

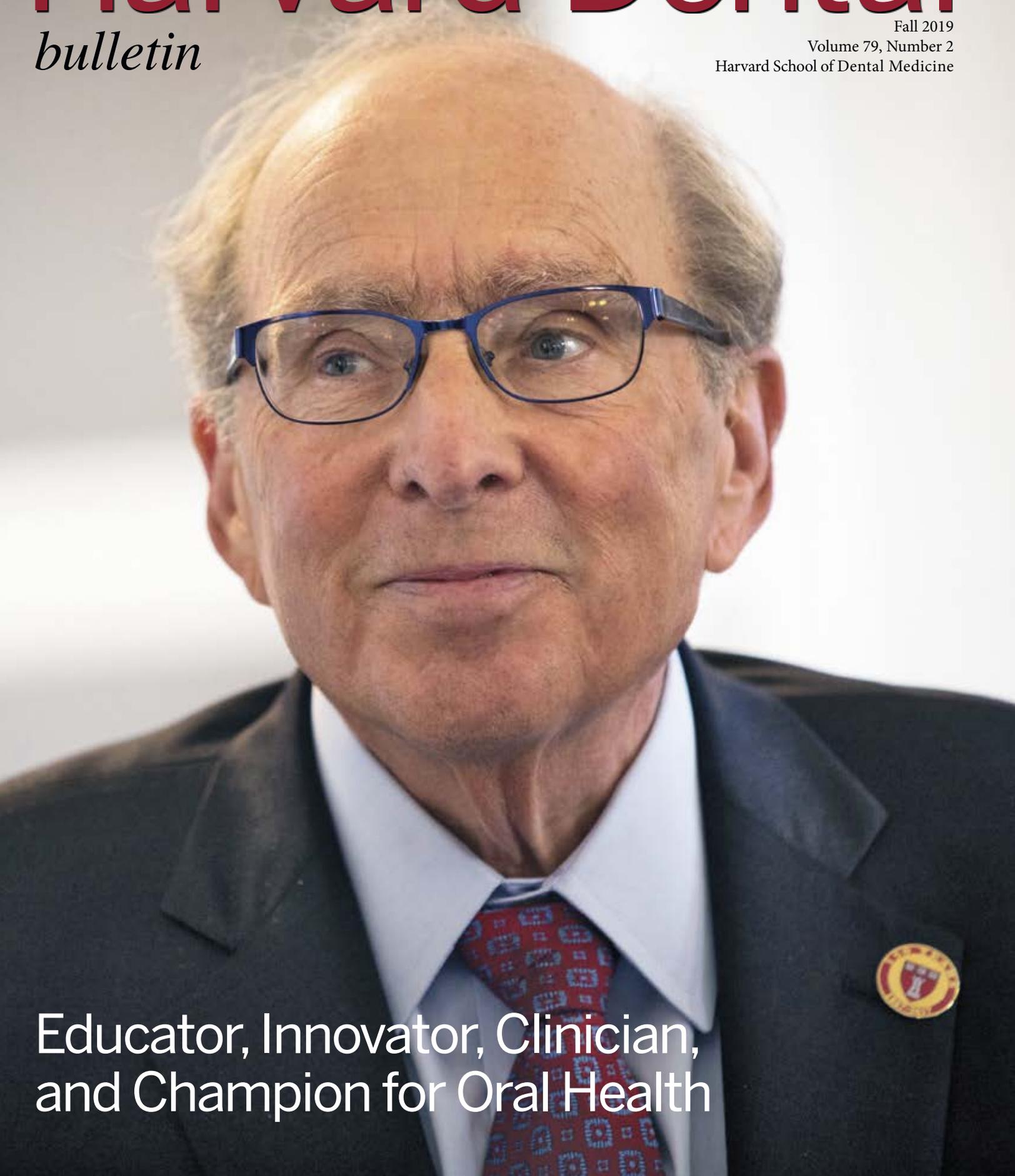
# Harvard Dental

*bulletin*

Fall 2019

Volume 79, Number 2

Harvard School of Dental Medicine



Educator, Innovator, Clinician,  
and Champion for Oral Health

# Harvard Dental

## bulletin

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#### Cover photo:

Dean Bruce Donoff. Photo by Stephanie Mitchell.



### Student Highlight

HSDM students from all four DMD class years came together for an afternoon of fun activities at the second annual Big/Little Sibling Field Day. The friendly competition included tug-of-war, charades, relays, and more. The Big/Little Sibling program serves as a source of mentorship throughout a student's career at HSDM. First-year students are paired with a “big sibling” from each of the classes ahead of them based on academic society.

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

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

**S**erving as Dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) for these past 28 years has been an honor and a pleasure. I must admit as I grew professionally, I often thought of being a department head, but never a dean. I got my wish to lead the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 1982 as Chief of Service at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and it was fantastic. But in 1991 when confronted with the decision to become dean of HSDM, my wife Mady and I weren't sure if it was the right move. I never aspired to be a dean, and to this day tell mentees that the best deans are those who never wanted to be deans.

What changed my mind? First, Walter Guralnick, DMD41, my mentor was a great source of wisdom and vision. After all, it was his plan to create the dual degree general surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery program in 1971. He assuaged my concern about having to give up patient care if I became dean and even agreed to serve as co-chair of the department as I transitioned. That decision permitted me both in spirit and reality to continue to see patients and operate at MGH, a relationship that remains to this day.

As an alumnus of the School, I understood our mission and vision for dental education was critical to maintaining and improving the School's status and its importance to dental education. The Harvard name is important. Once, when I was introduced at a dental school deans' meeting as the Dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, the person stated we, "are very glad that Harvard has a dental school, we wish that Stanford did."

I always say that I took the job for the students for I truly love teaching and being among them. My experience implementing the first Patient Doctor I series of courses in 1986 as part of the New Pathway curriculum was critical to teaching our students the importance of the patient relationship. I hope to return to this role when I step down as dean.

On May 14, 1991, I addressed the faculty and made the following remarks: "I hope to do four things during my tenure. First, I hope to create focus and establish an agenda for the School with your help. Second, I hope to furnish a compelling image of a desired state affairs to you all so that you are enthusiastic and committed to that vision. Third, I hope to establish your trust in me. I promise to make myself known to you, make my positions clear, and be predictable. I expect accountability, predictability, and reliability from you as well. Lastly, let me say that I would like every graduate of HSDM to feel, as I do, that an education here made a difference. I often think about where I would be and what I would be doing if I had chosen to attend any other dental school rather than Harvard in 1963. The ability to pursue research and joint programs not available elsewhere, and the chance to learn in an atmosphere of scholarship, amid traditions of excellence, shaped my life. This is a special place. I would like to ask you to join me in dedicating the next decade to the students of the dental school."

