

# Harvard Dental

*bulletin*

Fall 2016  
Volume 76, Number 2  
Harvard School of Dental Medicine



Million Dollar Smile  
HSDM Alumna Wins  
America's Greatest Makers

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## bulletin

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### Features

- 1 Letter from the Dean
- 2 New Study by HSDM Researchers May Have Implications for Treating Osteoporosis
- 4 Million Dollar Smile
- 6 HSDM Celebrates 2016 Graduates
- 7 A Warm Welcome and White Coats for the Class of 2020
- 8 Fulbright Scholar Dr. John Ahern
- 10 HSDM to Lead Program in Rwanda on Ethics Training in Health Research
- 11 New Center Will Address the Oral Health Competency Gap in Primary Care Training
- 12 Reunion Recap
- 14 Gift of \$50,000 Kicks Off the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship
- 16 New State-of-the-Art Classroom Takes Root
- 17 Upcoming Events
- 18 Harvard Dental Bites
  - Alumni News
  - HSDM Awards
  - HSDM News
- 21 From the Archives

#### Cover photo:

Team Grush on America's Greatest Makers (photo by Tommy Baynard/Intel Corporation)



### Faculty Highlight

Drs. Adam Hamilton, lecturer on Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences; Giuseppe Intini, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity; and Yingzi Yang, professor of Developmental Biology; went to Chengdu, China for a week this summer to teach dental students in an international dental student summer camp at the Western China School of Stomatology. See page 19.

The *Harvard Dental Bulletin* is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Harvard School of Dental Medicine. We look forward to receiving your feedback and news.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

**O**ne of my favorite traditions of the academic year is having the honor of welcoming thirty-five new DMD students to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. In an orientation event held in early August, we met these exceptional students who have come here from all over the country to pursue their dreams of degrees in dental medicine. The incoming class, selected from more than 1,000 applicants, includes 21 women and 14 men representing 19 states and 27 different undergraduate institutions.

These students are already quite accomplished. As undergraduates they studied biology, biomedical science, chemistry, economics, global health, and neuroscience, among other majors, and many graduated in the top of their class. However, perhaps even more impressive is the great number of them who have served as volunteers, tutors and mentors. One devoted his time to working with children with autism, while another served as a home hospital teacher who created lesson plans for kids with chronic diseases. Yet another mentored refugee students, helping them adapt to American culture, and another volunteered with an organization that exposes elementary school girls to STEM fields. Many have also led outreach and service trips to countries around the world such as Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Fiji, Honduras, Panama, and Peru. And several have worked as research assistants, and lab technicians; some even publishing their first academic papers.

They come to HSDM full of promise and eager to learn. They are here at a momentous time in the School's history. In 2017, we will celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As the first dental school connected to a university and its medical school, we've led the way in dental education, research, and clinical care. All of this has been accomplished thanks to



our predecessors who had the foresight to create this great institution, and our remarkable alumni who have gone on to make an impact in dentistry and many other fields. Alumni such as Anubha Sancheti, DMD05, profiled in this issue of the *Bulletin*, a pediatric dentist who is an advocate for children, as well as an author, inventor, and entrepreneur. She's quoted in the article as saying, "HSDM never limited me to one path—that was the beauty of my learning there."

This is true, and worth reiterating. As many of you, our alumni, have gone on to pursue diverse paths within dental medicine, but also in many other fields such as academia, business, government, public service, and more. During our anniversary year, I hope many of you will return to campus to join us in celebrating your accomplishments that have become part of the rich history of this school.

To our new DMDs—may you know no bounds in your educational and personal pursuits. I look forward to seeing how you too will make your mark on history.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Donoff".

Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73

# New Study by HSDM Researchers May Have Implications for Treating Osteoporosis



Dr. Roland Baron (left) and Dr. Francesca Gori (right) studied a skeletal genetic disorder to gain insights on osteoporosis.

**A**s we age, every stumble or fall comes with a risk—a risk that is even greater for those ten million people in the U.S. who have osteoporosis, a skeletal disease characterized by low bone mass, poor bone quality and fractures. Each year, 1.5 million bone fractures are attributed to osteoporosis, including 350,000 hip fractures. But hip or other fractures in older and osteoporotic patients do not heal easily and this often leads to significant impairments in daily life, and even death.



Dr. Roland Baron, professor and chair of the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), Division of Bone and Mineral Research, and professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS), and his research team collaborated with the research team of Dr.

Superti-Furga, professor of pediatrics at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, to study cortical bone fragility. Cortical bone is the hard outer layer of bone

that becomes more susceptible to fracture in people with osteoporosis. Their findings, recently published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in the article “Cortical-Bone Fragility — Insights from sFRP4 Deficiency in Pyle’s Disease,” may shed light on the causes of and potential treatment for cortical-bone fragility.



Studying genetic disorders of the skeleton can often lead to greater insights on common skeletal ailments such as osteoporosis. Dr. Pelin Simsek Kiper from the University of Lausanne and Drs. Hiroki Saito and Francesca Gori, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, from HSDM (co-first authors) studied Pyle’s disease, a human genetic disorder characterized by increased amounts of trabecular bone, cortical bone thinning and limb deformity, and identified a recessive genetic mutation in SFRP4, a Wnt signaling inhibitor, that causes the disease. The team reproduced the genetic

deletion in mice and demonstrated that trabecular and cortical bone compartments are differentially regulated and that proper crosstalk between Wnt and Bmp signaling is critical for cortical bone homeostasis. In addition, the team experimented with reversing the effects of SFRP4 deficiency in mice with pharmacologic treatments. Interestingly, specific treatments significantly improved bone mineral density, and corrected the cortical-bone defect.

“One of the most interesting aspects of our findings is the demonstration that the regulation of trabecular bone, the main component of vertebrae, and of cortical bone, predominant in long bones like the hip or wrist, differs to some degree,” Dr. Baron said. “This may help explain why some drugs are very efficient in preventing vertebral fractures but not so good for hip fractures and may open a new avenue for research, ultimately refining our diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.”

The team’s findings also highlighted limitations of the most commonly used tools for the diagnosis and evaluation of skeletal diseases, which often cannot properly distinguish these two bone compartments.

“Our studies provide important insights and reasons to explore how Wnt and Bmp signaling regulate bone mass differentially in trabecular and cortical bone. This may offer a platform to further understand Wnt signaling specificity, and to tease out its multiple roles in skeletal development and homeostasis,” Dr. Gori said.

## About the Baron Laboratory

The Baron Laboratory at HSDM focuses on signal transduction and the ways in which it controls bone cell differentiation and function. Members of the lab study primarily skeletal development and remodeling as a model system. This work combines in-vitro and in-vivo experiments—often involving genetically modified transgenic or knockout mice and their isolated cells—that integrate molecular, cellular, and in-vivo studies to determine both the molecular mechanisms of cell biology and pathology and the impact of these mechanisms and their alteration at the organ level in normal and disease conditions. This research is directly relevant to several medical issues, including osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, bone metastasis in cancer and endocrine disorders of calcium and phosphate metabolism.

