

**A DENTIST GOES TO  
WASHINGTON**  
A Q&A with White House  
Fellow Dr. Jacqueline Burgette

**TRAILBLAZER,  
INVENTOR, SCHOLAR**  
Dr. George Grant Takes  
His Place in History

**ONCE IN A  
CENTURY AWARD**  
Dr. Sang Park Honored  
by ADEA

Harvard School of Dental Medicine  
Spring 2023 / Volume 83, Number 1

# Harvard Dental



Taking Lessons  
from the  
Field to Heart





## Alumni Snapshot

### De stressing Duo

The newest sensation on campus has four legs, a curly blond coat and boundless energy meet Bao, a certified therapy dog who visits campus monthly with HSDM alumna Michelle Yuching Chou, DMSc16, MPH08. Chou is a part time lecturer at HSDM who teaches in the orthodontics program. Bao, her two year old miniature goldendoodle, has become a popular attraction at Countway Library's "Countway Cuddles" events, where members of the Longwood Medical community are invited to pet and play with therapy dogs.

Chou discovered that Bao had a knack for calming her young patients in her orthodontic practice in Concord, MA, and realized he could help comfort students who may need to destress from the pressures of demanding graduate programs.

Bao has a natural talent for bringing joy and happiness wherever he goes," Chou said. From a young age, he has been a friendly and affectionate companion, and his loving nature has made him a popular figure among patients and colleagues in our dental practice.



# Dear Alumni and Friends,

IT'S BEEN SAID that education is a journey, not a destination. After all, we say we are “practicing” dentistry for a reason. A lifetime of learning and practice enriches us, and with it comes wisdom and reflection. As the Class of 2023 prepares to graduate this spring, I'm so impressed with the talent and potential I see in our eager graduates. I know they will go out into the world and continue learning and growing and make their own mark on the profession. This is just the beginning of their journey.

Someone who has had a great measure of influence on their trajectory is Dr. Sang Park, who leads HSDM's curriculum as associate dean for dental education. Nationally lauded by her peers, Park sees the potential in each of our students from the moment they sit in their Admissions' interview. I hope you'll read about Dr. Park, and the outstanding national recognition she's received, in this issue. In addition to Dr. Park, you'll meet several new faculty members who have joined our ranks and will lead and shape our postdoctoral programs.

Part of our goal in shaping future dental leaders is to give them the opportunity and access to diverse experiences that open their eyes to the healthcare challenges around them. One of these unique experiences is a Global Health Field Course led by Dr. Brittany Seymour that returned this year and widened its scope to include both HSDM students and Harvard College undergraduates. You can read about the immersive experience these students had recently in Costa Rica. They returned with broadened global perspectives on the social, political, cultural, behavioral, and economic forces that influence health access, health outcomes, and health systems.



I have no doubt these students and our graduates will follow in the footsteps of other HSDM alumni who have used their HSDM education and platforms to make a difference. Alumni from our history like Dr. George Grant, Harvard's first Black faculty member and a distinguished inventor whose portrait will soon grace the walls of Harvard. Additionally, current day alumni like Dr. Jacqueline Burgette, the first dentist to serve as a White House fellow; and Dr. David Rosenstein whose HSDM experience ignited a lifelong passion to make a difference for the underserved, both embody the spirit of HSDM's mission. I hope you'll read their stories and others in this issue and be as inspired as I am.

Please enjoy this issue!

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



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HSDM students Aisha Oshilaja, DMD24, Dahee Chung, DMD24, Chris Ma, DMD23, and Jen Candiano, DMD25, participated in the Global Oral Health field course in Costa Rica this spring.



# On Longwood Ave.

## LEADERSHIP UPDATE

### Presidential Preview

Harvard School of Dental Medicine's Board of Fellows, who serve as ambassadors and supporters of the School, gathered in Cambridge for an action-packed spring meeting. Their visit included a tour of the Harvard Dental Center-Cambridge, remarks from HMS Dean George Daley and HSDM Dean William Giannobile, updates from featured faculty speakers Drs. Brittany Seymour, Lorenzo Tavelli, and Hawazin Elani, and a special guest visit from Harvard University's President-Elect Claudine Gay.



