A Conversation With HSDM’s New Dean: How the Pandemic Has Shaped His Priorities
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**Student Highlight**

This summer several DMD and AGE students participated in the filming of videos for Admissions. In socially-distanced interviews the students talked about their HSDM experiences.

**Cover photo:**
Harvard School of Dental Medicine students welcome Dean William Giannobile from the steps of the main building. Third- and fourth-year DMD students returned to campus in July. Photo credit: Ashley Simmons.
FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This September, I was honored to begin serving as HSDM’s new dean. As an alumnus, it is truly a privilege to return to a place that has such special meaning to me, and to serve in this capacity. I’m humbled by the outpouring of support and well-wishes I’ve received from many of you, and the larger HSDM and Harvard community—thank you! Your words of encouragement have energized me as I take the first steps in my new role. In this issue of the Bulletin, I share some of my background and vision for the School. If we haven’t already met, I hope this is a chance to introduce myself.

Starting as dean during a pandemic certainly comes with its challenges, but I’m so impressed with HSDM’s response to the crisis and the progress that has been made to return to clinical, research, and teaching activities. I’m grateful to Dr. Vicki Rosen who as interim dean led the School during some of the most difficult months of the pandemic. In this issue, you’ll find more details about how the HSDM community rose to the challenge—we celebrated Commencement, Orientation, and the White Coat Ceremony virtually; tested new methods of teaching; and our students, faculty, and staff have shown resilience and kindness throughout.

We know the pandemic has hit some communities harder than others. This is true in our underrepresented minority communities where many already face health disparities and social injustice. Alumna Dolores Mercedes Franklin, DMD’74, PD’76, who was the first woman of color to attend HSDM, shares her thoughts on how we can address these disparities in oral healthcare and create pathways to encourage individuals from underrepresented communities to attend dental school. I hope you’ll read her profile in this issue.

As dean, one of my goals will be to promote a diverse and inclusive environment here at HSDM and to fully fund the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship and other need-based scholarships. In this issue you can read about the impact scholarships have on our students. You’ll meet Danni Burgess who is one of our first-year Perio residents who is pursuing her dream with assistance from the new Periodontology Fellowship, and you’ll learn about the funding success of the Donoff Scholars DMD Scholarship.

I’m so fortunate to lead a school with such passionate and generous alumni who have supported these efforts. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to HSDM. I look forward to the day when I can meet you in person. Until then, please stay well, and stay tuned for future virtual events.

William V. Giannobile, DMSc’96, PD’96
A Virtual Welcome for the Class of 2024

Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) welcomed 36 new DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) students as they began Orientation last week. The Class of 2024 hails from 17 different U.S. states, and four other countries: Canada, China, France, and Korea. They represent 33 different undergraduate institutions. The class composition is 61 percent female and 39 percent male. Twenty-six percent come from populations underrepresented in dental medicine.

This is the first time in HSDM history that an incoming class began their four-year program virtually. Orientation began the morning of August 3, with the DMD students joining their Harvard Medical School (HMS) classmates for welcome remarks on Zoom from the deans of the respective schools. The dental and medical students spend the first year of their education together in the Pathways curriculum.

Incoming HSDM Dean William Giannobile joined HMS Dean George Q. Daley to welcome the students on the first day of Orientation.

“An incredible amount of planning and decision-making has taken place since the beginning of the pandemic to ensure the best start for the incoming Class of 2024,” Giannobile said. “With all the thought and care that has gone into these preparations, rest-assured that you join a community that is resilient in the face of this crisis, and committed to the excellence of your academic experience at Harvard,” he said. “While we are together remotely for the short term, we are so looking forward to the time when you will join us on campus and experience this in person.”

Following the morning remarks, the DMD students had a special online welcome from Associate Dean for
Dental Education Sang Park, and were introduced to the HSDM community by their senior tutors. They each shared a fun fact about themselves which revealed a wide range of the students’ talents and interests from favorite sports and arts, to hobbies such as cooking and gardening.

Throughout the week, the students were introduced to various aspects of the curriculum. They attended their first patient clinic—a telemedicine visit with patients online. They also got to know each other in smaller breakout sessions within their academic societies.

“Starting dental school amidst a global pandemic has taught me how important it is for students and practitioners to be adaptable and multidimensional...while online school may present certain challenges and anxieties, it will also give us time to reflect, reach out to one another, and think about the impact we want to make,” said Sapna Nath, an incoming DMD student from Long Island, New York.

The week culminated in a virtual White Coat ceremony attended by students and their families from all over the world. The students were each introduced by a recorded introduction where they had the opportunity to express their gratitude and excitement.

“I ultimately chose HSDM because of the focus on systemic health education. I believe that in order to be the best oral healthcare provider that I can, I need to have a strong foundational understanding of systematic health...I know that a program that treats dentistry as a specialty of medicine will mold me into a better overall healthcare provider.”
— Abigail Marshall, DMD

“The class size is so small that I can expect to receive dedicated attention from the faculty and staff. There is a much greater sense of community with the smaller class size, instead of having to find your niche within a larger group of students. HSDM’s integration with the medical school also influenced my decision.”
— Joe Montesano, DMD

“I was drawn to HSDM for the unique way the curriculum integrates dental and medical disciplines in education, research, and patient care. This training will be instrumental in helping me foster inter-professional collaboration and practice connecting different silos in healthcare.”
— Sapna Nath, DMD
LEADERSHIP FOCUS

A Conversation with HSDM’s New Dean, William Giannobile

Dr. William V. Giannobile, DMSc’96, PD’96, became dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine on September 1, 2020.

Dean Giannobile is a prominent educator and leader in the field of periodontology. He shares his background and vision for the School in the following interview.

Tell us about your background. What led you to a career in dental education?

I was born in Chicago and my parents later moved our family (my three sisters and me) to a small farm in the Ozarks of Missouri. Early on as a young person, I was very curious about science and medicine. I had an inspiring mentor in my high school chemistry teacher who helped me get involved in international science and engineering fairs. I represented our region in these competitions and was exposed to many exciting areas within science as a high school student. He helped me gain the confidence to become a first-generation college student. Also, during college I was fortunate to work with a local dentist who had a farm in our area. He was encouraging about dentistry and balancing it with a good quality of life. After starting my dental school training, I spent my first summer at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) as a predoctoral research fellow in the Bone Research Branch. There, I was engaged in research and discovery activities that cemented my interest in a career in dental education. Supportive faculty encouraged me to seek out advanced clinical and research training after dental school. I was accepted into a postdoctoral program at HSDM supported by the NIDCR Dentist-Scientist program. At HSDM, my interests were cultivated and advanced by eminent scholars and leaders in the oral health research field. These individuals were tremendous role models for me to become a clinician-scientist engaged in teaching, clinical care, and research.