## From the Lab

*HSDM Researchers Receive NIH-NIAMS R01 Awards*

### Ionescu Investigates Osteoarthritis for Drug Treatment



Dr. Andreia Ionescu, instructor in Developmental Biology, received funding from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIH-NIAMS) for her R01 project, “Hypertrophy and Inflammation in Osteoarthritis: Epistasis or Synergy?”

Her research project will focus on articular cartilage development in relation to osteoarthritis (OA), which is a degenerative joint disease that currently has no cure. In her previous research at the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Ionescu found a new family of transcription factors (FoxA) that are essential for cartilage growth. Dr. Ionescu will further study the function of FoxA factors, “as potential regulators of articular cartilage hypertrophy and OA progression in both human OA and a murine model of this disease,” according to the abstract.

Ultimately, the goals of the research are to establish a basis for osteoarthritic drug development and to increase the understanding of pathogenic mechanisms involved in OA onset to target with pharmacological intervention.

### Yang Leads Research on Bone Development



Dr. Yingzi Yang, professor of Development Biology, received funding from NIH-NIAMS for her R01 project, “Gas-Hedgehog Signaling in Intramembranous Bone Formation and Expansion.”

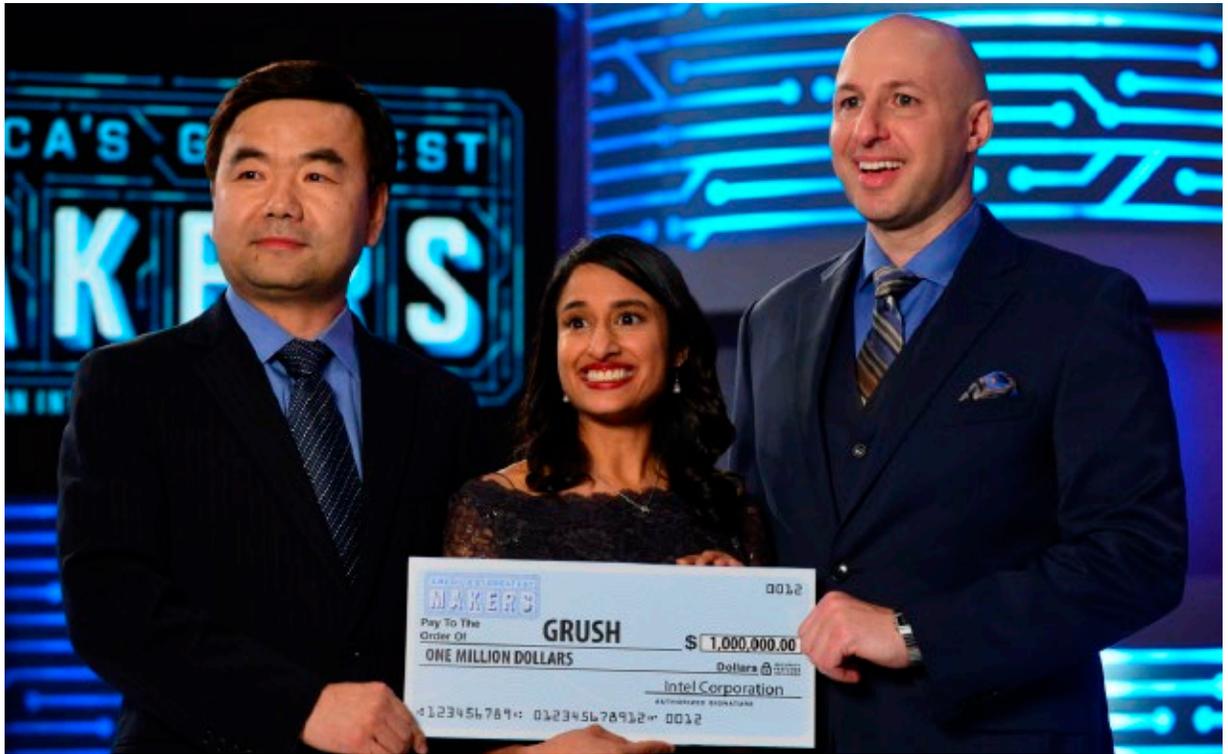
Her research will build upon the Yang Lab’s recent discovery of a Gas-Hedgehog (Hh) signaling axis that plays a crucial role in the molecular and cellular regulation of bone development. Dr. Yang will investigate her central hypothesis, “Gas-Hh signaling axis is required to regulate osteoblast differentiation during intramembranous bone formation and recruit wild type cells into the ectopic bone during progressive osseous heteroplasia,” according to the abstract.

The goal of Dr. Yang’s research project is to provide insight into the regeneration of organ systems and increase the understanding of the Gas-Hh and Gas-Wnt signaling pathways in human diseases, such as cancer.

# Million Dollar Smile

## HSDM Alumna Wins America's Greatest Makers

Anubha Sacheti, DMD05, PD06 (center) with her business partners in Grush—Yongjing Wang (left) and Ethan Schur (right).



**O**n May 24, 2015, Anubha Sacheti, DMD05, PD06 stood beneath the bright lights of a television sound stage with confetti swirling around her, and a studio audience cheering. The pediatric dentist and her partners had just won a \$1 million on the reality show *America's Greatest Makers* for their invention, Grush.

"I did not think we were going to win. I felt like Miss America up there," Sacheti said.

Sacheti and her team beat thousands of competitors who auditioned for the TBS reality show to make it to the round of 23 finalists, and to ultimately capture the grand prize. Their product, Grush, is an interactive digital toothbrush that uses Bluetooth and GPS technology to transform how kids brush their teeth. Children use the Grush toothbrush paired with an app to play a series of fun virtual games on a smartphone while brushing their teeth. Grush also allows adults to digitally track brushing habits.

The concept of making it fun for kids to brush is near and dear to Sacheti's heart. She first discovered that she loved working with kids, especially those in underprivileged communities, through her General Practice Residency at Cambridge Health Alliance while at HSDM. Today, she continues to practice several days a week in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. She is also the co-author of the book *Happy, Healthy Teeth! A Guide to Children's Dental Health*.

Sacheti's own young girls, ages five and eight, were also an inspiration for the product.

"As a dentist, I have been committed to preventing tooth decay, a common chronic disease among children. As a mother, I wanted to help end the 'battle in the bathroom' over brushing," she said.

She partnered with West Coast video game entrepreneur Ethan Schur and inventor Yongjing Wang on their initial idea for the product. She evaluated Grush from a dental perspective and joined the team as Chief Dental Officer.



“The Bluetooth and GPS work with sensors that understand tooth by tooth where kids are brushing.” There is also a patented algorithm working behind the scenes to translate the data. “That’s why it’s so different than what other manufacturers are doing,” she said.

She explained that if a child is constantly missing a particular spot time after time, Grush will show that data. “The goal is to capture the data in the dental chart so we can watch over time how the children are brushing,” she added.

**Sacheti says it is her dream to put Grush toothbrushes in the hands of underprivileged children who might not have someone at home who is able to help them brush.**

As for what she and her team will do with the million dollar prize, Sacheti says they are currently looking for a manufacturer. Once they find one, they will use the money to mass produce Grush. They hope to have Grush in stores as early as Black Friday for holiday sales. Ultimately she says it is her dream to put Grush toothbrushes in the hands of underprivileged children who might not have someone at home who is able to help them brush.

