Dennis P. Tarnow Is New CDM Director Of Implant Education

On May 1, 2010, Dean Ira Lamster appointed Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, an internationally known expert in dental implantology, as Director of Implant Education at the College of Dental Medicine. Trained in both periodontics and prosthodontics, Dr. Tarnow teaches postdoctoral students and residents and oversees new continuing education courses — as well as future international exchanges — in dental implantology for the College. He has also received several major new grants, helping to advance Dean Lamster’s designation of basic and clinical implantology research as a priority for the College. Dr. Tarnow will also expand and enhance CDM’s multidisciplinary implant treatment center, using the most advanced radiographic technology and sophisticated new software to treat complex cases.

Functional implant dentistry has made the question of whether to retain a badly damaged tooth and restore it, or to remove it and consider replacement, vitally important for every dentist. Recognizing the underlying cause of such damage, understanding the viability of the patient’s local and systemic condition, and gaining a thorough familiarity with the techniques and materials required for a successful implant procedure have become a necessity in the profession. As a consequence, the College of Dental Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Panos Papapanou, chairman, Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences, and director, Division of Periodontics, has made implantology studies integral to its pre- and postdoctoral curriculum throughout. “We are delighted,” says Dr. Papapanou, “that we are able to further enhance the implant-related educational experiences we offer our students, as well as the services we provide our patients across all CDM divisions. Dental implants are formidable therapeutic alternatives when natural teeth are lost. At the same time, it is important to reaffirm our primary commitment as dental educators and therapists to the maintenance of a healthy, functional natural

continued on page 3
Dr. Thomas Cangialosi
Steps Down As Ortho Director and Section Chair

Dr. Thomas J. Cangialosi, Leuman M. Waugh Professor of Clinical Orthodontics, announced in May that he would step down as Chair, Section of Growth and Development, and Director, Division of Orthodontics, but continue as an active member of the faculty. In a letter notifying the faculty of Dr. Cangialosi’s decision, Dean Ira Lamster praised his work, citing the steady increase in applicants to CDM’s Postdoctoral Program in Orthodontics, one of the most highly regarded training programs in the nation. He applauded Dr. Cangialosi’s design and supervision of construction for the Vanderbilt 9 Orthodontics Clinic, his introduction of digital radiography, photography and orthodontic models to the postdoctoral clinic, and the conversion of CDM’s two-year certificate Orthodontics Program to a three-year Master of Science Program, which received the Commission on Dental Accreditation’s highest level of approval. Dr. Cangialosi is also well known in his field as an author, editor, lecturer, and consultant, and as a member and officer of both state and national orthodontics organizations.

A search committee led by Dr. Jeremy Mao and Dr. Panos Papapanou is reviewing candidates for the position.

Dean Formicola Honored At Retirement Reception

On June 8, the College of Dental Medicine celebrated the distinguished career of Dr. Allan J. Formicola at a reception marking his retirement from CUMC as Professor of Dental Medicine (Center for Family and Community Medicine). Dr. Formicola, Dean of CDM from 1978 to 2001, founded the Community DentCare Network. This extensive alliance of school-based preventive dentistry clinics, neighborhood primary care practices, and a Mobile Dental Van, brings care to underserved communities in Washington Heights/Inwood and Central Harlem. Following his 23 years as dean, Dr. Formicola became Vice Dean for Community Health Partnerships in Health Sciences, which improves access to healthcare for the underserved: the Formicola Fellowship Fund, established at CDM in 2001, supports pre- and postdoctoral students and junior faculty committed to this goal. During the reception, Dean Ira Lamster, Professor Emeritus Norman Kahn ’58, Vice Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn and Vice Dean Ronnie Myers ’79 fondly recalled the Formicola years at CDM. Dr. Formicola also received an American Dental Education Association citation.

Dr. Laureen Zubiaurre
Heads CDM Admissions

Associate Professor of Clinical Dental Medicine Dr. Laureen Zubiaurre has been appointed Director of Predoctoral Admissions at CDM, in collaboration with Dr. Martin J. Davis, Senior Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs. Dr. Zubiaurre, who earned her DMD at Fairleigh Dickinson University, is a doctoral candidate at Teachers College, a recipient of many awards and honors for her work at CDM, and will be inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Dentists in October.
Implantology continued from p. 1

dentition whenever possible.”