## CLASS UPDATE

### Striking a Match

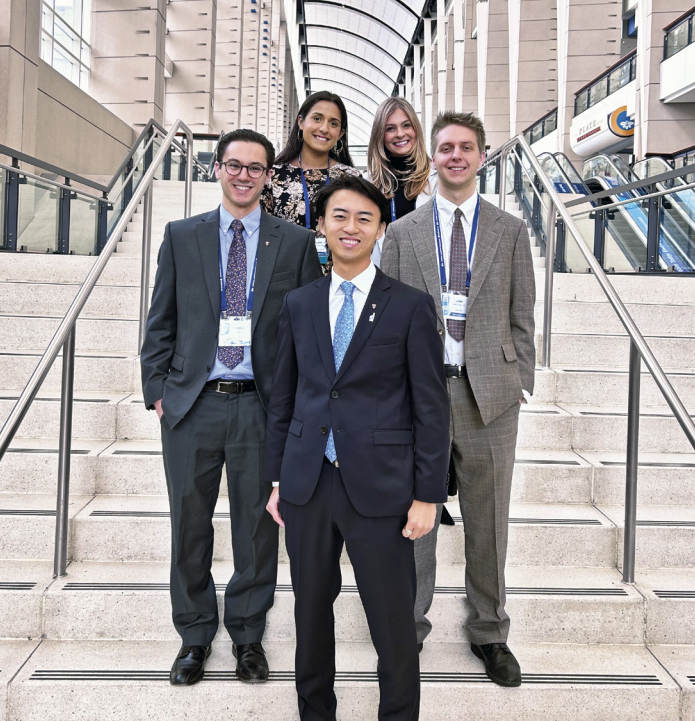
The Class of 2023 has plenty to celebrate as they get ready to graduate in May. All graduating DMD students who applied for specialty programs through the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program successfully matched to residencies. Thirty students in the class of 35 will go on to residencies, and others will go on to private practice, into military service, or serve in community health centers.

"This is an important milestone for many of our DMD graduating students," said Dean William Giannobile. "In every path they have chosen, we are immensely proud of them!"

Eight graduates will go into Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, seven into General Practice residencies, five into Endodontics, four into Orthodontics, and three each into Periodontology and Pediatric residencies. Several students will stay in Boston, including at HSDM, for their postdoctoral programs and others will head to universities and hospitals across the country.







## STUDENT STATUS

# National Student Leaders

Andrew Ludwig, DMD25, Jake Cantrell, DMD25, Adam Yang, DMD25, Kadriye Hargett, DMD24, and Rubee Sandhu, DMD23, represented HSDM at the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) National Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL. In addition to attending educational sessions, they networked with other student leaders and professionals during the event. Yang was honored with the ASDA Excellence in Leadership Award during the conference.

Cantrell and Yang have also been selected to serve national leadership positions with ASDA. Cantrell was appointed to the position of Editorial Board Contributing Editor and Yang was appointed to the position of Council on Advocacy Chair. Both students were chosen from a competitive field of national candidates and will play an important role in achieving the association's goals for 2023–24.

“Dental students have an important role to play in the advancement of oral health and patient care,” said Cantrell. “I hope to shape the future of dentistry by promoting innovative and evidence-based practices, encouraging collaboration, and cultivating a strong sense of community within our profession.”

## COMMUNITY EVENT

# Diversity Week Shines

Monday, March 6 kicked off a week of engaging events and performances during HSDM's annual Diversity Week. The opening reception featured cultural dance performances, and a keynote conversation with Dr. Rueben C. Warren, a well-known national leader in oral medicine, population health, and bioethics.

The week brought speakers from across the country to HSDM for daily lunchtime learning sessions that highlighted diverse perspectives in dentistry and how they influence oral health, medicine, and academia. Topics included: Connecting with the Indigenous Community on Oral Health, LGBTQIA+ Considerations in Patient Care, Mental Health and Wellness in Dentistry, Considerations for Patients Observing Ramadan, and Gaining Perspective on the Deaf Population and Dentistry.