Sacheti has been a longtime advocate for children. She serves as secretary of the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the national AAPD Council on Government Affairs and was Massachusetts State Leader for the Dental Head Start Program. From her experience on America’s Greatest Makers, she hopes to inspire young girls who want to be inventors or entrepreneurs.

Sacheti also has advice for today’s HSDM students, “Dentistry is one path, but not the only path. There are other things you can do with your training. HSDM never limited me to one path—that was the beauty of my learning there,” she said.

# Dentist to reality star



**1,000s**

Audition for the first national casting of America’s Greatest Makers, a new TBS reality show

**23**

Finalists fly to California to pitch their high tech ideas to a panel of business experts and celebrities including Mike Rowe, Kenny Smith, Brian Krzanich, Massimo Banzi, Shaquille O’Neal, Mayim Bialik, and Carol Roth

Top remaining teams continue to refine their products. The final five each win

**\$100,000**

The final five put the finishing touches on their products and battle for the prize of

**\$1,000,000**

**Grush Team wins final prize!**

**Grush fine tunes product to get ready for mass production**

Goal:

**10,000**

Units on the shelves by Black Friday

# HSDM Celebrates 2016 Graduates



Above: The Class of 2020 poses for a group photo in Harvard Yard.

Right, top: Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD 73 addresses graduates at Class Day.

Right, bottom: AGE graduates take a selfie while waiting to march into Tercentenary Theatre.



**H**arvard Commencement and Class Day was held on Thursday, May 26 with celebration and ceremony. The day began with the graduating students marching into Harvard's Tercentenary Theatre for Morning Exercises. Music, tradition, and remarks by students and deans commemorated the 375th Commencement.

Degree candidates from 13 schools and Harvard College were recognized by school and cheered by the crowd. Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) awarded 61 degrees—13 Master of Medical Sciences, 12 Doctor of Medical Sciences, 36 Doctor of Dental Medicine degrees.

Later in the day, HSDM students joined their Harvard Medical School classmates for Class Day on the HMS Quad. Family and friends gathered to hear speeches by student speakers and the deans of both schools. Their remarks touched on partnerships and transition.

"You will be great dentists and exceptional oral physicians. You have learned to appreciate that patients are unique, and by your education here, you will be doctors who understand the complex and deep relationship between oral health and the health of the whole body. Your achievements should make you very proud," said Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73.

Student speaker Daniel Brein, DMD16, encouraged his classmates to trust their instincts as they transition

from their student lives to careers. "Your natural tendencies toward curiosity, innovation and leadership, with equal parts empathy, community, and kindness have carried you far," Brein said. "And while the future is full of unknowns, if you continue to trust in and listen to yourselves, nothing will be out of reach."

**"And while the future is full of unknowns, if you continue to trust in and listen to yourselves, nothing will be out of reach."**

**—Daniel Brein, DMD16**

After the remarks the graduates received their diplomas and hoods. They joined their families, and HSDM faculty and staff for an Alumni Reception honoring HSDM's newest alumni.

# A Warm Welcome and White Coats for the Class of 2020

**D**uring the first week of August, Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) welcomed a new class of Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) students. The Class of 2020 is made up of 35 talented individuals who were chosen from more than 1,000 applicants.

The new dental students participated in orientation events throughout the week, along with their Harvard Medical School (HMS) classmates. On the morning of Tuesday, August 2, they were addressed by acting HMS Dean, Barbara McNeil, MD66, PhD72 and HSDM Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73.

“You come here at a wonderful time in the history of medicine,” McNeil said as she welcomed the 200 members of the HMS and HSDM Class of 2020. “There is no better place to do work in the fields you’ll be working in, than the community you’ll find here.”

Dean Donoff echoed McNeil’s sentiments and spoke about the importance of oral health as a vital part of primary care.

“I call Harvard an unconventional dental school,” Donoff said. “Today, the fact that you medical and dental students begin your journey together



emphasizes that...Your education for lifelong learning and helping people begins today.”

After initial introductions, the students had lunch with their academic societies and tried on their white coats for the first time. They also met HSDM senior tutors Samuel Coffin, PD80, Cannon Society; Armando Pardo, DMD15, Castle Society; Maha Almusa, Holmes Society; and Aram Kim, DMD11, Peabody Society.

**“Your education for lifelong learning and helping people begins today.”**

**—Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73**

The week concluded with the Dean’s White Coat Ceremony on Friday, August 5, held on the HMS Quad. Surrounded by family and friends, students took the stage one at a time to introduce themselves. Donning their white coats, a symbol of their commitment to learning the art and science of medicine, they pledged the HMS/HSDM Class of 2020 Oath. The Oath reminds the future dentists and doctors to “Breathe together, watch together, be together and pause,” as they embark on the rigorous academic journey ahead.

Following the ceremony, a special tea was held at HSDM in honor of the new DMD students and their families.

Above: In welcoming the HSDM and HMS class of 2020, Dean Donoff, DMD67, MD73 emphasized the link between oral health and general health.

Left, top: Jennie Marinucci, DMD20, receives her white coat from Armando Pardo, DMD15 to begin her journey at HSDM.

Left, bottom: The class of 2020 was delighted to receive their white coats.



# Fulbright Scholar Dr. John Ahern

Improving access to health services by expanding oral health clinical competencies for frontline primary care clinicians



Fulbright Scholar  
Dr. John Ahern at  
HSDM.

**D**r. John Ahern joined HSDM in July as a Fulbright Scholar from Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Ahern received both his dental (2010) and medical (2015) degrees from Trinity College Dublin, and his masters in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2013). He has worked as a dentist and physician and completed an internship at the World Health Organization's (WHO) Department of Oral Health in Geneva, Switzerland. As a well-rounded healthcare professional, Dr. Ahern is passionate about the promotion of oral health through inter-professional collaboration and communication with other health professionals. We asked him about what led him to HSDM, his role as a Fulbright Scholar, and his goals for the future.

**Can you tell us why you decided to pursue an DMD/MD, and why you have chosen to focus your research on public health & primary care?**

When I was working in the Dublin Dental University Hospital, I was introduced to an impressive group of dual-qualified clinicians. As I was based primarily in the emergency department, I worked very closely with them, and it was a fantastic learning experience for me. Their level of knowledge, array of skills, and capacity to provide leadership to both oral and general health professionals, really inspired me to pursue dual-qualification.

In the years thereafter, I had somewhat of a dual-identity as a health professional. I continued to work part-time as a dentist in both hospital and community settings, while also training as a medical doctor. By working in both professions concomitantly, I was afforded a relatively unique position, which allowed me to identify a massive opportunity for the

integration of oral health competencies within the skill set of other health professionals, especially primary care clinicians.

### **Why did you want to come to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM)?**

Well, all you have to do is look at HSDM's mission statement to see why it is such a privilege for me to be here as a Fulbright Scholar. My initial contact with HSDM came in 2014, when I was on an elective in Brigham & Women's Hospital. A few different U.S. and Irish sources had introduced me to Jane Barrow through email. We graciously conceded that the universe must be telling us something, and arranged to meet over coffee. Jane was full of ideas as to how we could work together to support each other's mutual goals, and I was confident that I would fit in very well with the research activities here at HSDM.