What excites you about returning to HSDM to serve as dean?

I feel honored and privileged to return to HSDM as dean to carry on the rich legacy of our past leaders including most recently, Interim Dean Vicki Rosen and Dean Bruce Donoff. I am excited to rejoin HSDM with its reputation as the premier institution for the advancement and innovation of dental education and research. As a young person, I never dreamed I would have such an amazing opportunity to receive an education at Harvard. At HSDM, I gained wonderful experience early in my career from my clinical training, as well as collaborations with the Forsyth Institute and Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the expansive biotechnology community in Boston. My years at HSDM were the most transformative of my academic life. Now serving as dean, I hope to fully act on my life’s purpose: to inspire others to believe in themselves to be their best, with the goal of propelling new knowledge forward.

Starting as a new dean during a pandemic comes with a host of challenges, could you describe how you’ll navigate these challenges in the near term?

All of us have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. In particular, dental education and clinical care have been hit hard. I am extremely grateful to Interim Dean Vicki Rosen and the HSDM leadership team for navigating through some of the toughest parts of the crisis. They took important measures to protect our
patients and our community. We will continue to focus on the safety of our students, faculty, and staff delivering clinical care in our clinics, while at the same time providing an excellent virtual learning environment for those students learning from home.

Research was also significantly affected by the shutdown of clinical and basic science research efforts. It has been very encouraging to see these activities ramp up again. Harvard has taken proactive approaches to protect our community with increased testing of our students, faculty, and staff who remain on-site. Our dental teams are involved in innovations in diagnostic testing including point-of-care testing with saliva diagnostics. Starting on September 1, my biggest priority is working with School leadership to continue to support our clinical and educational efforts so that we can optimize our ability to further research, teaching, and clinical care in the face of the pandemic.

What do you see as HSDM’s strongest assets?

One of our strongest assets is the high quality of students who come to HSDM for their education and training. I am so impressed by the backgrounds and experiences of our entering students. They continue to inject an enthusiasm that motivates everyone at the School. While HSDM is one of the smallest dental schools in the country, it is surrounded by the most robust academic biomedical research enterprise in the world. Being able to partner with entities such as Harvard Medical School, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the hospitals, the Forsyth Institute, the Wyss Institute, as well as the private sector in biotechnology, makes for a rich environment like no other. This infrastructure provides strong partnerships for the talented staff and faculty that work at Harvard.

While our students are one of our greatest assets, the cost of dental education has outstripped inflation so dramatically that the quality of students who attend U.S. dental schools is greatly affected by their ability to afford a top education. Offering tuition assistance in the form of scholarships and grant support needs to be a priority to continue to attract the very best and brightest to HSDM and reduce debt and stress for our students. Currently, the Freeman, Grant, Franklin scholarship is a great example of a funding mechanism to encourage students from underrepresented backgrounds to come to HSDM. Alumna Mercedes Franklin is a strong advocate for the support of underrepresented students. I intend to form a group to focus on developing more financial support for students who may not have had the resources to attend Harvard in the past.

What priorities will you focus on first at HSDM?

I have identified several areas to assess the landscape at HSDM. This will include launching a climate survey that will take a fresh look at the current climate for our faculty, staff, and students. Promoting excellence through diversity and inclusion will be an important focus for me and for the HSDM community. We will begin the process of outlining a strategic plan and goals. This will be a grassroots effort involving faculty, staff, students, alumni, and HSDM-HMS affiliates. We will also look at initiatives for industrial-academic partnerships, dental care delivery in collaboration with affiliates, and development-related activities to promote a better cost structure for dental students. In the areas of research and discovery, we will look to strengthen our efforts in regenerative medicine, head and neck oncology, and computational medicine and the microbiome, among other emerging areas of research. The School also has exciting research in many areas such as the Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine, developmental biology, and digital dentistry that will continue to be supported.

As the School’s 11th dean in its more than 150-year-history, what will define your leadership?

I will do my best to advance the wonderful legacy of HSDM into the next decade. Given the many global opportunities for outreach and promotion of the School, I will work to promote the School through continuing education, community and global outreach through collaborations in the developing world, and by encouraging student and faculty exchanges to enhance our international reach. HSDM will continue to serve as a role model of the good will of dental health care providers and scholars to advance oral health care delivery.

As a servant leader, I am one who strives to support those surrounding me for our shared purpose. I will work collaboratively with our School and University leadership to ensure HSDM continues to train the next generation of leaders in dental medicine. I will strive to be inclusive, promote diversity, equity, and integrity. I hope to promote a culture whereby members of the HSDM community are enthusiastic and engaged in all aspects of their work, and continue to make the School the exemplar for dental education and research. Creating an environment where personal and professional success are important for all those in our community will help us work together to promote the advancement of dental education, clinical care, research, and societal impact.
Virtual Connections and Celebrations for the Class of 2020

In the midst of a pandemic, celebrating Harvard School of Dental Medicine’s graduating class took on a different look and feel than ever before. For the first time in Harvard’s 384-year history, Commencement and Class Day ceremonies were held virtually due to COVID-19. Graduates and their families, friends, and supporters celebrated from their homes, tuning in from around the country and the globe to watch the virtual festivities and applaud the Class of 2020’s accomplishments.

The virtual ceremonies began the morning of Thursday, May 28, with a live broadcast of the University-wide ceremony led by Harvard President Larry Bacow.

“Two months of pandemic cannot be allowed to overshadow your years of hard work...Faced with obstacles, each of you mustered your courage, set your sights, and overcame the insurmountable,” Bacow said.

Graduate remarks and performances highlighted the achievements of the graduating class, as well as a special performance by renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The keynote address was given by Martin “Marty” Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, who emphasized the importance of a free press, and the pursuit of facts and science.

Deans from each of the Harvard graduate schools and Harvard College recognized their graduates, and degrees were conferred ceremonially. HSDM Interim Dean, Vicki Rosen awarded 56 degrees—12 Master of Medical Sciences, 10 Doctor of Medical Sciences, and 34 Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degrees.

In the afternoon, HSDM’s DMD graduates gathered online for a virtual ceremony hosted by Class of 2020 president, Jacob Emge. The ceremony featured remarks by faculty as well as graduate Michael Baron, who urged his classmates to stay grounded in their humanity.