It just took me a little longer.



Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73



Photo credit: The Harvard Crimson

# Diversity and Inclusion Efforts Recognized with National Award



The first students in the Bridge to Dental School program were recognized for completing the 10-week program.

**F**or the second year in a row, Harvard School of Dental Medicine has been honored with an Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. The Award honors colleges and universities nationwide that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

“We’ve created exciting pipeline programs on campus and have reached hundreds of students, but to truly expose talented students to HSDM, we also need to take HSDM to where they reside and study,” said Jo Kim, former Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

This year’s Diversity and Inclusion programming did just that by expanding HSDM’s ability to reach students from underrepresented minority backgrounds within the greater Boston area and beyond.

## Building a Bridge to Dental School

This summer, 30 undergraduate college students from the greater Boston area completed a 10-week Bridge to Dental School program held on the Longwood campus that was designed to help them apply to dental school. The program was organized and taught by HSDM

predoctoral students, many of whom are Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Fellows.

Organizers Ashwini Parchure, DMD21, Laurel Fuentes, DMD20, and Aida Shadrav, DMD21, D&I Fellows at HSDM, promoted the program to community colleges and four-year universities with the hope of reaching students from diverse and/or low-income backgrounds. They received interest not only from students in Boston, but from around the country.

“We’re aiming to level the playing field and enable students who are passionate about dentistry but may not readily have access to the resources or connections to pursue dental school. This program’s goal is to literally build a bridge to dental school for those students,” said Parchure.

Participants in the free program received advice from the HSDM students on every aspect of getting into dental school—from what to expect in a dental curriculum and tips on taking the Dental Admission Test (DAT) to writing a personal statement and interviewing for admission.

“We hope to have a longitudinal relationship with the students, serving as their mentors,” said Shadrav.

## Introducing HBCU Students to Dentistry

For the past two years, HSDM students and faculty have made recruitment trips to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to introduce undergraduate students to dentistry and share their experiences as minorities in dental school.

Aisha Ba, DMD21, a third-year DMD student, and Brian J. Swann, MPH08, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, traveled to Morehouse College, Spelman College, Oakwood University and Howard University this spring. The year before, Jeffrey Taylor, DMD20, now a fourth-year DMD student, made a similar trip.

“The reason I was so motivated to do this was that in order to solve most of the issues of access to care, and for HSDM to be a leader in integrating medicine

**“Diversity improves dental care for everyone.”**

**—Aisha Ba, DMD21**



Aisha Ba, DMD2021 (center) with students from Oakwood University.

and dentistry for the benefit of patients, we need to be training providers who come from and understand the issues in the communities that face the greatest burdens of disease,” said Ba. “Diversity improves dental care for everyone,” she added.

Ba, Taylor, and Swann realized the HBCU students they met were often well qualified for admission into dental school but didn’t consider applying to Harvard thinking they wouldn’t fit in.

“At all the schools we asked them, ‘When you think of Harvard, what do you think of?’ They never considered seeing themselves here. It was important to talk with these students and reassure them that there is a place for them at Harvard and that Harvard has a warm and welcoming environment, and you can be successful here,” said Ba.

“We shared values, logistics, and the responsibility of a healthcare provider coupled with the principles of Harvard to train leaders in a diverse environment,” said Swann. “I am hoping it will become a new model for HSDM that makes a positive impact by training a diverse group of oral health providers.”

## **Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion at HSDM**

In April, HSDM celebrated its inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Week with an exciting lineup of events. The community heard from speakers on the topics of diversity and inclusion in dental education, race and gender equity in dentistry, and culturally competent, accessible care for patients with different needs in engaging talks offered throughout the week. There were also dynamic performances by dancers, drummers, and singers, as well as artwork, ethnic foods, and hands-on demonstrations celebrating diverse cultural traditions.

“Presenting a Diversity and Inclusion Week is important because as clinicians we need to be providing culturally competent health care,” said Dr. Anne Koch, former director of the postdoctoral program in Endodontics at HSDM, and supporter of the event.

“Health disparities among diverse communities is both significant and very real. We need to do better as health care providers,” she added.

Visiting students and alumni pose with a portrait painted to honor Robert Tanner Freeman, DMD 1869, the first African American to graduate from Harvard Dental School, and the first to earn a dental degree in the United States.



# Dean Donoff

## Educator, Innovator, Clinician, and Champion for Oral Health



Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, has served as dean of HSDM for 28 years.

**A**t the end of 2019, Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, will conclude a remarkable 28 years serving as dean of Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He will step down from the role to return to serving on the faculty.

“It has been an honor leading the School and having the opportunity to work with incredibly talented faculty, students, and staff, all of whom are dedicated to improving human health and advancing our mission,” Donoff said.

Throughout his tenure, Donoff moved HSDM forward with a broad vision for global and community oral health. A skilled oral surgeon and educator, he has been an advocate for the integration of oral health and medicine as a way to ensure improved outcomes for his own patients and dental patients everywhere. He not only shaped the dental curriculum at Harvard, but also influenced the way dentistry is taught around the country and the world.

“I’m grateful to have had a career that allowed me to treat patients, educate students, and advance research, all while being an administrator. It’s rare for a dean to have that opportunity, and I am truly fortunate,” he added.

“Bruce and I have been good friends for decades, and I know from my tenure as president of Tufts the

extremely high regard in which he is held throughout the academic oral health community,” said Harvard President Larry Bacow, JD76, MPP76, PhD78. “His personal commitment to academic excellence has shaped his quarter-century as dean, driving the recruitment of extraordinarily talented students, faculty, and staff, and shaping efforts to make oral health care available and accessible to more people across the country and around the world.”

Earlier in his career, Donoff led Massachusetts General Hospital’s department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as chair and chief of service, becoming the first Walter C. Guralnick Distinguished Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. A 1967 graduate of Harvard School of Dental Medicine and a 1973 graduate of Harvard Medical School (HMS), he returned to the Harvard Longwood campus in 1991 when he was appointed dean of HSDM.