I was also introduced to Dean Donoff, who was a powerful source of encouragement to pursue this goal, and being a dual-qualified clinician himself, he proved to be a real source of inspiration for me to come to HSDM. Now that I am here, I see this as a new chapter for me, and I hope to build lasting relationships at HSDM, both personal and professional, and create opportunities to build on these relationships long into the future.

### **How did you decide to apply for a Fulbright scholarship, and what does it mean to be a Fulbright scholar at HSDM?**

When I returned to Ireland after that visit to Boston, I was updating one of my professors at Trinity College about my recent activities at the WHO, and telling him my goals for the future, which involved working with HSDM. He sat back in his chair, put his arms behind his head, and just when I thought he was going to tell me to get real and stop wasting my time, he leaned forward and said, "John, this is a fantastic idea, and it screams Fulbright."

The Fulbright program is a very well-known scholarship internationally, and carries a lot of prestige, which

was very helpful to me when promoting the idea of oral health integration among primary care clinicians. At first, this idea was getting mixed messages from both medical and dental audiences. I was even told by one medical doctor at a conference in England that the idea I was promoting was "very controversial."

So winning the support of the Fulbright program was a hugely significant milestone for me, as it provided a platform to promote this idea on a larger scale and to a broader audience. It also encouraged people to listen more attentively to the principles behind the research, and it certainly fostered a greater interest from important stakeholders.

### **What are your impressions of Boston and Harvard so far, and outside of work, how do you like to spend your time?**

Well firstly, the people here have been so welcoming. Of course, I've learned that having an Irish accent helps, so I've no intention of trying to dampen that down.

The students and staff here are refreshingly confident and driven. To be ambitious, and to want to make a difference is really admired and encouraged here at Harvard, and it is a real privilege to be part of that culture.

Outside of work, I am a sports and fitness enthusiast. In my free time, I love to exercise and be outdoors. In fact, I'm running the New York City marathon in November for the Miles for Miracles charity at Boston Children's Hospital. Boston is such a beautiful training ground for a marathon, and it has been a wonderful way to see the city so far. After exercising, I do love my food and drink, and being a huge sports fan, too, Boston has me spoiled for choice with great venues to sit back and indulge these interests.

# HSDM to Lead Program in Rwanda on Ethics Training in Health Research

By Ellen Garnett



**D**r. Bernard Friedland, assistant professor in Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, recently received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty International Center Award for his research project,

“Development Initiative for Ethical Review and Oversight of Health Research Involving Human Subjects in Rwanda.”

**Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) was one of four schools to receive NIH grants for projects which will foster global health research.**

HSDM’s Dr. Friedland will lead the project as Principal Investigator to pursue an international collaboration with the University of Rwanda. Through this partnership, the goal is to establish in Rwanda a “self-sustaining, well-functioning national system of ethical review in [health research] within five years,” according to the abstract.

“We don’t want to impose the American system on them,” said Dr. Friedland. In fact, Rwanda is already recognized as a healthcare leader in the region with its initiative to organize a universal healthcare system. According to Dr. Friedland, a national system of ethical review would allow low and middle income countries (LMICs) like Rwanda to become more independent of Western influence by being able to respond to their own research needs.

In recent years, Rwanda has established a National Ethics Committee (NEC) and has various Institutional

Review Boards (IRBs) to monitor human research. The project, which is in partnership with the Human Resources for Health (HRH) consortium, intends to build upon the ethics training in both the U.S. and Rwanda to design standards for an autonomous system of ethical review.

The aim is to train 140 Rwandan researchers to:

1) conduct ethically responsible research, 2) become research ethics trainers of the next generation, 3) develop, implement and monitor ethics review policies and procedures, and 4) become the leaders who shape research ethics education, policies and priorities for the nation and region.

Dr. Friedland pointed out that there are certain diseases which are more prevalent in other parts of the world, such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Outbreaks such as this demonstrate the breadth of health disparities that require a system of ethics in research to protect already vulnerable populations.

In addition to his dental and radiology training, Dr. Friedland has a law degree and is one of only a few dentists in the American College of Legal Medicine. He will collaborate with two other key investigators on the project. They include Nir Eyal, PhD, associate professor of Global Health and Social Medicine at HMS; Global Health and Population at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; and Program in Ethics and Health at Harvard University; and Aline Umubyeyi, MD, PhD, faculty researcher at the University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences School of Public Health.

Work has already begun on recruiting Rwandan participants and on the development of curriculum for a one week course in September on ethics training.

# New Center Will Address the Oral Health Competency Gap in Primary Care Training

**T**he Harvard School of Dental Medicine in collaboration with Harvard Medical School (HMS) and University of Massachusetts Medical School was awarded a five-year, \$3.5 million dollar cooperative agreement grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a Center for Excellence for Oral Health Integration into Primary Care Training that will convene experts in family medicine, general medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, and oral health to address the oral health competency gap in primary care training.

The Center will focus on oral health disparities in vulnerable and underserved populations, such as children, the elderly, disabled, mentally ill, and special needs populations, by engaging frontline primary care health professionals as oral health partners. The goal is for nurse practitioners, physicians, and physician assistants to integrate oral health core clinical competencies into their existing scope of practice and to provide early detection and preventive interventions to improve their patient's overall health.



“The Center will be the first of its kind to take a ‘life-course’ perspective in training healthcare providers from student, to resident, to practicing provider,” said Christine Riedy, PhD, MPH, interim chair and Delta Dental of Massachusetts associate professor

of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, and lead principal investigator for the grant.

Riedy will work closely with Russell Phillips, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care who will serve as HMS principal investigator; and Hugh Silk, MD, MPH10, professor of family medicine and community health and medical director of the Primary Care Wellness Center at Community Healthlink, who will serve as the University of Massachusetts Medical School



principal investigator.

“Harvard is fully dedicated to the success of [this] new academic unit that will focus on integrating oral health competencies into primary care training and practice and to ‘putting the mouth back into the body,’” wrote Dean Bruce Donoff and former HMS Dean Jeffrey Flier in a letter of support.

Initial work is expected to begin in late fall with the creation of a website that will serve as a virtual Center, representing the collaborative efforts of all three units.

# Reunion Recap

## Reliving Memories from Alumni Day



Left to right: Ed Seldin, DMD68, MD74 enjoying a champagne toast with Susan Guralnick and Walter Guralnick, DMD41.

**M**ore than 110 alumni and friends came back to Harvard School of Dental Medicine on Alumni Day, Friday, June 3, to celebrate with their fellow classmates and mentors. The day featured a special tribute to the School's oldest living alumnus, Walter Guralnick, DMD41, on his 75<sup>th</sup> reunion. Attendees included graduates of the reunion classes of 1956, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

Lawrence Gettleman, DMD66; Nadeem Karimbux, DMD91, MMSc93, PD93; and Sheila Riggs, DMSc91, PD91 were presented with Distinguished Alumni Awards in honor of their work as educators, clinicians, administrators, inventors, researchers, and advocates.

