

**ADVANCES IN DENTAL
ULTRASONOGRAPHY**

Pioneering Intraoral
Ultrasound Use in Clinical
Care and Research

**TREATING AN
AGING POPULATION**

New HRSA Funding Will
Increase Predoctoral Training
in Geriatric Dentistry

**DENTAL EDUCATION
DISRUPTED BY WAR**

Ukrainian Dental Student
Finds Learning Opportunities
at HSDM

Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Fall 2022 / Volume 82, Number 2

Harvard Dental

A Warm Introduction



Alumni Snapshot

Practicing Dentistry and Dance

Eshani Patel, DMD20, has been burning up the dance floor. The Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) alumna recently competed on the hit NBC show “Dancing with Myself,” and took home the grand prize of \$25,000.

“I started learning Indian classical dance when I was about six years old and mostly trained in that while growing up,” said Patel. “Up until then and throughout my undergraduate college years, dance was simply a hobby. During the start of quarantine, however, I got back into dance and taught myself how to shuffle through social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. After a year of dancing on social media and combining Shuffle with South Asian dance styles, I started taking it more seriously.”

After graduating from HSDM, Patel completed a one-year general dental residency program at the Loma Linda VA Healthcare System and works part-time as a general dentist in the Greater Los Angeles area. She enjoys developing long-term, meaningful relationships with her patients to treat their dental concerns and boost their self-confidence. With thousands of followers on social media, this dancing doctor uses her platform to share her passion for both oral health and dance.

Photo courtesy of NBC



Dear Alumni and Friends,

THE LONGWOOD CAMPUS has come roaring back to life with the arrival of new students. It's an energizing time for all of us as we greet eager young learners in person once again. In these new students I recognize the drive and passion to make a difference in the field of dentistry, and in the world. I am thrilled they chose HSDM! We welcome them into an engaging and supportive community dedicated to their success. You can learn more about the Class of 2026 in this issue.

In addition to new students, we have been fortunate to welcome several new faculty and members of the leadership team. New hires in Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Implant Dentistry, and Clinical Affairs to name a few. These leaders bring exciting vision and fresh ideas. You can read about faculty who are at the top of their field in these areas and leading vibrant programs and innovative basic, translational, and clinical research. In research, we are excited to renew partnerships with our Longwood medical area scientific institutions and The Forsyth Institute.

You'll also learn about community health and education programs where HSDM is taking a leading role in creating a nationwide network of oral health champions to advance oral health equity, and implementing new training for predoctoral students to treat a rapidly growing U.S. population of older and vulnerable patients. With new funding support from the National Institutes of Health, we are also reinvigorating training programs for DMD/PhD dual degree students and postdoctoral fellows.



Our dynamic community keeps expanding both here on campus, and out in the field where our alumni are making an impact. I was thrilled to reunite with many of our alumni at Reunion and Alumni Day this spring. It was a truly joyous occasion, as you'll see in the story that recaps the event. Our alumni are doing such diverse and compelling work. In this issue you can also read about the successful careers of several alumni who you may recognize.

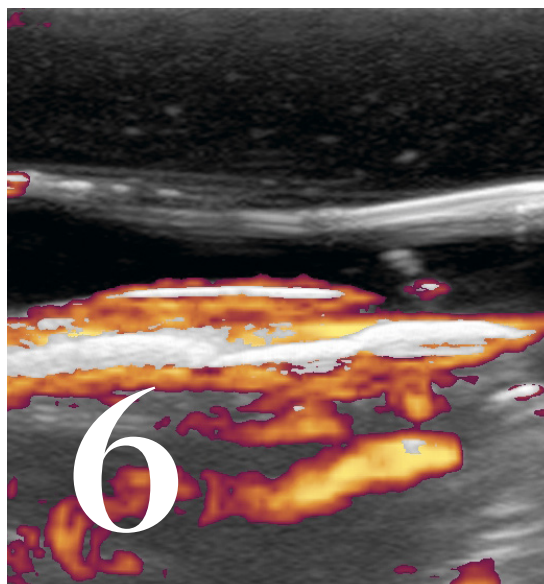
This fall and winter, I look forward to meeting more of our alumni at upcoming events and conferences. I'm excited to share with you the outcome of our strategic planning process and our future-looking vision for the School. I've been so impressed by the level of enthusiasm and dedication of our alumni, I'm grateful for your continued engagement with HSDM.

WILLIAM V. GIANNOBILE, DDS, DMSC96, PD96
Dean, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Contents

FEATURES

- 6 **Clinical Focus:** Advances in Dental Ultrasonography
- 8 **Clinical Focus:** Dr. Sang Lee Appointed Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs
Community Health Focus: Reaching One Hundred Million Mouths
- 10 **Education Focus:** Treating an Aging Population
- 12 **Faculty Focus:** Dr. Fadie Coleman Named Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- 13 **Faculty Focus:** Dr. Alejandro Lanis Selected to Lead Implant Dentistry Program
- 14 **Student Focus:** A Warm Introduction
- 16 **Student Focus:** Dental Education Disrupted by War
- 18 **Student Focus:** Monumental Change through Mentorship
- 19 **Alumni Focus:** Peeling Back the Veneer
- 20 **Alumni Focus:** HSDM Alumni Come Together Again
- 22 **Alumni Focus:** Combining a Passion for Art, Science, and Community into a Rewarding Career in Orthodontics
- 24 **Research Focus:** Goldhaber Award Honors Dr. Peter Polverini
Research Focus: Renewing Research Ties with Forsyth
- 26 **Research Focus:** Fueling New Discovery
- 27 **Giving Focus:** Philanthropic Vision



MORE IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Letter from the Dean**
- 4 **On Longwood Ave.**
Research Award
Practice Update
Student Snapshot
New Advanced Graduate Program
- 28 **News & Notes**
Alumni News
Faculty News
HSDM News
- 33 **Upcoming Events**



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Cover photo

Dental students in the incoming class of 2026 try on their white coats for the first time.
Photo by: Rose Lincoln

On Longwood Ave.

RESEARCH AWARD

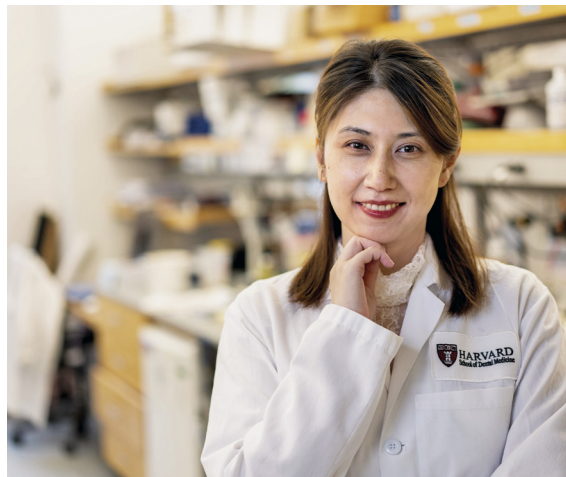
Bone Development Study

Dr. Qian Cong, an investigator in HSDM's Yang Lab, recently received funding from the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIH/NIAMS) for a K99/R00 proposal entitled "Mechanistic and Therapeutic Studies of Initiation and Expansion for Genetic and Acquired Heterotopic Ossification."

The project resulted from novel and intriguing findings that will yield critical insights into a common cellular and molecular mechanism underlying initiation and expansion of distinct heterotopic ossification forms. It highlights the importance of rare genetic disease studies in identifying a shared core pathological mechanism underlying a class of diseases. The proposed studies will likely result in important conceptual advances and new knowledge in bone biology and pathology.

The NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) that Cong received helps outstanding early career researchers complete needed mentored training and transition in a timely manner to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.

Cong's research interests are focused on understanding how abnormal regulation of cell signaling leads to various bone diseases. She was recently promoted to the role of instructor in Developmental Biology.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dental technician Alex Bernal, dental assistant Xiomara Bernal, Dr. Sercan Akyalcin, and residents Drs. Sophie Ballard and Zachary Kofos

PRACTICE UPDATE

Cambridge Care Expands

The Harvard Dental Center-Cambridge celebrated over one year of clinical care excellence with an open house event that welcomed members of the community to visit the facility and meet the team. Located in the heart of Harvard Square, the practice serves Harvard students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the surrounding community. Visitors were given tours of the clinic, highlighting the unique opportunities for patient care and specialty services in Cambridge.

The HDC-Cambridge practice recently expanded its clinical care offerings with the addition of an orthodontics team led by Dr. Sercan Akyalcin, orofacial pain and sleep apnea services led by Dr. Roxanne Bavarian and expanded general dentistry with the addition of Dr. Alison Caruso.



STUDENT SNAPSHOT

Birds of a Feather

Birdwatching became a popular pandemic pastime, and it's continued to be an outlet for those seeking serenity in the great outdoors. Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Harvard Medical School (HMS) students are getting in on the action. Second-year dental student Glory Kim organized a Birdwatchers Club with his medical school classmates. They held their first nature walk at Mount Auburn Cemetery in June and welcomed any HSDM/HMS community members to join them (no birdwatching experience necessary).