“His work has built an important bridge between dentistry and medicine,” wrote HMS Dean George Daley, MD91 in a joint letter with Provost Alan Garber, AB77, PhD82. “Bruce has been widely recognized for caring deeply about students and their success. As an educator and a mentor, Bruce pioneered problem-based learning to help them better understand the fundamental concerns of those seeking treatment and their diseases, all the while stressing that students must listen closely to their patients and treat them with respect,” they added.



Dean Donoff, DMD67, MD73, pictured with his mentor the late Walter Guralnick, DMD41.



Bruce and Mady Donoff celebrating his 50th reunion.

A passionate advocate for research, Donoff stressed the importance of scientific inquiry in dental education. He led the charge to create more space for laboratories at HSDM and was successful in nearly doubling the School's footprint with a new research and education building in 2004. His efforts were recognized with the prestigious William J. Gies Foundation Award from the American Dental Education Association in 2004 for outstanding vision by an academic dental institution.

"A particularly meaningful tribute to Bruce is the sheer number of dental school deans around the world who recognize him as an innovator and who can also say that they received their degrees from HSDM," wrote Daley and Garber.

In 2014, Donoff launched the HSDM Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine, an effort intended to improve quality and value throughout the health care system by, in his words, "reuniting the mouth with the rest of the body."

HSDM's mission reflects his aspiration to break down traditional barriers between oral and systemic health. Donoff ensured that dental students spend time working in community health centers as part of their training and expanded the scope of HSDM's international presence, for example, helping to launch Rwanda's first dental school. Most recently, he has led efforts to partner with dental schools in China and Vietnam to assist with curriculum development and workforce training.

"Please join me in thanking Bruce for his many contributions to our community — and for his steadfast efforts to advance and strengthen dental medicine at Harvard and beyond," wrote Bacow.

The HSDM community, alumni, friends and colleagues can leave well wishes for Dean Donoff online at: [hsdm.harvard.edu/donoff\\_wellwishes](https://hsdm.harvard.edu/donoff_wellwishes)

## Highlights



— **1991** Dr. Bruce Donoff is appointed as dean of HSDM.



— **1994** Donoff opens the Harvard Dental Center's newly renovated Faculty Group Practice.



— **2004** A new 53,000 square foot, five-story Research and Education Building opens under Donoff's leadership.



— **2008** Donoff accepts the William J. Gies Award for Outstanding Vision for an Academic Dental Institution from the American Dental Education Association.



— **2014** Donoff launches the HSDM Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine.



— **2017** HSDM celebrates its 150th anniversary with Donoff at the helm.

## Donoff Scholars DMD Scholarship

In recognition of Dr. Bruce Donoff and his 28 years as Dean of HSDM, the Donoff Scholars DMD Scholarship will be created at HSDM. The fund will support future generations of predoctoral students who are seeking innovative careers in dentistry by pursuing a second Harvard graduate degree. Gifts to the scholarship can be made online at:

**[hsdm.harvard.edu/donoff\\_scholars](https://hsdm.harvard.edu/donoff_scholars)**

# Class of 2019 Graduates Ready to Make Their Mark



Jubilant HSDM graduates march into Harvard Yard to take their seats for Harvard's 368th Commencement.

**W**ith an oversized toothbrush held high above their heads and big smiles on their faces, the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) Class of 2019 marched into Harvard Yard for Harvard University's 368th Commencement on Thursday, May 30. The students cheered and posed for photos as they took their seats alongside fellow graduates from across Harvard in a sea of crimson in Tercentenary Theatre. The ceremony was filled with music, celebratory remarks, and distinguished guests including German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Harvard President Larry Bacow, JD76, MPP76, PhD78, verbally conferred the degrees, recognizing degree recipients from each Harvard school. HSDM's graduating class of 34 individuals receiving the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree, 19 receiving the Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree and eight receiving the Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree, were applauded with cheers from the crowd.

In the afternoon, HSDM students reunited with their Harvard Medical School (HMS) classmates to celebrate Class Day on the Quad. Harvard dental and medical school graduates, along with faculty, family, and friends, gathered to hear remarks by student speakers, deans from both schools, and keynote speaker Mona Hanna-Attisha, the pediatrician, educator, and public health advocate whose research exposed the lead crisis in the water supply in Flint, Michigan.

HSDM Class Day speaker Tom Ferlito, DMD19, spoke about the strong bonds formed with his classmates and the compassion and care they developed as healthcare providers.

"We started four years ago as smart ones, and we became even smarter ones yet. Smarter ones

who, all the while, cared about our patients — no excuses," Ferlito said.

"But unfortunately, the world has shown us that being smart and caring is not always enough...we need to be brave ones too. Brave ones who turn our ideas into action, who speak our visions into truth. Brave ones who care with a backbone, who stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves," he said.





HSDM Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, congratulated the graduates and urged them to use their education to help people through compassion and care.

“Your achievements should make you very proud,” said Donoff. “Be the leaders you are in transforming our health care world, through science, policy, and compassionate care.”

HMS Dean George Daley, MD91, also urged graduates to use their education to alleviate suffering and to enhance patient health and wellbeing. At the end of his remarks he acknowledged Dean Donoff’s long career of service to Harvard.

“I want to give a special recognition to my colleague Dr. Bruce Donoff,” Daley said. “Dean Donoff has been a visionary who has advanced the cause of integrating oral health and medicine, and through his training of generations of Harvard students, leaves a profound legacy in the field of dental medicine.”

After the remarks, each graduate was called to the stage to receive their diplomas and hoods to the delight of their proud family and friends. Together, the HSDM and HMS grads recited a class oath they wrote to their future patients, promising to be curious and collaborative caregivers who treat their patients with respect and dignity and practice the highest quality of care.

Clockwise from left:

The DMD graduates get their degrees and hoods at Class Day on the Quad.

Javae Nelson, MMSc19, PD18 (left) and Erinne Kennedy, PD18, MMSc19, (right) with Class Day keynote speaker Mona Hanna-Attisha, pediatrician, educator, and public health advocate.

HSDM graduates toss their hats on the steps of Gordon Hall.

Jillian Muhlbauer, DMD19, and Thomas Ferlito, DMD19, spoke at Class Day as HSDM student moderator, and speaker.

# “I Would Be a Dentist” A Graduation Reflection

by Mirissa Price, DMD2019



Dr. Mirissa Price is now a first-year resident in pediatric dentistry at Boston Children's Hospital.