“As Harvard graduates, it is incumbent upon us to foster a community that emphasizes our humanity and celebrates our diversity. It is our responsibility to fight against every injustice we witness, tooth and nail...Our job reaches beyond the clinic – beyond the hospital – and as the mission statement painted on the walls of...
HSDM states, we must ‘foster a community of global leaders dedicated to improving human health.’ Among us sit the leaders of tomorrow,” he said.

Sang Park, associate dean for dental education, congratulated the class and acknowledged the hurdles they faced in the final months of their program.

“We will remember each and every one of you as the class that has experienced an unimaginable crisis and showed resilience, integrity, and strong character,” Park said.

Following the DMD ceremony, the dental graduates joined their medical school classmates for a virtual Class Day ceremony.

HSDM’s Class Day speaker Ryan Lisann, DMD20, spoke from his Cambridge apartment, urging his classmates to use their Harvard education to help others.

“As future healthcare providers, we have the power to give a voice to our patients who don’t have one. In just a few moments, we’ll become Harvard grads with fancy diplomas, which means people will listen to us. Let’s use this leverage to help those who don’t have the same privilege we have been afforded,” he said.

Keynote speaker, astronaut and physician Robert Satcher Jr., also emphasized the inequity and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in the African American community.

“We have absolutely no reason to feel that we cannot do anything about the current situation,” Satcher said. “You are soon-to-be graduates of the best medical school in the country and probably worldwide. Your voices are not only important but are sorely needed.”

HMS Dean George Q. Daley reflected on the moment in time and parallels in history of the current pandemic and other historic challenges.

“Serving in times of crisis is part of the inspiration that drew us to medicine, and no matter how much the world changes, the central calling of our profession—to heal and to help those who need our talents, training, skills, and compassion—that will never change,” he said.

“This is a historic moment in medicine, your very own rendezvous with destiny. It will shape the doctors, and the individuals, that you will become,” Daley added.

Rather than walking across the stage to receive their diploma, in the virtual ceremony each member of the HSDM and HMS class was recognized by name while a personalized slide was displayed on screen.

This year’s DMD graduates will go on to pursue residencies and career opportunities in many different areas. Eleven graduates will go into oral and maxillofacial surgery, six into pediatric dentistry, six in endodontics, four into general practice residencies, three in orthodontics, and two in advanced graduate education programs in general dentistry.

“We had hoped to teach you how to be resilient. In the end, you showed us what resilience really means,” said Vicki Rosen. “Not only have you accomplished what many could not have, but you have done it with a measure of grace that is inspiring... You are well-prepared to shape the future of health care, and we eagerly look forward to seeing where your dreams will take you.”
Dolores “Mercedes” Franklin Reflects on Progress and Potential to Address Racial Inequities

Fifty years ago, Dolores Mercedes Franklin, DMD74, PD76, became the first woman of color to attend Harvard School of Dental Medicine and one of the first five women to earn a DMD degree. A trailblazer throughout her life, Franklin, a global leader in oral health policy, achieved many firsts in her career, paving the way for future generations of women and individuals of color in dentistry.

Today, she sees a pressing need to address racial inequities in oral health care in light of COVID-19. She envisions a path to equity for underrepresented racial minorities in dentistry through scholarship. The Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship bearing her name pays tribute to her and other prominent Black figures in HSDM’s history.

Making History

A native of Washington, D.C., one of the earliest defining moments for Franklin came at age six. “In 1954 shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on school desegregation I enrolled in an all-white school as a first grader. This integration experiment was a moment that defined my consciousness about race and social injustice,” said Franklin. “My father, an economist and publisher, coincidentally happened to be research director for the DNC during Adlai Stevenson’s 1952 campaign for President.”

She graduated from Barnard College and in 1970, was admitted to HSDM at the height of the Civil Rights Movement and the Women’s Liberation Movement. “I was the first double minority,” she said. “My class size was 18. The minority students for the classes entering in 1969 and 1970—three women and six Blacks—stood on the shoulders of two Black men admitted in the 1860s and two white women admitted in the 1950s.”

At HSDM, assistant dean James Mulvihill, DMD66, PD69, was her mentor. “National health insurance was fiercely debated, inspiring me to pursue an impactful career in health policy. During my fourth year, I also earned a MPH in a dual-degree program with Columbia University,” she said. “Growing up in a family of dentists and physicians, I had no clue that women were not in dentistry, or that I would become a torchbearer.”

A Career of Firsts

Franklin went on to a career in dentistry that spanned the fields of academia, business, research, and health policy. In all these roles she brought with her a passion ignited at HSDM to foster global leaders and improve human health.

At age 28, she was appointed assistant dean for Student Affairs (and Admissions, later) at New York University (NYU). She was the first woman, or person of color, from Harvard to hold a dean’s level position in a U.S. dental school, and also one of the youngest and first women. She was NYU’s first Black or woman dental dean.

“In every challenge, I was breaking through the glass ceilings for both gender and race,” Franklin said. “I was the first woman, or person of color, to hold the top-ranking dentist executive position in a Fortune 500 company when I led Professional Services and Research for Sterling Drug, Inc., Cook-Waite Laboratories.”

She authored the updated Cook-Waite textbook, Manual of Local Anesthesia in Dentistry, last revised 33 years before and used extensively in dental schools nationwide. She was also a consultant to the Colgate-Palmolive Company.
From there she would take on national roles in health policy leadership positions. She oversaw the National Dental Program for Job Corps, operated in 43 states mainly by major companies.

“In my role at the forefront of the battle against oral cancer, I launched an innovative prevention and control program for the Commission of Public Health in the nation’s capital, for dentists and physicians to confront the highest oral cancer mortality rate in the United States,” she said.

She was then appointed assistant health commissioner in New York City, the top-ranking dentist position, leading Oral Health, Programs and Policy for the nation’s largest city with a dual reporting line to NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, the nation’s largest public health care system, to integrate oral health services. She was concurrently a clinical professor at NYU. She is president of Franklin-DeLoach Group, Inc., a boutique research and consulting company.

“Throughout my career, I have advocated for oral health as integral to systemic health and worked across medical disciplines.”

**Giving Back to the Community**

Franklin is an active HSDM alumna who has given her time to enrich the HSDM community. She served as Harvard Dental Alumni Association president, and was a board member of the Harvard Alumni Association. She was a recipient of the HSDM Distinguished Alumni Award, and of the Harvard University Alumni Achievement Award for Excellence in Dental Medicine from the Harvard Alumni Association and the Harvard Black Alumni Society.

