

**BRIDGING THE DENTAL
WORKFORCE GAP**

Rural Residency Begins
in New Hampshire

**EMBRACING THE
BLANK CANVAS**

The Class of 2027
Arrives on Campus

**CLASSMATES
REUNITE**

Alumni Return for a
Vibrant Alumni Day

Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Fall 2023 / Volume 83, Number 2

Harvard Dental

Expanding Dental Access to Veterans



Campus Snapshot

In July, the Harvard Longwood Community gave a warm welcome to Harvard's new President Claudine Gay at an ice cream social held on the Longwood campus. President Gay met hundreds of students, residents, faculty, and staff members, including several from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Gay, a widely admired higher education leader and distinguished scholar of democracy and political participation, became the 30th president of Harvard University on July 1. She received her PhD in Government from Harvard where she later served as a professor of Government and African and African American Studies. Since 2018, Gay served as the Edgerley Family Dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I HOPE YOU HAD A WONDERFUL SUMMER! At HSDM, each summer brings a new cohort of students, and we were excited to celebrate the arrival of 41 new postdoctoral students and 35 new predoctoral students this July. Meeting these eager young professionals brings me back to my first days on campus as a student in the Periodontology program, and the nerves and awe I had when taking my first steps at Harvard. I always reassure our new students that they've come to the right place, and have begun a transformational stage of their careers. Harvard offers an unparalleled environment for their dental education, scientific exploration and discovery, and we're here to support them every step of the way. You can learn more about these promising students in this issue.

When I welcome our new students, I often give them examples of the graduates who have come before them to inspire them and help them envision the unique paths they can take in the profession. I mention distinguished alumni like Dr. Matthew Plummer, DMD73, who provided access to underserved populations for his entire 50+ year career, and Dr. Anupama Tate, DMD98, who is an educator and advocate for high-quality pediatric care—both of whom were highly deserving recipients of this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards. I encourage you to read about their careers and dedication to serving their communities.

It was thrilling to see so many alumni this spring at conferences around the country and at Alumni Day here at HSDM in June. The camaraderie and strong bonds of our alumni is very special. It's apparent in the wonderful photos that captured the excitement of our reunions. Those who returned to campus had the



opportunity to see how HSDM is evolving and growing. We will soon embark on renewal projects that will update our buildings, and we are reinvigorating our clinical practice and our research initiatives with new staff and up-and-coming faculty members and researchers. In this issue, you'll learn more about these exciting initiatives and new members of our Harvard community.

As we look ahead, I'm excited to work with our new Harvard University President, Claudine Gay, to introduce her to our community and partner with her to ensure Harvard and its graduate schools remain dedicated to opening doors of opportunity for all of our students. Thank you for your ongoing support of this mission, and of HSDM.

WILLIAM V. GIANNOBILE, DDS, DMSC96, PD96
Dean and A. Lee Loomis, Jr. Professor of Oral Medicine,
Infection & Immunity
Harvard School of Dental Medicine

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A student clinician provides care to a veteran during Give Veterans a Smile.

On Longwood Ave.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Drs. Corinthia Wilkerson, William Giannobile, Fadie Coleman, and Brian Swann, with artist Stephen Coit, and Admissions and Recruitment Coordinator Martha Vedrine

ALUMNUS HONORED

Portrait Unveiled

The HSDM community and honored guests celebrated the unveiling of the portrait of Dr. George Franklin Grant, commissioned by artist Stephen Coit. Dr. Grant, DMD 1870, holds the distinction of being the second Black graduate of the School and the first to become a faculty member at Harvard University. During the event, Dean Giannobile, Dr. Fadie Coleman, Dr. Brian Swann, Martha Vedrine, and student representatives, shared powerful reflections and inspirational songs in honor of the trailblazer, inventor, and scholar. Grant's portrait is now prominently displayed in the Dean's Office Suite adjacent to HSDM's main lobby.

"Dr. Grant's life achievements have played a key role in shaping our history. They are a testament of his luminary status because he accomplished great things despite the times," said Dr. Fadie T. Coleman, assistant dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

INCOMING CLASS

AGE Students Arrive

In early July, HSDM welcomed a new cohort of Advanced Graduate Education (AGE) students. Forty-one AGE students, hailing from 11 different countries joined their faculty program directors for orientation sessions at the School. The AGE students are enrolled in 13 different specialty programs based at HSDM as well as affiliated hospital sites and community health centers. Nineteen will pursue DMSc or MMSc degrees, and 22 will pursue certificates. During orientation, students had the chance to meet each other and their co-residents, as well as their faculty instructors. They attended training and information sessions, and a reception hosted by HSDM faculty and staff.





STUDENT SNAPSHOT

Goat Yoga on the Quad

As part of a health and wellbeing initiative, HSDM and HMS first-year students had the opportunity to participate in yoga (with goats!) on the Quad.

Goat yoga has gained popularity as it's been shown that interacting with animals reduces cortisol, the stress hormone, while simultaneously increasing serotonin and dopamine, hormones that trigger happiness.

Last year, Harvard launched a University-wide campaign aimed to create a culture that embraces and celebrates the importance of mental health and wellbeing. The "We're All Human" campaign offers resources, programs, and community support to students, faculty, and staff.

MILESTONE MOMENT

Celebrating Years of Service

The School hosted a Milestone Luncheon to celebrate the many contributions of HSDM faculty and staff who reached a milestone in years of service to Harvard. This was the first time the community came together for the lunch since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The luncheon recognized over 90 staff and faculty members with five or more years of service who reached a milestone in five-year increments during 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The longest-serving staff member honored was Mary Coughlin, a dental assistant at the Harvard Dental Center in Longwood, who reached a remarkable 45-year milestone. The lunch celebrated a combined 1,290 years of service to Harvard and HSDM.



Harvard Dental Center staff celebrated service milestones with dental assistant Mary Coughlin (second from right) who reached a milestone of 45 years of service.

Clinical Focus

Expanding Dental Access to Veterans

WHAT STARTED AS A CONCEPT aimed at disease prevention and patient retention has turned into an annual event to aid veterans in need. Now in its third year, Harvard School of Dental Medicine's (HSDM) Give Veterans a Smile (GVAS), which takes place in October, provides veterans with a day of free dental care and consultations, with a long-term goal of creating a dental home for those who have served.

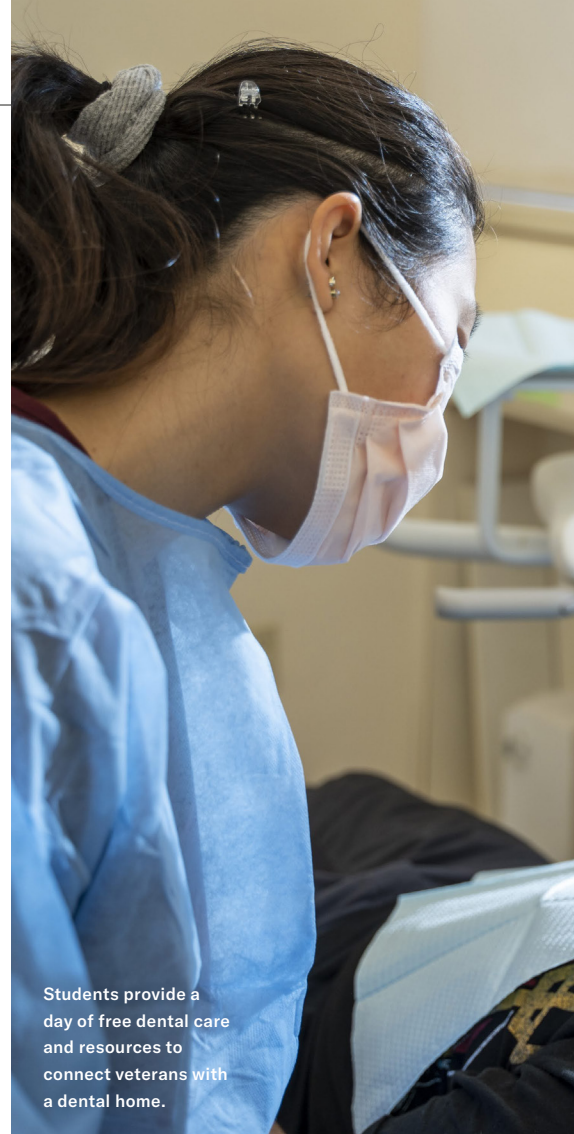
Veterans are provided with healthcare while serving in the military, but it can be a challenge to receive dental care once they leave the service. Nearly half of all veterans experience gingival problems or bone loss, whereas 27 percent of non-veterans had these issues from the 2021 report, "Veteran Oral Health Expanding Access and Equity." Very few veterans qualify for full dental care unless they have a service-connected disability or were a former prisoner of war.