**T**he sun soaked my shoulders. Through my scrubs, I could feel a warmth I had missed, having spent the past five hours in the dental school's basement lab.

As my eyes adjusted to the light — and the macro-scale vision — I spotted my Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) family, smiling and laughing. I claimed a seat at the table, and together, we fell into a conversation of “what if?”

“What if we were millionaires and could do anything in the world?” someone posed, imagining for a minute we didn't have to miss the rest of this gorgeous day to practice drilling.

“I would be a teacher,” a few said. “Or a counselor.”

“I would donate money and do charity,” someone reflected. “And I'd also donate to HSDM.”

“I would buy the hands of a trained dentist,” said another friend.

“I would clone our professor.”

Through the laughter, someone interrupted, bringing us back to ourselves: “I would still be a dentist.”

It's now hard to imagine doing anything other than dentistry. It's hard to witness our patients smiling bigger and brighter, with greater oral health and self-efficacy, and feel anything other than inspired. It's hard to look back at the communities we served at HSDM, globally, and in the

clinics throughout greater Boston, and want anything other than the ability to work with patients of all cultures and backgrounds to overcome barriers to care. It's hard to be anything but inspired by the colleagues who once joined us in dreaming of a life outside the classroom, and the mentors who guided us on this dental journey.

The HSDM community was a gift. The basement lab was our home and our colleagues a family. There were nights we drilled until 3:00 a.m., and evenings our instructors stayed just as late to help us. There were days we burned fingertips and split ends learning to make dentures, and afternoons we ran out of songs on our playlists to accompany our efforts. There were sacrifices we each made and strengths we discovered within ourselves and our community in order to develop a skill that could be of service to others. There were opportunities and research questions that redirected and re-inspired us on our paths.

And there were patients who moved us in ways we could have never imagined. My senior case presentation was of a patient whose smile grew in both size and health over the course of our work together. We addressed his oral health as a part of his medical condition, and I became a cohesive part of his medical team. I learned so much from my work with this patient, from clinical skills to interprofessional care.

And sitting in my class's case presentations, I am amazed at how in our own ways and with our own, unique patients, we each had such an experience. In a case completion model of care, we each developed a partnership with our patients and accomplished care that changed our patients' health and self-perception. Many of us even helped our patients establish trust in the dental provider and an appreciation for the medical significance of oral health.

And because of the HSDM community, because of our families and loved ones, and the many mentors we've found along the way, we graduate together. We step out of the basement lab one final time, not to take a break from the dental world but to step into it and to make a difference with it. We step out into the warm summer sun of commencement with the gift and honor of using dentistry to promote healthy smiles and craft positive change.

# A Warm Welcome and White Coats for the Class of 2023

**H**arvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) welcomed 35 new DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) students to campus in early August. The Class of 2023 hails from 19 different states and from 29 different colleges/universities. The class composition is 71 percent female and 29 percent male. Fourteen percent come from populations underrepresented in medicine.

Orientation began the morning of August 5, with the DMD students joining their Harvard Medical School (HMS) classmates for welcome remarks by the deans of the respective schools. The dental and medical students will spend the first year of their education together in the Pathways curriculum.

“You have all imagined your futures. That is why you are here today,” said HSDM Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73. “It has been said that the clinician needs to know everything that is known, and the scientist seeks to learn all that is unknown. Addressing pressing human needs relating to life, health, and relief of suffering requires a blend. Louis Pasteur said, ‘chance favors the prepared mind’ and preparing yours for many futures is about to begin. I look forward to following your growth and achievements with great pride,” he said.

Students learned about the history of the community they are entering—one focused on collaboration and compassion. They were introduced to their academic societies where they met their classmates and faculty mentors who they will rely on throughout their educational journey.

During the remainder of Orientation week, the DMD and MD students attended their first patient clinic at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where they heard directly from patients about their personal battles with illness. They also had the opportunity to tour community health centers in Boston’s underserved communities and learn firsthand about the social determinants of health.



The week culminated with a White Coat Ceremony held on Friday, August 9 on the HMS Quad. Proud family and friends watched each student cross the stage to introduce themselves wearing their new white coats. Many students shared words of gratitude, recognizing the support of their loved ones who helped them get into dental or medical school.

“I want to remind you it’s just the beginning. There’s lots of hard work ahead,” said HMS Dean George Daley, MD91, addressing the sea of students in white. “Use your extraordinary talents to serve others. That’s why we’re here. Do not forget that with every encounter...you have the opportunity to make the world a healthier and happier place, one patient at a time.”

Top: The Class of 2023 poses for a fun photo on the front steps of HSDM after the White Coat Ceremony.

Left: Laura S. Pesquera Colom, a new DMD student in the Class of 2023, receives her white coat.

Below: Each DMD and MD student took the stage to introduce themselves at the White Coat Ceremony.

# Reconnecting at Alumni Day



HSDM graduates from many different class years returned for Alumni Day.

**H**arvard School of Dental Medicine alumni returned to the School on Friday, June 7 to reconnect with their classmates and enjoy a program that included a presentation of the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards, a panel on *The Changing Landscape of Oral Health Delivery*, and Dean Donoff's State of the School address.

Ladan Basiri, DMD93, president of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA) kicked off the morning program with a welcome to attendees, as she called the HDAA business meeting to order and reviewed the past year of activities. Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, then presented the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards to individuals chosen for their contributions to the profession that honor the mission of the School. This year's recipients were Robert Leaf, DMD69, and Michael Newman, PD74. Dr. Leaf was recognized as an innovator in the field of dental insurance, and Dr. Newman was recognized for his contributions as an author, educator, researcher, and clinician in the field of periodontology.



Jennifer Smith-Williams, DMD82, with Dean Donoff, DMD67, MD73 and Dino Bertini, DMD97, MMSc99, vice president of the HDAA.

In accepting his award, Dr. Leaf acknowledged the impact HSDM had on his career, and the careers of many alumni who make their mark in dentistry and beyond, "This institution has the ability to inspire its graduates," he said.



At the end of awards program, Dr. Basiri presented another special honor. “As you all know, our beloved Dean Donoff will be stepping down from his position in January. On behalf of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association and all of the alumni of HSDM, it is my honor and my pleasure to present him with a token of our appreciation for his steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to our School and the entire HSDM community,” Basiri said as she presented an engraved silver tray to Dean Donoff.