"The purpose of the Distinguished Alumni Awards is to identify and recognize individuals who have made significant contributions that honor the mission of the School, in addition to supporting HSDM with the generosity of their time, talents and philanthropic commitments," said Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73.

Following the alumni awards, Leonard Kaban,

DMD69, MD73 served as master of ceremonies for the tribute to Walter Guralnick, DMD41.

"Dr. Guralnick has been my teacher, mentor, professional colleague and friend for more than 45 years. He is such a huge legend and giant figure in the specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS)," said Kaban.

He remarked that at nearly 100 years of age Dr. Guralnick still goes to work three days a week and continues to be sought after for his advice and judgment.

Dr. Kaban introduced a panel of colleagues, fellow surgeons, friends, and Guralnick family members who each spoke fondly about Dr. Guralnick (affectionately known as Wally).

"I've been at MGH for last 61 years...in my view there has been no one as outstanding as Walter Guralnick. He's a great surgeon, a great innovator, a great mentor, a great leader, an extraordinary and thoughtful and sensitive advisor, and a wonderful friend," said Dr. W. Gerald Austen, Chairman of the Chiefs' Council, Massachusetts General Hospital. "We thank you so much for all you have done for OMFS worldwide."

“Of all those achievements for which he has been singled out today, all of those remarkable elements of a life that continues to be well lived, both personal and professional, are the very ones that we’ve always recognized from the time we were little kids,” said his son Peter Guralnick, speaking on behalf of the family.

“All of us wanted to grow up to emulate our father’s principled life, his dedicated service, not just to the community, but to a future that he was always pointing us towards,” he said.

At the end of the tribute it was Dr. Guralnick himself who stole the show with his closing remarks.

“I’m sure that many of you are sitting here with insatiable curiosity thinking, ‘What is Wally going to do with his next century?’ Well, I have a secret and I think its time to reveal that secret,” Dr. Guralnick said. He divulged that when he was applying for college he sent one application to the Harvard Law School and received a letter from the dean granting him admission.

“I wrote back a very cordial note of thanks for their admission and told them that I appreciated it, I just wasn’t quite ready to come, and would they grant me a deferral. They responded, ‘Yes you just let us know when you’re ready.’ A few weeks ago I wrote back and said ‘I’m ready.’”



Members of the Class of 1981 with Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73.



Joy Wang, DMD95, MPH95 with her mentor, Dr. Guralnick. Dr. Wang made a lead gift of \$80,000 to establish the Walter and Betty Guralnick Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Guralnick’s 75th Reunion cake.



## Walter and Betty Guralnick Scholarship

Dr. Walter Guralnick, DMD41, and his late wife, Betty, generously and graciously gave their time, loyalty and advice to the students of HSDM.

The **Walter and Betty Guralnick Scholarship** will continue their tradition of support by providing tuition remission to future generations of DMD predoctoral students. Please consider a gift to this Scholarship as an expression of your gratitude for the Guralnicks’ mentorship and kindness. Make your gift online at [alumni.harvard.edu/hsdm](http://alumni.harvard.edu/hsdm) or call 617-432-5356.



# Gift of \$50,000 Kicks Off the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship

**C**olgate-Palmolive Company has made a generous \$50,000 gift toward the establishment of the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship. The scholarship will pay tribute to prominent African American figures in the School's history — Robert Tanner Freeman, DMD1869, George Franklin Grant, DMD1870, and Dolores Mercedes Franklin, DMD74. The funding will support a DMD student from an underrepresented minority group or with significant financial need.

The need for dentists representing all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds is critical. The percentage of African American dentists has not changed dramatically since 1970. While 12.6 percent of the U.S. population is African American, only 3.4 percent of the nation's 230,000 dentists are according to the American Dental Association (ADA).



Robert Tanner Freeman, DMD1869



George Franklin Grant, DMD1870

The Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) was an early proponent of diversity in dentistry. It was the very first dental school in the country to accept African American students. **Dr. Freeman** was in the School's first graduating class of six in 1869 after the close of the Civil War. He is widely recognized as the first African American to earn a doctorate degree in dentistry. His auspicious career was cut short by his unfortunate death at age 27 just four years after graduation.

**Dr. Grant** graduated in 1870. Soon afterward he became the first African American faculty member of the University and the School. Internationally known, he invented an oblate palate for cleft palate patients and is widely regarded for his invention and patent of the modern golf tee. He



Dolores Mercedes Franklin, DMD74

counted among his patients such men at Harvard president Charles William Elliot.

**Dr. Franklin** was one of the first female graduates and the School's first African American woman to graduate with a DMD in 1974. She earned an MPH at Columbia University in a joint degree program with Harvard and was a PD clinical fellow in dental public health at HSDM. Her career has spanned leadership positions in academia, industry and public policy, breaking the glass ceiling for both gender and race. She blazed the trail as assistant dean at New York University College of Dentistry – the nation's largest dental school; the highest ranking dentist executive at the former Sterling Drug, Inc. — a world leader in the development of local anesthetics; and as assistant commissioner in New York City and later with dual reporting to the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation – the nation's largest urban healthcare agency. Dr. Franklin became a consultant and researcher for the U.S. Department of Labor and the Colgate-Palmolive Company, a clinical professor, author, and an advocate for oral health as integral to overall health. She served on the Board of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) as the HSDM representative, and was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnae Award from HSDM and the Harvard University Alumni Achievement Award for Excellence in Dental Medicine from the HAA and the Black Harvard Alumni Society.

Colgate's gift will help ensure that HSDM is able to admit the best and the brightest students regardless of their ability to pay. To find out more about supporting the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship, contact Wanda Mock at [Wanda\\_Mock@hsdm.harvard.edu](mailto:Wanda_Mock@hsdm.harvard.edu) or 617-432-5356.

# Congratulations Scholarship and Fellowship Recipients

**C**ongratulations to all the students receiving scholarships and fellowships in the 2016-17 academic year. Special thanks to the companies and individuals who support the education of these deserving students.

## Delta Dental of Massachusetts Dean's Scholarship in Oral Public Health and Epidemiology

**Jevae Nelson, PD18 (dental public health)**  
**Erinne Kennedy, PD18 (dental public health)**



Awarded to a student conducting postdoctoral work in dental public health and/or oral epidemiology, the Delta Dental of Massachusetts Dean's Scholarship in Oral

Public Health and Epidemiology is given to a student working to build a career in academia.

## Nathan and Phyllis Goodman Scholarship

**Sicong Li, DMD19**



Awarded to a first-year student conducting predoctoral work toward a DMD degree, the Nathan and Phyllis Goodman Scholarship is given to, "a deserving student who embodies the spirit that Dr. Nathan Goodman, DMD38 embraced throughout his 65-year

career in dentistry."

## Masako and Seizaburo Sakamoto DMD Scholarship

**John "Jack" Klecker, DMD18**  
**Sung Hyon Han, DMD18**



Awarded to a student conducting work in research or toward a DMD degree, the Sakamoto Scholarship pays tribute to former faculty members and husband and

wife collaborators Seizaburo Sakamoto, DDS, PhD and Masako Sakamoto, DDS, PhD, who studied connective tissue metabolism and bone reabsorption in an attempt to halt its pathological process.