"The decision to create the Give Veterans a Smile program at HSDM was driven by a combination of a commitment to community service, a desire to address

unmet needs, and the potential for educational and clinical benefits for dental students and faculty," said Anita Nasser, DMD25.

Nasser, along with Kaitlyn Cardenas, DMD24, Jen Candiano, DMD25, Jake Cantrell, DMD25, and Adam Yang, DMD25, helped plan and organize HSDM's first annual Give Veterans a Smile event in 2021, opening the door to veterans for free dental care, oral cancer screenings, and specialty consultations. Over 30 HSDM predoctoral students volunteered for the event along with residents from AGE specialty programs, faculty, and Harvard Dental Center staff members. Colleagues from the Boston Veterans Affairs also volunteered for the event. The student planning team reached out to local veteran organizations to advertise to interested patients.

"This collaborative approach ensures that the program can tap into a wide network of resources, expertise, and support, enabling it to have a broader and more significant impact on the wellbeing of veterans," Nasser said.



Students provide a day of free dental care and resources to connect veterans with a dental home.

Since its launch two years ago, the program has expanded its reach to serve a larger number of veterans, collaborate with additional organizations, and recruit more student volunteers. In addition to dental care, the nonprofit organization Health Care of All was on hand last year to guide veterans through the process of accessing benefits and finding longer term oral healthcare options.

"We wanted to ensure that HSDM's Give Veterans a Smile did not simply become a one-day event. Rather, we sought to establish continuity of care and help veterans find a consistent dental home, whether it is with HSDM or another local provider," said Cantrell.

Cantrell is a recipient of a Health Professions Scholarship, and will serve as a dentist in the U.S. Navy after graduation. Five students in HSDM's Class of 2025 will join the military after graduation to practice dentistry while serving their country.



Over 30 predoctoral students volunteered to treat veterans at the Give Veterans a Smile event.



“

This collaborative approach ensures that the program can tap into a wide network of resources, expertise, and support, enabling it to have a broader and more significant impact on the wellbeing of veterans.”

ANITA NASSERI, DMD25

“My service commitment is what guided me to HSDM, where I knew I would find an educational environment that goes beyond traditional dentistry. I’m very thankful to attend a school that encourages student-led initiatives like Give Veterans a Smile,” he said.

Awarded for Their Service

Cardenas, Candiano, Cantrell, Nasseri, and Yang were recently honored with the 2023 Dean’s Community Service Award from the Harvard Medical School for their work in expanding dental care to the veteran community and addressing gaps in access to oral healthcare during HSDM’s GVAS event.

“They all have incredible creative energies and a refreshing idealism tempered not only enough to accomplish what needs to be done, but also bring serious attention to the social, structural, and equity gaps and disparities of the veteran population,” said their faculty advisor Steffany Chamut,

LEFT TO RIGHT: Dean’s Community Service Award recipients Kaitlyn Cardenas, DMD24, Adam Yang, DMD25, Jen Candiano, DMD25, Anita Nasseri, DMD25, and Jake Cantrell, DMD25, with faculty advisor Dr. Steffany Chamut

an instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at the School.

“Winning the Dean’s Community Service Award was a moment of joy and gratification for the team, reaffirming our dedication to community service and inspiring us to continue this impactful work in the future,” said Nasseri. “Receiving this prestigious award is a testament to the program’s success, further boosting the program’s visibility and credibility within the community and the wider public.”

As the program continues to grow and evolve, the team is focused on ensuring its expansion and long-term sustainability.

“Our ultimate objective is for GVAS to serve as an exemplary student-led platform,



advocating for improved access to dental care for veterans across the nation,” Nasseri said. “As we meticulously plan our next event, we are actively working on implementing additional channels to receive valuable feedback from both veterans and volunteers. Moreover, we are diligently assessing outcomes and identifying areas for continuous enhancement of the program.” ♥

HSDM’s third annual Give Veterans a Smile Day takes place on Saturday, October 28, 2023.

Education Focus

Bridging the Dental Workforce Gap in New Hampshire

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SCENIC BEAUTY stretches from the state's rocky coastline to the majestic White Mountains, however behind its picturesque image is a less idyllic landscape for dental care. Access to care is challenging for rural populations in the Granite State, particularly for those with medically complex cases or special needs. Just last year, the state began to cover basic dental care for adults on Medicaid, yet less than 15 percent of the state's 850 dentists are participating thus far. With no dental school of its own, New Hampshire is looking outside of its borders to expand its dental workforce. A newly launched Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) advanced graduate program aims to bridge the gap by training rural dentists at seven remote care delivery sites in the state. This fall, the first three dental residents are enrolled in the program.

"We're delighted to participate in this partnership with clinical sites in rural New Hampshire to provide dental care and to train the next generation of dentists in care of rural populations. It is our hope that many of the dentists will choose to stay in the state upon completion of their residencies," said Dr. Catherine Hayes, chair of the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology and Dental Public Health program director.

Through immersion in rural and underserved community settings, residents in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) and enhanced Dental

“I saw an opportunity like no other with this program to help a population that has lacked care for a long time and learn from multiple preceptors and different settings.”

DR. CARMEN LUISA GUERRA

Public Health (DPH) rural track programs will gain experience working with and treating patients in the communities where they live and work.

One of those dentists is Dr. Carmen Luisa Guerra. Originally from the Caribbean Island of Margarita, Guerra recently completed her DMD degree at the University of New England College of Dental Medicine. During her first rotation she will be located at a dental practice in Keene, New Hampshire. The second location she will visit once a month is Coos County Family Dental in the small town of

RIGHT: Rural track AGE residents Drs. William Sorokolit, Carmen Luisa Guerra, and Hassan Mohammed Salih



Berlin in northern New Hampshire. In Coos County, just miles from the Canadian border, two in 10 adults have not had access to a dentist in the past five years, which is more than double the statewide average.

“I saw an opportunity like no other with this program to help a population that has lacked care for a long time and learn from multiple preceptors and different settings,” said Guerra. “This is also an excellent opportunity to explore several towns in New Hampshire, where the demands for dentists are incredibly high, before making a major moving decision.”

Guerra and her co-residents in the program will rotate through seven clinical locations throughout New Hampshire stretching from the far northern border to the coast. In her first month of the program, Guerra has already observed unmet care needs that are critical to address.

“The biggest issue for these rural communities is access to care. It takes a long time to get an appointment, and often patients have no means of transportation or are too far away. This is why these rural practices are of great relevance to the population. Also, the majority of the patients I treat are special care needs patients,” she said.

The one-year AEGD–Rural Track certificate 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 with a DMD or DDS degree and must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Dr. Hassan Mohammed Salih, a resident in the AEGD–Rural Track program who earned his DDS at Indiana University School of Dentistry, was attracted to the opportunity to make an impact. The program will give him exposure to patient populations with critical needs—from individuals living in homeless shelters to those living with dementia in home care settings.

“My participation in this program has afforded me valuable insights and exposure to the pressing needs of underserved and low-income communities, particularly in the realm of oral and



ABOVE: Clinical sites in the program are located throughout rural communities in NH.

general healthcare,” Salih said. “I am genuinely delighted to be in a position where I can contribute and assist to the best of my abilities. Providing the necessary care that the community deserves is both an honor and a responsibility that I eagerly embrace.” ♥



Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center is one of seven locations in NH the residents will rotate through.

Faculty Focus

Dr. Brittany Seymour Appointed Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs



BRITTANY SEYMOUR, MPH, associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, was appointed to serve as Harvard School of Dental Medicine's (HSDM) new associate dean for Faculty Affairs in July. In this leadership role, she serves as HSDM's first full-time administrative dean dedicated to faculty affairs, including faculty mentorship, recruitment, and professional development.