According to Kim, birdwatching is known to have positive impacts on mental health and wellness. It even has a relationship to medicine that draws similarities between bird identification and medical diagnosis. Kim encourages those interested to read “When Sparks Fly — Or How Birding Beat My Burnout” by Joshua Schor, MD, in *New England Journal of Medicine* and “Similarities Between Birding Identification and Medical Diagnosis” by Stephen Davis, MD, in *Bird Observer*.



NEW ADVANCED GRADUATE PROGRAM

Rural Residency

Access to oral health care can be challenging for rural populations, particularly for medically complex and special needs individuals. The shortage of oral health professionals in rural areas is becoming more acute. To help meet this growing need, Harvard School of Dental Medicine in partnership with Bi-State Primary Care Association, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and six other rural care delivery sites in the state of New Hampshire, has established two programs to address the gap in training related to rural healthcare delivery and serving vulnerable and underserved populations.

Through immersion in rural and underserved community settings, residents in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) and enhanced Dental Public Health (DPH) rural track programs will gain experience working with and treating patients in the communities where they

live and work. Having residents train and work in rural communities across New Hampshire under experienced mentors will offer them new skills and perspectives on their roles in addressing the oral and overall health needs and challenges.

The one-year AEGD–Rural Track certificate program begins this fall. It offers a stipend and tuition-fee waiver funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program is designed to expand the pipeline of dental professionals in rural areas and create opportunities for dentists to become more proficient in providing quality health care focused on population health and social determinants of health. Residents must be a graduate of a CODA-accredited dental school (DMD/DDS degree only), must be either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and eligible for a New Hampshire dental license.

Clinical Focus

Advances in Dental Ultrasonography

ULTRASONOGRAPHY—a technique that uses echoes of ultrasound pulses to delineate objects or areas of different density in the body—has been used for many years in medicine, from monitoring babies in the womb to detecting gallbladder disease, however ultrasonography's use in dentistry is still somewhat new. The development of a small ultrasound probe that fits in the mouth has been a game-changer in discovering new intraoral uses for ultrasonography.

"It's become the gold standard for evaluating soft tissue around teeth and dental implants in a very precise and non-invasive way," said Dr. Lorenzo Tavelli, assistant professor in the Division of Periodontology, Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity at HSDM.

"In the case of dental implants, it allows for a better picture of what is happening beneath the surface," he said. "It can be used over the course of healing to visualize

blood flow, measure tissue growth, and detect inflammation—all without radiation. I'm able to say, 'this implant is healthy' much more definitively."

Tavelli has been pioneering uses for ultrasonography in his clinical research since his residency in Periodontics and Master of Science at the University of Michigan. He has focused on conducting research in periodontal and peri-implant plastic surgery and has published more than 80 scholarly publications in international peer-reviewed journals in periodontics and implant dentistry—many on the use of ultrasonography. He joined HSDM in 2021, and continues to explore novel uses of the technology, while also teaching and treating patients in the Harvard Dental Center.

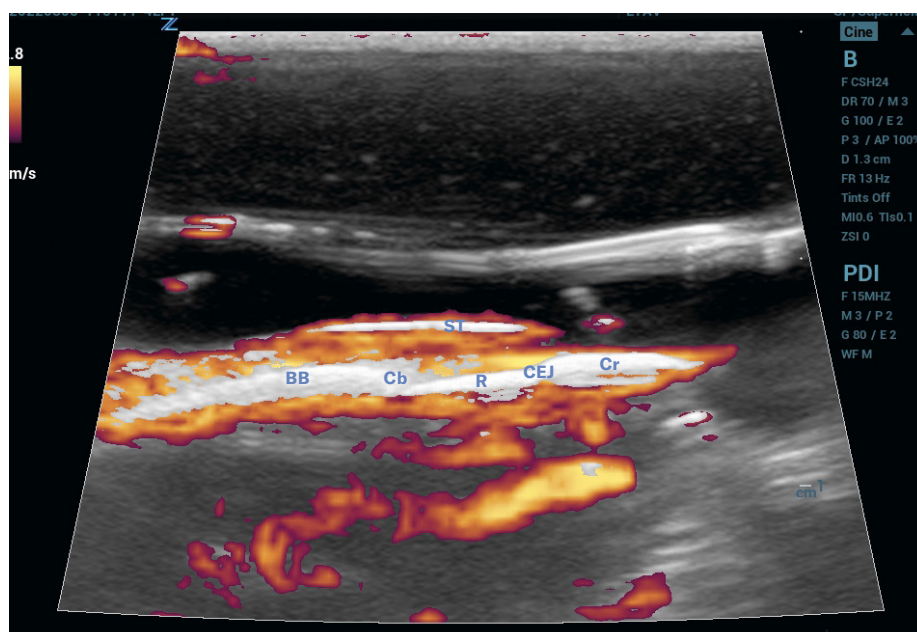
Tavelli has been introducing the technology to dental students and residents and is overseeing three advanced graduate student research projects using



LEFT: Ultrasound scan of the midfacial aspect of a central incisor, obtained with the Ultrasound Power Doppler modality, that visualizes the magnitude of the blood flow as shades of hue.

This modality is activated for evaluating tissue perfusion in a specific region, with shades of hue that overlap the conventional ("B-mode") ultrasound modality. The tooth is visualized "horizontally," and it is possible to appreciate the crown of the tooth ("Cr"), the cemento-enamel junction ("CEJ"), the root (R), the crestal bone ("Cb"), the buccal bone plate ("BB") and the overlying soft tissue ("ST").

Information on blood flow is stored and then analyzed with algorithms using specific software.



“It’s very important to study the course of healing, and inflammation resolution. Being able to do this without radiation offers a minimally-invasive way that is much more patient-oriented.”

DR. LORENZO TAVELLI

ultrasonography. While there is a learning curve to operate the probe and interpret the real-time images on the screen, he sees the opportunity to demonstrate the precision it can give a clinician in producing optimal results for the patient.

“With ultrasonography, it enables us to see beyond what we could with other technologies and more precisely measure results before and after procedures,” Tavelli said.

Periodontology resident David Wu, DMSc23, has had a chance to work with the technology under Tavelli’s supervision to perform assessments of patients’ periodontal tissue health.

“I am excited about the future of diagnostics in dental medicine and periodontology using ultrasonography,” Wu said. “For instance, we can assess

patients’ periodontal phenotype prior to orthodontic therapy to determine whether they will need periodontal tissue phenotype modification before starting orthodontic tooth movement. In addition, using ultrasound to monitor periodontal and peri-implant tissue health and diagnose disease is another exciting aspect of this technology. With advances in medical technology research, one day, we may have hand-held ultrasonography devices more easily accessible for clinicians, which will enhance comprehensive patient care.”

Tavelli recently received pilot grant funding for ultrasonography equipment to study and advance the understanding of peri-implant health and wound healing following soft tissue grafting at implant sites. He was also awarded funding from

the Osseointegration Foundation for the project “Predisposing and Protective Factors for Implant Health Complications and Esthetic Success: A Clinical and Ultrasonographic Study,” which was selected as the Foundation’s 2022 Translational and Clinical Science Research Grant winner. The objective of the study is to combine the use of novel Power Doppler Ultrasonography to clinical and radiographic parameters for characterizing dental implants and assessing parameters associated with esthetic outcomes, peri-implant health, and complications.

“It’s very important to study the course of healing, and inflammation resolution,” Tavelli said. “Being able to do this without radiation offers a minimally-invasive way that is much more patient-oriented.” ♥

Clinical Focus

Dr. Sang Lee Appointed Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs



SANG LEE, MMSC10, PD12, a strong leader and highly admired colleague at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), has been named Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs. With this new leadership position, Lee will assume the role of Medical Director of the Harvard Dental Center practices in both Longwood and Cambridge.

In partnership with the Harvard Dental Center (HDC) management team, department chairs, the Office of Dental Education and the AGE program directors, Lee will direct all student and patient related clinical activities at the HDC Teaching Practice and oversee daily clinical operations to ensure the highest excellence in standards of care and quality assurance.

"I am confident that Sang is well positioned to help us realize even greater impact and excellence in this next phase for the Harvard Dental Center," said Dean William Giannobile. "This important new role represents a significant step toward advancing clinical education and innovation activities for the HDC."

Lee received his undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He completed his advanced graduate training at HSDM, receiving a Master of Medical Science degree in oral biology, a Certificate in Prosthodontics, and a Certificate in Implant Dentistry.

He has demonstrated exemplary dedication toward research, clinical care and teaching through didactic and clinical classes. Serving as director of AGE since 2014, he has been responsible for overseeing 14 advanced graduate training programs and heading the Committee on Advanced Graduate Education (CAGE). Lee has also served as Director for the AGE Prosthodontics program since 2015.

Lee is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and serves as Fellow of many organizations including the American College of Prosthodontists, Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics, and American Academy of Dental Science. He has served as a site visitor for the Advanced Dental Program in the Committee on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and a Review Committee member for the Advanced Dental Program in Prosthodontics.

In an announcement about Lee's appointment, Giannobile recognized the work of Dr. German Gallucci who served as Executive Director of the HDC and will continue his dedicated service as Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences. Lee's appointment began September 1, 2022.