“The connections with alumni and the University are lifelong benefits,” she said.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she volunteered for reconstruction efforts with Harvard Serves, and medical relief efforts to aid New Orleans residents—merging her professional expertise with philanthropy.

More recently, she’s turned her attention to philanthropic efforts around the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship. The scholarship is named for Dr. Robert T. Freeman, DMD1869, HSDM’s first Black graduate and the first Black man to graduate with a dental degree in the U.S.; Dr. George F. Grant, DMD1870, Harvard University’s first Black faculty member; and Franklin herself, HSDM’s first Black woman DMD graduate in 1974.

“The scholarship is a decisive step forward in the struggle to achieve our longstanding goal of equity for predoctoral students from underrepresented racial minorities in dentistry,” said Franklin. “It holds the promise of attracting highly-qualified students with financial need and preparing them to be global leaders—leaders in their fields dedicated to improving human health, and in doing so, addressing health disparities.”

At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare stark health disparities, Franklin finds even greater urgency in addressing racial inequities in oral health care.

“Black communities are struck disproportionately hard by the pandemic accounting for 33 percent of COVID-19 cases,” she said.

“The huge workforce imbalance for Black dentists affects the same communities with a higher prevalence of two COVID-19 co-morbidities, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.”

“Notably, the consequences of disparities in access to oral health care lead to diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Black communities have a higher prevalence of periodontal disease. Diabetes, a periodontal disease risk factor, has a bi-directional relationship with periodontitis, and there are associations between periodontitis and cardiovascular disease.”

“Blacks make up 12 percent of the population but only 3.7 percent of active dentists, a significant shortage reflecting low dental school enrollment. Moreover, a disproportionate 26 percent of Black dentists’ patients are medically compromised diabetics—more than double the U.S. prevalence of 11 percent.”

“Remediating the workforce imbalance for Black dentists is a vital strategy to increase access to oral health care, a systemic issue affecting health outcomes for vulnerable and underserved populations.”

“Our 21st century students are entering a profession when there still exists an underserved population—a dire separation of those who have oral health needs and those who have access to care. It is crucial for us to confront the health crisis and support underrepresented racial minority students through predoctoral scholarships.”

**Support the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship – $20K Challenge**

Make a gift to the Freeman, Grant, Franklin Scholarship and increase your impact!

Through a generous $20,000 challenge gift, Mercedes Franklin, DMD74, PD76, and Dean William Giannobile, will match each $1,000 gift until reaching $20K, getting us closer to $250,000 to activate the scholarship. Give online at hsdm.harvard.edu/FGFscholarship

Your contribution will go twice as far toward supporting underrepresented minority students at HSDM.
Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) recently reached a goal of raising $1 million in support of the Donof Scholars DMD Scholarship. Created in recognition of R. Bruce Donof, DMD67, MD73, and his 28 years of dedication, innovation, and leadership as Dean of HSDM, the Scholarship will support future generations of HSDM predoctoral students who are seeking innovative careers in dentistry by pursuing a second Harvard graduate degree. The scholarship aims to strengthen the School’s mission of developing and fostering a community of global leaders dedicated to improving human health by integrating dentistry and medicine at the forefront of education, research, and patient care.

“I was flabbergasted to learn that the scholarship fund exceeded $1 million dollars,” said Donof. “It is more about the strength, culture, and vision of our School than any individual or program. I fervently believe that we need to create champions for medical-dental integration, public health thinking, and moving from fee-for-service to value-based care. This fund will enable the career goals of DMD students for transformational change in our profession.”

The scholarship committee included a diverse group of supporters who are equally as passionate about medical-dental integration as they are about honoring Donof and his tenure as dean at HSDM. The committee included John DaSilva, DMD87, MPH87, PD89, PD91, SM92, Steven Kess, Vicky Levin, Kevin Mosher, Gerard Mouflet, Kimberly Ritrievi, and Kenneth Wright, DMD78, MPH79.

“I think that the Donof Scholars DMD Scholarship will ultimately better equip leaders by giving them the opportunity to gain the knowledge and credibility to advance the cause of well-rounded, integrated care,” said Gerard Mouflet, former chair of the Dean’s Advisory Board (DAB). “Unfortunately, older methods of providing care are fairly isolated, even though institutions like Harvard School of Dental Medicine have made strides in providing an education for dental school students that integrates dentistry with systemic health care.”

“The goal of this scholarship is to break down the barriers in education and make the public more aware of the importance of overall health. I think this scholarship will enable dental students to grow beyond oral care and view the world from a broader perspective.”

Mouflet served as chair of the DAB for nearly 12 years. He credits his involvement with the DAB for opening his eyes to the concept of educating providers in a new way to meet the needs of the changing healthcare landscape.

“I learned a lot from Dr. Bruce Donof, who really became a mentor to me in the oral health care space. I had not been involved at all in dentistry from a professional standpoint and he really opened my eyes to the challenges that providers face. I am extremely appreciative to Dr. Donof for everything he has taught me,” said Mouflet.

The Donof Scholar DMD Scholarship will be eligible to students fitting the criteria in the 2022 academic year.
FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

Fellowship Recipient Pursues Career at the Intersection of Periodontics and Public Health

Danielle “Danni” Burgess, a first-year resident in Harvard School of Dental Medicine’s Periodontology program, was inspired to pursue a career in dentistry so she could help individuals like her grandmother who struggled with periodontal disease and tooth loss. A new Periodontology Fellowship is helping her take a step closer to her dream. Burgess is the first recipient of the fellowship that was funded last year with the support of the program’s alumni and friends.

“I grew up in Seaforth Village, Jamaica. I was raised by my grandmother, who struggled with periodontal disease and tooth loss throughout much of my childhood,” Burgess said. “Observing the burden of oral health problems within my community in Jamaica and recognizing the disparities in access to oral health care across socioeconomic groups influenced my desire to explore periodontics from a public health perspective.”

Burgess received her BS in Microbiology and Cell Science from the University of Florida followed by her MS in Medical Science from the University of South Florida. She then went on to dental school at the University of North Carolina’s (UNC) Adams School of Dentistry where she received her DDS degree.

At UNC, she created the Women in Science Newsletter, the Women in Science Celebration Week, and the UNC Distinguished Woman in Science Award, to bring visibility to the discoveries and accomplishments of women faculty and to celebrate their contributions to the advancement of dental science and dental education. She credits strong female role models who inspired her throughout her pre-dental and dental school journey.