Seymour, who has served as a faculty member at HSDM for 12 years, is well-known across Harvard, nationally and internationally, for her work in global and community health and as a leader in advancing oral health initiatives around the world. She earned her DDS degree from the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine in 2005, and joined

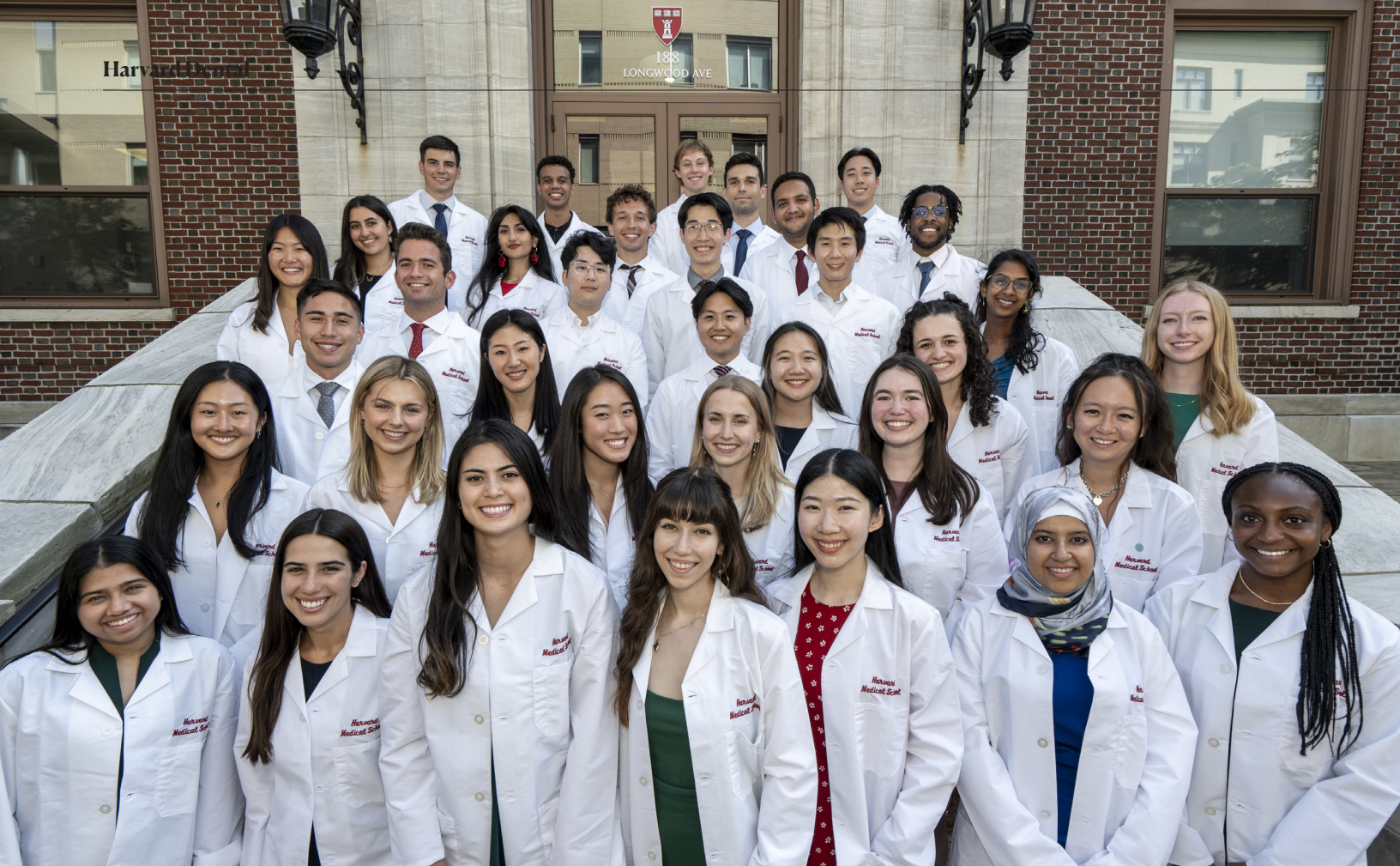
HSDM in 2011 after completing her MPH at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Seymour's interests include interdisciplinary global health curriculum development and pedagogy, digital public health communication and network science, and oral health workforce development in resource-challenged settings. Her efforts have helped launch the first dental school in Rwanda, supported dental education reform in Vietnam, and helped develop a hospital wing for dental care in Haiti. Her work has also led to collaborations with the World Health Organization, the creation of a Global Health Starter Kit for educators, and a global health field course that gives Harvard students the opportunity to study global oral health concepts in action in Costa Rica.

In this new role, Seymour will be responsible for managing all faculty-related matters at HSDM. She will oversee the recruitment of highly-qualified faculty and develop a faculty mentoring program for new full-time and part-time faculty as well as serve as a key advisor to department chairs in support of their work to guide and mentor faculty of all academic ranks and promotion pathways.

"Dr. Seymour's experience creating her own unique faculty path in global and community health, and inspiring her students to pursue roles in academia, will be a great asset to HSDM's faculty affairs program. I'm excited to have Dr. Seymour lead this vital area of strategic development for HSDM's faculty community," said Dean William Giannobile.

Seymour has held leadership positions at the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health's (CUGH) Global Oral Health Interest Group and has been honored with numerous awards. She was most recently recognized as the Cuspies' Dental Educator of the year, as well as CUGH's Velji Faculty Leader in Global Health Innovation. She has also served on a number of initiatives with Harvard Medical School (HMS) Faculty Affairs, including the Leadership Council for the Joint Committee on the Status of Women at Harvard, the task force for the faculty HMS CV generator project, and the Eleanor and Miles Shore Fellowship Academic Promise Review Committee.

"I have been so fortunate to craft a pioneering, dynamic career here at HSDM due to the world class talent and resources available across our university," Seymour said. "My vision in dentistry has always been to support healthcare leaders prepared for equally diverse career pathways who can be responsive to the world's rapidly evolving oral health landscape. I am honored to serve in this new capacity as associate dean for Faculty Affairs and am ready to lift others in their careers." ♥



Student Focus

Embracing the Blank Canvas

The Class of 2027 Arrives on Campus

BEAMING AS BRIGHT AS THE AUGUST SUN, students in the Class of 2027 arrived on Harvard's Longwood Campus to start an exciting new chapter of their lives. Incoming Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) students began a weeklong Introduction to the Profession, meeting their classmates who they will spend the next

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Similar to how a blank page provides a canvas for creativity, your white coat provides a canvas for compassion and care.”

DEAN WILLIAM GIANNOBILE

four years with and learning more about what they can expect in the first year of their program.

The week began with dental and medical students celebrating their transition into the healthcare profession during the traditional White Coat Ceremony on the Quad. The deans of Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Harvard Medical School (HMS), along with Bernard Chang, dean for medical education at HMS, welcomed and addressed the incoming class.

“Similar to how a blank page provides a canvas for creativity, your white coat provides a canvas for compassion and care. You have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those you serve. With each interaction, you have the chance to write a story of healing, comfort, and hope,” said Dean William Giannobile.

Family members and friends applauded the students as they received their white coats and took the stage to introduce themselves and thank their supporters for getting them to this momentous occasion.

“

I feel so thankful to be a student here, where I will be able to learn from my classmates as well as my professors. I can't wait to see all that we accomplish in the next four years!"

ZEYNEP AKPINAR, DMD27

"It was touching to hear about their backgrounds and passions, and the sacrifices their own families' made for them," said Zeynep Akpinar, an incoming DMD student who recently graduated from New York University. "I feel so thankful to be a student here, where I will be able to learn from my classmates as well as my professors. I can't wait to see all that we accomplish in the next four years!"

Akpinar's interest in dentistry developed after seeing her mother struggle with periodontal disease.

"I saw the way her condition directly and indirectly impacted her life in ways I never would have thought of. With treatment, her quality of life significantly improved. I became amazed with the extent of oral health's impact on one's life."

She looks forward to learning about the interconnectivity between the body and mouth during her predoctoral program and hopes to become an advocate for patients who face systemic health issues due to oral health conditions.

Joining a Diverse Community

This year's incoming students bring a broad range of diverse experiences and an incredible amount of energy to the HMS and HSDM community. The entering class is made up of 35 dental students and 164 medical students. During their first year, HMS and HSDM students learn alongside each other before entering each school's focused curriculum.

The incoming dental class is made up of 21 women and 14 men hailing from 18 U.S. states and 6 countries. Nearly one-quarter of the dental school students are from populations underrepresented in dentistry. The class comes from 26 undergraduate institutions with two-thirds entering directly from undergraduate programs.

"You have remarkable backgrounds and have accomplished so much in your early careers," said Giannobile. "Some of you have already worked in research laboratories, contributed to shaping health policy, helped marginalized communities access care, and served as tutors and advisors to young students. You have come to the right place to pursue your interests and realize your dreams."

Establishing Connections

Throughout the week dental and medical students participated in activities to get to know their classmates and the community.