It was also announced that Dr. Jason Lee will serve as interim director of the AGE Prosthodontics program until a permanent director is identified. ♥

Community Health Focus

Reaching One Hundred Million Mouths

Creating Oral Health Champions to Advance Oral Health Equity

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS including pediatricians, internists, and family doctors, as well as nurse practitioners and physician assistants serve on the front lines of health care. They are often the first to notice oral health conditions when treating other health issues. Creating a network of health care allies who can train their peers and advocate for oral health is the idea behind the **One Hundred Million Mouths Campaign (100 MMC)**—an initiative originally funded by Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and now also the CareQuest Institute. This program is led by Harvard School of Dental Medicine faculty and collaborators from the **Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH)**.

"This project started from a bold idea that we could reach millions of Americans who may not have access to a dentist by enlisting the greater healthcare workforce as partners in oral health. These partners, or champions as we call them, can train their peers, and create more advocates for oral health, thus amplifying our reach," said Shenam Ticku, MPH16, instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, and co-principal investigator for the project.

Many Americans visit their primary care provider more regularly than they do a dentist. Additionally, disparities in access to oral health exist across income,

“

This project started from a bold idea that we could reach millions of Americans who may not have access to a dentist by enlisting the greater healthcare workforce as partners in oral health.”

DR. SHENAM TICKU

race, geography, and immigrant status. Sixty-one million people live in areas with a shortage of oral health care professionals. Giving more primary care providers tools and training to advise patients about their oral health could fill a critical gap and advance oral health equity.

The One Hundred Million Mouths Campaign launched in 2021 with an initial six Oral Health Champions from different states across the U.S. including Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, and Tennessee. Now in its second year, Champions from eight additional states have recently joined representing Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Ohio. The goal is to have at least one Champion in each state.

“Our goal is to create fifty oral health education champions over the next decade, one in each state, to work with health profession schools and programs to integrate oral health into their curricula

to bridge gaps in oral health promotion and disease prevention,” said Hugh Silk, professor of Family Medicine & Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and co-principal investigator.

Once Oral Health Education Champions are accepted in the program, they receive training that gives them a toolkit to engage with health profession schools and programs in their home states to increase oral health teaching. CIPCOH provides a comprehensive oral health curriculum, evaluation, a small stipend, and ongoing technical support. The commitment for Champions is around five hours a month after an initial eight-hour training period.

“In just a relatively short time, we are already seeing how Champions are creating their own communities of practice in their states to integrate oral health into primary care education and training,” said Dr. Christine Riedy, chair and Delta Dental

of Massachusetts Professor in Oral Public Health and Epidemiology, and investigator in the 100 MMC. “For example, Dr. Michael Metts (Iowa) worked with MercyOne Family Medicine faculty and residents to provide fluoride varnish education as part of a new quality initiative for pediatric application of fluoride varnish at a federally qualified health center (FQHC).”

Dr. Wanda Gonsalves, an Oral Health Education Champion from Kentucky said, “I was a dental hygienist before entering medical school, so to me, the “mouth has always remained a part of the body.”

“The 100 MMC gives me an opportunity to not only continue the work that I have been doing but it also provides a national network of likeminded individuals working collectively to fill this major gap in primary care training. Additionally, this campaign’s focus on integrating oral health into primary care curriculum with an equity lens, and providing us with tools for that, is very valuable,” Gonsalves said. ♥



“

Clinical exposure to older adults' complex medical and oral health needs is critical for students to care for the exponentially aging population as future dentists. This grant will help bring attention to the oral health needs of older adults and help bolster our predoctoral geriatric curriculum and increase the clinical exposure needed to equip students to care for vulnerable older adults in the future.”

DR. LISA THOMPSON

Education Focus

Treating an Aging Population

New HRSA Funding Will Increase Predoctoral Training in Geriatric Dentistry

TODAY'S DENTAL STUDENTS will need to be prepared to treat the most rapidly growing demographic in the United States—older adults. The population over the age of 65 is expanding significantly with 10,000 adults reaching this milestone each day. Despite older adults living longer, many have health issues, including on average two or more chronic health conditions.

While the number of older adults in the U.S. is increasing, the number of health professionals who specialize in their care is decreasing. Oral health providers who care for older adults must not only be open to coordinating with the patient, the patient's family, caregivers, and other professionals but must have specific

training regarding their care. Additionally, inequalities in oral health and the complex relationship between oral health and general health, especially among those with multiple chronic conditions, requires a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and patient-centered approach.

Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) received new grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address how predoctoral dental students are trained to work with aging patients. Dr. Christine Riedy, chair and Delta Dental of Massachusetts Professor in Oral Public Health and Epidemiology, secured HRSA funding for the program

“Predoctoral Oral Health Education and Training for an Aging America.”

The overall goal of the program is to transform the education and training of HSDM's predoctoral dental students by incorporating age-friendly, interprofessional, and social determinants of health principles into their curriculum to better prepare them to care for underserved and vulnerable older adults. It seeks to address the gap in geriatric oral health education by enhancing predoctoral dental didactic and emergent clinical experiences, as well as creating a

geriatric oral health track that will enable predoctoral dental students to build skills and competencies in several areas. Areas of focus include the “Four M's Framework”—what Matters most, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility; interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPE/IPCP), including integration of oral health and primary care; cultural competence and health literacy; and the social determinants of health.

“With this program we hope to improve and expand dental students' exposure to elder care issues they will face in their future clinical practice,” Riedy said.

“They will gain an understanding of and skills in how to provide care to underserved and vulnerable older adults, and get exposure to interprofessional collaborative practice, teledentistry, and Age-Friendly Health Systems.”

Dental students who show a particular interest in treating older adults, will have the opportunity to pursue an innovative community-based geriatric oral health track that delivers active learning, didactic strategies, and best practices in older adult oral healthcare. The aim is to create a pathway for a diverse pool of predoctoral dental students into postdoctoral general dentistry and dental public health programs, as well as geriatric fellowship programs to ensure a skilled workforce to meet Americans' aging oral health needs.

“As a dentist who primarily cares for vulnerable older adults, I am often the last resort for many patients who are homebound, live in assisted care settings, or have complex medical and oral health needs that other dentists do not feel comfortable treating,” said Lisa Thompson, PD10, instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology and director of HSDM's Advanced Graduated Education Program in Geriatric Dentistry. “Clinical exposure to older adults' complex medical and oral health needs is critical for students to care for the exponentially aging population as future dentists. This grant will help bring attention to the oral health needs of older adults and help bolster our predoctoral geriatric curriculum and increase the clinical exposure needed to equip students to care for vulnerable older adults in the future.” ♥





As an institution
you have a well-
established legacy of
doing great things
that embrace diversity
and inclusion.”

DR. FADIE COLEMAN

Faculty Focus

Dr. Fadie Coleman Named Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

AFTER AN EXTENSIVE NATIONAL SEARCH, Dr. Fadie Coleman was named Harvard School of Dental Medicine's (HSDM) new Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DIB). She began her new role at HSDM on July 1, 2022.

“Dr. Coleman is an accomplished educator, researcher, and leader who is passionate about advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion,” said Dean William Giannobile. “I’m confident she will bring great insights and expertise to advancing important diversity initiatives at HSDM.”

Coleman came to HSDM from Boston University's School of Medicine where she was assistant professor and director

of the Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Sciences program, the school's only degree-granting undergraduate program in the biomedical sciences. She received her BA from Boston University (BU), her MA in Biology from Harvard University, and her doctorate from the BUSM Department of Microbiology. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital in the Department of Pathology/Transfusion Medicine.

She is trained in both the biomedical sciences and science pedagogy. Drawing on her own experience in the field, she has mentored students from underrepresented backgrounds and encouraged them to

succeed in the biomedical/STEM workforce. She has also served in multiple leadership roles within BU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, most recently serving as chair of the Faculty and Staff of Color Community Network. Her scientific work has been published widely in peer-reviewed journals, and she is the recipient of numerous awards for scientific research, teaching, and mentoring excellence including a National Research Service Award Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health, and the 2021 Metcalf Award—BU's highest award for teaching excellence.

At HSDM, Coleman oversees the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging and promotes increased recruitment, retention, and advancement of underrepresented students, faculty, and staff. She will serve as a key advisor on community climate and cultural issues and direct the implementation of recommendations from the HSDM climate survey and strategic planning efforts.

“I am excited about joining the HSDM community,” Coleman said. “The value you put on embracing diversity and the life-giving qualities it possesses are not done in vain. As an institution you have a well-established legacy of doing great things that embrace diversity and inclusion, and I believe as an inclusive community your accomplishments will exceed that which is already exceptional.” ♥

Faculty Focus

Dr. Alejandro Lanis Selected to Lead Implant Dentistry Program



DR. ALEJANDRO LANIS, a recognized international lecturer in digital dentistry, esthetics, prosthodontics and oral implantology, has been selected to lead Harvard School of Dental Medicine's (HSDM) Advanced Graduate Education program in Implant Dentistry. He will serve as a member of the faculty in the department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences (RDBS). His appointment will begin this fall.

Dr. German Gallucci, Raymond J. and Elva Pomfret Nagle Associate Professor and chair of RDBS, announced Dr. Lanis' appointment and welcomed him to HSDM. "Dr. Lanis brings a high level of skill and

expertise to this role. We're looking forward welcoming him to HSDM."