Diversity Week was organized by the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (ODEIB) led by assistant dean Dr. Fadie Coleman, and supported by coordinator Ariel Heim, as well as ODEIB student ambassadors. The week's events were made possible by the generosity of HSDM supporters Drs. Anne Koch and Allen Ali Nasseh, MMSc97.





## Community Focus

# Trailblazer, Inventor, Scholar

## Dr. George Grant Takes His Place in History

MORE THAN 150 YEARS after his arrival at Harvard, George Franklin Grant, DMD 1870, will return to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) to take his place amongst HSDM luminaries. A newly painted portrait of Grant will soon be prominently displayed alongside the portraits of other historic figures including former deans, notable faculty, and his trailblazing predecessor Robert Tanner Freeman, DMD 1869, the first Black graduate of the Harvard Dental School. Grant holds the distinction of being the second Black graduate of the School, and the first to become a faculty member at Harvard University.

The son of former enslaved people, Grant was born in Oswego, New York, in 1846. Grant's father, who escaped bondage in Maryland, had become a prominent barber in the town and Grant and his siblings had the advantage of attending a school where black and white children were "equally admitted." His first taste of dentistry was at age 15 when he was hired to run errands for a local dentist and soon became his laboratory assistant. Grant learned the basics of dental practice for five years and in 1867, at the age of 21, he moved to Boston.

At the time, Boston was considered an epicenter for the American antislavery struggle—both formerly enslaved persons and free individuals flocked to the city following the Civil War, hoping to find opportunities for educational and economic advancement. Grant rubbed shoulders with well-known abolitionists of the day and lived on Beacon Hill boarding with John J. Smith who was known for his work with the Underground Railroad.

Harvard Dental School, founded in 1867, was located nearby where Massachusetts General Hospital stands today. Grant's early dental experience got him in the door of the School and he was initially hired as a laboratory assistant. He was invited to attend the School and matriculated the following year. In 1870, he graduated with distinction and was subsequently hired as an assistant in the Department of Mechanical Dentistry in 1871. In 1884, he was elevated to the post of instructor in Treatment for Cleft Palate and Cognate Diseases, a faculty appointment, which made Grant the first Black professor at Harvard University and the nation's first Black faculty member in dental education.

"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. "Displaying Dr. Grant's portrait on the very walls that once only told an incomplete narrative around the prominent

historical figures at HSDM is critical. It tells an important story about our institution and its role in shaping our past and desired future. This will recognize and celebrate his contributions for generations to come."

Grant was a skilled clinician who treated patients that included Harvard University President Charles Eliot. He specialized in treating patients with cleft palate, a congenital condition in which the bones and soft tissue in the roof of the mouth are not closed. Grant invented and patented a prosthetic device he called the oblate palate, worn by patients to help them speak and eat more normally.

"He went on to receive awards, he wrote papers around the cleft palate, he was an important person," said Brian Swann, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology. Swann said it is not surprising that someone like Grant who enjoyed "tinkering" and engineering new devices would go on to invent the wooden golf tee.

Grant was equally passionate about the game of golf as he was about dentistry. The one aspect of the golf game that frustrated him however was the imprecise and messy process of teeing up the ball, which required mounding dirt to form a cone. Grant would devise an invention that would forever change the game of golf. On December 12, 1899, he received U.S. patent No. 638,920, the first patent for a wooden golf tee.

Grant left Harvard after 19 years to open his own successful dental practice and remained connected to the School as an active member of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association. In 1910, at the age of 64, he died of liver disease.

HSDM recently commissioned a portrait by artist Stephen Coit, who painted the portrait of Dr. Freeman as well as several other prominent Harvard alumni. Coit consulted with faculty member Dr. Lydia Legg, an instructor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences at HSDM, for the painting's accuracy and detail.