"This week, and over the course of your training, you'll meet patients who will teach you important lessons in becoming compassionate clinicians," Giannobile said. "You will learn enormously from their medical journeys."

The students heard first-hand from patients during a patient clinic and had the opportunity to visit a community-based clinic in the Greater Boston area. They also participated in sessions that introduced them to topics such as health equity

BELOW: First-year students Sabrina De Valle and Joseph Heo (middle) look on during the White Coat Ceremony.



and medical professionalism; cultural and structural humility; digital professionalism; and health advocacy and activism.

They were also introduced to their academic societies led by faculty advisors. The societies are smaller supportive groups that play a pivotal role helping students navigate the curriculum and serve as home base for students throughout their education.

Joining this year as a new society director is Josh Kristiansen, DMD09. After completing his prosthodontics training at the University of Illinois-Chicago, he returned to HSDM as a full-time faculty member for several years before serving as a staff dentist for the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to rejoin HSDM as a society director and am enthusiastically looking forward to working with our wonderful team of faculty and staff in supporting HSDM's immensely talented students," said Kristiansen.

Shadin Zayyad, DMD27, who came to HSDM from Chicago, is looking forward to the encouraging environment offered at HSDM and HMS.

"I believe that the tight-knit, supportive environment at HSDM will allow me to thrive as a student as well as a future mentor and healthcare provider, and as a result, I'll be ready and excited to offer support to the communities I serve," she said.

BELOW: Shadin Zayyad, DMD27, Josh Kristiansen, DMD09, HSDM society director, and Carter Eischeid, DMD27



“

I believe that the tight-knit, supportive environment at HSDM will allow me to thrive as a student as well as a future mentor and healthcare provider, and as a result, I'll be ready and excited to offer support to the communities I serve.”

SHADIN ZAYYAD, DMD27

Abdul-Rakeem Yakubu, DMD27, an incoming dental student who grew up in Mooresville, North Carolina, hopes to become a clinician-scientist. He's looking forward to integrating clinical expertise with scientific research and is currently enrolled in the DMD-DMSc program. The program trains future academic leaders of dental medicine who have an interest in conducting rigorous basic research in oral and craniofacial biology and medicine in academic dentistry.

"The DMD-DMSc program offered by HSDM caught my attention as it was perfectly aligned with my aspirations as a future clinician-scientist. The curriculum's holistic approach recognizes the interconnectedness of oral health and overall wellbeing, reflecting the latest advancements in the field," said Yakubu. "Coming from rural North Carolina and a family of Haitians and Nigerians, I hope to make my family proud and inspire aspiring dentists from similar backgrounds."

The weeklong orientation wrapped up with a class oath that underscored the student's commitment to treating their patients with respect, kindness, fairness, and empathy. First-year dental students Alina Shahin, Yu-Chi (Jack) Cheng, William Lu, and Eren Keles worked with their medical peers to write the class oath that the class recited together.

"On behalf of the Harvard community, we look forward to getting to know you and following your achievements over these next four years. I encourage you to make the most of every moment here," Giannobile said. "Embrace the blank canvas before you, seize the pen, and write your own story as you leave your mark on the pages of healthcare." ♥



HSDM has had such a profound impact on my life and career. I am incredibly grateful to serve HSDM in this capacity.”

ZACHARY PEACOCK, DMD04
CHAIR OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY AT HARVARD SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE; CHIEF OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY AT MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Maxillofacial Surgery. HSDM has had such a profound impact on my life and career. I am incredibly grateful to serve HSDM in this capacity,” said Peacock.

Peacock has served as chief of pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery and co-director of the Cleft and Craniofacial Center at MGH for Children and Shriners Hospital for Children–Boston. He has held national roles as Chair of the Research Committee for American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and is a Trustee of the American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgeons.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Excellence in Mentoring Young Mentor Award from Harvard Medical School in 2020, and the William J. Gies Award for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the American Dental Education Association Gies Foundation and American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. ♥

Faculty Focus

Dr. Zachary Peacock Named Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

AFTER A NATIONWIDE SEARCH, Zachary Peacock, DMD04, was named Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Massachusetts General Hospital’s (MGH) Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. In this role, Peacock leads all aspects of the clinical practice and OMFS advanced graduate educational programs at MGH and HSDM. His appointment became effective in March 2023.

“I am thrilled that Dr. Peacock will be leading OMFS and working across MGH and HSDM to elevate our shared interests and successes. I know he will be an exemplary role model for our DMD students, residents, and fellows in OMFS at MGH and HSDM,” said

Dean William Giannobile in an announcement to the community.

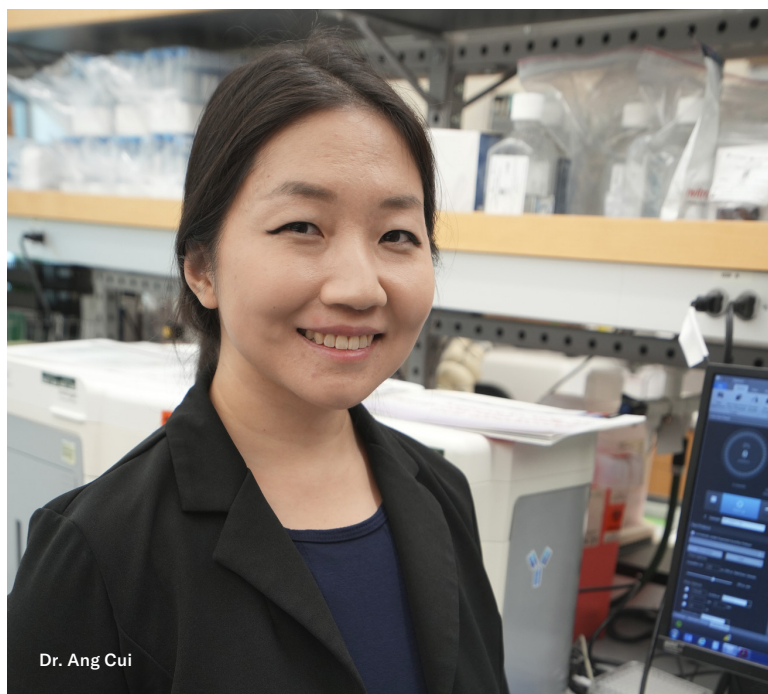
Peacock is an alumnus of HSDM and a recognized leader and mentor in the field of OMFS. A native of Michigan, he completed his undergraduate work at Michigan State University before receiving his DMD from HSDM in 2004. He went on to complete his MD and residency training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of California, San Francisco. He then completed the Mass General Pediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Fellowship and has held a faculty appointment with HSDM since 2010.

“I am delighted and honored for the opportunity to carry on the outstanding legacy of MGH/HSDM Oral and

Research Focus

Up and Coming Scientists Join HSDM

IN EARLY 2022, Dean Giannobile launched an effort to recruit exemplary early career scientists with expertise in a broad range of biomedical and health science specialties, including in the areas of microbiology, cell biology, immunology, stem cell biology, neurobiology, pharmacology, physiology, biomaterials and tissue engineering, biomedical imaging, bioinformatics and epidemiology, and public health. From this search effort, Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) appointed two promising tenure track faculty members Drs. Ang Cui and Lakmali Silva who have begun to establish their laboratories at HSDM in the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity (OMII).



Dr. Ang Cui

Advancing Immunotherapies through Technology

Dr. Ang Cui joined HSDM in January 2023 as a faculty member in OMII. She is an immunologist and data scientist from the Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard where she was a postdoctoral fellow. Cui has established the Systems Immunology laboratory at HSDM focused on using massively high-throughput experimental and computational approaches to decipher complex immune conditions, including oral infections, cancer, and autoimmune diseases, with



This is a truly exciting time to harness such cutting-edge technologies to advance precision dental medicine and enable personalized patient care.”

DR. ANG CUI

MEMBER OF THE FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF ORAL MEDICINE, INFECTION, AND IMMUNITY

the goal of developing more effective immunotherapies to treat these conditions.

Cui received her PhD in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics with a Computer Science concentration from the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology joint program and conducted systems immunology research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Yale School of Medicine, and the University of Toronto. Her research has been published in top journals, including *Nature*, *Science*, *Journal of Hepatology*, and *Cancer Cell*. Cui's work has been recognized through numerous awards and honors, including the prestigious International Cytokine and Interferon Society (ICIS) Christina Fleischmann Award for Excellence in Cytokine & Interferon Research. Cui also served as a panelist along with Nobel Laureates for the panel discussion “Artificial Intelligence and Medicine” at the 72nd Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting where she shared her insights on the progress, challenges, and future opportunities on the use of artificial intelligence in medicine and medical research.