## DMD Student Receives Award to Study Oral Health Literacy in Mexico

Ana Fernanda Calles, DMD17 was recently awarded the HSDM Global Health Research Travel Award to pursue research in oral health literacy in diabetics with periodontal disease in Mexico City, Mexico.



Ana Fernanda Calles, DMD17

"My passion for improving the current state of the Mexican healthcare system comes from my strong roots and cultural ties to the country; both my parents are natives of Mexico City and I am very familiar with the city," said Calles.

Calles will be working with the group Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán (INNSZ) to get a baseline measurement of the level of oral health understanding in her target population, so it can be studied further.

"As trends continue and diabetes progresses toward becoming a disease that indiscriminately plagues underdeveloped countries just as frequently as developed countries, I know that its study as a globalized epidemic will be vital. This is particularly important in light of the steep rise in the Hispanic population in the Northern hemisphere and the rise in immigrant populations seeking dental care," Calles stated in her proposal.

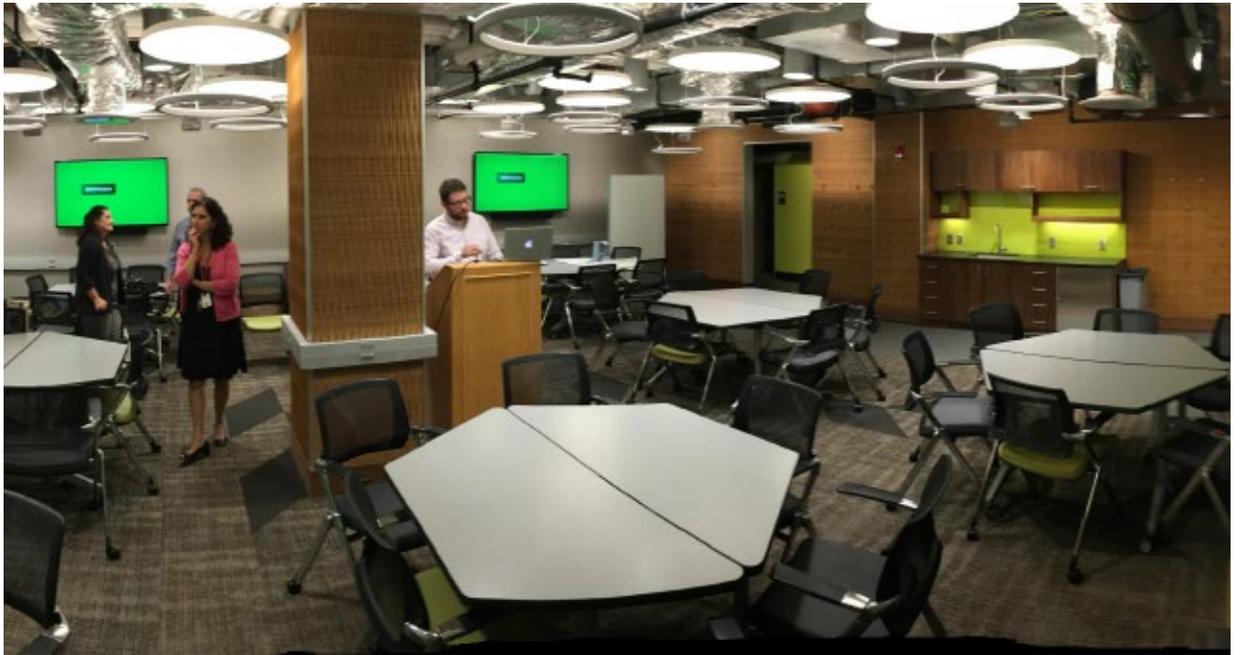
Calles' travel, food, meals, and lodging for the month-long externship in April 2017 will be covered by a travel award established by I. Leon Dogon, DMD63, professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences at HSDM. It is given to students who wish to travel to developing countries to conduct research, to train others, and/or to provide clinical services.

"My hope is that the HSDM Student Travel Fund will enable more students to experience first-hand how eye-opening and gratifying work in global community health has become," said Dr. Dogon, upon the creation of the award in 2014.

Before attending HSDM, Calles received her degree in Spanish Literature and studied abroad in Spain and Italy. She also had a Fulbright scholarship as an undergrad studying public health literacy.

Upon graduation, she is applying to orthodontics residency programs, and hopes to eventually go into private practice here in the U.S. and internationally.

# New, State-of-the-Art Classroom Takes Root



**A** new classroom space and lounge has opened in the lower floor of the Research and Education Building. The Root Lounge—named for its location on the lower level and with playful reference to dentistry—was designed and outfitted to support the instructional needs of the new curriculum. It opened on August 31, just in time to host new classes for second-year DMD students.

“It is now the largest classroom we have in the School,” said Charles Frizzell, Dean for Administration and Finance. “It’s versatile enough to serve as a classroom, lounge, or conference space. We expect it will be one of our most highly utilized spaces,” he added.

The contemporary 1,000 sq.ft. space, designed by Rojas Design Inc., and constructed by Construction Coordinators, Inc., is a multi-use room equipped with state-of-the-art educational technology. It can be configured as a flipped classroom, lecture hall, conference room, student/staff lounge, media sharing space,

or function room. Depending on the the configuration, the space can accommodate nearly 50 people.

Four large electronic displays in the room offer the opportunity for sharing and viewing presentations and online resources. Furniture chosen for comfort and flexibility can be nested out of the way if more open space is needed. The space is also outfitted with two bathrooms and a kitchenette for events.

## Naming Opportunity

For more information about contributing to this new classroom, please contact Wanda Mock at [Wanda\\_Mock@hdsdm.harvard.edu](mailto:Wanda_Mock@hdsdm.harvard.edu), or 617-432-5356 about naming opportunities.

# Upcoming Events



**Monday, October 17–Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

**Continuing Education: Educational and Clinical Leadership in Global Dentistry**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

**Monday, October 24–Thursday, October 27, 2016**

**Continuing Education: Osteology Research Academy**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

**Monday, October 31–Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

**Leadership Forum: Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 2.0**

Joseph B. Martin Conference Center,  
77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA

By invitation only.

**Friday, January 27, 2017,  
6pm–8pm**

**HSDM Alumni Reception at Yankee Dental**

Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston, MA

**Wednesday, April 19–Thursday, April 20, 2017**

**Student Research Day and Science Symposium: Includes Giddon Lecture and Goldhaber Award**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

*Save the Date!*

**Harvard School of Dental Medicine Sesquicentennial Celebration**

1867-2017  
**150**  
YEARS



**HARVARD**  
School of Dental Medicine

**Thursday, May 4–Friday, May 5, 2017**

Join us for a two-day event celebrating HSDM's 150th anniversary year.



**May 4:** Gala at the Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA

**May 5:** Educational Summit at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

*More details to follow.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Abdul Abdulwaheed, PD03**, has been working with legislators on a proposed bill that would expand Medicaid to provide necessary dental care for seniors. He reports the grassroots effort to establish the bill has been fruitful—receiving bipartisan support through twenty-eight co-sponsors.