"Dr. Lydia Legg came to my studio and helped me identify the instruments and tools pictured in the portrait. Dr. Legg, a maxillofacial prosthodontist herself, made a huge contribution to the portrait's creation," said Coit.

"We're honored to pay tribute to Dr. Grant by giving his portrait a place of prominence at Harvard. His story and remarkable accomplishments as a trailblazing clinician, inventor, and scholar are inspirational," said Dean William Giannobile. "Our hope is that many future generations of dental students who come through the doors of HSDM will draw inspiration from his legacy." ♥





“  
Dr. Grant’s life  
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shaping our history.”

DR. FADIE COLEMAN  
ASSISTANT DEAN  
FOR DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY, INCLUSION,  
AND BELONGING





“

I am truly humbled and honored by this life-changing acknowledgment of my work and research. It has meaning for me that goes beyond words.”

SANG PARK, MMSCOI



## Education Focus

# Once in a Century Award

## Dr. Sang Park Honored by ADEA

SANG PARK, MMSCOI, associate professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences and associate dean for Dental Education at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) has received one of the highest honors from the American Dental Education Association (ADEA)—the Centennial Presidential Award. The award, given during ADEA's 100th anniversary year, recognizes Park's outstanding contributions as a dental educator on a national stage.

"I am truly humbled and honored by this life-changing acknowledgment of my work and research. It has meaning for me that goes beyond words," Park said.

An alumna of HSDM, who completed her training in Prosthodontics at the School in 2001, Park joined the faculty in Restorative Dentistry after earning her advanced degree and served as senior tutor for the Peabody Society. In 2015, she was appointed to associate dean for Dental Education, a role that she continues to serve in today. Under her leadership, the Office of Dental Education has implemented curriculum changes that replaced procedure-based clinical requirements with patient-based comprehensive care, introduced a flipped classroom pedagogical model, and established new programs that put HSDM on the leading edge of dental education. Her nominators cited her work as a mentor and innovator in the field.

"Students look up to Dr. Park as an outstanding faculty example of a kind and brilliant professor," said Dean William Giannobile, one of her nominators.

As chair of the HSDM Curriculum



Dr. Sang Park (center) accepts ADEA's Centennial Presidential Award.

Redesign Task Force and the Curriculum Committee, Park leads efforts to engage HSDM's faculty in the curriculum review process. She incorporates innovative educational pedagogies in the redesign of courses to reflect the School's emphasis on oral health as a vital component of systemic health. She also serves as site visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has provided consultations to dental schools around the country and around the world.

"She is an exceptional colleague, teacher, and thought leader," said Dr. German Gallucci, Raymond J. and Elva Pomfret Nagle associate professor and chair of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, a co-nominator.

Over the course of her 21-year career at HSDM, Park has had an impact in the lives and careers of many students. An author of over 70 scholarly papers on topics such as classroom design, oral-systemic interactions, and the future of dental education, she often advises and encourages students publishing their first research papers.

"I have been fortunate to call Dr. Park my faculty, mentor, and friend," said fourth-year student Madison Zamora Hockaday, DMD23. "She is genuinely enthusiastic about not only changing the way we approach dental education, but also hearing directly from students about what motivates them. Dr. Park's approach to pedagogy and working with students is something I will take with me as I continue throughout my career."

An advocate for the next generation of dental educators, Park developed the Scholars in Dental Education program for predoctoral students who are interested in pursuing a career in academic dental medicine and she instituted the first Master of Medical Science (MMSc) program in Dental Education in 2017.

"The MMSc in Dental Education degree program she established is notable and visionary. It will prepare dentists with an interest in academic dentistry to be more effective educators. It is exciting to see the first cohorts of the program already shaping the future of dental education," said Dr. Christine Riedy Murphy, chair and associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology. "I am beyond thrilled for Dr. Park to receive ADEA's Centennial Presidential Award."

In her acceptance of the award, Park thanked her nominators, colleagues, and ADEA, and set her sights for the future.