The means to achieving today’s osseointegrated root-form implant was discovered accidentally. In 1952, while carrying out microscopy studies on blood flow at Sweden’s Gothenburg University, orthopaedic surgeon Per-Ingvar Branemark found he was unable to remove a titanium blood-collection chamber placed in the leg of a live rabbit without fracturing the bone that had grown around it. Columbia became closely involved in the consequences of this revelation through Dr. Richard Skalak, a bioengineer on the university’s faculty, known for pioneering research on the properties of red and white blood cells, blood flow, bone and soft tissue growth. Dr. Skalak’s studies led him to join Dr. Branemark for a year in Gothenburg designing early titanium dental implants.

Modern root-form endosseous implants have transformed clinical dental practice. Today, their success rate is close to 95%, and a recent ADA survey showed implant procedures nearly doubled between 1995 and 2002.

Titanium’s singular ability to bond with living bone tissue quickly made the metal indispensable for dental restoration, as well as cranial and maxillofacial reconstruction. Dental implantology became part of training in the Division of Periodontics at Columbia in 1992, and was soon added to the curriculum in both oral and maxillofacial surgery and prosthodontics.

Modern root-form endosseous implants have transformed clinical dental practice. Today, their success rate is close to 95%, and a recent ADA survey showed implant procedures nearly doubled between 1995 and 2002.

The significance of strengthening the implantology training programs at CDM is directly related to the treatment’s transformative influence across the dental spectrum. In especially complex surgical problems that may be related to dental implantology – maxillary advancement and bone supplementation, for instance – Dr. Sidney Eisig, chair, Section of Hospital Dentistry, explains that, “Oral and maxillofacial surgeons must be rigorously trained to deal with these difficult procedures, as well as in the handling of implant cases that require special knowledge of esthetics.” Dr. George S. White, director, Division of Prosthodontics, points out that the mandibular two-implant overdenture is now the first choice as standard of care for edentulous patients, “restoring nearly 100% biting efficiency.” Dr. White predicts that prosthodontists trained in implantology today “will continue expanding the efficiency of placement and the durability and aesthetic of materials, as well as refining effectiveness and accuracy in computer-generated implant software.”

The College of Dental Medicine has not only enhanced its curriculum in implantology for pre- and postdoctoral trainees, but has extended its continuing education programs with a new Implantology Continuum. Dr. Tarnow, Dr. James B. Fine, associate dean for Postdoctoral Programs and director, Postdoctoral Periodontics, and Dr. Stephen Chu, a new faculty member with expertise in esthetic dentistry, are co-directors for the Continuum, to be held on weekends beginning in late October. Dr. Fine also oversees CDM’s Implant Study Club, where general dentists and specialists who are already placing implants learn how they can raise their skills to the next level. He describes implant dentistry education at CDM as, “Emphasizing a need to recognize all patients as potential implant patients, each of whom is to be treated with the highest standards of care.”

Dr. Tarnow is also scientific director of the Implantology Symposium, co-sponsored with the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI), to be held at CDM on December 10 and 11. World renowned experts in the field will be featured speakers for the program.

Sidney B. Eisig  James B. Fine  George S. White
Class Reunion Day 2010

Class Reunion Day 2010, held on Friday, May 7, attracted nearly 130 graduates from the classes of 1941 through 2005, who traveled from all across the U.S. to attend the festivities. The program featured Dr. Jeremy Mao, co-director, Center for Craniofacial Regeneration, who discussed his laboratory’s cutting-edge stem cell research.

Alumni President Margot Jaffe ’80, Peds ’81, Ortho ’85 presents the Distinguished Alumni Award to Senior Associate Dean for Extramural Hospital Programs Louis Mandel ’46, OMFS ’51, in recognition of his more than 60 years of dedication to the College and its students.

Dean Lamster gave an overview of recent facility renovations, new research projects, and faculty and student achievements. He also announced a generous $50,000 gift from Meryl Baurnash ’85, Ortho ’88, to establish a scholarship in memory of her father Harold Baurnash ’48, OMFS ’53. Students then led alumni tours of the new Teaching and Learning Center and the recently renovated VC 7 clinic. The day concluded with a cocktail reception at which the classes were recognized with gifts and class photos.

Several classes also arranged private dinners over the weekend.

