NATHANIEL TREISTER, DMD, DMSc & HERVE SROUSSI, DMD, PhD, RECEIVE R01 NIH AWARD

Nathaniel Treister, DMD, DMSc and Herve Sroussi, DMD, PhD, of the division of Oral Medicine and Dentistry at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity at HSDM, have been awarded a NIH R01 grant for their study entitled “Long-Term Oral Health Outcomes in the Chronic GVHD Consortium.”

Chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD) is a complex immune-mediated disease commonly seen in recipients of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. cGVHD can severely affect the health of numerous organ systems including the oral cavity, one of its most common and significantly affected targets. This study will explore the long-term effects of cGVHD on oral health with the ultimate goal of improving patients’ quality of life and maximizing treatment effectiveness and outcomes. Drs. Treister and Sroussi will serve as co-principal investigators on the study which is a collaboration between the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Center and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/University of Washington School of Dentistry in Seattle, Washington.

FRANCESCA GORI, PhD, RECEIVES R56 NIH AWARD & THE WILLIAM F. MILTON FUND AWARD

Dr. Francesca Gori, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, received NIH-NIDCR funding for, “Biology of Cortical Bone of Long Bones and Calvarium. Role of Sfrp4 in the Local Regulation of Wnt Signaling.”

The goals of this study are to explore the periosteum and endosteum biology and the way in which these two surfaces communicate, possibly through the osteocytes to provide novel insights into the biology of these surfaces of the cortex and mechanism(s) underlying cortical homeostasis. This research will be translatable to human diseases associated with bone fragility and other endocrine or skeletal abnormalities and may lead to development of novel therapies to treat low cortical bone mass-associated disorders. This project will be performed in collaboration with Dr. Matthew Greenblatt at Cornell University, New York.

Dr. Gori also received the Harvard University, Office of the Provost – William F. Milton Fund Award for her project, “Biology of Cortical Bone: Role of Sfrp4 in the Local Regulation of Periosteal Stem Cells and Osteoprogenitors.” This study will have broad significance for understanding the mechanism underlying cortical biology and, therefore, human diseases associated with cortical bone fragility bone healing and regeneration.
NEW RESEARCHERS

Petronela Buiga, DMD, PhD, joined the Sima Lab as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity. Buiga received a DMD from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj in Romania, BSc in economics and a MS degree in business management from Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu in Romania. She is currently completing her PhD in molecular cancer studies at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom and the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel. Buiga was awarded the first Manchester-Weizmann full studentship for her doctoral work, “Systems biology of MAPK regulation: Applications to cancer therapies” under the mentorship of Drs. Jean-Marc Schwartz at the University of Manchester and Ari Elson at the Weizmann Institute. Buiga’s achievements throughout undergraduate and graduate studies have earned her two national grants in dentistry and four international placements (University of Oxford, King’s College London, University of Leeds, IGBMC Strasbourg), to present her research at the House of Commons, Westminster (UK) during STEM for Britain, and selected as one of the “100 Leaders of Tomorrow” at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, during the GapSummit. In the Sima Lab, Buiga will focus on host and biofilm biomarkers of disease activity and therapeutic targets for periodontitis and diabetes using bioinformatics approaches for integration of high-resolution imaging and multiomics data.

Dhairya Raval, MS, is the new Research Assistant in the Baron-Gori Lab in the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity. Raval is originally from India and completed a bachelor’s degree in biotechnology engineering from Mumbai University. Raval came to the United States in August 2016 and graduated with a master’s degree in bioengineering from Syracuse University in 2018. Prior to joining HSDM, Raval worked as a research assistant at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

HSDM PUBLICATIONS

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY


Hong M, Cuong C, Herzog K, Ng MW, Sulyanto R. Sealed primary molars are less likely to develop caries. *JADA* 2019; 150(8):641-648. *This article was chosen as the August 2019 cover story for JADA.*


ORAL MEDICINE, INFECTION AND IMMUNITY


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STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Alex Jelicich

Dr. Natalie Inoue
(second-year MMSc prosthodontics student), received a Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics Scientific Investigation Grant for, “A Comparison of Digitally Mounted Dental Casts Using Traditional Facebow Recordings, the Average Values of Bonwill’s Triangle, and 3D Facial Scans.”

SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES
11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. in the REB Auditorium

- September 12, 2019  Dr. Ling Qin (Penn)
- October 10, 2019  Dr. Benjamin Levi (Michigan)
- November 14, 2019 Dr. Terrence Capellini (Harvard)
- December 12, 2019 Dr. Jie Song (UMass)
- January 16, 2020  Dr. Eileen Shore (Penn)
- February 13, 2020  Dr. Henry Kronenberg (Harvard)
- March 12, 2020  Dr. Matthew Greenblatt (Cornell)
- April 16, 2020  Dr. Tamara Alliston (UCSF)
- May 14, 2020  Dr. Catherine McCusker (UMass)

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH
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