Dino Bertini, DMD97, MMSc99, vice president of the HDAA, then brought to the stage a panel of alumni to discuss *The Changing Landscape of Oral Health Delivery*. Panelists Patrick Assiouni, MMSc01, founder and president of New England Family Dental; Justin Cooper, DMD09, co-owner of Cooper Orthodontics; and Kevin Trexler, MBA06, CEO of American Dental



Partners, and HSDM Dean’s Advisory Board member, engaged in a lively discussion about the state of the dental industry and private practice with Dr. Bertini serving as moderator.

Dean Donoff closed the program with his final State of the School address. “When I return to the faculty in January, I will have plenty to do, but being dean of this extraordinary School has been the greatest job I have ever had,” he said.

He contrasted today’s State of the School with the years before he became dean, and reviewed progress made during his deanship. During Donoff’s tenure, class size was increased and new postdoctoral programs added, new faculty were recruited and the Faculty Group Practice established, fundraising was reinvigorated, endowed chairs created, and research resurrected—culminating in the completion of the Research and Education Building.

“We’ve made great strides in diversity and inclusion, and fundraising, and moving the mantle of oral health in general health forward,” he said.

He also cited recent progress made in global and community health and dental education that integrates interprofessional practice with oral health and primary care.

“I would like every graduate of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine to feel as I do, that an education here made a difference,” he said. “This is a special place and I look forward to helping make it an even more special place.”

Clockwise from left:

Robert Leaf, DMD69, was recognized as an innovator in the field of dental insurance with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

A panel of alumni discussed *The Changing Landscape of Oral Health Delivery*.

Ladan Basiri, DMD93, president of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA) presented the dean with a gift from the HDAA.

# Brace Yourself

## Brackets Are Changing at the Speed of Light

Alfred Griffin III, MMSc17, in the Cambridge headquarters of the company he co-founded, LightForce Orthodontics.



**I**n a brick building in Cambridge, a stone's throw from MIT and Harvard, sits the headquarters for a company poised to shake up the orthodontic bracket market. Inside, engineers work intently at their computers while 3D printers hum on the manufacturing floor below producing the world's first fully-customized, 3D-printed brackets. The startup, LightForce Orthodontics, is the creation of Harvard School of Dental Medicine alumnus Alfred Griffin III, MMSc17.

"A one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work for every patient," Griffin said. In an era of personalized medicine, he saw the potential for a more effective bracket that could give orthodontists better control over the patient's outcome by providing a patient-specific prescription.

"Our custom brackets unlock new biomechanical possibilities that haven't existed before. Biomechanically

it makes sense and should offer a more efficient treatment based on a customized base," he said.

Dr. Griffin is a bit of an unlikely entrepreneur, who might have been sitting at a lab bench at this point in his career rather than networking with venture capitalists. He had intended to pursue scientific research in developmental biology at HSDM after completing a dual DMD/PhD in craniofacial biology from the Medical University of South Carolina. Grant funding fell through, so Griffin pivoted and took a different path in his Orthodontics residency.

"In orthodontics today there are many opportunities to apply new technologies and move faster than the established companies, but few take the risk," he said. "HSDM's residency program is not a 'cookie cutter' approach. What's nice about Harvard is you can explore many career options."

**“Follow your passion. Harvard is an incredible platform to do many things; take advantage of the opportunity.”**

**—Alfred Griffin III, MMSc17**

Griffin sought out resources available to him as an advanced graduate education student at Harvard to develop his initial business idea. He was accepted into the Harvard innovation labs’ Venture Incubation Program (VIP), a program designed to help all Harvard students pursue entrepreneurial ventures, where he received business and legal advice and learned how to take the next steps to file his first patent.

“As a part of the broader Harvard community, HSDM presents opportunities and access to global experts that is rare for a dental school,” he said. “Based on my interests, I was encouraged to take master’s classes at Harvard Business School, meet world business leaders at the Harvard innovation lab, and connect with engineers at the Wyss Institute. That’s quite unusual for an orthodontics residency and a big part of how we were able to successfully launch LightForce.”

As an HDSM resident, Griffin could also take classes at other Harvard graduate schools, so he took a “Commercializing Science” class at Harvard Business School with MBA students that helped him create a business plan and pitch his idea. From there he applied to MassChallenge, an accelerator program for Massachusetts startups. Competing against other finalists, Griffin won initial funding to get his business off the ground and attracted the attention of venture capitalists which helped him secure additional funding.

“We realized we needed to move fast,” he said. He credits being situated in Boston for helping to propel his business.

“Boston is a global leader in healthcare technology. We have premier hospitals, the most competitive dental and medical schools, and talented clinicians.”

Griffin assembled a dream team of talented individuals with backgrounds in science, biomaterials, engineering, and dentistry, including co-founder and former Align Tech vice president Dr. Lou Shuman, to help launch LightForce. He also relied on the support of his family—both of his parents are dentists—as well as HSDM faculty and his co-residents.

“I was lucky to have a great support structure,” he said. The next step for LightForce will be validation of



Above: Dr. Griffin demonstrates software that is part of the 3D bracket system.



Left: A 3D printed bracket under the microscope.

the product’s efficiency. An Institutional Review Board approved clinical trial is now underway at HSDM with Mohammed Masoud, DMSc07, assistant professor of Developmental Biology and advanced graduate education program director for Orthodontics, serving as principal investigator. “The Orthodontic program at Harvard gives students the freedom to pursue their research passions and encourages collaborations with outside entities. It makes the program proud to see Alfred fully take advantage of that opportunity and run as far as he has with his idea,” said Masoud.

As a new cohort of students starts this summer with hopes and dreams of their own, Griffin’s advice to them is, “Follow your passion. Harvard is an incredible platform to do many things; take advantage of the opportunity.”

# Interprofessional Summit Provides Valuable Insights for Oral Health Integration Efforts



Attendees of the Summit collaborated on ideas for clinical integration of primary care and oral health.

**In June, Harvard School of Dental Medicine's Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine** partnered with the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH) and hosted a new summit, titled *Interprofessional Education to Practice*.

The event provided attendees with a practical approach to clinical integration of primary care and oral health, and launched a peer-to-peer learning community.

Speakers from HSDM, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University, and other organizations offered dynamic ideas to integrate interprofessional education in a practical and clinical setting.



Christine Riedy, chair and associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at HSDM, explained that the Summit was the result of feedback from HSDM's Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine's recent Leadership Forum. "We've had speakers talk about putting the mouth back into the body, speakers from the insurance industry, health care industry, and educators... but something that was missing was the intricacies of inter-professional practice and integrating oral health into clinical practice, particularly

for programs that train providers, residency programs, and such," said Riedy.