REMEMBER
Mark your calendars for

CLASS REUNION DAY 2011
Friday, May 6

Honoring the five-year classes from 1941 to 2006


above: Class of 1970: James Olsen, Roger Santise, Dennis Morea, Gilbert Sokal.

below: Class of 1975: John Feeney, Michael Lassaw, Olivia Masry, Norman Blumenstock, Allen Kozin, Matthew Zizmor, Fred Appelbaum, Paul Kamen.


below left: Class of 1990: Bogdan Paunovic, Muna Khan, Sheila Bahadori, Suzanne Kim, Barbara Cherches, Rosalie Silvestri, Nancy Wiley, Jeff Gee. below: class of 1995: Jason Seo

right: Class of 2000: Daniel Kim, Carina Vora, Sonia Varlamos, Zana Mihovilovic, Tasios Vakkas, Geri Kreiner-Litt, Ivy Wang, Cathy Hung-Orlando, Nira Dwivedi, Catherine Kuo, Ji-Young Lee, Jenny Tu.

far right: Class of 2005: Richard Fernandes, Michael Aluf, Mark Moynier.
Off Campus

Class of ’56 Celebrates the Art of Retirement

On a Saturday afternoon in June, several members of the Class of ’56 and their spouses gathered for a reunion luncheon at Trattoria dell’Arte in midtown Manhattan. Saul and Judy Finer, who organized the event, were joined by Dan and Ellen Epstein, Robert and Miriam Klotz, Abdul (formerly Leo Mcollum) and Khadijah Salaam, and Joseph and Judy Wirtenberg, as well as Dean Ira Lamster and Alumni Director Melissa Welsh.

Reminiscing over student days and sharing stories about their current lives, the classmates discovered that in retirement four of them have pursued the arts. Dr. Finer, a watercolorist, teaches classes on art and artists at the Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement in Utica, NY; Dr. Klotz casts life-size bronze figural sculptures for his North Fork, Long Island, waterfront property; Dr. Epstein has taken up woodworking at his country house in Pennsylvania; and Dr. Salaam, who flew in from Chicago for the reunion, professes a love for writing.

The group plans to meet again in spring, 2011 for their 55th Reunion.

International Exchange Visitors at CDM in July

Vice Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn posed in front of Columbia’s Alma Mater with dental students from Taiwan (2), Gothenburg (1), and Osaka (11), plus an Osaka Dental University faculty member, during a week-long visit she arranged for them at CDM in July. The group attended special lectures, rotated through the post-doctoral clinics, and enjoyed spending time with CDM students. A luncheon at the Alumni Center, followed by a Morningside campus tour, capped off the visitors’ week.

Alumni Cruise NYC Harbor

A welcome respite from the heat for 65 alumni, residents, faculty and students, the July 20th Alumni Association’s Summer Harbor Tour aboard the New York Water Taxi was generously sponsored by Dr. Lois Jackson ’77, Peds ’80, immediate past-president of the Association. Dr. Jackson hopes to make the cruise an annual outing, bringing CDM alumni and students together.
CDM Graduate Elected Mass Dental Society VP

Paula K. Friedman, ’74 has been elected Vice President of the Massachusetts Dental Society. Dr. Friedman, who is Associate Dean at Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, also teaches gerontology and directs the university’s Geriatric Dentistry Fellowship Program.

“Oral health,” says Dr. Friedman, “has never enjoyed a higher public profile – the importance of oral health in overall health is recognized, and with a dentist as head of the oral health team, we have opportunities to reach people who may not have fully enjoyed the benefits of oral health.”

Chad P. Gehani, Endo ’81, Is NYSDA President-Elect

Queens dentist Chad P. Gehani, Endo ’81, has been chosen President-Elect of the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA), one of the largest state constituents of the American Dental Association, representing more than 13,000 of the state’s dentists. Dr. Gehani is slated to serve as the association’s president in 2011. Active in organized dentistry, and well known for his collaboration with ethnic and international dental groups, Dr. Gehani, is a past president of the Queens County Dental Society, the Indian Dental Association, and a former member of the NYSDA Board of Governors and its Executive Committee.

Networking at Sotheby’s CDM Alumni Meet Picasso

The Association of Dental Alumni Social Networking Reception held at Sotheby’s New York art auction house on April 20 brought more than 90 alumni, faculty and students together in galleries hung with 20th-century paintings for an upcoming auction. Mingling in the midst of works by Matisse, Picasso, Basquiat, Koons, Léger and Calder, friendships were renewed and opportunities arose for cultivating new connections.