“Advancements in high-throughput technologies and computational methods are revolutionizing medicine,” said Cui. “This is a truly exciting time to harness such cutting-edge technologies to advance precision dental medicine and enable personalized patient care.”



Understanding Inflammation and Immunity

In July, Dr. Lakmali M. Silva joined HSDM as a faculty member in OMII from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) where she was a postdoctoral fellow. Silva received her PhD from Queensland University in Technology in Australia and her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. During her time at the NIDCR, she studied the novel fibrin-neutrophil axis that operates within the periodontal microenvironment to promote alveolar bone destruction. Her work resulted in a breakthrough in understanding the etiology of periodontal disease. She was awarded a K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award from the NIDCR in 2021, and the IADR Women in Science Award for Distinguished Research in 2022. At HSDM, Silva's Hemostasis and Immunity lab focuses on understanding the role of hemostatic factors in inflammatory regulation in the periodontal micro-environment and beyond.

"I am passionate in mentoring young scientists and supporting women in STEM from minority groups. Harvard's legacy of strong scientific research, clinical, and educational background will be a great opportunity for me to grow as an independent researcher and to establish myself as a mentor and a researcher in the field of hemostasis and immunity," Silva said. "I look forward to working with the talented students, researchers, and clinicians within the department of OMII to build on the excellence of the department and become an integral part of its research aspirations." ♥



I am passionate in mentoring young scientists and supporting women in STEM from minority groups."

DR. LAKMALI M. SILVA

MEMBER OF THE FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF ORAL MEDICINE, INFECTION, AND IMMUNITY



Dr. Lakmali M. Silva

Research Focus

New Funding Will Advance Study of Rare Bone Disease

RESEARCHERS AT Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) have been awarded a U.S. Department of Defense grant to fund a four-year study of fibrous dysplasia (FD), a severe skeletal disease where benign tumors cause bone deformities, fractures, and pain. The disease affects an estimated 1 in 15,000 to 30,000 individuals and currently has no cure.

“This funding will allow us to delve deeper into the cellular and molecular underpinnings of this rare condition and explore new pharmacologic tools that could offer hope for the treatment of fibrous dysplasia,” said Yingzi Yang, associate dean for Research at HSDM and leading partner principal investigator (PI) of this project. HSDM and MGH will receive just over \$3 million combined in funding for the study.

“What we find could benefit those affected by FD, as well as military personnel suffering from FD and

other bone conditions that cause bone pain, stress fractures, heterotopic ossification, and poor fracture healing,” said Yang.

Dr. Marc Wein, partner PI, an endocrinologist and associate professor at MGH who treats FD patients and performs studies related to FD pathogenesis in his research laboratory, sees the debilitating effects of the disease firsthand.

“We usually see the disease start in young people. It causes life-altering bone deformities, increases skeletal fragility, and leads to severe and intractable bone pain. Currently we are lacking treatments for FD that slow lesion growth, address bone pain, and restore skeletal integrity. We hope to get a better understanding of the molecular and cellular pathogenesis of this disease,” Wein said.

Drs. Yang and Wein will bring together translational and basic investigators to focus on the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms. They will explore the hyperactive cAMP signaling in bone cells that causes intracellular and paracrine changes leading to reduced bone mineral density and increased bone fractures.

“We will study how normal and abnormal cells talk to one another using a novel approach to study inter-cellular communication. This work will identify new mechanisms through which rare mutation-bearing cells cause dramatic problems throughout the skeleton,” Yang said.

Drs. Yang and Wein worked closely with the FD/MAS Alliance, a non-profit that advocates for evidence-based treatments for fibrous dysplasia and McCune-Albright syndrome, which provided initial pilot grants for the funded study.

“Encouraging research is a cornerstone of the FD/MAS Alliance mission,” said Adrienne McBride executive director of the FD/MAS Alliance. “We look forward to building on our partnership to advance the development of evidence-based treatments for individuals with fibrous dysplasia/McCune-Albright syndrome (FD/MAS).” ♥



Dr. Yingzi Yang,
associate dean for
Research at HSDM



“

This funding will allow us to delve deeper into the cellular and molecular underpinnings of this rare condition and explore new pharmacologic tools that could offer hope for the treatment of fibrous dysplasia.”

DR. YINGZI YANG
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AT HSDM

Alumni Focus

Classmates Reunite During a Vibrant HSDM Alumni Day

MORE THAN 80 ALUMNI from class years spanning from 1962–2016 returned to Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) for Alumni Day on Friday, June 2. Alumni Day is an annual opportunity for graduates of all degree programs and class years to return to campus and reconnect with each other and hear about exciting updates at their alma mater. Hosted annually on the Friday of Reunion weekend, this year HSDM welcomed back DMD classes ending in 3 and 8 for milestone Reunion celebrations in addition to Friday's combined Alumni Day festivities.

The program kicked off the day with the traditional Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA) annual meeting led by Miguel Roque, DMD16, MMSc19, president of the HDAA. "As a proud alumnus of HSDM, it is my pleasure to welcome you

and thank you for joining us," said Roque. "The meeting is now open!"

Roque introduced Dean William Giannobile, DMSc96, PD96, to a full auditorium for the State of the School presentation. Giannobile highlighted new leadership, the launch of a new strategic plan, diversity initiatives, and the expansion of new course offerings.

"We have and will continue to lead in dentistry and dental education with a level of intentional excellence in all that we do—in the classroom, in the lab, or in the clinic caring for patients, as a united, diverse, compassionate, and respectful community," said Giannobile.

The dean also discussed the expansion of HSDM's continuing education offerings, including HSDM's inaugural Global Symposium on Artificial Intelligence in

Dentistry taking place November 3–4, 2023. HSDM will convene the two-day, in-person event focused on this emerging topic and showcase international expertise around the latest AI research and applications in the field.

Accomplished Alumni

After the State of the School address, Roque welcomed the newest graduating class to the HDAA family. Abigail Baldwin, DMD23, and Laura DiRienzo, DMD23, received the HDAA Silver Medal and HDAA Gold Medal Awards respectively for their exceptional all-around scholastic achievement.

Two alumni were honored with Distinguished Alumni Awards this year. Matthew Plummer, Jr., DMD73, MPH74, and Anupama Tate, DMD98, received the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards



Alumni reconnected with one another during lunch under the Kresge Courtyard tent.



LEFT: Alumni toured the School with HSDM student ambassadors.

BELOW: Former classmates joyfully reunited during HSDM's annual Alumni Day.

for their significant contributions to the field of dentistry that honor the mission of the School.

Systemic Health

A symposium entitled *Systemic Health: It All Stems from the Mouth* followed the award presentation and featured keynote presentations by Lisa Simon, DMD14, PD15, MD20, and Rabie Shanti, DMD08. Simon reflected on the history of HSDM as the first dental school in the country connected to a medical school and the holistic curriculum it created. She also discussed the ramifications of considering dentistry separate of general medicine and the lack of integration and insurance coverage for oral health in the healthcare system. An oral surgeon at Rutgers School of Dentistry, Shanti shared cases where he detected oral cancer in patients, amplifying best practices and benefits of early cancer screenings in the mouth and neck during routine dental exams. After the presentations, both speakers joined Giannobile for an open discussion with the audience.

Reconnecting with Classmates

Following the HDAA meeting and symposium, alumni reconnected with one

another over lunch under the Kresge Courtyard tent. During lunch, Giannobile and fellow alumni honored Dr. T. Howard Howell, PD76, A. Lee Loomis Professor of Periodontology Emeritus and cherished member of the HSDM community, who recently retired after more than 45 years of service to the School. The Lash-Williams-Howell-Stevens Fund, honoring Howard Howell and Jeffrey Stevens, and in memory of Ray Williams and Joan Lash, will establish a named Fellow in Periodontology at HSDM.

Alumni also had the opportunity to tour the School with HSDM student ambassadors. Some alumni had not been back on campus for decades, so the Research and Education Building, which was constructed in 2005, was of particular interest. "It was such a great way to meet new alumni and answer any questions they may have about HSDM," said Christina Xu, DMD26, a student ambassador for the School. "Seeing alumni from different class years and hearing different perspectives on their experiences at HSDM was super interesting."