**Jim Hartsfield, MMSc87, PD87 (Orthodontics)** has been appointed Director of the Craniofacial Genetics Continuing Education Program at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. This program provides a trainee with the opportunity to build a solid knowledge base in clinical craniofacial genetics. UK's College of Dentistry and Medicine have faculty involved in the program.

**Gary Login, DMD83, MMSc86, DMSc90**, published a clinical case in the March 2016 issue of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, titled, "A 5-year perspective on a removable overdenture appliance for a patient with osteonecrosis of the jaw, a mandibular resection, and rampant caries."



Ed Mopsik,  
DMD67

**Ed Mopsik, DMD67**, took some time off from work to enjoy a day of fly fishing on the Snake River, WY.



**Jane Puskas, DMD87, MPH87**, was recently named general chairman of the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting, the first female to hold this role in the meeting's 105-year history. The Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting is sponsored by the Hinman Dental Society, a non-profit organization based in Atlanta, GA. The next Hinman meeting will be held in March 2017 and will feature several prominent women dentists as speakers, including **Linda Niessen, DMD77, MPH77, PD82**, dean of Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine.



HSDM's first international alumni group—the **Harvard Dental Alumni Association, South Korea Chapter** was established this spring.

## HSDM AWARDS

### 2016-2017 Dean's Scholars Named

HSDM established the Dean's Scholars program in 2001 to provide dedicated time for outstanding individuals to develop and refine the skills necessary for future success in academics and research. This year's award recipients are:

**Shek Man (Jacky) Chim**, research fellow in Developmental Biology and member of the Rosen Lab, received an award for his project on the interplay of BMP and activin signaling regulating bone formation in the adult skeleton.

**Joshua Chou**, research fellow in Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity and member of the Baron Lab, received an award for his project understanding the role of Yap/Taz in osteocyte/osteoblast mechanosensing.

**Sanjoy Khan**, research fellow in Developmental Biology and member of the Yang Lab, received an award for his project understanding the molecular mechanisms of McCune-Albright mutation Gas in bone development and fibrous dysplasia.

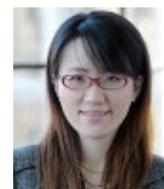
**Chia-Cheng Li, DMSc14**, instructor in Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity and member of the Zhe Lab at BWH, received an award for her project understanding lineage tracing and clonal analysis of oral cancer initiating cells.

Dean's Scholar Continuation Grants were also awarded to: **Xuchen (Aimee) Duan**, of the Olsen Lab; **Shu-Chi (Allison) Yeh**, of the Intini Lab; and **Yi Fan**, of the Lanske Lab.



**Myra Garza**, associate director of Clinical Operations in the Harvard Dental Center, was named a 2016 Harvard Hero. The Harvard Heroes Recognition Program celebrates the accomplishments of Harvard staff whose work supports the University's mission at the highest levels of contribution, impact and excellence.

**Chia-Cheng Li, DMSc14**, instructor in oral pathology in Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, and **Brittany Seymour, MPH11**, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, were awarded the Harvard Medical School Academy Medical Education Fellowship for



Members of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association, South Korea Chapter, with HSDM faculty

academic year 2016-17. This endowed competitive program seeks to develop and enhance the fellows' analytical skills as medical education researchers and teaching skills as medical educators. It is designed to contribute to the quality of medical student education at HMS and to drive leadership.

**Hugh Silk, MPH10**, received the American Association of Public Health Dentistry's 2016 Public Service Award. Dr. Silk is a lecturer at HSDM, and an advocate for integrating oral health into primary care medical practice. He is director of "From the First Tooth—Engaging Medical Clinicians in Oral Health."

**Nathaniel Treister, DMSc05**, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, and Chief, Division of Oral Medicine and Dentistry at BWH, received an NIH Planning Grant Program (R34) Award for, "Extraorally Delivered Low Level Light Therapy for Prevention of Oropharyngeal Mucositis in Pediatric Patients Undergoing Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation." The aim of his proposal is to prevent mucositis, a very painful and common problem that occurs following chemotherapy and hematopoietic cell transplantation.

## HSDM NEWS

**Sara Amed** joined HSDM in July as an instructor in Developmental Biology and a full-time staff member of the Department of Dentistry at Boston Children's Hospital. She received her DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, and completed her Pediatric Dentistry Residency at Eastman Institute for Oral Health at University of Rochester.

**Maha Almusa** joined HSDM as the Holmes Society Senior Tutor. She received her DDS degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, after which she completed a General Practice Residency in Chicago, IL. She comes to HSDM from the Jesse Brown VA Hospital in Chicago, IL, where she served as the Associate Program Director for the General Practice Residency. Dr. Almusa is passionate about all aspects of dentistry and particularly enjoys mentoring dental students.



Hend Alqaderi, DMSc16, pictured sixth from the right, with Jamaican undergraduate dental students.

**Hend Alqaderi, DMSc16**, lecturer in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, recently returned from Jamaica where she taught an intensive evidence-based dentistry course at The University of West Indies Dental Program for undergraduate dental students.

**Ingrid Carvo, DMD19** and **Vicky Herrera, DMD19** travelled to Peru with the Partners in Health program. Partners in Health operates ten health posts in the slums of Lima, serving people who otherwise would not have access to care.

**Donald I. Hay** emeritus professor of Developmental Biology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Forsyth Institute died on Sunday, July 10, at the age of 82.

**Karin Herzog** joined HSDM in July as an instructor in Developmental Biology and a full-time staff member of the Department of Dentistry at Boston Children's Hospital. She received her DDS from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, and completed her General Practice Residency at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Herzog then completed her Pediatric Dental Residency at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington.



**Yutaka Ikeda** and **Akitoshi Hayashi** both practicing dentists from Japan pictured here with David Kim, DMSc05; Dean Donoff, DMD67, MD73; and T. Howard Howell, PD76, attended the Continuing Education course "Controversial Issues in Implant Dentistry" at HSDM in June, 2016. They both made generous contributions to HSDM.

**Drs. Giuseppe Intini, Adam Hamilton** and **Yingzi Yang** went to Chengdu, China for a week in July to teach dental students in an international dental student summer camp at the Western China School of Stomatology. Their visit was part of a student and faculty exchange program between HSDM and the Western China School of Stomatology. "Our lectures were well-received by the students and we all enjoyed our interactions with the

Left: Drs. Adam Hamilton, Yingzi Yang, and Giuseppe Intini

Right: Brittany Seymour, MPH11, pictured third from left with NFAC members (Photo courtesy of the American Dental Association).



students and faculty. It was a great experience and a lot of fun to participate in another dental education and training program,” said Yang.

**Negin Katebi, DMSc16** was hired in June as instructor in Developmental Biology. Her prior experience at HSDM includes work in the Olsen Lab and serving as a lecturer for the Predoctoral Orthodontic Lecture Series.

**Negin Katebi, DMSc16**, instructor in Developmental Biology, and **Bjorn Olsen**, Dean for Research and Hersey Professor of Cell Biology at HMS, Professor of Developmental Biology at HSDM, collaborated with colleagues in Norway to publish “Evidence to support the hypothesis of tuberculosis as a cause of extreme osteonecrosis and osteomyelitis of the mandible in a West African population,” *Int. J. Oral Maxillofac. Surg.* 2016 S. M. Khullar, N. Katebi, B. B. Herlofson, D. Tvedt, B. R. Olsen

**Somi Kim, DMD10, MD13, PD16** has become a full-time faculty member of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. She is currently an attending oral and maxillofacial surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital where she practices the full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery, including orthognathic surgery, dentoalveolar surgery including dental implants, nerve repairs, salivary gland pathology, jaw cysts and tumors, and surgical management of TMJ disorders.