Jiji Park ’08, Mina Kim ’10, Shiva Basir ’09, Michelle Mirsky ’77 (Operative Faculty), Yasemin Kilical ’09, Raymond Jone ’10, and Jennifer Castro ’09 (front) joined other CDM art patrons at the Sotheby’s event in April.
Somos Amigos Leader Speaks at 2010 Graduation

The Class of 2010 chose Frank Brightwell, Founder and Director of Somos Amigos Medical Missions, as speaker for the May 17 graduation ceremony. Mr. Brightwell affectionately recalled CDM students who have shared the work of Somos Amigos at its Dominican Republic clinic, where physicians and dentists serve more than 3,000 patients yearly. Adding humor to his praise, Mr. Brightwell told the story of Herbie, a North Pole elf who aspired to be a dentist instead of following Santa's elves-in-training course. He urged his audience to take up Herbie's example and “follow your dreams,” citing his own experience with building a small idea into a service that has changed thousands of lives. He counseled each graduate to be “a person of integrity,” to laugh, and to share their capabilities and hopes with others, adding, “especially [those] to whom life has not been as kind.”

Class president Jeremy Zuniga, who also spoke, recalled the work of the past four years, reminding his classmates that “[when] we started at CDM in 2006, our goal [was] to become dentists.” But, he concluded, “...we are coming away with so much more than a dental degree: we leave Columbia with an elite education and training.” He added that they had made “friendships with some of the most talented, skilled and compassionate dentists, who we are lucky to call our professors and classmates.” Dr. Zuniga entered the CDM Orthodontics Program in July.

Golden Acorn Pins Are New Tradition at CDM

Before receiving their diplomas from Dean Lamster, CDM’s 2010 graduates were formally ‘hooded’ by Dr. Ronnie Myers, or by a family member who is a dentist or physician. Dr. Salentijn then presented each graduate with a gold lapel pin, designed around the College’s acorn logo. The pins are the thoughtful gift of benefactor Dr. Christopher Bonacci ’92, MD ’95, who initiated this tradition two years ago.

Class Day Awards For 45 Graduates

The College of Dental Medicine held its second annual Class Day on Friday, May 14, at which 45 students were presented with awards for their achievements. The event was emceed by Dr. Martin Davis, student Government President David Alfaro ’10 gave the opening remarks, and Fourth-Year Group Leader Jessica Hilburg, DDS, was invited by the class to give the closing remarks. A reception for students and faculty followed.

Vice Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn presents Dr. Joseph McManus with the Edward Zegarelli Teaching Award at the 2010 Graduation. The award recognizes a faculty member for dedicated teaching of predoctoral students. Dr. McManus left CDM in July to become Senior Vice President for Dental Practice/Professional Affairs at the American Dental Association in Chicago.
Dean Mundinger Urges Postdoctoral Graduates To Exceed Status Quo

Sixty postdoctoral students and residents received Certificates, or Master of Science degrees, at the Postdoctoral Graduation ceremony on Friday, June 11. Guest speaker Professor Mary O. Mundinger, Dean and Centennial Professor in Health Policy, School of Nursing, not only paid tribute to the graduates’ successful completion of their programs, but told them “your contributions will – and must be – far greater than excelling at the status quo already established in your specialty, regardless of how valuable that status quo is today.” But she cautioned the young professionals to first “…season yourself in your new roles, [and then] begin the thoughtful, carefully designed, meticulous process of building new science as your field changes and expands.” In closing, she declared, “I believe your work will far exceed the traditional expectations of... those who preceded you.”

Dr. Levy Honored With Formicola Award

Irwin Levy, DDS, assistant clinical professor of Dental Medicine in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, received the Allan J. Formicola Award for dedicated and inspired teaching of postdoctoral students. Vice Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn made the presentation to Dr. Levy at the College’s Postdoctoral Graduation ceremony on June 11.

below: Waving giant toothbrushes aloft in a sea of umbrellas, CDM graduates celebrated with enthusiasm following the University-wide commencement at the Morningside campus on May 18.

above: Dr. Irwin Levy receives the Formicola Award from Vice Dean Salentijn.
Philanthropy in Action

Lou Rubins ’60 Finds “Win-Win” Way To Support CDM

Supporting Columbia’s dental college is a way of life for CDM alumnus and Clinical Professor Lou Rubins. He has contributed both time and professional expertise on the volunteer faculty for 40 years, as well as serving on the Ethics faculty and bringing both his energy and experience to weekly meetings of the College’s admissions committee. Zel Rubins, who has been a gracious leader in making alumni and fund-raising events a huge success for the College, enthusiastically shares her husband’s role in helping to ensure the dental school’s progress.