“My predoctoral education was greatly influenced by an impressive collection of women educators, clinicians, and researchers, who deserve to be celebrated. I would not be where I am today without the outpouring of guidance, the creation of opportunities, and the inspirational stories of perseverance and resilience from these women,” Burgess said.

During dental school she was also an active volunteer with the UNC Student National Dental Association CAARE Clinic, the Vidas de Esperanza Dental Clinic, and the UNC Malawi Project.

Burgess is driven to make a difference by contributing to initiatives that mobilize periodontal health education, especially within disenfranchised communities with limited resources and access to oral health care. She also recognizes the importance of increasing the representation of Black women in the field of periodontics.

“I was attracted to Harvard’s Perio program because I believed this program would provide me with the opportunity to evaluate periodontics and public health through different lenses. HSDM provides a vast network of resources that is unlike any other. I am excited to utilize these world-class resources to create a niche that is well-suited to my various interests,” she said.

“Danni’s strong academic background in medical science and dentistry, in addition to her highly successful commitment to advancing the roles of women in dentistry and her service to the community, mirrors the ideals of our program,” said T. Howard Howell, A. Lee Loomis Professor of Periodontology, and chair of the fellowship selection committee.

“The periodontal residency program at Harvard has a lasting legacy of educating leaders in the education, research, service, and clinical care. We are delighted to welcome Danni to the community of periodontists at HSDM,” he added.

The fellowship will provide funding for a portion of her program.

“This fellowship helps shoulder some of the financial burden that is associated with pursuing my postdoctoral education and will help foster my development as a clinician, public health advocate, and educator,” Burgess said.

Danielle “Danni” Burgess, a first-year Periodontology resident, is the first recipient of HSDM’s Periodontology Fellowship.
Dental Students Combat COVID-19 Through Volunteerism and Action

As Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) students learned that the academic year would take an unprecedented turn due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several jumped into action, finding different ways to turn the challenges presented by the pandemic into opportunities to help. Whether through community outreach, research, or care, they quickly honed in on ways to aid their local and global communities.

Community Outreach in the Wake of COVID-19

When many K-12 schools nationwide had to abruptly transition to online learning, students and families struggled to adapt to a new and unfamiliar learning style. Elizabeth Durham, DMD21, found an opportunity to provide support to these students through a program called CovEducation—an initiative started by collaborators from Harvard and MIT that promotes comprehensive access to web-based curricula and academic support for K-12 students, and eases the transition to virtual learning for students with limited access to resources.

“When the pandemic started, I really wanted to help others, but wasn’t sure what I could do from my home,” said Durham. “CovEducation connects mentors to students who need additional academic support due to their schools shutting down. Many have learning accommodations as well. This resonated with me because I understand how frustrating it can be to learn, especially if the teacher does not grasp what it is like to see material through that lens. It’s challenging, eye-opening and I absolutely love it!”

As COVID-19 started to spread around the globe, Ashiana Jivraj, DMD21, jumped into action to provide support to the people of Kenya, a country where she has familial ties. In March, Jivraj and her cousin Dr. Hanif Gilani, launched a relief effort called Towa Kitu Kidogo to raise funds to help tackle the impact of COVID-19, as well as recent mass flooding that has devastated communities in Kenya. Both crises have exacerbated food insecurity in many communities. Their efforts have raised over $15,000 thus far, securing over $10,000 alone for food delivery and supplies.

“The term ‘Towa Kitu Kidogo’ means ‘give something small,’ in Swahili, and is generally associated with corruption and bribery. We believe that giving something small, when in the right hands, can impact people on the ground level,” said Jivraj. “My family hails from Kenya, and I have seen first-hand the impact of socio-economic inequality worsened during crises. Partnering with organizations and working as a community to solve challenges that come from income inequality has been the way I have seen change. An old African proverb says, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.’ This is how I try to live my life.”

Action through Research and Education

Dental public health residents Fahad Hegazi, DMSc22, and Hesham Alhazmi, DMSc21, saw an opportunity to impact the COVID-19 response through research. They partnered with colleagues from Boston Children’s Hospital, including Dr. Fatima Aldhaheri, an infectious disease fellow, and Dr. Kimberlee Gauvreau, a statistician, as well as providers at the Umberto I Polyclinic Hospital in Rome, Italy, to analyze COVID-19 data.
Dr. Paolo Fantozzi, who recently served as HSDM’s first Oral Oncology Fellow, connected Hegazi and Alhazmi with colleagues who were on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response in Italy. Their efforts resulted in a journal article titled, “Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients Presenting to an Emergency Department in Italy,” which is currently under review.

“Ever since the COVID-19 outbreak began, Hesham and I wanted to contribute to the COVID-19 literature. At the time, Italy was the epicenter of the outbreak with a very high case-fatality rate compared to the rest of the world. No one knew why, but they theorized it was due to the aging population in Italy, so we decided to get data from Italy itself,” Hegazi said. “As dental public health residents, it is our job to contribute to the literature that will benefit the health of the public. HSDM gave us the platform for this project to be successful.”

Shortly after stay-at-home orders were given, and work places, universities, schools, and other businesses mandated work-from-home and remote learning policies, Laura Pesquera, DMD23, joined students from Harvard Medical School and other universities around the country to develop the COVID-19 Health Literacy Project. The project grew into a free resource offered in more than 35 languages that was designed to help patients know when and how to seek care if they suspect they have contracted coronavirus. Pesquera provided the Spanish translations for the finished product.

Pesquera also worked with ContraCovid, which focuses on disseminating information about COVID-19 to marginalized communities and developing a social resources guide. The organization prioritizes helping Latino and immigrant families navigate the challenges of a global pandemic. Through her involvement with ContraCovid, Pesquera collaborated with students from Boston University, as well as local medical students in Puerto Rico.

“A lot of relevant COVID-19 information is not understandable or accessible to the lay public and this particular problem disproportionately affects communities like mine,” said Pesquera. “I feel great responsibility in helping the Latinx community and think it is important that we circulate correct information on the virus so that people can make appropriate decisions and reduce the spread of COVID-19. I’m deeply committed to reducing health disparities and believe language should never be a barrier to receiving quality care.”

Protecting Providers

Months before COVID-19 appeared in hospitals and health centers across the U.S., China faced unprecedented shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare providers. JC Lin, DMD21, a native of China, teamed up with classmates from high school to form a COVID-19 task force, fundraising and donating PPE to Chinese hospitals in need.

“Both of my parents are doctors in China, and I started following the situation of COVID-19 very early on,” said Lin. “In January, my dad was starting a new position in a hospital that only took in patients who were affected by coronavirus. I worried about them, as I heard there was a severe shortage of PPE among the nation, putting frontline healthcare workers at risk.”