"As we push the boundaries of our thinking as leaders, and challenge our beliefs, to approach a transitioning dental profession," Park said. "Here's looking forward to setting a monumental and meaningful path leading to the next 100 years!" ♥



**View the  
ADEA  
award video**





Dahee Chung, DMD24, makes friends with children in the Ngäbe Buglé indigenous community.



## Education Focus

# Taking Lessons from the Field to Heart

## Students Gain Global Health Perspectives from Costa Rica

WHEN LEARNING IS IMMERSIVE, you need to be a sponge—particularly when the average daily rainfall in your learning environment is measured in buckets rather than inches. Seven Harvard College undergraduates, four Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) dental students, and four University of Costa Rica dental students spent their spring break in rural southern Costa Rica for a weeklong field course. Despite unusually rainy weather, a shared interest in global health brought them together to study healthcare systems and left them energized with new perspectives on global health challenges.

“When you’re learning about other healthcare systems it’s hard to get a sense of what it is like for the average person because you’re learning from a book or a website. This was an opportunity to go into the field and learn firsthand about how things work,” Aisha Oshilaja, DMD24, said.

The experience, which is offered through associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology Dr. Brittany Seymour’s Global Oral Health course, provides a chance to see innovative health systems and solutions in action. This is the first year the field course has returned since the onset of the pandemic, and it was expanded to include Harvard College students.

“Students arrive with a foundational knowledge in global health from what they’ve learned in the classroom. This field course offers them a chance to spend the week listening, observing, and learning from our community partners here in

Costa Rica,” Seymour said. “It makes us all better listeners for our own patients, and better advocates for our own communities.”

Home base for the week was Las Cruces Biological Research Station, deep within the tropical forest in Coto Brus, an area that attracts scientists and researchers from around the world. The location is an ideal spot for students to learn about key challenges in the field of global health: achieving universal health care, environmental degradation, migrations and the demographic, nutritional, and epidemiological transition.

“The environment provides a natural backdrop for students’ brains to begin absorbing everything that happens. It heightens the level of porosity,” said Dr. Carlos Faerron Guzman, director of the Inter-American Center for Global Health, who co-leads the course. “New sounds, smells, tastes—everything is new. It tells them, ‘I need to be a sponge.’ It allows them to learn in a different way that cannot happen in a sterile environment.”

Each day a different health topic is introduced and followed by a field visit to see health systems in action. The approach



**RIGHT:** Students visit the Panama border to learn about migrant health.



allows students to observe how social, political, cultural, behavioral, and economic forces influence health access, health outcomes, and health systems.

“A typical day starts with an introductory conversation on global health. Then we attach a concept with a site visit that allows students to take that concept to reality. What we want them to do is to take back skills and knowledge and different perceptions of their own values,” Faerron said.

As part of its universal healthcare system, Costa Rica has a federally supported *equipo básico de atención integral en salud* or EBAIS system where multi-disciplinary primary care teams are integrated within local communities. EBAIS care teams, and community-based hospitals, often include a dentist and provide dental care onsite.

“Integrating a dental office into the hospital is something that looks so simple but it’s not easy,” said Bana Almoussa a pre-med Harvard College junior and neuroscience major. “Oral health is so important. As a physician in the future, I will advocate for making sure oral health is included in my practice.”

“

This was an opportunity to go into the field and learn firsthand about how things work.”

AISHA OSHILAJA, DMD24

On field visits to a local EBAIS, as well as a hospital in San Vito, students had the chance to hear from dentists who serve the community.

“Here, dentistry is seen as similar to medicine, and in every EBAIS there is a physician and a dentist. It promotes the idea that oral health is a part of systemic health, and you can’t really be healthy while you have oral disease,” Oshilaja said.

Another field visit brought students to the border between Panama and Costa Rica to walk the path migrants take into the country and learn about trans-border challenges, and migration and health. Afterward students visited a coffee farm,



Students take concepts learned in the classroom into the field.

or *finca*, to observe the living conditions and childcare challenges for migrant workers who come to the region during the coffee harvest. While conditions vary from one coffee farm to another, some are employing creative practices to discourage child labor.