On Friday evening, alumni in reunion years reconnected with HMS classmates for a special dinner and gala, celebrating their milestone Reunions together. ♥



SAVE THE DATE

Classes ending in 4's and 9's will celebrate reunion **June 6–8, 2024**. All alumni are invited to join Alumni Day, which will be held on campus **June 7, 2024**.

Alumni Focus

A Career-Long Commitment to Care and Community

Meet Our 2023 Distinguished Alumni Honorees

Matthew W. Plummer, Jr.

DR. MATTHEW W. PLUMMER, JR., DMD73, MPH74, was recognized on June 9, 2023, with a Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions to the field of dentistry and service to his community and to Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). Plummer grew up in Houston, Texas, in a segregated community in the 1950s and 1960s. He graduated from Morehouse College in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in biology. After teaching for two years in Kenya with the Peace Corps and a year and a half in the Houston public school system, Plummer applied to HSDM and was accepted in 1969.

"My grandfather, a country farmer, was so excited when he learned of my acceptance, he offered to sell a piece of land to loan me the money for tuition," said Plummer. "The one condition was if I didn't meet expectations, I would have to repay him with interest!"

It was all the motivation Plummer needed to excel at HSDM. He was one of 16 students in the first class of racially diverse students at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and HSDM, earning a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 1973, cum laude, followed by a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

"My experience at HSDM was one of the highlights of my life," Plummer said. "The education was superb and I was fortunate to have a fantastic support system."

Supportive faculty mentors, including Dr. Alvin Poussaint from Harvard Medical School and Dr. James Mulvihill, DMD66, PD69, former assistant dean for student affairs, had a tremendous influence on Plummer and his future career.

In 1979, Plummer entered private practice in his home city of Houston, providing dental services to underserved populations in the Harris County Hospital District and serving as the president of Cosmetic Dentistry of Texas. He conducted the first study of dental care for the developmentally disabled population in Texas and has been committed to providing access to underserved populations for his entire 50+ year career.

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DR. MATTHEW W. PLUMMER, JR.,
DMD73, MPH74

Plummer was also active in teaching and research, serving as a research fellow at the National Institute of Dental Research, and an assistant professor of Dental Health and a dental public health consultant at the local, state, and federal level.

Volunteerism and board service has also been important to Plummer. He has served

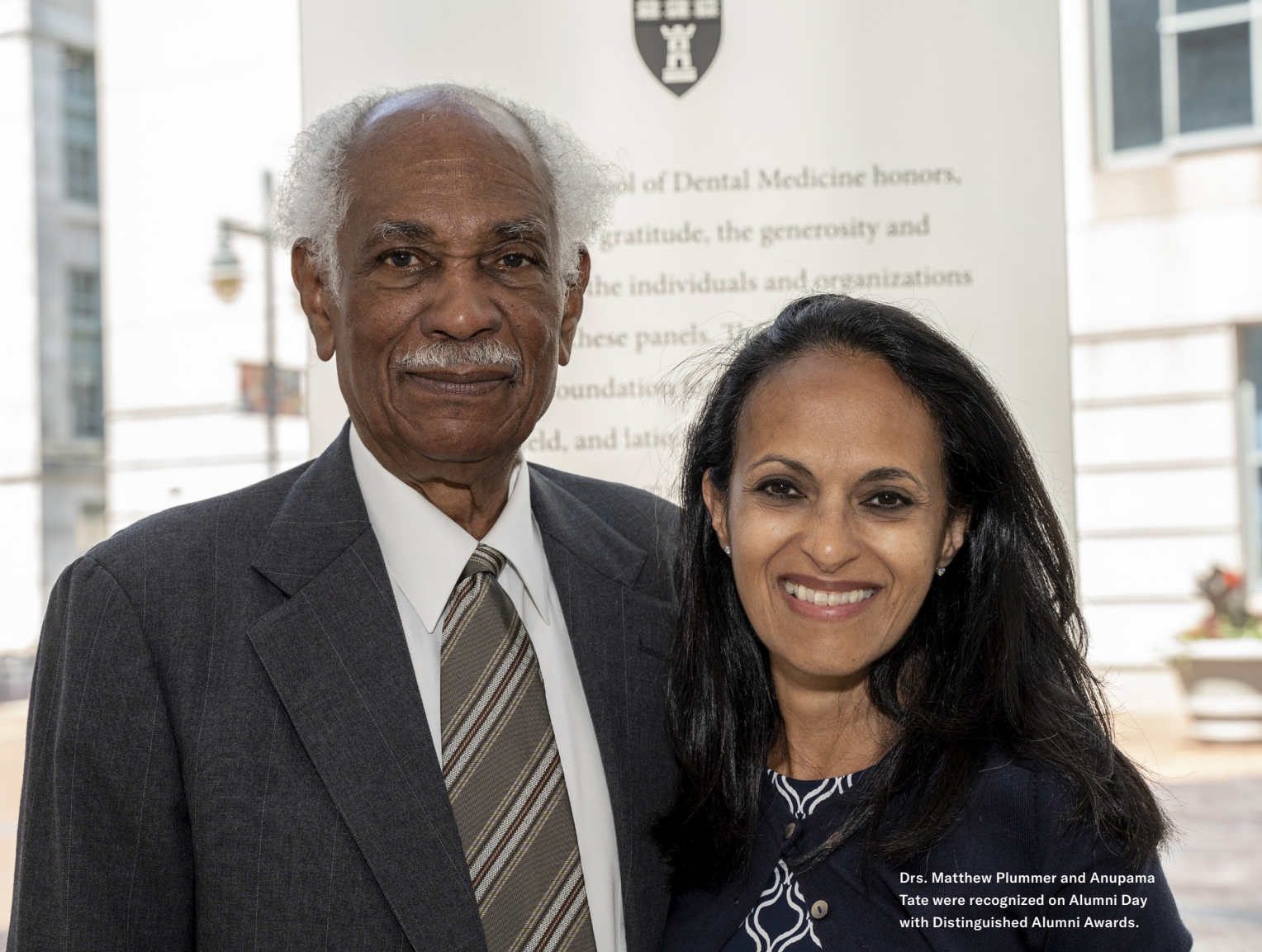
on the Board of the Harris County Hospital District Foundation, and serves as president on the Boards of Directors for Prosperity Bank and the Varnett Public School. At HSDM, he served as president of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association 25 years ago, and is currently a member of the Alumni Council, bringing a valued perspective to alumni and students at the School.

Anupama Tate

DR. ANUPAMA TATE, DMD98, was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award for her contributions to pediatric dentistry and her deep commitment to helping children and their families. Tate grew up watching her parents build their careers in healthcare—her mother serving as a physician and her father working in biology research. It wasn't until she became involved in research at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry that she discovered the joys of working in oral health. When she joined HSDM as a predoctoral student, her class was the first of the case-based four-year curriculum, where fourth-year students are assessed by faculty on a patient-centered case presentation.

"HSDM was wonderful," said Tate. "I have many memories, most of which are shared time with my classmates, both the medical classmates and the dental classmates. I loved the case-based learning with the faculty that were so deeply committed to having engaging conversation."

Tate joined Children's National Hospital in Washington D.C. over 20 years ago, first starting off as a volunteer faculty member and then hired full-time to serve as the outpatient clinical director. She later served



Drs. Matthew Plummer and Anupama Tate were recognized on Alumni Day with Distinguished Alumni Awards.

for seven years as department chair. She is the current director of Research and Advocacy for the Department of Dentistry.

Throughout the course of her career, Tate has worked to create an open environment for families by establishing a dental home for young patients and tailoring conversations about prevention with each caregiver. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic brought Tate and her team numerous challenges that they are still facing today.

“Unfortunately, we are still seeing young kids who have not been to the dentist since early 2020. Many of the families have simply fallen out of the routine of preventive visits,” she said. “Some children have such severe early childhood caries burden that we recommend treatment under general anesthesia.”

Tate also serves as an associate professor of pediatrics at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health

Sciences, helping residents on their career path in the specialty. Fulfilling the role as an academic dentist, she has had the opportunity to serve with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. In her profession, Tate has worked on several collaborative projects with her academic pediatrician partners, helping increase access to dental care for underserved children and their families.

Throughout her career, Tate has recognized the importance of collaboration and service in the field.

“HSDM taught me at an early stage how important medical-dental collaboration is and I have learned so much over the years from my academic pediatrician partners,” said Tate. “It has meant so much to me to give and receive support from each other as we grow both professionally and in our personal lives.” ♥



HSDM taught me at an early stage how important medical-dental collaboration is and I have learned so much over the years from my academic pediatrician partners.”