Lin and her former classmates began contacting hospitals to get accurate inventory of PPE, and making sure that any PPE that was purchased met the standards to be used in a hospital setting. She researched the PPE available in other regions and countries to see if they could be used in China. After locating acceptable PPE, Lin coordinated for PPE to be shipped to different Chinese hospitals from all over the world, including Australia, Pakistan, Canada, Brazil, and other countries. Their efforts resulted in over 30,000 N95 masks, 13,000 surgical masks, and 44,000 coveralls being delivered to more than 50 hospitals.

As the situation escalated in the U.S., Lin shifted gears and connected Chinese PPE suppliers with U.S. healthcare workers, donating supplies to senior housing facilities. “I started to hear about the difficult situation that many U.S. hospitals are facing with PPE, as well as senior housing. I am glad that I built some connections with the Chinese factories around January and February,” she said. “I quickly got into contact with some friends at U.S. hospitals and shared the factory contacts I had. At the same time, my friends and I heard many senior housing communities in California had a rapidly increasing number of confirmed cases. We quickly worked together and donated boxes of surgical masks to them.”

The fight against COVID-19 is far from over, but the newest generation of healthcare providers has shown that they are ready and willing to innovate and collaborate on creative solutions to the challenges that our world faces.
$3 Million Grant Will Expand Dental Public Health in Rural Areas

Harvard School of Dental Medicine’s department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology (OHPE) in collaboration with the Office of Global and Community Health (OGCH) was recently awarded a $3 million postdoctoral training grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce to address gaps in dental education and access to care in underserved and vulnerable populations in rural areas.

The five-year grant titled Catalyzing Oral Health Workforce for Rural and Vulnerable Populations will create the first and only Dental Public Health (DPH) residency in the country with a dedicated rural track according to Dr. Mary Tavares, former DPH program director in OHPE and principal investigator. Work will be focused in New Hampshire, a state that faces an aging population and dental workforce shortage similar to many rural areas throughout the U.S. HSDM will partner with the Bi-State Primary Care Association, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, New Hampshire’s only academic medical center, as well as several rural care delivery sites in New Hampshire.

“As a state without a dental school or residency programs, New Hampshire’s collaboration with HSDM will help to grow its dental workforce with the advanced skill-set and cultural competency required to meet the needs of underserved residents, especially those in rural areas with limited resources.” Tavares said.

New Hampshire is one of the smallest states, yet nine of its ten counties are considered “rural.” Its population is most sparse in the northern and western regions of the state where distance creates a challenge in accessing dental care. Several counties in northern New Hampshire are designated as low-income Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Additionally, New Hampshire is a state with one of the oldest median ages. The aging population includes the dental workforce, with nearly half of New Hampshire dentists over age 55 with plans to retire on the horizon. The grant will help establish a new pipeline of providers trained in serving the needs of rural communities.

“We propose to create an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency led by Dr. John Zdanowicz assistant professor in OHPE, and add a dedicated track to our Dental Public Health residency led by Dr. Stefany Chamut, Co-PI and instructor in OHPE, to address oral health care delivery in rural areas with a focus on vulnerable, elderly and underserved groups,” said Dr. Christine Riedy, chair and associate professor of OHPE at HSDM.

According to research by the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH) co-led by Dr. Shenam Ticku, instructor in OHPE, and Dr. Tien Jiang, instructor in OHPE, the majority of AEGD and GPR residencies have a gap within their curricula with scant coverage of rural health and the social determinants of health. The new residencies will deliver didactic instruction and clinical rotations with experienced mentors that will prepare primary care and public health dentists to work with underserved populations.

“For the students, the clinical sites serving these communities will provide an unparalleled experience in providing care in rural settings,” added Tavares.

By the end of the five-year project period, Tavares anticipates a total of 17 dental graduates. For more information about the rural track AEGD and DPH Residency programs, contact the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology.
Dental education at HSDM has adapted—and is getting creative—to meet the challenges of the pandemic. Third- and fourth-year predoctoral students, as well as advanced graduate education students, returned to campus in early July. While they still take some courses online, they are divided into small groups to observe social distancing within the preclinical lab space and other on-campus spaces. Postdoctoral students have also returned to work in the Harvard Dental Center, which has implemented enhanced safety protocols.

For Ashiana Jivraj, MBA19, DMD21 candidate, the mixed approach has been challenging but successful. “The School was able to bridge the gap nicely and allowed us to still learn—especially in a field where in-person learning is crucial,” said Jivraj. “Being able to come back to campus and continue our training has been crucial, especially for our patients who were in a holding pattern, and where dental health is often put on the back burner.”

First-year students began their DMD program completely online with their HMS classmates in early August. While it was an unexpected twist to the start of their career in dental school, Abigail Marshall, DMD24, saw an upside too. “I recognize that unexpected changes can often be for the better and I am excited to see how my professors pivot to provide the classic Harvard education through a virtual format,” Marshall said. “Considering how quickly technology is evolving and affecting both consumer behavior and the instruments used in the medical field, I hope that starting off online will help me to become more familiar with tools I might use throughout my career and help me to create proficiencies I never expected I would need prior to this experience.”

For second-year students, who are also studying remotely, faculty came up with a creative way to help them prepare for their preclinical experience while home. Students in the Principles of Oral Health course received a kit of wax carving blocks and instruments to perform exercises in which they learn dental anatomy by replicating incisor, canine, premolar, and molar teeth.

Course directors, Drs. Rahen Kakadia and Luis Lopez recorded videos for the students to use as review for the exercises. Students were then asked to upload pictures from several angles for faculty to give feedback in a live Zoom session. The course has been an innovative and engaging way to introduce hands-on learning in a virtual format.

While some students, clinical faculty, and essential research staff have returned to HSDM, the majority of the HSDM community will continue to work from home at least through the remainder of 2020. Dean Giannobile said he will continue to focus on the safety of students, faculty, and staff delivering care in the clinics, and work to provide a first-rate virtual learning environment for those at home.

“My biggest priority is working with School leadership to continue to support our clinical and educational efforts so that we can optimize our ability to further research, teaching, and clinical care in the face of the pandemic,” said Giannobile.

Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Help support HSDM students facing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This newly established fund will provide temporary, short-term financial assistance to students in degree programs who are struggling with unanticipated or emergency situations, such as displacement, illness, or family emergency. Make a gift in the enclosed envelope or by visiting hsdm.harvard.edu/studentfund.
Rosen Lab Receives Funding to Study Cells Related to Bone Formation and Repair

Vicki Rosen, professor of Developmental Biology and former interim dean, recently received a National Institutes of Health-National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases R01 Award for, “BMP2 Regulation of Periosteal Function.”