“The coffee farm that we visited had a house, *Casa De La Alegria*, a place where children could come to play, to learn, to get an education, while their parents harvested coffee beans. It was an example of putting aside economic gain for humanity,” Almoussa said.

The Coto Brus area is home to an indigenous population of roughly 3,000 individuals. Students visited *La Casona*, a community in the Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous territory to see how native traditions have been incorporated into the design and delivery of healthcare.



Las Cruces Biological Research Station in southern Costa Rica is the setting for the weeklong course.





Students visited local hospitals and clinics to learn about the integration of oral health in primary care.

“

A typical day starts with an introductory conversation on global health. Then we attach a concept with a site visit that allows students to take that concept to reality.”

DR. CARLOS FAERRON GUZMAN

“A big theme this week has been interculturality and how we can approach different community groups from their perspective,” said Chris Ma, DMD23. “By partnering with the community, they were able to build a space that was welcoming, not only in the physical design, but the staffing. They were able to tailor the space so that ultimately health outcomes are better, and it improves the wellbeing of the people.”

The colors and design of the EBAIS buildings incorporate indigenous patterns, and a large painted mural of an indigenous family adorns the dental clinic. A community health worker from the indigenous community is a trusted member of the care team.

In addition to learning from the course and field visits, the students learned from each other.



“There were a lot of student populations—dental students and Harvard College students from different class years—who were part of this trip. It was unique in contributing to the atmosphere and the kinds of conversations we were having. This experience helped me expand my mind and my thinking,” said Kareem King, a pre-med senior at Harvard College.

The impact of the course was felt not only by the students but by the faculty too.

“They don’t leave the same. This immersive experience emboldens them,” said Seymour. “Our students leave feeling like, ‘I can do this too.’”

“I will never forget this experience,” said Dahee Chung, DMD24, a third-year dental

student. “As an oral health professional, I learned there are very different perspectives to approach global oral health and I learned a lot of different strategies and creative ways to improve people’s wellbeing, including oral health. I want to apply what I’ve learned here to my local community, and to global communities that I will meet as a healthcare professional.” ♥



Watch a video about the students’ experience





Dental students and faculty provided care to more than 60 children.

## Clinical Focus

# Even More Reasons to Smile

## GKAS Sees Record-Setting Participation

FOR MANY YOUNG CHILDREN it can be intimidating to sit in a dental chair for the first time. Knowing this, Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) students created a fun and engaging atmosphere for children to learn about positive oral health habits during the annual Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) event held during Children's Dental Health Month on Saturday, February 11. More than 60 young patients ages one to 17 received free dental care—a record-setting number.

Student organizers Adam Yang, DMD25, Jake Cantrell, DMD25, Anita Nasseri, DMD25, and Jen Candiano, DMD25, helped plan and promote the

successful event working closely with faculty and student volunteers.

"This was a great opportunity to practice inter-professional care while giving back to our community," said Nasseri. "We were able to provide free, quality dental care to kids and educate them about the importance of oral health."

HSDM students served as dental providers, assistants, and oral health care education volunteers. Their work was overseen by HSDM faculty, Harvard Dental Center staff, and Advanced Graduate Education (AGE) residents.



While routine dental exams, cleanings, and x-rays were provided to all patients, orthodontic consults were made available through HSDM's orthodontic residents and faculty. Several patients were also fitted for custom-made mouthguards through HSDM's Operation Mouthguard initiative. The program provides free mouthguards to young athletes in the Boston area who might not otherwise have access to this imperative protection to reduce the risk of sports-related oral injuries.

For the first time, students from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene program also participated in GKAS, working with HSDM students and faculty members to assist patients. MCPHS students facilitated the oral health education stations, instructing young patients on how to brush their teeth and floss properly. In addition to learning about positive oral health habits, a face painting station and goodie bags were also included in the festivities.

"It's nice to provide children who may not otherwise receive regular dental checkups a positive experience in a dental setting," said Cantrell. "The goal is to help families find a dental home whether it's at HSDM or another local clinic. Events like these build relationships within our dental community while helping address local access issues." ♥



Events like these build relationships within our dental community while helping address local access issues."