DR. ANUPAMA TATE, DMD98

Community Focus

Building Renewal at 188 Longwood Avenue

HSDM's ICONIC MAIN BUILDING, the stately two-story brick building which sits on Longwood Avenue, was formally dedicated in 1909. Countless students and visitors have passed through the front doors for more than 110 years. The first-floor lobby, last updated over 30 years ago in the 1990s, has undergone tremendous wear and tear as the community's main entry point to the building. Now, with funding support from Harvard University earmarked for building renewal projects, the lobby will be remodeled into a welcoming entry point and gathering space.

The architectural firm, Architectural Resources Cambridge (ARC), has proposed a transformative update to the lobby that will honor the building's historic architecture, yet provide a more modern aesthetic and amenities. Plans include an upgrade to wall and floor finishes, new furniture, area rugs, and enhanced lighting to create a warm and welcoming environment for the HSDM community and visitors. The proposal will remove a security desk that is no longer in use, to open up a seating area for visitors. The work is expected to begin this winter and be completed in time for Commencement in May. Additionally, the first floor of HSDM's Research and Education Building (REB) will receive significant upgrades. A community gathering space with a kitchenette and new furnishings will enhance the communal atmosphere of the first-floor open area.

University funding has also been used to update School signage. In 2016, the three schools of the Harvard Longwood Campus engaged an experiential design firm to facilitate the design and coordination of uniform wayfinding signage across the Longwood campus. The multi-year process included obtaining approval from the University, as well as Boston



Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), for the comprehensive design plan. This spring, Cadwell Design and Sign installed the first phase of the project with new directional signage, more visible street numbering, as well as the School's shield displayed over the entrance at 188 Longwood Avenue.

Another exciting recent addition was engraving that was completed this spring on the School's front stone façade. Nicholas Waite Benson, a third-generation American stone carver expertly carved the school's name on the front marble parapet at 188 Longwood Avenue. The style matches engravings on Harvard Medical School buildings and gives the School an even more distinctive presence on Longwood Avenue. ♥



ABOVE: One of several architectural renderings shows potential renovations to the Main Building lobby. Final finishes will vary from the rendering.

LEFT: New signage and engraving has been added to the Main Building's stone façade and entrance.

News & Notes

Alumni News

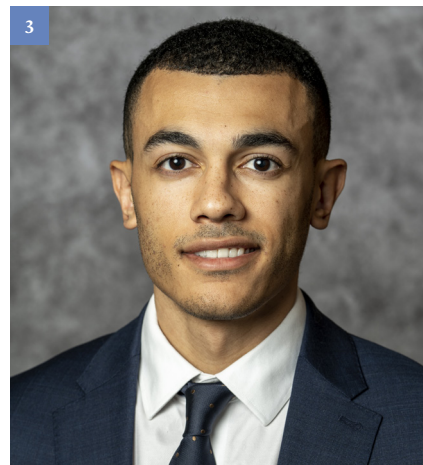
Abe Abdulwaheed, PD03, was named the 159th President of the Massachusetts Dental Society becoming the first individual from a minority background to lead the organization. He was also recognized by Incisal Edge Magazine as the 13th most influential dentist in the nation for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic and as a founding member of the Massachusetts Ballot Initiative.

1 Shaikha Aldukhail, DMSc20, (second from right) joined HSDM alumni and faculty to celebrate being named a Diplomat in Dental Public Health from the American Board of Dental Public Health.

2 Wai-Yin Chan, DMD11, and **Mindy Truong, DMD19**, began serving in the Champion Provider Fellowship in Sacramento, California, representing San Diego county and Los Angeles county respectively. The fellowship is a partnership with the California Department of Public Health and the University of California, San Francisco that trains dentists and doctors to use their expertise and respected voices to improve the health of communities through local policy, systems, and environmental changes.



3 Laura S. Pesquera Colom, DMD23, periodontics resident at University of Illinois-Chicago, and **Jordan Middleton, DMD23**, oral and maxillofacial surgery resident, Boston Medical Center at Boston University, were named recipients of the 2023 Equity Social Justice and Advocacy (ESJA) Award at HMS/HSDM. The award recognizes those who advance equity, social justice, and advocacy—contributions that affirm the mission, community values, and medical professionalism at HSDM and HMS.





4 **Kasey Ha, DMD21**, was presented with a Graduate Student Research Award for her project, “The Biogeography of Fungi and Bacteria in Carious Dentin,” which was co-authored by student **Joseph Montesano, DMD24**, at the 2023 American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) conference. Also at the AAPD conference, **Jennifer Lee Luca, DMD21**, earned third place in the research poster competition and was awarded the 2023 Resident Recognition Award; **Nick DeMeo, DMD21**, presented his research; and **David Danesh, DMD20**, judged posters.



5 **James Hupp, DMD77, Zachary Peacock, DMD04, Leon Assael, DMD75, Srinivas (Seenu) Susarla, DMD07, MPH07, MD10, PD13, Tom Dodson, DMD83, MPH84, Mike Markiewicz, MPH08**, reunited at an editorial board meeting for the *Journal of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery* held in Rosemont, Illinois, in the spring. Tom Dodson is the current editor in chief, Jim Hupp and Leon Assael are previous editors in chief of the journal.

6 HSDM alumni and friends reconnected during the annual American Academy of Orthodontists conference in Chicago, IL.

7 **Ahmet Keles, DMSc94, PD94**, attended the HSDM/HMS White Coat Ceremony with his son **Eren Keles, DMD27**, who is a first-year DMD student in the entering class.





8 Sonia Molina, DMD87, and Jody Johnson, associate dean for Development and Alumni Relations, recently hosted a pop-up alumni gathering in Los Angeles. The event reconnected alumni from the class years of 1985–2023.

Michael Newman, PD74, and **Satheesh Elangovan, DMSc11, PD11**, served as editors for the 14th edition of *Newman and Carranza's Clinical Periodontology and Implantology*. Several experts in the field, including HSDM alumni Seyed Hossein Bassir, DMSc17; David Cochran, PD85, MMSc85; Magda Feres, DMSc99; Joseph Fiorellini, DMD89, PD90, DMSc93; Marcelo Freire, DMSc16; David Kim, DMSc05; Chun-Teh Lee, DMSc15; Julie Mitchell, DMD11; and Keisuke Wada, DMSc08, also contributed to this edition used widely by dental students around the world.

Linda Niessen, DMD77, PD82, founding dean and vice provost for oral health affairs at Kansas City University's College of Dental Medicine, and **Erinne Kennedy, PD18, MMSc19**, assistant dean for Curriculum and Integrated Learning at KCU, celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the new school in June. The new dental school aims to bridge a gap of scarcity of oral health care in rural America. Eighty students—26 percent of whom are from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds—will join the Kansas City University's College of Dental Medicine inaugural class.

9 Justin Partridge, DMD16, MD16, and his husband, Johnny Hilbrant-Partridge, celebrated their marriage this summer on the coast of Maine. As an added bonus to their wedding ceremony, Justin surprised Johnny with a special gift: a golden retriever puppy. The two were featured in a *New York Times* article sharing one of the many ways that couples are including canines in their celebrations.



10 Steven Roser, DMD68, MD72, celebrated his 80th birthday in Hoboken, NJ. Over 100 of his former residents that he taught at Columbia University and Emory College attended the event. HSDM alumni **Christine Hamilton-Hall, DMD88**, **Leonard Kaban, DMD69**, and **Shahid Aziz, DMD96**, were also in attendance.



11 Sheldon Salins, DMD04, **Daniel Bills, DMD01**, and **Judah Garfinkle, DMD02**, reconnected at an Orthopreneurs conference in Austin, Texas.

Harlyn K. Susarla, DMD13, was honored with the Rising Dental Health Leader Alumni Award from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of children's oral health and commitment to serving her profession.



Faculty News

Neal Kravitz, an internationally renowned scholar, joined the Division of Orthodontics as a part-time instructor. Kravitz graduated from Columbia University and received his DMD training at UPenn. He is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Clinical Orthodontics* and an associate editor for the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*. He also serves on the editorial board of the *Angle Orthodontist* and *Seminars in Orthodontics*. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) and serves as an examiner and advisor to the ABO.

12



12 Joshua Kristiansen, DMD09, joined the Office of Dental Education as the new faculty society director for predoctoral students in the Hinton Society. Kristiansen received his DMD from HSDM in 2009, and completed his specialty training in Prosthodontics at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He returned to HSDM as full-time faculty for several years before joining the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Belmont, MA, where he served as a staff dentist.

