04 and John Diune '03, Endo '06 catch up on old times at the Alumni Luncheon.

# On and Off Campus

## CDM Alumni Notes



**MARGARET LAPPAN GREEN**, who earned her MS from Columbia's dental hygiene program in 1971, has been active at the highest levels of her profession and is recognized nationally for her efforts to establish dental hygienists as key players in helping solve America's oral health crisis. Ms. Green was President of the American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) from 2005 to 2007, crowning her lifelong interest in raising the status of her profession, a campaign she began at the University of Pittsburgh where she helped establish a student chapter of ADHA. While working with her husband, periodontist Barry Green, DMD, Ms. Green continued to work for recognition of the dental hygienist's role as a partner with dentists in extending dental care to serve the unmet needs of the public, especially the widespread neglect of children's oral health needs. In two terms as ADHA president, Margaret Green increased its influence across the United States and also helped to establish it as an international public health resource, leading a delegation of dental hygiene professionals to Russia and Poland as part of an exchange program. Most recently, she became the Founding Chairman of the ADHA Toothfairy Campaign, designed to "help educate and mobilize the public to respond to the 'silent and painful epidemic' of pediatric oral health disease."

**JOYCELYN DILLON**, chair of New York City College of Technology's (City Tech) Department of Dental Hygiene, has been named a fellow of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute, a program designed to develop the nation's future leaders in dental and higher education. Professor Dillon, whose BS in dental hygiene and MA in health education are both from Columbia, says "After my year at the institute, I plan to be a resource for dental educators and practicing hygienists on professional integrity, ethical dilemmas, geriatric and special needs patients, public advocacy, access to care, community involvement, and life-long learning." Dillon also received the ADEA/Colgate-Palmolive Co. Allied Dental Educator Fellowship, a \$4,000 honorarium covering expenses for the Leadership Institute.

Recently reappointed to her second five-year term as one of three dental hygienists on the 17-member New York State Board for Dentistry, which handles discipline, legislation and licensure for dentistry, dental hygiene and dental-assisting professions in New York, she is also an examiner and member of the steering committee for the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners – a group that administers dental and





dental hygiene licensing examinations in 16 northeastern American states.

### McLean Symposium 2010

More than 60 dental hygienists attended the 18th Annual Patricia McLean Symposium: “Oral Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist” at Columbia on Saturday, March 6. Dr. James Fine, CDM professor of Periodontics, and Dr. Mea Weinberg, NYU associate professor of Periodontics, were the day’s guest speakers. Several graduates from Columbia’s former dental hygiene program attended this year’s Patricia McLean Symposium. Among them were Karen Cadden (Whitnoria) ’78; Rose-Marie Crystal ’74, MS; Ingrid Doyle ’82; Karen Harris ’74; Janet Meuse (Viaggio) ’75; Mary Prokorym ’78; and Wendy Quanstrom (Ferguson) ’79.



Dean and Director of the Columbia Dental Hygiene Program Patricia McLean, (far right) observes her students in the clinic.  
photo: *The Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery Alumni Magazine* Winter 1964.

## Melinda Cleans My Teeth

by Charlotte Mandel

Intent blue eyes  
of prairie skies—  
white coat and denim jeans—  
Her fingers click  
with a silver pick  
exploring before she cleans—  
A musical straw  
gobbles in my jaw  
like a flute with dancing beans—  
While toot’ by toot’  
round each tingling root  
a bladelet intervenes—  
Now a powerbrush  
circles in a rush,

toboggan-fast careens—  
To the orange taste  
of a sandy paste  
rubbed in by tambourines—  
The pirouette  
of a pistol jet  
splashes in serpentine—  
Swirled in spit  
the scouring grit  
is sluiced and sucked from the  
scene—  
And my teeth applaud  
with a smile as broad  
as diamond mezzanines.

*Author copyright, used with permission*



Charlotte Mandel is a well-known published poet who writes about many facets of her own life and that of others. Melinda, the subject of this poem, was a dental hygienist in the office of Dr. Irwin Mandel ’45, husband of the poet.