Recently, Dr. Rubins, who has always supported CDM financially as generously as circumstances permitted, learned about an outstanding opportunity to maximize his support while staying within budget. By donating appreciated securities that he had owned for at least twelve months – except those held in a retirement account – he enjoys unusual financial advantages.

First, he receives an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities at the time the gift is made, regardless of their original cost. Second, any capital gains tax that would have been obligatory if these assets had been sold does not apply in this kind of transaction. Therefore, the net cost for his gift turns out to be lower than its actual worth before being transferred to CDM. The result: giving a gift of, say, $2,000, to the College, could cost the donor only $900!

Dr. Rubins found only one drawback to this tax-smart way of giving: the printed form used to set the gift process in motion had confusing instructions. So, working with CDM Development Director Geri Connors, Dr. Rubins was able to modify the form with clearer directions for a quicker and easier completion. By providing this simplified form to others and sharing information about the appreciated securities gift process, he hopes his fellow alumni will seize this win-win opportunity to gain by giving.

To receive Dr. Rubins’s forms and further information about making gifts of appreciated securities, please contact Ms. Connors at 212-342-5612 or gc2399@columbia.edu.

CDM CONNECTS

Our Columbia Dental Alumni Facebook Group has more than 600 Fans! Join your friends and classmates today to get the latest news and event photos.

The CDM alumni website now posts ads for alumni seeking positions, extending to positions available across the U.S. Go to: www.dental.columbia.edu/alumni

We are communicating more through email! To receive event announcements:
• Send a message to: Melissa Welsh at mmw7@columbia.edu
• Update your information in the Columbia Online Directory at www.alumni.columbia.edu
• Or call the Alumni Office at 212-305-6881.

Zel and Lou Rubins, seen here with a work by Jean-Michel Basquiat at the CDM Alumni Sotheby’s event in April.
Fall 2010 Calendar
Alumni Events & CE Courses

CDM is pleased to announce an exciting group of CE courses, including new multi-session Continuums in Implant and Esthetic Dentistry. More information at: www.dental.columbia.edu/CE, or call: 212-342-2964.

October

 Fri. Oct. 8, 9-12 pm.
“PRACTICAL INFECTION CONTROL FOR THE DENTAL OFFICE,” Dr. Ronnie Myers. $145. 3 credits. CUMC.

 Mon. Oct 18, 6:30-9 pm.
NEW JERSEY ALUMNI STUDY CLUB, “NEWEST TRENDS IN PERIODONTICS,” Dr. James Fine. $69. 2 Credits. Stony Hill Restaurant, Hackensack, NJ.

 Tues. Oct. 26, 6:30-9 pm.
WESTCHESTER ALUMNI STUDY CLUB, “THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF PERIODONTITIS AND DIABETES MELLITUS,” Dean Ira Lamster. $45. 3 Credits. Ciao Restaurant, Eastchester, NY.

 Sun. Oct. 31, 12-4 pm.
ANNUAL FALL BBQ at CU Baker Field, 218th Street & Broadway. All welcome!

New!

 Fri. Nov. 5, 9 am-5 pm.
“3D AND ME: CONE BEAM TECHNOLOGY IN ORAL DIAGNOSIS,” Dr. Christos Angelopoulos, Dr. Randy Todd, Dr. Mitchell Kellert. $295. 7 Credits. CU Morningside Campus.

 Mon. Nov. 8, 6:30-9:30 pm.
1852 SOCIETY DONOR RECOGNITION DINNER. Astra, D&D Building, NYC.

 Fri. Nov. 19, 9 am-5 pm.
“ENHANCE YOUR PRACTICE: THE FUTURE IS NOW!”, Dr. Andrew Koenigsberg, Dr. Nick Vero, Dr. Gregg Litucy. Co-sponsored with Delta Dental. $300 (Delta Dental Members $95). 7 Credits. Lighthouse Executive Conference Center, NYC.

 Mon. Nov. 22, 3-4 pm.
SIDNEY HOROWITZ LECTURE IN ORTHODONTICS: “ORTHODONTICS IN THE ERA OF STEM CELLS AND TISSUE,” Dr. Jeremy Mao. 1 Credit. CUMC.