The periosteum, a highly specialized tissue microenvironment on the outer surface of bone, has a key role in ensuring the survival and self-renewal of a unique population of resident stem/progenitor cells that are responsible for appositional bone formation and fracture repair. Injuries that disrupt periosteal function are common, with 12-15 million fractures occurring yearly in the U.S. that lead to 18 million doctor visits and result in 60 million workdays lost.

Although most fractures heal successfully, due in large part to the innate regenerative capacity of the periosteum, healing is slow and ineffectual (nonunion) for more than five percent of patients, and failure to heal can be as high as 10 percent for fractures that occur in weight-bearing long bones that are crucial for mobility. Recalcitrant fractures are challenging to treat and current therapies produce unpredictable outcomes, leaving almost 600,000 patients each year with significant disability.

The Rosen Lab’s published work identifies BMP2 as a potent physiological regulator of periosteal function. Mice lacking BMP2 expression in Prx1+ stem/progenitor cells exhibit severe defects in all known periosteal activities. In the absence of BMP2, bones fail to grow in width proportional to their growth in length, creating structural instability that results in spontaneous fracture; once fractured, the periosteum fails to initiate repair and cannot support bone graft incorporation. In addition, treatment with anabolic agents such as intermittent PTH or anti-sclerostin antibody fails to stimulate cortical bone formation in the absence of periosteal BMP2. As such, the researchers hypothesize that the dynamic spatio/temporal expression pattern of BMP2 within the periosteal niche constitutes an essential mechanism determining active versus quiescent states of the periosteum throughout postnatal life.

Dean Giannobile presented Dr. Rosen with an engraved Harvard clock as a token of appreciation for her service as interim dean.
Yang Lab Discovery May Provide Insights for Treating Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Yingzi Yang, associate dean for Translational Research, professor of Developmental Biology, and program director of Biological Sciences in Dental Medicine at HSDM, recently published a significant study in *Nature Communications* that could provide new insights into Carpal Tunnel Syndrome—the often-debilitating condition that causes pain and numbness in individuals’ hands.

The international, collaborative study, titled, “Mutations in COMP Cause Familial Carpal Tunnel Syndrome,” uncovers a previously unrecognized mechanism in Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) pathogenesis, providing insights into potential treatment for CTS. CTS is the most common peripheral nerve entrapment syndrome, affecting a large proportion of the general population. Genetic susceptibility has been implicated in CTS, but the causative genes remain elusive.

Yang and her fellow researchers report the identification of two mutations in cartilage oligomeric matrix protein (COMP) that segregate with CTS in two large families with or without multiple epiphyseal dysplasia (MED). Both mutations impair the secretion of COMP by tenocytes, but the mutation associated with MED also perturbs its secretion in chondrocytes. Further functional characterization of the CTS specific mutation reveals similar histological and molecular changes of tendons/ligaments in patients’ biopsies and the mouse models. The mutant COMP fails to oligomerize properly and is trapped in the endoplasmic reticulum, resulting in endoplasmic reticulum stress-induced unfolded protein response and cell death, leading to inflammation, progressive fibrosis, and cell composition change in tendons/ligaments. The extracellular matrix organization is also altered. Yang and her colleagues’ studies have uncovered the first non-neuronal genetic cause for primary CTS.

Alumni News

Saitah Alajmi, DMSc20, won first place in the 2020 Invisalign University Challenge, a competition for integrated orthodontic residency programs in North America. Alajmi won in the multi-discipline clinical category for a successful treatment case in which she worked with HSDM orthodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery teams at Massachusetts General Hospital on a surgical case using clear aligners.

Donald F. Booth, DMD61, was honored with a new endowment established in his name at the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine at Boston University. The endowment recognizes his work as professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, creating the Dr. Donald F. Booth Endowed Professorship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Peter A. Costalos, DMD01, of Costalos Orthodontics was wed to Ms. Christina Ruth Bayides of Framingham, MA, manager at Bain & Company, on August 8, 2020.

Former president of the American Dental Association (ADA), Robert Faiella, MMSc85, PD85, has been appointed Chief Dental Officer of Overjet. Overjet is the leading provider of AI-powered technology for dentistry. Dr. Faiella’s 35-year career has been focused on providing quality patient care in addition to serving and improving the dental profession. He currently serves as a Director and Treasurer of the American Board of Periodontology, and on the Board of Reagents for the American College of Dentists.

James K. Hartsfield, Jr., MMSc87, PD87, has been reappointed for a six-year term as the E. Preston Hicks Endowed Professor of Orthodontics and Oral Health Research at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Dentistry. He is completing a term as a member of the Council on Dental Accreditation Orthodontics Review Committee, following a six-month sabbatical this year spent partially with Mithran S. Goonewardene, MMSc88, PD88, at the University of Western Australia (UWA) where he is a clinical professor in the Division of Oral Development and Behavioral Sciences. Hartsfield is scheduled to develop an online MS degree program in craniofacial genetics at UK where he teaches and is also a professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics at the UK College of Medicine as well as a visiting professor in the Department of Developmental Biology at HSDM.

Michael G. Newman, PD74, was appointed editor-in-chief of the American Dental Association’s new PracticeUpdate Clinical Dentistry Channel, a daily update that reviews and assesses dental literature. Dr Satheesh Elangovan, DMSc11, PD11, was appointed as associate editor. The Channel covers important and useful topics in clinical periodontal and implant research, and contains expert commentaries from key opinion leaders, including several HSDM faculty and alumni.

Several Periodontology alumni who have served as editors and contributors to Clinical Periodontology including Satheesh Elangovan, DMSc11, PD11; Michael G. Newman, PD74; William Giannobile, DMSc96, PD96; Nadeem Karimbux, DMD91, MMSc93, PD93; David Kim, DMSc05; Joe Fiorellini, DMD90, DMSc93, PD90; and David Cochran, MMSc85, PD85, were honored by having Clinical Periodontology selected as one of the eight most influential dental textbooks in history by the British Dental Association. On the occasion of the British Dental Association’s 100-year anniversary, the British Dental Library collaborated with the British Dental Journal (BDJ) to feature each of the selected books on a cover of the journal. This is the first time a periodontal textbook has been formally recognized by a dental professional organization for its contribution to dentistry as a whole.
Richard Senatore, DMD13, a general dentist practicing in Boston and Stoneham, has been recognized in the Massachusetts Dental Society’s (MDS) “10 Under Ten” list of 2020. Established by the MDS in 2005, the annual 10 Under Ten list highlights new dentists in Massachusetts and their diverse impacts on the dental profession. Recipients have graduated from dental school within the past 10 years and have made significant contributions to the profession, their community, and organized dentistry.