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West 168th Street

Vanderbilt  
Clinic

College of  
Dental  
Medicine



# Philanthropy: A Win-Win Investment in Progress

For any nonprofit organization, fund raising is a major objective and, for educational institutions, it is a constant. Fortunately for CDM, many alumni, friends and donors understand this ongoing need and offer their support, thus preserving and perpetuating continuation of vital programs.

According to CDM Director of Development Geri Connors, of the many generous gifts made to schools, bequests are among the most common – a “thank you” from alumni to their alma mater. Recently, the college received a gift of just under \$1,500,000 from the estate of Dr. Harry M. Levine ‘36, who earned his BA in 1933 from Columbia College. Another bequest from Leah W. Linn, wife of the late Bernard F. Linn ‘38, leaves \$450,000 to CDM for a scholarship fund, which she had previously established in her husband’s name with \$50,000. When Mrs. Linn’s estate is settled, CDM will receive a portion of the residual sum.

“Henry Schein has been proud to partner with Columbia. This is the latest chapter in a story of steadfast and long-term support between our two organizations.”

While personal gifts bring essential benefits to the College, we also seek the help of foundations and corporations. Renovation of the Vanderbilt Clinics (see pp. 3-9, for instance, was made possible by a significant grant from the State of New York and generous support from Henry Schein, Inc. Speaking of his firm’s involvement, Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman and CEO of Henry Schein, Inc., said, “The commitment of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine faculty and students to enhancing dental education and improving quality of patient care is unsurpassed. For nearly two decades, Henry Schein has been proud to partner with Columbia to achieve these goals, and we are very pleased to support the ongoing renovation program that will upgrade the technology of the College’s dental equipment. This is the latest chapter in a story of steadfast and long-term support between our two organizations.”

**Additional CDM projects currently in need of support are:**

**The OMFS clinic** a center critical to the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery’s teaching program, requires major renovation. Enhanced computer-aided diagnostic equipment and state-of-the-art instrumentation would allow faculty and residents to better treat patients with extensive oral and maxillofacial surgical needs.

**An Implant Inventory Center** will be part of the College’s electronic patient record system, reducing over-ordering and loss of materials due to expiration, while maximizing clinical efficiency and patient monitoring. Lower costs will result, making more implants available for more patients. The system will also support clinical research related to implant therapy outcomes.

**The Community DentCare Network** provides essential dental services in school-based, clinics and a Mobile Dental Van in Harlem and Northern Manhattan, areas with many low-income families. Last year, the CDM dental clinics provided more than 110,000 visits – approximately 3,000 for children – with more than \$6.5 million in uncompensated care. To continue to reach this underserved population, DentCare seeks major funding to underwrite a meaningful expansion.

**The success of these critical ventures will enable CDM to provide enhanced oral health care both on campus and in the community. They will greatly depend on the continued foresight, generosity and commitment of our supporters.**

*For further information,  
call 212-342-5612  
or e-mail  
[gc2399@columbia.edu](mailto:gc2399@columbia.edu)*