November

 Fri. Nov. 5, 9 am-5 pm.
“PRACTICAL INFECTION CONTROL CONTINUUM: “FROM TREATMENT PLANNING TO HANDS-ON SURGERY AND RESTORATION,” Dr. Dennis Tarnow, Dr. James Fine, Dr. Stephen Chu. Six weekends: Oct. 23-March 27, or two five-day sessions: Nov. 9-13 & Feb. 1-5. $6,500. 81 Credits. CUMC.

 Fri. Nov. 19, 9 am-5 pm.
“ESSENTIALS OF ESTHETIC DENTISTRY: AN ADVANCED CONTINUUM” Dr. Stephen Chu, Dr. Mark Pitel. Nine weekends: Oct. 30-June 4. $6,500. 90 Credits. CUMC.

Fri. Nov. 8, 6:30-9:30 pm.
1852 SOCIETY DONOR RECOGNITION DINNER. Astra, D&D Building, NYC.

 Mon. Nov. 22, 3-4 pm.
SIDNEY HOROWITZ LECTURE IN ORTHODONTICS: “ORTHODONTICS IN THE ERA OF STEM CELLS AND TISSUE,” Dr. Jeremy Mao. 1 Credit. CUMC.

December

 Wed. Dec. 1, 6-8 pm.
ALUMNI RECEPTION, GNY DENTAL MEETING. Marriott Marquis Hotel.

 Fri. & Sat. Dec. 10-11 am.
CU/ICOI IMPLANT SYMPOSION: “INNOVATIONS IN IMPLANT DENTISTRY,” Dr. Dennis Tarnow. $595. 11 Credits. CUMC.

 Fri. Dec. 3, 12-1 pm.
BERNARD MOSKOW LECTURE IN PERIODONTICS. Professor Lina Badimon, Director Cardiovascular Research Center, Barcelona, Spain. 1 credit. CUMC.

 Fri. Dec. 17, 9 am-12 pm.
TOBACCO CESSATION, Dr. Sidney Eising, Dr. Lynn Tepper. 3 Credits. $145. CUMC.
We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our alumni, faculty, corporate partners, foundations, and friends. Annual contributions of $2,000 and above receive membership in the prestigious 1852 Society. The Society was founded in 1982 to honor the annual contributions of the College's most loyal and generous donors. Membership in the 1852 Society signifies a tradition in leadership, generosity, and commitment to excellence in scholarship, research, and teaching.

This report includes gifts received between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

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Dr. Joseph C. DeLisi ’81
Dr. Frank T. DePinto ’89
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Dr. Albert L. Granger, Endo ’93
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Dr. Ruth H. Howes & Dr. Paul R. Kamen ’75
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gc2399@columbia.edu
Q. Dr. Baer, it’s been close to 70 years since you entered Columbia to begin your dental education and there have been many changes and achievements in dentistry over your long life in the profession. What stands out for you?

A. Bringing attention to the need for studying and treating pediatric periodontics was important to me. When I decided to work on this subject, few people understood the potential complications for children and adolescents affected by periodontal disease. My book on the subject, coauthored with Sheldon Benjamin in 1974, was the first to scrutinize specific periodontal problems associated with this critical period of life, a pioneering examination of their relevance and significance, in an area which has since become vital to dental research and patient care.

Q. You’ve had some other important firsts in your career as well, haven’t you?

A. Yes, in 1956 while teaching at USC, I was recruited as a senior scientist at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, where I was the first board-certified periodontist on staff. Then, eighteen years later, I became the founding chair of the first department of periodontics at SUNY Stony Brook. I remained as chair there until 2005 and retired in 2005 at the age of 83.

Q. What drew you to dentistry as your life’s work?

A. It was my own dentist. He found out that my father couldn’t resist bringing home three pounds of candy every week—it was such a bargain for a dollar—which my parents and I then ate. The dentist was properly alarmed and made me understand how much harm that was doing to our teeth. His concern and his advice impressed me and I decided dentistry would be a good thing to do with my own life.

Q. And why did you choose Columbia as your dental school?

A. Well, there were only two places to go for dental education in New York, and at the first one I visited the faculty and students were using foot pedals to power their instruments! When I got up to Columbia, I found they were using electricity. Columbia also offered the advantage of small classes where I got more time with my instructors, one of whom was Dr. Frank Beube, a major influence on me and in my chosen field.