Lanis graduated from the University of Valparaiso, Chile in 2008 and completed a three-year residency program in Oral and Maxillofacial Implantology at the University of Chile in Santiago. Additionally, he has an advanced diploma in Marketing and Health Administration from the University of Chile School of Business and an advanced certification in Medical Education from Catholic University of Chile School of Medicine. In 2013, he moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to participate as an Implant Scholar at University of Michigan School of Dentistry. During the last eight years he has



Our commitment is not only to develop highly skilled clinicians but more importantly, our vision is to help in developing the future leaders in our field."

DR. ALEJANDRO LANIS

practiced at a specialized center dedicated to advanced prosthodontics, implantology and digital dentistry in Santiago, Chile.

He is a member of several international academies and has published scientific articles in specialized journals and books and has collaborated as a scientific advisor with different dental implant companies worldwide. He is a fellow of the International Team for Implantology (ITI), ITI registered speaker and member of the ITI Global Education Committee. He is also a constituent member of the International College of Prosthodontics, member of the European Association for Osseointegration, member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and fellow of the Chilean Society of Oral Implantology.

"I am very excited to join the HSDM family and be part of the RDBS department," said Lanis. "I am completely aware of the tradition of excellence of Harvard University, and it is an honor and a great responsibility to be part of it. I am looking forward to leading the AGE program in Implant Dentistry and contributing to the training of our residents. Our commitment is not only to develop highly skilled clinicians but more importantly, our vision is to help in developing the future leaders in our field." ♥

BELOW: The Class of 2026 poses for a photo on the front steps of Harvard School of Dental Medicine's main building.

RIGHT: The new dental students celebrated getting their white coats at the White Coat Ceremony held on August 5, 2022.

Student Focus

A Warm Introduction

The DMD Class of 2026 Arrives on Campus

ALONG WITH an early August heat wave in Boston, came a wave of new dental students who arrived on campus for a weeklong Introduction to the Profession. Excitement ran as high as the 90-degree temperatures, as the students got to meet their classmates for the first time and learn more about what to expect in the first year of their program.

The week began with a welcome from the deans of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Harvard Medical School (HMS). Dean William Giannobile, and Dean George Daley addressed the incoming class of dental and medical

students at a morning session held on the HMS Quad on Monday, August 1.

"We know that you have all worked incredibly hard to get here, and today begins a transformative experience in your lives and careers," Dean Giannobile said. "It is the start of an amazing journey that will shape you into the healthcare providers, researchers, policy makers, and leaders you will become. Congratulations on taking this first big step in your professional careers!"

The 35 dental students in the Class of 2026 hail from 18 different states, and six different countries. The class is 60 percent

female and 40 percent male, with a quarter of the new students coming from backgrounds underrepresented in dental medicine. The average undergraduate GPA for the class is 3.94, and the academic average DAT score is 24.74.

The class finished their first day with an introduction session at HSDM where they got to learn fun facts about each other and meet their HSDM faculty, staff, and advisors. For many, it confirmed their reasons for choosing HSDM.

"The HSDM community truly stands out to me," said Victoria Shen, DMD26. "I saw a diverse community united by passion. I was inspired by the excitement that drove the students, faculty, and staff—each with their own unique interests and projects. I could see that as a student at HSDM, I would have the same opportunity to realize my own goals, with the help of more individualized attention given the smaller class size. Whichever path I choose to pursue, I know that my time at HSDM will be one of discovery, growth, and support."

Orientation sessions held throughout the week focused on topics such as health equity, professionalism, ethics, and community engagement. The students had a unique opportunity to hear from patients for the first time in a patient clinic. They also learned about the curriculum and





resources available to support them.

"It starts with the curriculum and ends with the culture," said Matthew Watt, DMD26. "HSDM offers an unparalleled approach to pedagogy with the Pathways Curriculum, all taught by faculty right at the forefront of their respective fields. Combining Harvard's premium learning environment with an intimate class size composed of compassionate students and diverse thinkers, I feel motivated to develop alongside my classmates, fostering the next wave of global leaders in dentistry."

The week culminated in a White Coat Ceremony held on Friday, August 5 on the Quad. Family members and friends joined the students to cheer them on as they took the stage to introduce themselves in their white coats.

"With the white coat you wear today comes a great responsibility," Dean Giannobile said addressing the students. "As future doctors, patients will entrust you with their care...One thing to always keep in mind is that it is a true honor and privilege to serve others."

"On behalf of the HSDM community, we are committed to your success. We look forward to following your achievements over these next four years and encourage you to make the most of every moment here." ♥

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HSDM?



"I chose HSDM due to the kind of student it attracts. Every upperclassman I've encountered is so proud to be a part of the HSDM family, and the feeling is contagious. I've realized such a bond creates a culture conducive to propelling the field of dentistry forward, as we learn how to ensure the best patient outcomes together. I also knew that HSDM's small class size and pass/fail grading system would allow my classmates and me to prioritize work-life balance, collaboration, and mentorship. Knowing that I'd have a strong and healthy support system in my corner made my decision easy."

—JOHN COURI, DMD26



"HSDM's mission to integrate dentistry and medicine strongly aligns with my personal commitment to providing holistic and interprofessional care. From my research and dental internship experience, I discovered the intricate relationship between oral and overall health, and the lack of collaboration between dentists and MDs. The integrated medical curriculum at HSDM will help me provide holistic care to my patients. Besides the medical curriculum, as an international student, I feel empowered to excel at HSDM where diversity is celebrated and not just tolerated."

—KORINA LU, DMD26



"I recognize that my future patients are more than their teeth and gums. Their mouths are connected to other systems in their body. And as an aspiring dentist, I think

I have a responsibility to learn and deeply appreciate those connections.

I believe that the HSDM curriculum will best train me to approach dental care holistically. The HSDM curriculum also lends itself to interprofessional collaboration, which was important for me when deciding where to receive my training."

—PRISCILLA OPOKU-YEBOAH, DMD26

“

I want to be useful
to society and
treat the people of
Ukraine who need
the most help.”

KATERYNA TURENKO



Student Focus

Dental Education Disrupted by War

KATERYNA TURENKO'S WORLD was turned upside down on February 24, 2022. It's a day she remembers vividly, and it still brings tears to her eyes. The 21-year-old Ukrainian dental student was studying at Bukovinian State Medical University in Chernivtsi, Ukraine when Russia invaded her country.

"I first heard of the attack on Telegram, and immediately called my family," she said. Turenko pleaded with her mother and father to leave their home city of Odessa to come to stay with her in Chernivtsi, a smaller city on the southwestern edge of the country close to the Romanian border. She rushed to get money out of an ATM and stock up on food, only to find a line stretching for blocks to withdraw cash and empty store shelves at the grocery store. Days of panic and uncertainty followed.

Turenko, her mother, and 14-year-old sister took shelter in a basement and slept in their street clothes, ready to run at a moment's notice. Air raid alarms sounded constantly, and gun shots rang out on the streets. While her father, a physician, had to stay in Odessa to keep treating patients, the women fled Ukraine and crossed the Romanian border by bus. They relied on the generosity of German volunteers who eventually transported them to Munich, Germany and housed them there before Ukrainian relatives in the U.S. purchased plane tickets for them to come to Boston.

"We are very lucky to have relatives here, but my father, uncle, grandparents and friends are still over there," Turenko said.

Her first few weeks in the U.S. were trying. While she was thankful to be safe, she was glued to her phone following the war and checking in on relatives and

friends. Her mom cried every day. Turenko's dental school classes were paused indefinitely, and while her concerns were foremost with those she cared about in Ukraine, she also feared she would lose all that she had learned in her training. "I don't want to forget my skills," she said.

In 2019, Turenko had received a diploma as a dental laboratory technician and then enrolled in a dental (stomatology) degree program at Bukovinian State Medical University. She has just over a year remaining in the program to receive her degree and complete a residency to become a physician-stomatologist—the equivalent of a dentist in the U.S.

A response to a social media post would lead Turenko to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). The connection, made through a member of the Harvard Longwood Medical community, set off a fortuitous chain of events.

In late February, Jeff Karp, distinguished chair of anesthesiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and professor of anesthesia at Harvard Medical School, posted an offer on his LinkedIn feed to help

to any Ukrainian students.

"Looking to identify Ukraine Students/ Postdocs interested in BioMedical Engineering/ BioEngineering," Karp said in the post. "We are very interested (in taking)

students/postdocs from Ukraine in my lab in Boston—The Brigham and Women's Hospital is happy to help (make) this happen."

Out of hundreds of reactions and responses, came one from Turenko. Karp reached out to Dean William Giannobile at HSDM, and an effort began to bring Turenko to the School to give

her the opportunity to continue working and learning.

In May, Turenko joined HSDM as a visiting scholar, a role that gives her the chance to observe and assist in various areas of the Harvard Dental Center including the preclinical labs. She helps organize dental materials for upcoming classes, attends lectures by visiting speakers, and observes clinical procedures.

"She is doing great and fitting right into the dental school environment and the HSDM family," said Myra Majewski, director of the Harvard Dental Center. "She has been through so much, we want to make sure her time spent at HSDM is a positive, uplifting, and worthwhile experience."

Turenko's dental school classes have begun to resume in an online format. Her instructors remain in Ukraine and teach through spotty internet connections providing a semblance of routine learning. Some of her classmates have returned to Ukraine, however some cannot because their villages have been destroyed, and others have fled to neighboring countries.