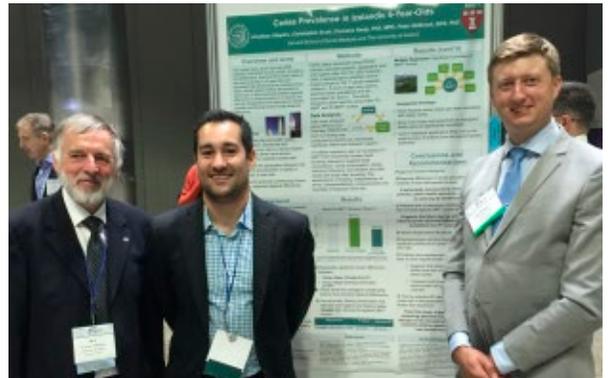
**Sarah Troy-Petrakos** was hired as HSDM’s new Director of Admissions. Sarah received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Providence College, and an MBA from the Carroll School of Management at Boston College. Before she joined HSDM, she served for over seven years as the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Recruitment at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College.

**Brittany Seymour, MPH11**, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, recently attended the ADA National Fluoride Advisory Committee meeting in Chicago in July.



**Firouz Massih Tehrani**, instructor in Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, was named a 2016 William McKenna Volunteer Hero by the Massachusetts Dental Society.

**Jonathan Shapiro, DMD18** and **Christopher Scott, DMD18** attended the International and American Association for Dental Research (IADR) meeting in Seoul, South Korea to present their research about caries prevalence in Icelandic six-year-olds. Their mentor is Peter Holbrook, a professor at the University of Iceland and specialist in oral medicine with the Landspítali University Hospital in Iceland.



Peter Holbrook, Jonathan Shapiro, DMD18 and Christopher Scott, DMD18

**Shenam Ticku, MPH16** joined HSDM in July as a Health Policy Fellow conducting research on behalf of the HSDM Initiative on Integrating Oral Health and Medicine and the Office of Global and Community Health. She earned her BDS degree from JSS Dental College and Hospital in Southern Karnataka, India and her MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Ticku is contributing to the development of a policy framework for integrating oral health benefits with general health benefits; collaborating on work underway with advocacy groups; and engaging in demonstration projects of new modes of oral health delivery.

# From the Archives



1867-2017  
**150**  
YEARS



**HARVARD**  
School of Dental Medicine

## Step back in time to the operative clinic at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1952.

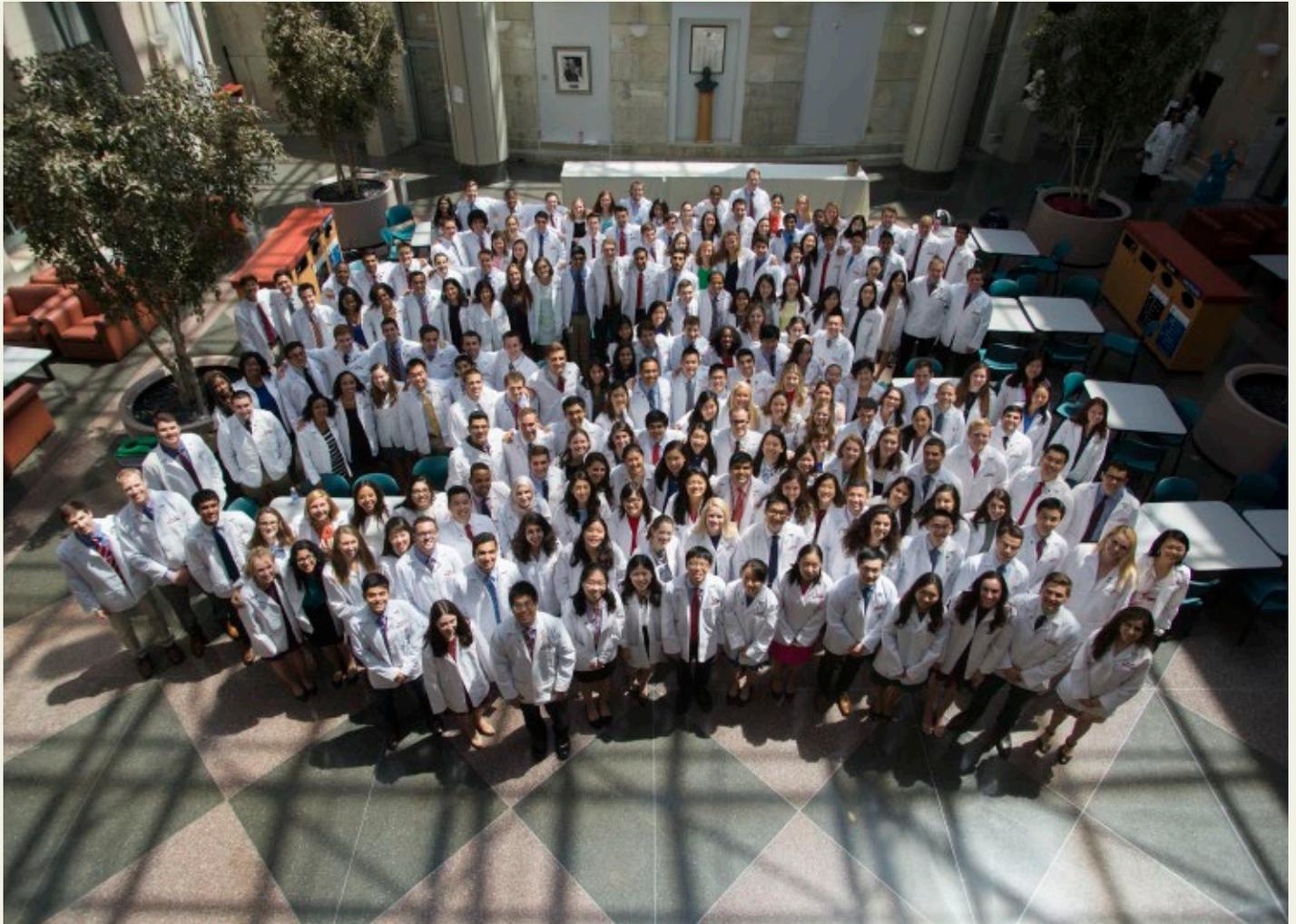
Recognize anyone in the photo, or have a historic photo or story of your own to share? Send a note to [bulletin@hsdm.harvard.edu](mailto:bulletin@hsdm.harvard.edu). In advance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2017 we are gathering stories from HSDM alumni, former faculty, staff and friends.



# HARVARD School of Dental Medicine

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## Welcome Class of 2020!

The HSDM Class of 2020 with their HMS classmates in the Tosteson Medical Education Center (TMEC) Atrium before the White Coat Ceremony. Story on page 7.