13 David M. Kim, DMSc05, associate professor of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity, was awarded the A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award given by Harvard Medical School. The Excellence in Mentoring Awards were established to recognize the value of quality mentoring relationships and the impact they have on professional development and career advancement in basic/clinical medicine, research, teaching, and administration.

13

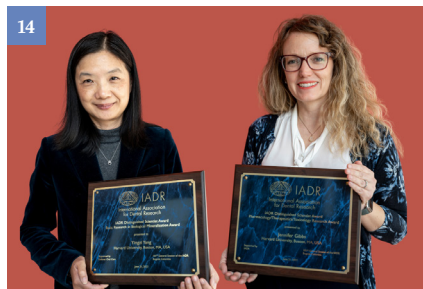


Elizabeth Perry, DMD92, was selected to serve as secretary of the Executive Board of the American Association of Endodontics.

Sang Park, MMSc01, associate dean for Dental Education, was named a 2023–24 Fellows of ADEA's inaugural Council of Dean Fellowship.

14 Yingzi Yang and Jennifer Gibbs received two of the highest honors from the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR)—the Distinguished Scientist Awards. Yang was honored with the 2023 IADR Distinguished Scientist Basic Research in Biological Mineralization Award for her significant work in the field of oral health research. Gibbs was honored with the 2023 IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Pharmacology/Therapeutics/Toxicology Research for her contribution to the novel pharmacologic approaches of controlling dental pain. The awards were presented during IADR's opening Ceremonies of the 101st General Session.

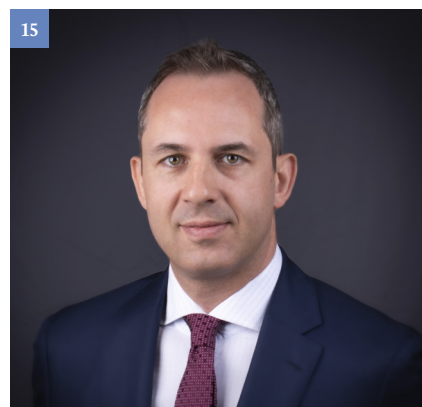
14



Christine Riedy has been named the director of Oral Health Workforce Innovation and Population Health within HSDM's Office of Research.

Catherine Hayes, SM89, DMSc93, PD93, has been appointed to succeed Riedy as the next chair of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology.

15



15 Andre Weissheimer joined HSDM's Division of Orthodontics to serve as a full-time faculty member and clinic director of the AGE-Orthodontics program. Weissheimer recently finished his orthodontic training at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He holds a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the Federal University of Santa Catarina, where he also completed his initial orthodontic residency in 2006. In addition, he holds an MS and a PhD certificate in Orthodontics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Student News

16 Third-year DMD students **Kaila Daniels**, **Sufiya Hassan**, and **Tashuana Holmes** represented HSDM at the 51st Annual SNDA National Convention in New Orleans. The convention provided a space for underrepresented dental students to collaborate, network, and engage in community outreach. Students spent their time meeting hundreds of dental students, learning valuable information about navigating the dental profession, and making connections with established dentists from various backgrounds.



17 HSDM orthodontic residents attended the Graduate Orthodontic Residents Program (GORP) in St. Louis, where they visited the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) headquarters, and connected with other residents, leaders, and educators in the orthodontic community. Third-year resident **Grace Huang** represented HSDM as an AAO Resident Champion and attended strategic meetings with other resident champions, the AAO president, and the AAO president-elect. Second-year resident **Jennifer Shahar** presented as an AAO Foundation Resident Director on the goals of the AAOF and the impact it has on residents.

18 **Sapna Nath, DMD24**, and **Nithya Ramesh, DMSc25**, were recently recognized by the American Public Health Association for their research in population oral health. Nath was awarded the Anthony Westwater Jong Population Oral Health Pre-Professional Student Award and Ramesh was awarded the Caswell A. Evans Population Oral Health Post-Professional student award from the American Public Health Association.

Students and faculty represented HSDM during the American College of Prosthodontists Massachusetts Section Tri-School NPAW event. In addition to engaging talks, poster sessions, and networking, the event also brought together dental students interested in prosthodontics and residents from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, HSDM, and Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine. **Ankita Nigam, MMSc23**, **Osamah Alamri, DMSc25**, and **Sebastian Viski, MMSc23**, received awards in the poster competition.

McCauley Reardon, DMD26, and **Krishna Patel, DMD26**, showcased their creativity to admitted students during the annual Fabric performance, held in-person for the first time since 2019. The show is a celebration of cultural diversity at HSDM and HMS, expressed through an array of artistic performances. Reardon sang and played acoustic guitar with the MI band, and Patel performed a Bollywood dance.



19 Cami Tussie, DMD25, Betssy Rodriguez-Ramos, DMD25, Juliana Enriquez, DMD25, and their mentor Dr. Luis Lopez attended the Hispanic Dental Conference in San Antonio, Texas, where they met other Latino leaders in the dental field, attended talks on social issues in dentistry, and learned about the latest innovations and research in the field. Tussie won first place at the student poster presentation for her work with Hend Alqaderi, DMSc16, on applying machine learning to detect COVID-19 from the oral microbiome and oral biomarkers. This was the first time a student from HSDM has won the poster competition.



20 The Class of 2026 transitioned to HSDM to begin their second year of their predoctoral program. During their first year, HSDM and Harvard Medical School students learn alongside each other before entering each school's focused curriculum.

21 A team of HSDM dental students called "The Drillers" won the Harvard Graduate Intramural Kickball Tournament. Teams from across the University, including the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Law School, put up tough competition in games played at Harvard Stadium.



HSDM News

22 Linda Bisconti, department administrator for HSDM's Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, was named a 2023 Harvard Hero. The Harvard Heroes program celebrates the accomplishments of staff University-wide whose work supports the mission of Harvard at the highest levels of contribution, impact, and excellence.

22



23 April Isaac Jefferson joined HSDM as senior director of operations for the Harvard Dental Center (HDC). In this role, Jefferson provides strategic and operational leadership for the HDC's clinical practices and operations in Longwood and Cambridge. She brings more than 20 years of operations experience in complex and dynamic healthcare organizations, including most recently from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where she served as administrative director for three surgery divisions.

23



25



24



24 Amy Kotsopoulos joined HSDM as assistant director of web strategy on the Communications team. In this new position, Kotsopoulos is responsible for setting the technical and strategic direction for HSDM's websites. She comes to HSDM from serving most recently as the Creative Director/Website Designer at DetecTogether, and previous higher ed communications roles at College of the Holy Cross, and Boston College.

25 HSDM's Division of Periodontology hosted the continuing education course "Master Clinician Lecture Series: Advanced Education Program in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry" with engaging lectures and workshops in Boston, MA. Attendees heard from experts in the fields of periodontology, orthodontics, and oral surgery. The three-day course brought together over 20 participants from Asia, Europe, and South America.

26 HSDM celebrated its more than 220 exceptional faculty and staff with the return of the School's Employee Appreciation Barbecue. Along with delicious food, members of the community took time out of their busy schedules to catch up with one another and participate in a variety of games and activities.

26



Upcoming Events



October 17
Goldhaber Lecture
by Award Recipient
Dr. Yang Chai

HSDM
REB Auditorium
190 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA



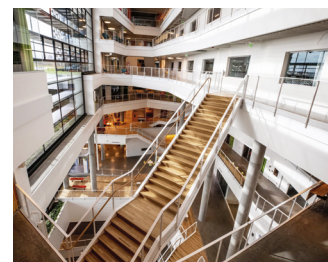
October 19
New York Alumni and
Friends Reception

New York City, NY



October 28
The New Age of Occlusal
Rehabilitation: Harmony
for Teeth and Implants

HSDM
188 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA



November 3–4
Global Symposium
on Artificial Intelligence
in Dentistry

Harvard University Science
& Engineering Complex
150 Western Avenue
Boston, MA



November 10
American Academy
of Periodontology
Alumni Reception

Austin, TX



November 15
Research Seminar Series
with Dr. Thomas Ambrosi:
Deciphering Local and
Systemic Skeletal Stem
Cell Language

HSDM
REB Auditorium
190 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA



December 18–20
Master Clinician Series:
Advanced Education
Program in Esthetic
Implant Dentistry

HSDM
188 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA



January 26
Yankee Dental
Alumni Reception

Boston, MA



SEE A FULL LIST OF EVENTS AT:
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