Turenko, now living in Milton, MA with cousins, comes into HSDM every Friday. Being at the School gives her a chance to stay connected to her career aspirations in dentistry.

"I've enjoyed meeting everyone, and helping in the labs," Turenko said. "I don't take anything for granted."

She longs for a day when she can return to Ukraine and be reunited with her father, relatives, and classmates. It is her dream to be a part of rebuilding her country. She knows the need for her skills will be in high demand as so many fundamental health concerns of the population have been left untreated amidst the ravages of war.

"I want to be useful to society and treat the people of Ukraine who need the most help," Turenko said. She is also interested in teaching the next generation of Ukrainian dental students as a clinician and instructor. As the war rages on, she holds out hope that a resolution will come.

I love my home and I want to be back there," she said. "I hope with all my soul that it will be soon." ♥





Student Focus

Monumental Change through Mentorship

FOR FOURTH-GENERATION dentist Dr. Zerita Buchanan, dentistry runs in the family, but it is so much more than the family business—it is what inspires her to make a difference in the lives of young students as a mentor and cheerleader for the next generation of diverse dental professionals. This summer, she begins the Joseph L. Henry Oral Health Fellowship which will give her the opportunity to expand on her work as a mentor and an advocate for health equity.

“Every student I encourage to pursue dentistry will result in one more dental provider who can return to their local community and eliminate health disparities. It’s a multiplying effect. If I can give self-confidence to just one student and encourage them to pursue academic excellence, then my time on earth will be well spent,” Buchanan said.

As this year’s Joseph L. Henry Oral Health Fellow, Buchanan will pursue an MPH in

minority health policy from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. **The Joseph L. Henry Oral Health Fellowship Program** is a collaborative effort between Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership at Harvard Medical School (HMS). It encourages dentists—particularly oral health leaders from groups underrepresented in medicine—to pursue careers in health policy, public health practice and academia. The program’s namesake, **Joseph L. Henry** was

HSDM’s first African American full professor and served as interim dean from 1990–1991.

“Dr. Henry believed in the importance of mentoring and cared about the academic and career advancement of students, trainees and junior faculty without regard to race, ethnicity or gender. He was the consummate teacher, clinician, researcher, and role model,” said Dr. Joan Reede, dean for Diversity and Community Partnership at HMS.

Henry also served as an inspiration to Buchanan when she was considering the fellowship. “I started to read about Dr. Henry and how he established a dental clinic at Resurrection City as part of the Poor People’s Campaign initiated by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I was

“**I hope to inspire dentists to treat their patients and each other with compassion. Words of encouragement can go a long way.**”

DR. ZERITA BUCHANAN

so inspired by his strong legacy and commitment to health equity that I knew I had to apply,” she said.

Since graduating from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry Buchanan has worked in private practice in the greater Atlanta area. Throughout her career, she has been actively involved in working to eliminate diversity gaps, recruitment shortcomings and unequal access to care in the field of dentistry, including establishing a national pipeline program for minority college students interested in dentistry. Her commitment to health equity was recognized by her undergraduate alma mater Spelman College when they named her a “Healthcare Hero,” and in 2022 she was awarded the Tory Burch Foundation Fearless Fund Women of Color Grant which she used to launch a dental assisting school for Historically Black College and University students in Georgia.

“I hope that through my mentorship efforts minority students will see a face that looks like theirs in dentistry,” Buchanan said. “I hope to inspire dentists to treat their patients and each other with compassion. Words of encouragement can go a long way. The world of dentistry can be stressful at times, but kindness can create monumental change.”

As she begins her fellowship at Harvard, Buchanan will have the opportunity to tap into interdisciplinary areas of public health, government, business, and dental medicine and interact with leading scholars and nationally recognized leaders in minority health and public policy.

“I am most excited about being in a collaborative learning environment. I love that the fellowship allows me to interact with other dentists, physicians, and public health experts,” Buchanan said. “My great-grandfather practiced dentistry in Monroe, LA. He was a 1923 graduate of Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry and in the late 1930’s was appointed to take charge of Louisiana State Hospital Board’s mobile dental clinic. His commitment to public health deeply resonates with me and I am honored to continue his legacy of providing dental care to underserved populations. Our world needs public health leaders now more than ever.” ♥

Alumni Focus

Peeling Back the Veneer

WHEN SARA HAHN, DMD11, first uploaded a video of singer-songwriter Taylor Swift's teeth to the social media entertainment platform TikTok, she had no idea how far a reach it would have. Overnight the one-minute video analyzing Swift's dental work, including a set of veneers, received over 1.3 million views and 125,000 likes.

Growing up, Hahn was surrounded by connections between dentistry and medicine. Her mother, Eun Hahn, DMD84, PD87, attended Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) where she completed her DMD program and prosthodontic residency. Her father, Jin Hahn, MD82, attended Harvard Medical School. Hahn jokes that she already had one foot in the door since her mom was pregnant with her when she graduated from HSDM's DMD program.

"She was born in 1984 at the Brigham and Women's Hospital," said her mom. "I would occasionally bring her to the lab [at HSDM] when I had lab work to do."

Hahn always had a fascination with art and medicine. It wasn't until midway through her undergraduate program at Occidental College that dentistry would become her calling.

"It was very roundabout," said Hahn. "I was first interested in medicine, but I also really enjoyed glassblowing and ceramics. Then I thought about pursuing psychology. I ended up in my junior year of college with the realization that I might enjoy dentistry because it combined a lot of my interests."

After finishing up her dental degree at HSDM, Hahn moved back to California to pursue prosthodontics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry. She taught at UCSF part-time for five years, before transitioning to work full-time with her mom at Hahn Prosthodontics in Fremont, CA.

"I moved to California and in 1993 opened a dual specialty perio/prosth office with my classmate Dr. Hwa-Ying Claire Wang, PD86, DMSc86, DMD88," said Eun Hahn. "A lot of colleagues asked me how I managed

to have Sara follow in my footsteps, and I sort of laugh because I didn't do anything. I never suggested that she explore dentistry—maybe that's the secret."

Passionate about teaching, Hahn has always helped break down information into bite-sized pieces for others to comprehend—whether it's educating a new patient about a procedure, assisting students with research, or answering a friend's dental question.

"My friends would constantly text me and ask if this celebrity or that contestant on *The Bachelor* had veneers," said Hahn. "I would do a quick Google search and then reply."

As the requests from others became more frequent, one of Hahn's friends suggested she start a TikTok account. So, in March of 2022 Hahn did just that, providing a fun way to share educational dental content with a large audience of people who are often confused about what a veneer is.

"On TikTok, there is a huge trend of young people getting extensive veneer treatment and documenting their experience. Some videos showed teeth

that have been iatrogenically damaged or over-prepared, and it was really shocking to see this."

Knowing her audience, she offers an objective analysis of the teeth and dental work done on celebrities to show the potential advantages and disadvantages of veneers. With over 116,000 followers and growing, her platform, @VeneerCheck, has analyzed the dental work performed on celebrities such as Dolly Parton, Pete Davidson, Jojo Siwa, Jim Carrey, and others.

Sharing the potential pitfalls of veneers, Hahn has had many young followers reach out to her to thank her for helping them appreciate their natural teeth. They often realize they no longer want a full set of veneers. During a time when unrealistic images

of perfection dominate social media feeds, Hahn provides an important perspective.

"I love being able to solve people's problems," said Hahn. "I like looking at a mouth and having an idea what it will look like in five, ten, twenty years." ♥



You can follow
Hahn on TikTok,
@VeneerCheck

Eun Hahn, DMD84, PD87,
and Sara Hahn, DMD11





Alumni Focus

HSDM Alumni Come Together Again

ALUMNI SPANNING GENERATIONS and hailing from all over the world gathered to celebrate Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) Alumni Day for the first time since 2019, before the onset of the pandemic. To mark the special return of the in-person event, Alumni Day took place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston, MA. The event reconnected alumni with their classmates and with their alma mater.

Events kicked off on Friday, June 3, with Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA) President Dino Bertini, DMD97, MMSc99, welcoming everyone to the joyous day.

"It is my pleasure to officially welcome you and thank you all for joining us from all over," said Bertini. "I would really like to start this amazing day with a sense of gratitude. Gratitude for being here and

seeing you all. It is important for us to gather, remember the good times, friendships, and critical training, and to celebrate the phenomenal foundation and education we got at Harvard."

State of the School

Bertini turned the program over to William Giannobile, DMSc96, PD96, for his State of the School presentation. Dean Giannobile touched on the impact that COVID-19 had on the HSDM community, shared progress on the strategic planning process, and noted changes in education, research, and clinical care over the past year.

"I am delighted to welcome all of you back for Alumni Day. It is heartwarming to see old friends and meet new ones as we gather together to celebrate Alumni Day

and Reunion festivities. Through your positive response and record turnout today, I can see that you've been eager to join us and see each other," Giannobile said.

The dean highlighted new developments over the past year, including diversity initiatives, new faculty and leadership appointments, HSDM branding and engagement initiatives, and the expansion of new course offerings.