Keynote speaker Michaela Kerrissey, assistant professor of Management in the department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, urged attendees to view integrated care as a mindset, rather than a model. "Often times, we get so caught up in thinking about a particular model of delivering services," she said. "Does it work? What are the core elements? We lose sight of what all of these models have in common, that at their core they are asking people and organizations to work in fundamentally new ways to deliver health services."

Kerrissey added, "Usually in medicine, the path forward is clear. We try to make it as clear as possible. We want employees who can follow the scripts. We want to derive value. We want to learn before we do... But I want you to consider for a moment an alternative way of thinking. If we don't know the right path forward for integrated care at all times, we might need to do a bit more innovation and experimentation. There may not be a script that can immediately be followed. We may have to wait to derive value later. We might have to learn from doing, and variance may become something that is a rich tool for learning."

The Summit included a panel discussion on systems-based approaches to making integration work effectively, as well as interactive case studies on how interprofessional education competencies are integrated into academic practice sites. Providing opportunities for attendees to collaborate and grow as a community of practice were among the objectives for this event.

"This brought together individuals who focus on clinical training, and it was really terrific to engage with them on how we move from interprofessional classroom education to interprofessional team-based care in a clinical setting," said Jane Barrow, AB84, SM87, executive director of HSDM's Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine and associate dean of Global and Community Health. "We shared and learned a lot with each other and I am excited to move ahead with our community of practice and see what evolves."

# New Funding Supports Research in Bone Fragility, Healing, and Regeneration

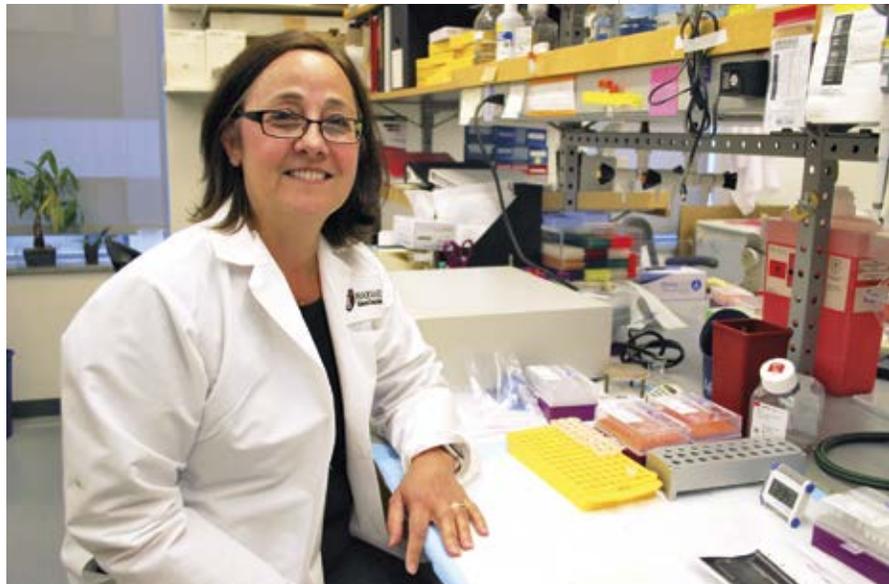
**D**r. **Francesca Gori**, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, has a longstanding interest in studying the cellular and molecular pathways underlying cell fate and differentiation. Her research focuses on the identification and characterization of genes that regulate bone development and homeostasis as potential therapeutic targets. Recently, she was awarded an R56 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Award, as well as the William F. Milton Fund Award from Harvard University's Office of the Provost to fund two studies that may lead to insights in human diseases associated with bone fragility, healing, and regeneration.

"I'm thrilled to receive these awards as they will give me the tools to contribute my share, small though it may be, to the bone field. It has been a marathon, not a sprint, but the bottom line is that I will work on something exciting and that's what matters to me. I'm grateful to Dr. Roland Baron and others at HSDM who have supported me over the years," Gori said.

Dr. Gori earned her PhD in biology from the University of Florence, Italy. She came to HSDM after stints at the Mayo Clinic and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). At MGH, Gori identified a novel gene, *Wdr5* and with an NIH training grant and a R21 grant, she investigated its effect on skeletal development. For this work, Gori was awarded the Harold Frost Young Investigator Award of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) in 2005 and the John Haddad Young Investigator Award of the Advances in Mineral Metabolism (AIMM) in 2007.

Her work in the Baron-Gori Lab has focused on investigating the molecular, cellular, and genetic basis of skeletal homeostasis and its regulation in health and disease with emphasis on the mechanisms by which Wnt signaling regulates bone homeostasis. Gori, in collaboration with Dr. Baron, published in three important publications (*Nature Medicine* in 2014, *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2016 and *PNAS* in 2019). It is during this collaboration that she started to lay the groundwork for her current projects.

In Gori's NIH study, "Biology of Cortical Bone of



Long Bones and Calvarium. Role of *Sfrp4* in the Local Regulation of Wnt Signaling," she will explore the biology of the periosteal and endosteal surfaces of the cortex and the way in which they communicate, possibly through the osteocytes. The main objective is to identify the role that *Sfrp4*-mediated signaling plays in regulating their activity. This will be translatable to human diseases associated with cortical bone fragility and other endocrine or skeletal abnormalities and may lead to development of novel therapies to treat low cortical bone mass-associated disorders. Part of the project will be performed in collaboration with Dr. Matthew Greenblatt at Cornell University.

In the study, "Biology of Cortical Bone: Role of *Sfrp4* in the Local Regulation of Periosteal Stem Cells and Osteoprogenitors," funded by the William F. Milton Fund, Gori proposes using innovative techniques and mouse genetics to identify how *Sfrp4*-mediated signaling contributes to the expansion, differentiation and/or function of periosteal stem cells/progenitors. With these studies, she hopes to gain a greater understanding of the mechanism underlying cortical biology and therefore human diseases associated with cortical bone fragility, bone healing and regeneration.

Dr. Francesca Gori studies genes that regulate bone development.

## Alumni News



**Shahid Aziz, DMD96**, received an honorary fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland last spring. Aziz is only the sixth American oral surgeon to receive this honor.