JAKE CANTRELL, DMD25

**BELOW:** MCPHS dental hygiene students joined HSDM dental students and faculty in providing free dental care to children ages one to 17 during the annual event.







## Faculty Focus

# Dr. Magda Feres Appointed Chair of the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity

DR. MAGDA FERES, an internationally-recognized scholar who most recently served as dean for Dental Research and Graduate Education and chair of the advanced Graduate Program in Dentistry at Guarulhos University in Brazil, was named to lead Harvard School of Dental Medicine's (HSDM) Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity (OMII). She began her appointment in March.

Feres is an alumna of HSDM and received her Doctor of Medical Science degree in Oral Biology at the School while conducting clinical and translational research at The Forsyth Institute, for which she received a certificate in microbiology. She also holds a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Gama Filho University, a

Master of Science in Periodontology from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and a Master of Business Administration from Guarulhos University.

Her research program focuses on oral and periodontal microbiology and the clinical outcomes of periodontal and peri-implant therapies. Feres' work has been funded by the Sao Paulo Research Foundation, the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development in Brazil, the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, and other national and international governmental agencies and foundations.

"I'm thrilled to return to HSDM, where I received my postdoctoral training and

where my research interests were first developed," Feres said. "I look forward to working with the talented faculty, students, and researchers within the department of OMII to build on the excellence of the department, grow its renowned educational programs, and advance its clinical research aspirations. The prospect of working with Dean Giannobile, whom I greatly admire as a researcher, leader, and human being, makes this job even more meaningful and unique."

Feres has been instrumental in creating innovative research and educational programs at Guarulhos University including establishing the university's Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology and a Center for Clinical Trials, the Young Scientist Program, and the Forsyth/UNG Student Scholars Undergraduate Summer Program. She is well-recognized as an inspirational mentor to graduate and undergraduate students and a strong advocate for the next generation of female clinical researchers. She received the International Association for Dental Research Women in Science Distinguished Female Mentor Award, among other prestigious honors. Feres is also one of the founders of the Latin American Oral Health Association.

"I am delighted that Dr. Feres has returned to HSDM, and I look forward to her leadership in OMII. She brings a strong scientific background and dynamic vision to the role," Dean William Giannobile said. "She is an excellent choice for the role of overseeing the department's educational and research mission and mentoring a cadre of talented clinicians, scientists, and clinician-scientists."

Giannobile also expressed gratitude to Dr. Howard Howell who served as interim department chair for OMII since July 2021, and to the search committee, led by Dr. Yingzi Yang, for their dedication to the process.

"Succeeding Dr. Howard Howell as the chair of the OMII department is an honor and a huge responsibility that I take with great joy," Feres said. "Dr. Howell interviewed and accepted me into the DMSc program in Oral Biology in 1996. Having the chance to come back and add value to the department where I was trained is an honor that truly humbles me." ♥



## Faculty Focus

# Dr. Catherine Hayes Selected to Lead Dental Public Health Program



DR. CATHERINE HAYES, a Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) alumna with an extensive background in public health research, policy, teaching, and mentoring, returned to the School in November to serve as program director for the Dental Public Health advanced graduate education program as a faculty member in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology (OHPE).

Hayes came to HSDM from a recent leadership role at MassHealth, the Massachusetts Medicaid and Chip Program, where she served as dental director. She received her BS in Biology

from Boston College and her DMD from Tufts University. She is a graduate of HSDM's General Practice Residency program at Brigham and Women's Hospital and earned a DMSc in Oral Epidemiology in a combined program with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health where she also received a master's degree in Epidemiology.

"I look forward to returning to HSDM, my alma mater, and working under the leadership of Dean William Giannobile and Dr. Christine Riedy. I am eager to work with HSDM students, residents, faculty, and staff to continue to work toward

“

I am eager to work with HSDM students, residents, faculty, and staff to continue to work toward decreasing oral health disparities and inspiring the next generation of public health specialists in dentistry.”