# Events & CE Courses

Monday May 17	CDM Graduation Ceremony. 10:30 to 12:30. CUMC.
Monday May 24	Boston Alumni Study Club Dinner <b>“Oral Health Provisions in the US Health Care Reform What is Congress Thinking?”</b> with Dr. Burton Edelstein. 6:30 to 9 pm. McCormick & Schmick's, Boston. 2 CE Credits.
Saturday May 29	Pediatric Dentistry Alumni Reception at AAPD Annual Session. 6 to 7:30 pm. Hilton Chicago.
Saturday June 5	Class of 1956 Reunion Luncheon. 12 to 3 pm. Trattoria Dell'Arte NYC.
Tuesday June 8	Retirement Reception honoring Dean Emeritus Allan J. Formicola. 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Faculty Club. CUMC.
Wednesday June 9	CE Course: <b>“Regenerative Surgical Therapy in Implant Dentistry: Part, Present and Future.”</b> Co-sponsored with BIOMET 3i. 9 am to 5 pm. CU Faculty House. 7 CE Credits.
Friday June 11	Postdoctoral Graduation Ceremony. 10 am to 12 noon. CUMC.
Monday August 23	White Coat Ceremony honoring the Class of 2014. 2 to 3:30 pm CUMC.
Thursday September 30	Oral Surgery Alumni Reception at AAOMS. 6 to 8 pm. Hilton Chicago.
Friday October 1	CE Course: Conference on <b>“Oral Health for Medically Compromised Patients.”</b> Co-sponsored with the New York State Dental Foundation. 9 am to 5 pm. CU Faculty House. 7 CE credits.
Monday October 25	Sidney Horowitz Lecture in Orthodontics with Dr. Jeremy Mao. 4 to 6 pm. CUMC.
Friday November 5	CE Course: <b>“Endo/Ortho Cone Beam CT Radiology.”</b> Co-sponsored with Kodak Practice Works. 9 am to 5 pm. CU Faculty House. 7 CE credits.
Wednesday December 1	Alumni Reception at the GNY Dental Meeting. 6 to 8 pm. Marriott Marquis, NYC.
Friday & Saturday December 10 & 11	CE Course: <b>“CDM and ICOI Implant Symposium”</b> with Dr. Dennis Tarnow. 9 am to 5 pm. CUMC. 11 CE Credits.

All events & courses are held at CUMC unless otherwise noted. For further information, contact Melissa Welsh at 212-305-6881 or mmw7@columbia.edu.

**Coming this Fall:**  
**Implant Continuum with Dr. Dennis Tarnow**

Weekend/weeklong sessions.

Go to [www.dental.columbia.edu/CE](http://www.dental.columbia.edu/CE) for further details.



# Obituaries

ELEANOR RAMBIN, HYG '37

ISRAEL GREENBERG '39

EDWARD AMONTREE '44

DAVID SMITH '44

GERTRUDE SOUSA, HYG '46

JOSEPH VALINOTI '46, ORTHO '49

HARRY BORG, ORTHO '51

CARMINE FASANO '52

SEYMOUR KOSTER, ORTHO '52, PEDS '55, passed away in early March 2010. Dr Koster served on the Pediatric Dentistry faculty and at Blythedale Children's Hospital in Westchester.