**James H Doundoulakis, PD85 (Prosthodontics)**, was recently elected as general chairman of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, the largest dental meeting and exhibit space dedicated to the dental profession, in the U.S. He will direct the educational program, as well as corporate sponsorship and participation.

**Donald B. Giddon, DMD 59, PD62 (Periodontology)**, gave a lecture on “Quantitating the Art and Science of Clinical Success” to the faculty and students at Rutgers University School of Dental Medicine, where he also had the opportunity to meet with Harvard alumni. He subsequently presented this topic to the Orthodontic faculty and students at UNLV Dental School and had the opportunity to meet with **James Mah, DMSc95, PS95**, professor and director of the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics.



**Christine Hamilton-Hall, DMD88**, and her son Malcolm Hamilton-Hall went on a dental mission to Danang, Vietnam in support of the nonprofit East Meets West Dental. Hamilton-Hall was accompanied by

pre-medical student, Gabby Perry, (left) who is working in Hamilton-Hall’s Connecticut practice during the summer and winter breaks. Hundreds of rural children and orphans from areas outside of Danang were treated during their mission.

**Deepti Karhade, DMD19**, won second prize in the Clinical Research and Public Health category of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) and Dentsply Sirona’s competition for Advancing Dental Research and its Application Awards (SCADA) program, awarded in June. Karhade was a student when she entered the global competition to engage the next generation of dental professionals and inspire students to look for new ways to have a positive impact on dental care and oral health.



**Nadeem Karimbux, DMD91, MMSc93, PD93 (Periodontology)**, was appointed dean of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in July. He is the dental school’s 17th dean. Dr. Karimbux served as the associate dean for academic affairs and a professor of Periodontology at Tufts. Prior to joining Tufts University, Karimbux was the assistant dean for dental education at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He has become a leader in interprofessional education, which integrates education and care across health-care professions for the benefit of the patient. Karimbux will oversee the school’s community of more than 900 students and residents, 450 faculty, including 200 volunteer faculty, 300 staff, and 8,600 alumni.

**Blaine Langberg, DMD99, MMSc02 (Orthodontics)**, launched the “My Teacher Rocks” essay contest to recognize National Teacher Appreciation Week in the Ridgfield and Greater Danbury CT communities. Students went online and nominated their teachers by writing a short essay on why their teacher ROCKS!

**Dr. Eli Schneider, DMD73, PD75 (Pediatrics)**, recently retired from the Weymouth, MA Dentistry for Children P.C., a practice he founded in 1975, where it continues today with its mission of being the dental home for the children of Weymouth and surrounding communities. During his 44-year career Schneider was a regular part of the lives of many children who came to know him as a dedicated, compassionate, and caring dentist.



**Lisa Simon, DMD14, MD20, PD15**, was selected by the ADA Foundation as the 2019 recipient of the Henry Schein Cares Dr. David Whiston Leadership Award. The award was established to provide promising dentists with the

opportunity for more formal leadership training. Simon was chosen for her desire to cultivate innovative approaches to address complexities that the dental profession faces and for her dedication and commitment to improving access to quality oral health care for all.

**Anupama Rao Tate, DMD98**, associate professor of pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine, was selected as a new board member for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). She is a fellow of the Pediatric Oral Health Research and Policy Center of the AAPD. She is also the co-director of the Washington, D.C. Pediatric Oral Health Coalition. Additionally, she is chair of the qualifying exam committee of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and an executive committee member of the American Academy of Pediatrics oral health section.

The late **Ricardo Teles, DMSc96, PD96 (Periodontology)**, was honored by the International Dental Research Association (IADR) and the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) at the 97th General Session and Exhibition Symposium. Teles was most recently chairman of the Department of Periodontology of Dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The symposium brought together many colleagues to pay tribute to his legacy of advancing the periodontal field. Speakers included his wife, **Flavia Teles, DMSc07 (Oral Biology)**, from the University of Pennsylvania, **William Giannobile, DMSc96, PD96 (Periodontology)**, from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Iain Chapple from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, Marcelo Favari from Guarulhos University in Brazil and Hatice Hasturk from The Forsyth Institute.



**Jane Weintraub MPH80, PD82**, was named the first recipient of the R. Gary Rozier and Chester W. Douglass Distinguished Professorship in Dental Public Health at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and the Gillings School of Global Public Health. Weintraub is former dean at the UNC School of Dentistry, and is widely recognized for her expertise in oral epidemiology, dental public health, and clinical research.

## HSDM News



HSDM's Implant Dentistry program celebrated its 10-year anniversary in June, bringing together more than 70 faculty, staff, students, and graduates of the program to mark the special occasion.



The Division of Periodontology hosted a Continuing Professional Education course titled "Advanced Education in Implant Dentistry" that brought 42 dentists from India, Thailand, and Vietnam to HSDM to learn about the latest surgical and restorative techniques in implant dentistry. Participants had an opportunity to interact with HSDM faculty members and practice their clinical skills on models.



The Office of Diversity and Inclusion partnered with HSDM's Wellness and Engagement committee to tend to a small garden located outside of Countway Library. Students, faculty, and staff at HSDM assist with the garden throughout the summer months.



Staff from HSDM Admissions, Human Resources, and the Harvard Dental Center attended the El Mundo Latino Family Festival at Boston's Fenway Park providing outreach and information to the local community about the School and the Dental Center's clinical services.



Assistant Surgeon General **Timothy L. Ricks** visited HSDM at the invitation of **Mary Tavares**, director of the HSDM Dental Public Health Residency Program to speak with a group of approximately 30 HSDM dental public health residents. They discussed key challenges in oral health in many countries, including access to dental care, lack of oral health literacy, the quality of the oral health workforce, and a lack of adequate funding to provide evidence-based prevention across the population.

## Faculty News



**Jane Barrow, AB84, SM87**, associate dean for global and community health and executive director of HSDM's Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine, was awarded the 2019 Joseph B. Martin Dean's Leadership Award for the Advancement of Women Staff. Initiated in 1999 by Joseph B. Martin, MD, PhD, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, the award recognizes staff members committed to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

"Jane's tireless dedication to Harvard through her commitment to female staff (and faculty) advancement, has been priceless," said Christine Riedy Murphy, chair and associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology. "In addition to being a stellar professional, she has built an organizational culture where colleagues genuinely care about each other and are invested in each other's personal and professional development."

**Neeta Chandwani** was appointed to assistant professor of Developmental Biology after serving as a member of the faculty since October 2017. She is director of predoctoral pediatric dentistry.