"As a graduate myself, I am especially proud of the HSDM community today. The way that colleagues, faculty, and staff rallied to help students graduate on time in 2020 and 2021 is admirable and reflects the level of commitment that we rely on here," Giannobile said. "I marvel at the dedication so many of our colleagues have shown to each student, going the extra mile."

LEFT: Dean William Giannobile addresses alumni at an event held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston.

BELOW: A symposium on the future of dental education was led by keynote speaker Linda Niessen, DMD77, MPH77, MPP82, PD82.

RIGHT: Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA) Immediate Past President Dino Bertini, DMD97, MMSc99, presented Leila Jahangiri, MMSc95, PD95, DMD97, Joseph LeBlanc, Tevyah Dines, DMD96, MMSc99, and Vincent Iacono, DMD72 (pictured below) with awards recognizing their accomplishments.



Transforming the HDAA

After the State of the School address, Bertini congratulated the newest graduating class of HSDM. He then announced the newest recipients of the HDAA awards. Class of 2022 graduates Jack Harris and Camille Herzog received the HDAA Silver and Gold Medal Awards respectively for exceptional all-around scholastic achievement. He also announced that this year's graduates automatically become members of the Alumni Association.

"*One Harvard* is a practice started by President Faust and is currently led by

President Bacow. As an alumnus or alumna, you have access to the entire University network. Thanks to our newly reinvigorated Alumni Council, HSDM is well recognized for our contributions and all alumni are included by the University," said Bertini.

Several alumni were honored with Alumni Awards this year. Tevyah Dines, DMD96, MMSc99; Leila Jahangiri, MMSc95, PD95, DMD97; and Vincent Iacono, DMD72, received the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award for their significant contributions to HSDM and to the field of dentistry. Joseph LeBlanc, an HSDM educator and mentor to many received the 2022 Distinguished Service Award, for his lasting contributions and commitment to the School's community. LeBlanc expressed how touched he was to have stayed connected with alumni for so many years and subsequently led the entire room in a singing of the song he used to share with all his students, "A Bushel and a Peck," showcasing how powerful the connections are at HSDM.

Symposium on the Future of Dental Education

The HDAA's presentation was followed by an engaging symposium on the future of dental education. Keynote speaker, Linda Niessen, DMD77, MPH77, MPP82, PD82, professor and founding dean of Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine,

touched on the emerging trends in health care and dental health care delivery, and the diversity of the dental workforce.

Niessen also touched on what new students bring to dental education, including web-based and gaming skills, community orientation, work-life balance, and a strong social connection with others.

After the keynote presentation, Niessen was joined by Dean William Giannobile; Cataldo Leone, DMSc90, PD89, dean of Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine; and Nadeem Karimbux, DMD91, MMSc93, PD93, dean of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, for a special symposium. All three deans leading Massachusetts' dental schools are alumni of HSDM. Jahangiri served as the moderator for the event. The panelists discussed in more detail the changes they have adopted and seen at their respective schools that will shape the clinician of tomorrow.

Class Connections

After the program, alumni had the chance to reconnect over lunch. They then headed over to Longwood Avenue to tour the School, and meet with current students and faculty. They had the chance to learn about the latest research and clinical work taking place at HSDM. Later in the evening, alumni joined together for a special dinner and gala, celebrating the reunion class year. ♥



Alumni Focus

Combining a Passion for Art, Science, and Community Into a Rewarding Career in Orthodontics



DANIEL CASSARELLA, DMD08, fondly recalls what he enjoyed the most about his Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) experience. “Without hesitation, I enjoyed my classmates the most. My classmates at HSDM and HMS were inspiring, kind, thoughtful, and full of wonderful surprises. Together we laughed, faced challenges and overcame them, and pushed each other to do and become more,” Cassarella said.

Now the founder of a successful orthodontic practice outside Philadelphia, PA, and busy parent to three young girls with his wife Sarah, Cassarella still takes time to stay in touch with his classmates and other HSDM alumni. His trajectory after graduation took him to UCLA for a three-year orthodontics residency before he returned to the east coast. He has served in roles as a clinical faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and has earned accolades in the profession including being recognized for excellence in teaching and as an honoree in *Incisal Edge Magazine*’s 40 Under 40.

As Cassarella’s 15-year HSDM reunion approaches in the spring of 2023, he reflects on what drew him to the profession, the strong bonds he formed at HSDM, and how his life and career were shaped by his predoctoral student experience.

What drew you to the field of dentistry, and what do you find most fulfilling about being an orthodontist?

When I was a kid, I wanted to be so many different things all at the same time. I loved science, I enjoyed art, I wanted to serve my community, and I looked up to my parents who both were educators. I was active in sports in my youth and my coaches had a very positive impact on my life and development. Leading a team and owning a business was a goal that I set for myself at a young age.

As I considered career options, I gravitated toward those careers that could allow me to serve others while being an artist, scientist, teacher, coach, team leader, and a business owner. I never had braces or orthodontic treatment as a child, but the more I learned about the orthodontic specialty during my time at HSDM, the more I realized it is the magic career that allows me to be ten different things all at the same time, fulfilling my childhood vision. I knew it was the career that would allow me to put my skills to use to serve others and my community in the most optimal way.

How did your HSDM experience influence your career trajectory?

HSDM influenced my career trajectory significantly, but it goes much deeper. My HSDM experience had a profoundly positive influence on my life trajectory. It was an incredible opportunity to learn in a dynamic and collaborative environment. We were supported, challenged, and provided with every tool we could possibly need to take the reins of global leadership in our profession. Our class entered through a wide funnel. We all had different experiences and viewpoints. The magic of HSDM is that we exited after graduation through an even wider perspective. Our viewpoints were broadened, and perspective augmented. We were not taught *what* to think but rather *how* to think, and this is a skill that serves for a lifetime.

What advice would you give an incoming dental student?

Take some time to take inventory of the great opportunity that is ahead. Your classmates, the faculty, and your experience

will change your life. Enjoy every second, be thankful for the challenges as well as the triumphs. Set ambitious goals for yourself. The HSDM admissions committee believes in you and saw a very special spark in you. Use the years ahead to ignite that spark and shine brightly in the years to come.

A favorite quote of mine from Marcus Aurelius is “If a man knows not to which port he sails, no wind is favorable.” Decide where you want to go, and HSDM will no doubt provide a strong wind to help you reach your desired destination. It certainly did for my classmates and me!

What did you enjoy most about your student experience at HSDM?

Without hesitation, I enjoyed my classmates the most. Many of my very best friends were classmates during my time at HSDM and HMS. Our entire class remains in close touch. More than half of our class attended our ten-year reunion and brought spouses, children, and family. It was wonderful to reconnect in person and we are looking forward to our 15-year reunion coming up next year.

It has been amazing to see the impact my classmates have made on our profession in a short time since our graduation. Many of my fellow classmates have made advances in research, won prestigious grants, have assumed academic leadership positions, and have set new standards for clinical care in the academic and private practice settings. I had the special privilege of continuing to form bonds with my classmates after graduation. During my orthodontics residency at UCLA, my roommates were Mike Bundy, DMD08, and Christine Hong, DMD08, and Krisena Borenstein, DMD08, all HSDM classmates, were my orthodontic co-residents. These great friendships that resulted from my student experience are something I will cherish for my entire life.

In addition to your classmates, do you keep in touch with other HSDM alumni?

I'm grateful for the friendship I formed with Roger Spampata, DMD86, shortly after I opened my practice 2016. We've collaborated together on many multidisciplinary cases, and I gained deep

respect for Roger's amazing skill as a clinician. As we worked more together over the years, our friendship grew. One of the biggest areas of common ground is our shared experience as HSDM alumni. We have recently started a tradition of attending one Harvard Football game together each year. I value my working relationship with Roger, as well as our friendship. Our common experience as HSDM graduates makes that connection even stronger. ♥

SAVE THE DATE

Classes ending in 3's and 8's will celebrate reunion **June 1–3, 2023**. All alumni are invited to join Alumni Day, which will be held on campus **June 2, 2023**.



Daniel Cassarella, DMD08 (right), with classmates from the Class of 2008 at their last reunion.

Research Focus

Goldhaber Award Honors Dr. Peter Polverini



PETER POLVERINI, DMSC77, PD77, a distinguished alumnus of HSDM and a leader in the field of vascular and cancer biology, has been selected as this year's Goldhaber Award recipient. Polverini currently serves as the Jonathan Taft Distinguished University Professor of Dentistry and dean emeritus of the University of Michigan Dental School and Professor of Pathology at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Dr. Polverini was selected for his contributions to oral tumorigenesis throughout his scientific career. His current research focuses on the role of cancer stem cells in the development of salivary gland cancer and the neoplastic progression of premalignant

oral lesions. He is recognized as an accomplished mentor, scholar, and administrator who has fostered innovation in dental education by promoting scholarship and scientific rigor.

He is a diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, fellow of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and past President of the American Association for Dental Research. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Each year the Goldhaber Award and Lecture recognizes a recipient who is held in the highest international esteem in his or her field related to oral and systemic health. The award was established in 1989 in honor of former HSDM dean Dr. Paul Goldhaber, a periodontist and researcher, upon the completion of his 22 years of service to the School. Dr. Polverini will be presented with the Award on November 14, 2022 at the Goldhaber Lecture held at HSDM.