JEROME LIGHT '55

IRVING STERN, PERIO '56

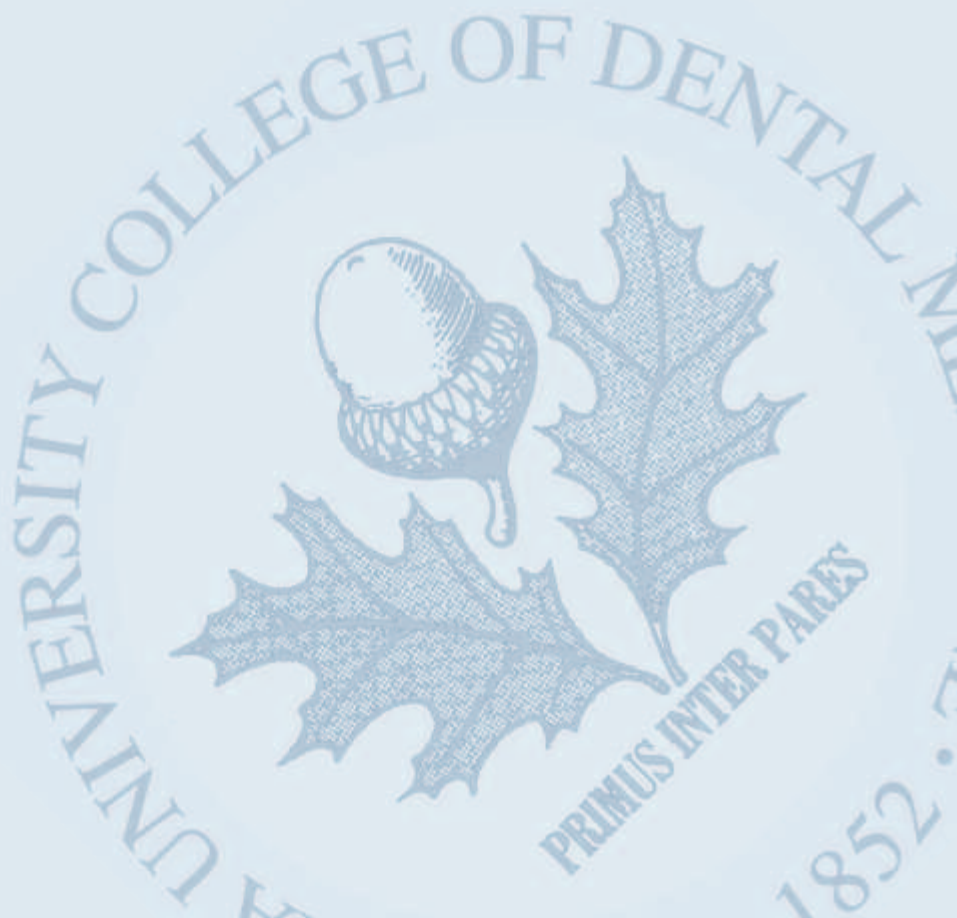
EDWARD GENECOV ORTHO '60

BURTON SIEGEL, PERIO '64

EMORY THOMAS, ORTHO '64

DAVID DOLGIN, PERIO '66

ELLIS DISICK served on the faculty in the Division of Operative Dentistry for several years. Dr. Disick's son, Evan Disick, graduated CDM in 2002.



# primus notable

JOAN A. PHELAN, BS '62, MS '67, DDS

Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, New York University

**Q. Dr. Phelan, how did your career in dentistry and research unfold?**

A. Almost by chance. In college, I thought I'd be an English major because I enjoyed reading so much. But a girl who sat next to me in zoology laboratory was going to enroll in Dental Hygiene studies at Columbia. She wanted a roommate; she was quite convincing, and eventually I said "yes."

**Q. It must have been a good start because you've been professor and chair for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology and Medicine at NYU for the last decade.**

A. Yes, a lot of doors opened for me – and I walked through. I think my path was settled the day I got a microscope in my hands. After earning my DH degree, I decided to apply to the new dental school at Stony Brook, which had just opened on Long Island where I was living and teaching dental hygiene. I planned to be a general dentist, because "the world needed them," but the microscope and slides changed that.

**Q. So, you chose academics over practice?**

A. Yes. I did a residency in oral pathology and had training in general pathology at Catholic Medical Center in Queens. I'm a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. I think the "sameness" of scheduled hours in a practice wouldn't have suited me. But, really, I just fell into research.

**Q. When did you start your long relationship with HIV research?**

A. As an oral pathologist working in New York at the beginning of the HIV epidemic, I had the opportunity to see large numbers of patients with oral manifestations of HIV. My first study was a description of oral manifestations of AIDS in 100 patients. Then, in 2000, I returned to Columbia to work with Ira Lamster, heading up the clinical component for an HIV study there.

**Q. When did you settle down at NYU in your present position?**

A. I had worked there earlier in my career, and returned after working at several other places including a VA hospital on Long Island. I had really gotten tired of the four-hour com-



mute to New York City. When NYU contacted me about coming back, I included housing in New York City as a requirement. Now, I can walk home from work.

**Q. How would you describe your research today?**

A. I'm part of a research team, studying the changes in the oral cavity and gastrointestinal tract that happen when people with HIV infection take antiretroviral drugs. My part of the project is to describe the status of the oral cavity and take many different samples that are analyzed by the laboratory scientists.

*The Primus Notable feature appears regularly in CDM publications, focusing on a graduate of distinction who has maintained a close interest in the College throughout his or her career.*







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*College of Dental Medicine*

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