**Neil Thomas Griseto** joined HSDM as an instructor in Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences. Griseto studied dentistry at the Dublin Dental University

Hospital attached to the University of Dublin, Trinity College and graduated in 2006. He also completed his prosthodontics residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in 2019. He will focus on DMD Implantology and Digital Dentistry while providing support to the various didactic blocks of the HSDM curriculum.



**David M. Kim, DMSc05,** and **Thomas Nguyen** faculty in Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity, along with third-year resident Andy Lee, went on a mission trip with an independent dental team to El Salvador to provide dental care in various regions. The team included 20 college students, dental students, and other medical and dental professionals. They treated more than 500 residents in Potrerillos, San Felipe, San Antonio, and San Salvador. The team aims to provide continued care and education while establishing clinics and schools.



**Reshma Menon, DMSc17,** joined the faculty as lecturer on Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity. Menon received a DMSc degree and certificate in oral and maxillofacial pathology from HSDM in 2017. She has didactic instruction and clinical supervision responsibilities in the predoctoral and advanced graduate education oral and maxillofacial pathology programs.



**Corneliu Sima, Donna Hackley, Christine Riedy,** and **Eleana Stoufi** spent a week teaching and lecturing in China at a two-week university immersion

program organized by the West China School of Stomatology at Sichuan University. The program brought together students and faculty from around the world to make new contacts and to stimulate global awareness and inter-cultural communications.

**Vinicius Souza Rodrigues, DMSc11,** joined HSDM as a lecturer in the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, with a role in the Office of Global and Community Health. Dr. Rodrigues was in Kigali, Rwanda during the spring and summer of 2019 helping to develop the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program in Rwanda with hands-on curriculum development and teaching.



**Eleana Stoufi** (third from left), visiting lecturer on Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology was invited to Seoul Korea to deliver a lecture to the students and faculty of the Seoul National University School of Dentistry in honor of Dr. Gerald Shklar.

**Joseph Yozgatian, MMSc18,** joined HSDM as a lecturer in the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, with a role in the Office of Global and Community Health. Dr. Yozgatian is currently in Kigali, Rwanda as part of the HRH Rwanda team developing the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program in Rwanda with hands-on curriculum development and teaching.

In July, a group of HSDM faculty, alumni, current students, and pre-dental students went on a service trip to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic through the non-profit organization, Dentists for Humanity, founded by **Soo-Woo Kim, DMD08, DMSc12,** predoctoral director of Periodontology. Third-year HSDM students **Daniel Shen, DMD21,** and **Michelle Chung, DMD10,** as well as alumni **Mari Bae, DMD08** and **David S. Kim, MMSc13, PD13,** were also part of the effort. The group traveled to remote rural villages in the Dominican Republic and worked cohesively to provide dental care in areas with scarce resources. The team was able to treat more than 200 patients.



## Staff News

**Mary Anderson**, senior human resources coordinator, was named a 2019 Harvard Hero. Each year the Harvard Heroes Recognition Program celebrates the accomplishments of Harvard staff members whose work supports the University’s mission at the highest levels of contribution, impact, and excellence. In the words of her nominators, “Mary Anderson and her strong work ethic truly personify that of a Harvard Hero. Whether she is working to provide excellent customer service, managing change in an ever-evolving environment, collaborating with colleagues throughout HSDM to develop best practices, or leading University-wide initiatives, Mary is the consummate professional.”

**Jamie Evan Bichelman** joined the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology as communications coordinator for the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE), a HRSA-funded project. He brings communications, marketing, and public relations experience from roles with the Nevada Department of Transportation and UNLV.

**William A. Henriquez** joined the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology as a staff assistant. He joins HSDM from Berklee College of Music where he worked since 2017 with the Dean of Dance Division as an administrative assistant. In his new role William will provide administrative support to OHPE faculty and students.

**Arielle Mather** joined the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology as program manager for the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE), a HRSA-funded project. She comes to the role with many years of experience in the Boston nonprofit sector addressing the needs of older and vulnerable populations, as well as the providers who care for them. With NCECE, Mather oversees the planning and delivery of the Center’s trainings and technical assistance activities.

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70, 70	Now	5.3%
75	Now	6.7%
75, 75	Now	5.9%
80	Now	7.7%
80, 80	Now	6.5%

# Upcoming Events

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**Monday, October 7, 2019**

**Continuing Professional Education:  
Geriatric Dentistry: Practical Approaches  
to Care**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

This course brings together leaders in geriatric medicine, dentistry, and social work to share knowledge and experience in treating our aging population.



**Thursday, October 10,  
2019**

**HSDM Science Speaker  
Series**

12:00–1:00 pm

Harvard School of Dental  
Medicine, REB Auditorium,  
Boston, MA

Dr. Benjamin Levi, assistant professor in Surgery, Director of the Burn/Wound and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory; University of Michigan

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**Thursday, October 17–  
Friday, October 18, 2019**

**Continuing Professional Education: Fixed  
Implant Rehabilitation of Edentulous  
Patients**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

Participants will learn different planning and treatment modalities for fixed implant rehabilitations in edentulous patients.

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**Friday, October 18–  
Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**Continuing Professional Education:  
Innovative and Effective Team  
Collaboration in Multidisciplinary Therapy  
Tokyo, Japan**

HSDM's first course offered in Japan will provide a solid foundation for multidisciplinary therapy and implant therapy, as well as strategies for managing complications during treatment.

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**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

**HSDM Science Speaker Series**

12:00–1:00 pm

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, REB Auditorium,  
Boston, MA

Dr. Terrence Capellini, Richard B. Wolf associate professor, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University



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**Monday, December 2–Wednesday,  
December 4, 2019**

**Continuing Professional Education: Clinical  
Specialty Education Series: Timing of  
Therapy**

Venice, Italy

Learn the best strategies for timing dental treatments. This course will explore optimization for early and immediate treatments, delayed treatments, and long-term success.

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**Friday, January 31, 2020**

**Alumni Reception at Yankee Dental  
Congress**

6:00–8:00 pm

Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston, MA

All alumni are invited to attend. Conference participation is not required. Also visit us at the HSDM booth on the conference floor.

**See a full list of events at:  
[hsdm.harvard.edu/calendar](https://hsdm.harvard.edu/calendar)**



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# Welcome Class of 2023!



The HSDM Class of 2023 with their HMS classmates in the Tosteson Medical Center Atrium.