Research Focus

Renewing Research Ties with Forsyth

IN JUNE, Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and The Forsyth Institute, a leading nonprofit research institution based in Cambridge, MA focused on improving oral health and reducing diseases, renewed a longstanding affiliation between the two institutions.

In a joint message to the HSDM and Forsyth communities Dean William Giannobile and Forsyth CEO Wen Shi said, "The partnership between HSDM and Forsyth, first forged in 1955, has grown over the years and fostered strong scientific, clinical, and educational bonds. Today, we have many reasons to renew our ties. We recognize there is great potential to expand our clinical and basic research collaborations; integrate the training for postdoctoral fellows, postgraduate students, and residents; and leverage our core strengths to develop the next generation of leaders in oral, dental, and craniofacial research."



Under the agreement, The Forsyth Institute will continue to be an affiliated institution of HSDM, and eligible faculty at Forsyth may be considered for Harvard academic appointments and engage in research and teaching to the benefit of both institutions. Likewise, with the awarding of Forsyth's T90/R90 Institutional Training Grant in Oral Health that now includes the HSDM DMD/PhD Program, HSDM faculty involved in the training program are eligible to be considered for Forsyth appointments.

Collaborative opportunities for research and discovery will also be explored. The first of which is a jointly-funded pilot grant program. Funded research projects will be collaboratively conducted by two principal investigators, one at Forsyth and the other at HSDM. Researchers may request up to \$50,000 in direct costs per institution/project, or \$100,000 total, for projects conducted over one-year, with the possibility of a 12-month no cost extension.

On Tuesday, September 6, the two institutions hosted a joint faculty poster session, and celebrated the renewed affiliation together. "We look forward to bolstering our partnership and furthering our mutual goals of advancing oral, dental, and craniofacial research, education, and training," Giannobile and Shi said.



ABOVE: Wen Shi, CEO of The Forsyth Institute with Dean William Giannobile

LEFT: The Forsyth Institute in Cambridge, MA

Dr. Yingzi Yang (left) and Dean William Giannobile (right) with several recipients of pilot grant funding including Drs. Malcolm Whitman, Francesca Gori, and Lorenzo Tavelli

Research Focus

Fueling New Discovery

NEW PILOT GRANT funding has supported HSDM investigators and spurred innovative projects and collaborations. Funds have gone toward research that explores using machine learning to predict tooth loss, investigations into how bacterial toxins trigger acute pain, research into new therapeutic pathways for the treatment of periodontitis, and state-of-the-art equipment to advance the understanding of peri-implant health and wound healing, among other bold research pursuits.

The Office of Research announced the recipients of the recent pilot grant submission cycle which were reviewed and assessed by an external review committee. Based on the committee's recommendations, the following principal investigators were awarded funding:

Dr. Hawazin Elani, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, received funding for her project, *"Machine Learning to Reduce Disparities in Tooth Loss: A Multinational Study."* The overall objective of this project is to develop a tooth loss risk prediction tool, using socioeconomic and health data that do not require dental examination, to aid non-dental healthcare providers and policy makers to identify individuals at high risk for tooth loss. Dr. Elani is collaborating on this project with Dr. Ichiro Kawachi, John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb professor of Social Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Dr. Jennifer Gibbs, assistant professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, received funding for her project, *"Neuronal Mechanisms of Bacterial Mediated Pain and Pathology in Pulpitis."* This project expands upon Dr. Gibbs' work showing that bacterial toxins, such as LPS, directly activate trigeminal nociceptors and produce acute pain that is dependent on both the TLR4 and TRPA1 receptors. Dr. Gibbs is collaborating on this project with Dr. Isaac Chiu, associate professor of Immunology at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Francesca Gori, associate professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, received funding for her project, *"Biology of Adult Mouse Incisors: Role of Sfrp4 in Tooth Formation, Development and Renewal."* The main goal of this project is to explore the role of Sfrp4 in tooth development, matrix deposition, and mineralization. Dr. Gori is collaborating on this project with Dr. Felicitas Bidlack, assistant member of staff at The Forsyth Institute and assistant professor in Developmental Biology at HSDM.

Dr. Lorenzo Tavelli, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, received funding for his project, *"B-Mode and Power Doppler Ultrasonography for Periodontal and Peri-Implant Health Diagnosis, Phenotype Characterization and Wound Healing Assessment."* This well-designed equipment proposal has the potential to advance the understanding of peri-implant health and wound healing. Dr. Tavelli is collaborating with, Dr. German Gallucci, chair and Raymond J. and Elva Pomfret Nagle Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences.

Dr. Malcolm Whitman, professor of Developmental Biology, received funding for his project, *"Activating a Novel Amino Acid-Sensing Pathway to Suppress Pathological Inflammation in the Oral Cavity."* This proposal is based on strong preliminary data and has the potential to advance the understanding of a new therapeutic activation of a newly recognized amino acid sensing pathway for the treatment of periodontitis. Dr. Whitman is collaborating on this project with Dr. Corneliu Sima.

Giving Focus

Philanthropic Vision

Realizing Dr. Ray Williams' Goal to Fund a Fellowship

ON JUNE 8, 2022, friends and family came together to remember and celebrate the life of Ray C. Williams, PD73, a respected clinician, educator, mentor, and friend to many around the world, who passed away October 28, 2021. Williams' contributions to education and the industry reach far and wide and have made a lasting impact in the field.

It was at Harvard School of Dental Medicine where Williams received his periodontal training, that he began his career as a dental educator, serving as the associate dean for postdoctoral education and head of the Department

of Periodontology until 1994. A dedicated educator, he went on to serve as distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Periodontology at the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry and later as dean of the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine. His research led to historic discoveries in the field—demonstrating that the control of gingival inflammation can significantly deter disease progression toward periodontitis. These clinical trials in the 1980s and 1990s led to the eventual recognition, in 2008, of periodontitis as an inflammatory disease. Over the course of his career, Williams was the recipient of many prestigious awards for his work advancing the profession.

Williams' persona had a profound impact on the careers of many who became notable names in academia and private practice leadership. He carried that same compassion, humor, and style into all aspects of his life. He enjoyed work and having a good time, in the classroom, the laboratory, or at social gatherings, often accompanied by his beloved wife, Joan Lash.

Periodontology research was a priority for Ray, so in 2020, prior to his illness, Ray and his late wife Joan Lash established the terms for a new fund along with Professor T. Howard Howell, PD76, AM98, and Jeffrey Stevens that will ultimately bear their names.

"The goals of this fund are to cultivate the growing demand to educate leaders in dental medicine and to recruit graduate students of the highest caliber, who will make a lasting impact during their research at HSDM and beyond," said Howard Howell.

This fellowship will fund an exceptional advanced graduate student specializing in periodontology. Their foresight will allow Ray's legacy to continue for years to come, nurturing the next generation of clinicians and researchers.

Joan and Ray's son Lee Williams requested that memorial gifts be directed to the Lash-Williams-Stevens Fund.

"The fellowship Dad received changed his life and made it possible for him to attend HSDM. It was his dream to support the next generation of students with this gift," said Lee.



For further information about funding fellowships and scholarships, or to name HSDM in your will or estate plan, please contact:

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Lee Williams with
Dr. Howard Howell,
Meaghan Williams, and
Jeffrey Stevens

News & Notes

Alumni News

1 Tejasvita Chandel, MMSc22, was awarded the Caswell A. Evans Population Oral Health Post-Professional Award from the American Public Health Association. The award was established to honor Dr. Caswell A. Evans, in recognition of his commitment to population oral health. Dr. Evans is an oral health industry veteran and pioneer in public health, as well as an accomplished author, teacher, and speaker.

2 Jae-Woong Hwang DMSc03, Shiuk Jeon MMSc03, Peter Kwon MMSc03 PD00, and **John Chang MMSc04** (left to right) recently reunited in South Korea.



3 Gary R. Login, MMSc86, DMSc90, recently became a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology/ Implant Dentistry. He practices general dentistry in Brookline, MA, and is adjunct associate professor, New York University, College of Dentistry Faculty.

John Manhold, DMD44, recently published his sixth book, "The End of an Era," at the age of 103. He has published six textbooks in the fields of medicine, dentistry, and psychology. Manhold is also an artist, and his sculptures reside in collections both within and outside of the United States. He and his wife, Kit, live in Florida.



Mirissa Price, DMD19, PD19, completed her residency in Pediatric Dentistry at Boston Children's Hospital and has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. She will help develop the pediatric dental curriculum at Meharry as one of the two full-time pediatric faculty members at the Meharry Medical College of Dentistry, applying her experience of the flipped classroom learning style and medical-dental integration, experienced at HSDM, to her educational approach as a faculty member.

4 Miguel Roque, DMD16, MMSc19, has been named president of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA). He will focus on new ways to bring the HSDM alumni community together and forge connections between current students and alumni. Roque is a member of the American Association of Endodontists, the Massachusetts Dental Society, and the American Dental Association.

5 Paul A. Schnitman, PD74, senior lecturer on Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, was elected to Life Fellowship in the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics at its 67th





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Annual Scientific Session, December 3, 2021, in appreciation for his many years of devotion to the Academy and prosthodontics. The Academy's annual scientific sessions are highly regarded throughout the world by providing a forum to promote new and proven scientific concepts and advances related to prosthodontics.