**Faculty News**

**Chia-Yu (Jennifer) Chen, DMSc19**, has joined the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity as an instructor on July 1. Dr. Chen will teach primarily in the advanced graduate periodontology program, but will also participate in periodontology instruction in the DMD program. Additionally, she will participate in research in the Kim/Nagai Lab within OMII. Dr. Chen is a graduate of HSDM’s periodontology program and has worked as a research scholar in OMII during the past year.

**Supattriya Chutinan**, instructor in Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, was selected to receive the Shore Fellowship. The Eleanor and Miles Shore Faculty Development Awards Program (Shore Program) strives to support faculty at the level of instructor and assistant professor by administering a range of award opportunities to support academic activities.

**Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73**, former HSDM dean and Walter C. Guralnick Distinguished Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor, was honored by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) with the ADEA Distinguished Service Award. This award is given annually to a dental education professional who has made significant contributions to ADEA and its members through teaching, research, and service.

**T. Howard Howell, PD76**, A. Lee Loomis Professor of Periodontology celebrated his 45-year service anniversary on August 1.

**Samantha Jordan, DMD, MPH13, PD15**, has joined the Dental Public Health (DPH) program as its interim director. Dr. Jordan is a 2014 graduate of HSDM’s DPH program and a 2013 graduate of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, having received her MPH in health and social behavior. Her work focuses on leveraging the unique potential of community health centers to promote oral health equity and developing best practices for oral health integration. Her valuable experience building a dental clinic and leading an integrated oral health program at a major community health center in Lowell, Massachusetts, will enrich the DPH program.

**Zachary S. Peacock, DMD04**, assistant professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, is the recipient of the 2020 Excellence in Mentoring Award. The award was established to recognize the value of quality mentoring relationships and the impact they have on student research and professional development. Recipients are nominated by graduating students they have mentored.

**HSDM News**

**Nora I. Alamer** and **Hesham A. Alhazmi**, advanced graduate education students in the Dental Public Health program, were recently awarded the Caswell A. Evans Population Oral Health Post-Professional Student Award by the APHA Oral Health Section. Alamer was recognized for her project: *Dental care utilization trends among disabled US adults; 2010-2018*, and Alhazmi for his project *Beyond the mouth: Integration of social determinants of health within AEGD and GPR curricula.*
William Augustus Hinton Society

In September, Harvard Medical School Dean George Q. Daley announced the renaming of the Oliver Wendall Holmes Society to the William Augustus Hinton Society. A task force with members of the HMS and HSDM communities convened in July to consider a student petition for renaming. The task force recognized Dr. Holmes contributions to medicine and science, but found his publicly articulated views concerning racial inequality ran contrary to the guiding principles of the HMS mission. They unanimously recommended the late William Augustus Hinton, AB 1905, MD 1912, as the society’s new namesake and Dean Daley formally accepted their recommendations. Dr. Hinton was a Harvard alumnus, an HMS faculty member, a beloved teacher, an ardent advocate for the advancement of underrepresented people in science and medicine and the first Black full professor at Harvard.

Shaikha Aldukhail won the 2020 AIDPH Mini Colloquium Student Poster Contest, sponsored by the American Dental Association. The title of her poster was: Oral Health Outcomes Among Diabetic Adult Patients Served at HRSA-Funded Health Centers.

Karen Lauzon, Sandra Abrego, Regine Michel, dental assistants from the Harvard Dental Center, have been working with Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) since late August, to assist with observed COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff on the Longwood campus. The partnership between HSDM and HUHS at this critical time has helped Harvard to re-open and stay open.

Joanna Fico Mannion joined HSDM as the new HR Coordinator. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, Joanna spent many years within the professional services space and worked at the Harvard Kennedy School in Enrollment Services.

Juliette Provost joined the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE) as staff assistant providing administrative support for the Center’s activities and day-to-day operations. She comes from Simmons University where she most recently served as senior administrative assistant to the CIO.

Lisa Robert completed Harvard University’s Administrative Fellowship Program (AFP). She was part of the 30th cohort for the program that ran from September through May. AFP offers talented Harvard professionals, and in particular, members of historically underrepresented groups, the opportunity to learn more about leadership opportunities and careers in higher education. It offers a talent management experience complemented by a professional development program.

Tiffany Kehayoglou Sarkissian joined NCECE as Communications Coordinator, overseeing health center outreach and engagement. She brings an extensive background in higher education communications, writing, and wellness programming. She also holds a part-time position as Continuing Professional Education Coordinator for HSDM.

Xin Zhou joined HSDM as a research assistant. He earned his Masters of Science in Biostatistics from Harvard University. At HSDM, he combines statistics with mathematical modeling to access health policy and decision-making.
Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 20, 6-7 pm
Voting, Health Policy, and Social Justice: Political Determinants of Health (Webinar)

Featuring Keynote Speaker Daniel E. Dawes, JD, Executive Director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute.


October-November, 2020
Advanced Education in Implant Therapy
This course offered by the Division of Periodontology will cover innovative and effective advances in implant dentistry. Faculty will introduce participants to treatment planning philosophies and proven surgical and restorative techniques. Our highly skilled course instructors will present options that will show participants the different diagnostic and treatment protocols that have proven to be predictable and efficacious in even the most challenging and complex cases.

See a full list of events at: hsdm.harvard.edu/calendar

Thursday, December 3, 2020
Oral Health Seminar Series Featuring U.S. Surgeon General

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams will join us to present highlights of his 2020 report on state of oral health in America. Details to follow.

Tuesday, July 20, 2021
Data Driven Innovations and Integration: The Case for Oral Health

Joseph B. Martin Conference Center
Boston, MA
Sponsored by the HSDM Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine. Details to follow.

The Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health’s Webinar Series
This quarterly series brings together global leaders across different professions and backgrounds to discuss why integration of primary care and oral health addresses gaps and inequities in our health care system. We invite you to join us live and on-demand. The webinars are offered free of charge without CE credits. These webinars can be found online at: https://hsdm.harvard.edu/cipcoh-continuing-profession-education-series
A Warm Welcome

Periodontology residents and faculty found a creative way to welcome HSDM’s new dean.