6 Justin Sheinbaum, DMD16, and **Harlyn K. Susarla, DMD13**, were recognized by the American Dental Association as "10 under 10" honorees for 2022. The award honors dentistry's rising stars: dentists who are making an impact in the profession less than 10 years after graduating from dental school.

7 Kristen E. Urban (Quartararo), DMD22, joined the U.S. Army after graduation and progressed to Fort Sam Houston to complete the second half of her Army training. She graduated from her first three-week course on the Commandant's list (honors); which is given to the top 10% of students based on academic and physical exams.

8 Estee Wang, DMD08, and **Natalie Hastings, DMD08**, got together in Scottsdale, Arizona recently to celebrate their 40's with a spa weekend. Estee currently resides in Minnesota, and Natalie in the Bay Area of California. They enjoyed reuniting to share good memories during a relaxing and fun weekend. Both are looking forward to their Class of 2008 15-year reunion this spring.

Mark Wang, DMSc99, hosted an alumni luncheon in June. Alumni in



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attendance were: **Stanley Wang, MMSc01**, **Ivan Orup, DMD94**, **MMSc96, PD96**, **Jacquelyn Chou, DMD19**, **Mingchun Chien, DMD97**, **Michelle Chou, DMSc16, MPH08**, **Daniel Jiang, MMSc19**, **Daliah Salem, MMSc13, PD13**, **Pamela Hom, DMD97, PD98**, and **Paul Schnitman, PD74**.

Jane A. Weintraub, MPH80, PD82, has been inducted as the 51st President of the American Association of Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOOCR). As president, Weintraub will lead AADOOCR for the term of one year. She oversees the largest division of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). The AADOOCR boasts roughly 3,100 members across the United States.



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9 Benjamin Wu, PD97, was appointed to the role of Chief Science Officer (CSO) at The Forsyth Institute. He will begin the role in January 2023. Wu is a renowned bioengineer and prosthodontist. He is currently professor and chair of the Division of Regenerative and Reconstructive Sciences at the School of Dentistry at the University of California at Los Angeles. As CSO of Forsyth, Wu is expected to become a member of HSDM's faculty via his Forsyth affiliation. In that capacity he will be involved in the School's education, research, clinic care, and technology innovation activities.

10 Alumni, faculty, and residents reconnected at the **American Academy of Orthodontics Reception in Miami**.

Faculty News

11 Hend Alqaderi, DMSc16, interim program director of HSDM's Dental Public Health Program and instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology was selected for the MIND the Future Program, by the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR). Funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), the program is designed to build a vibrant and inclusive community of investigators whose participation is vital to advancing dental, oral, and craniofacial research and improving the oral health of our nation. Alqaderi is one of ten mentees chosen nationally for this honor.



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12 Roxanne Bavarian, DMSc19, PD22, joined HSDM as a lecturer on Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. Bavarian received her dental degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry and went on to pursue a certificate in oral medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. As part of her oral medicine training, she also obtained her DMSc degree at HSDM. She will teach at HSDM and develop a clinical practice, while also spending one day a week practicing at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Danvers.

13 Alison Caruso joined the Harvard Dental Center-Cambridge as a general dentist. Caruso completed her dental education at SUNY Buffalo School of



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Dental Medicine where she graduated magna cum laude. She then continued her training in Buffalo through an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency. She has been practicing in private practice in the greater Boston area in the years since.

Sung Eun Choi, instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, received the 2022 Eleanor and Miles Shore Faculty Development Award in honor of Aina M. Auskaps, DMD. With the award funding, Choi will focus on the project "Predicting Frequent Emergency Department Visits for Dental-Related Conditions" with the objective of identifying patients at high-risk of frequent ED visits for dental-related conditions using different machine-learning approaches.

David Kim, DMSc05, was a recipient of the 9th Annual Patient Experience Award from Massachusetts General Hospital. Recipients of the Patient Experience Individual Award were nominated in acknowledgment of the passion they have demonstrated for the patient experience. There were 20 award recipients this year. Kim was recognized in the individual ambulatory category.



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14 Mohamed Maksoud, lecturer on Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity visited Alamein International University Dental College in Egypt in his role as a Fulbright Specialist with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchanges.



15 Christine Riedy chair and Delta Dental of Massachusetts Professor in Oral Public Health and Epidemiology was selected for the *Hedwig van Ameringen* Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM). ELAM is a core program of Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. The program continues the legacy of advancing women in medicine that began in 1850 with the founding of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania. Riedy is a member of the 28th class and will have the opportunity to optimize leadership skills and benefit from the amazing network of women leaders in academic medicine, dentistry, public health, and pharmacy.

Katherine Vig, senior lecturer on Developmental Biology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine received the American Association of Orthodontics' (AAO) 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award in Orthodontic Research. She presented "The Role of Mentors in our Lifetime Achievements" at the May 22, 2022 AAO meeting. Dr. Vig was also honored by the AAO at the 2021 Educators' Symposium.

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Israel Leon Dogon, DMD63, emeritus professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences and beloved member of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine community passed away on May 6, 2022. He was known as a distinguished alumnus, faculty member, and champion of community and global oral health initiatives.

A native of South Africa, Dogon first came to HSDM from the London Hospital Dental School in 1959 to pursue salivary research. He earned his DMD degree at HSDM and went on to serve as associate professor and chair of the Department of Operative Dentistry among other subsequent faculty roles. He was also head of the Department of Dental Materials at The Forsyth Dental Center, and director of dental health education for Project Hope.

He was closely involved in several international initiatives and lectured extensively throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. He was a member of the oral health team for the United Nations Millennium Project for Africa and was granted honorary professorships at three of the major dental schools in China. He established numerous preventive programs in rural communities in China, as well as in Indonesia, Bosnia, Poland, Macedonia, and India.

Dogon was passionate about the impact of international collaboration and established a travel fund at HSDM so that students who wished to travel to developing countries to conduct research, train others, or provide clinical services could pursue their interests.

"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," Dr. Dogon said when he created the fund in 2014. To make a gift to the fund in his memory, go to: <https://hsdm.harvard.edu/give> and select "Student Travel Fund-IMO Dr. Dogon" from the dropdown menu.

HSDM News

16 In June, HSDM welcomed Continuing Professional Education participants from around the globe for a course on “Innovation and Effective Team Collaboration in Multidisciplinary Therapy.” Attendees heard from experts in the fields of periodontology, prosthodontics, and oral surgery. The 3-day course brought together dentists from the countries of Colombia, India, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, and the United States.

17 The Plasmapp company donated \$50,000 to the Division of Periodontology to support residents’ MMSc/DMSc research projects in dentistry and other related fields.

Karrol Altarejos joined the Office of Dental Education in a new role of Student Affairs Coordinator. She comes to HSDM from Harvard Medical School where she served as a Program Coordinator for the Health Sciences and Technology program for the past eleven years.

Josh Mayoral joined HSDM’s IT team as a Senior IT Support Associate. He comes to HSDM with higher education IT support experience from Louisiana State University and Audio/Visual (A/V) experience which he earned as an Audio/Visual Technician with American Audio Visual in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He works on a wide variety of projects with the team with a particular focus on resolving customer technical issues for the HSDM community.

Susan Moore was named as HSDM’s new Director of Human Resources. Susan comes to HSDM from Worcester State University where she most recently served as Executive Director, Chief Human Resources Officer. She has spent her career in higher education and brings 21 years of experience serving in progressive leadership roles overseeing Human Resources at Framingham State College, Fitchburg State University, and Worcester State University.

Meghan O’Donnell joined HSDM as Director of Grants Administration. She comes to HSDM from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health where she served in finance and grants management roles.

David Raymond joined HSDM as the new Facilities Coordinator. He comes from the Mass College of Art & Design, where he held the position of Assistant Director of Operations. He will assist with project management, as well as the day-to-day operations.

Marlene Takla joined the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity as department administrator.

She has administrative oversight for the major educational divisions of Oral Radiology, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Periodontology, as well as the five research laboratories within the department. Takla comes to HSDM from the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University.

Erin Webb joined the Office of Development and Alumni Relations as Director of Annual Giving and Engagement. She has over 10 years of advancement experience in education, museums, and cultural institutions and comes to HSDM most recently from the Advent School, where she served as Director of Development.



Upcoming Events



October 13, 12–1pm / Zoom Webinar
Science Speaker Series with Patricia Diaz, DDS, PhD, Professor of Empire Innovation in the Division of Periodontology, University of Buffalo



October 28, 7–10pm
HSDM Alumni Reception at the American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting in Phoenix

Reception will take place in the Ahwatukee-B room of the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown



November 10, 12–1pm / Zoom Webinar
Science Speaker Series with Noriaki Ono, DDS, PhD, Associate Professor of Dentistry, University of Texas Science Center



November 14, 3–4pm
Goldhaber Lecture at HSDM by Award Recipient Peter Polverini, DMSc77, PD77



November 19
Harvard-Yale Game Tailgate

Alumni and friends are invited to join the HSDM tailgate starting three hours before kickoff



January 27
Yankee Dental Alumni Reception in Boston



SEE A FULL LIST OF EVENTS AT:
[HSDM.HARVARD.EDU/CALENDAR](https://hsdm.harvard.edu/calendar)



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