DR. CATHERINE HAYES

decreasing oral health disparities and inspiring the next generation of public health specialists in dentistry,” Hayes said after her appointment was first announced.

Hayes has served in leadership roles in academia, as well as national and international organizations and government agencies. She has been actively involved in research and policy initiatives related to oral health disparities and inequities throughout her career and has published numerous articles and book chapters in the field of dental public health and epidemiology including as a contributing author to the first U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health.

“We're thrilled to have Catherine back full-time at HSDM,” said Dr. Christine Riedy, chair and Delta Dental of Massachusetts Professor in Oral Public Health and Epidemiology at HSDM.

“She brings a strong scientific, community health, and leadership background that will strengthen the program, department, and institution. I'm excited to see the future that she will build for the DPH program and OHPE.” ♥





“

I believed that publishing a fun and whimsical children's book where dentistry and oral health are seen as cool and aspirational would play a small and humble role in building out the future I envision.”

JEREMIAH KIM, DMD23



## Student Focus

# Writing a New Chapter

## Dental Student Makes Dentistry Cool Through Storytelling



An original sketch for "The Mouth Guardians" by author Jeremiah Kim, DMD23. Illustrated by Visoeale.

DENTAL VISITS CAN BE INTIMIDATING, even scary, for children. Jeremiah Kim, DMD23, aims to change that by introducing superheroes that make oral health accessible and fun.

His new children's picture book "The Mouth Guardians" is the culmination of a creative process that began his first year in dental school. It teaches young patients the importance of maintaining positive oral health habits by following the Mouth Guardians endeavors to keep their city, Mouthopolis, safe from the "bad guys" who spread dental decay.

"I hope to play a role in making our field, bluntly speaking, 'cool,'" said Kim. "I believed that publishing a fun and whimsical children's book where dentistry and oral health are seen as cool and aspirational would play a small and humble role in building out the future I envision."

Kim has always been drawn to the creativity of design and construction. A self-described "aspiring architect of the mouth," he completed his undergraduate studies in biology and architecture at Williams College, and worked at an

architecture firm in Boston prior to starting dental school. He is the first in his family to pursue a healthcare profession.

"I saw dentistry as a well-adapted vehicle to accept the transferable learnings of my time in architectural design, my ability to implement multiple variables into aesthetic and practical solutions," said Kim. "Mentorship from former Vice Dean Dr. John Da Silva, a Williams College alumnus himself, during my time working in architecture, helped smooth the transition to dentistry and HSDM."

During his time at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), Kim served as an instructor for the Bridge to Dental School program, a program offered through HSDM's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging aimed at encouraging diverse representation in dental school applicants by providing prospective students with mentorship and coaching from current HSDM students. He also participated in HSDM's annual Give Kids a Smile event and the Action for Children and Teenagers in Oral Health Need (ACTION) program.

"I hope for similar mentorship opportunities in my future and have studied how various doctors have included aspects of mentorship and apprenticeship into their private practices," he said.

Kim began writing "The Mouth Guardians" during his first year at HSDM, developing all the characters, learning how to use Adobe InDesign, researching how to build narrative worlds, and working with an illustrator to help bring his concept to life. Although the three-year writing process provided him with many insights, there were two that stood out to Kim the most: providing healthcare to others is a privilege, and representation matters.

"I decided from the beginning that the world of superheroes needed more minorities and envisioned an Asian-American boy and Black girl to lead my story. Throughout the process, I've shared some of my pre-published drafts with some of my patients for feedback during our peds (pediatric) clinic. I recall one instance where two young Black fraternal twins—a boy and girl—looked at the front cover, and the boy's first words to me were, 'Where's me?!' I understood his innocent outburst as him seeing his sister in the female protagonist, but not himself," said Kim. "I hope to continue this work so that more kids can see themselves as protagonists in my various stories."

It isn't surprising the former architecture student, with a passion for helping kids, will pursue a residency in Orthodontics and Craniofacial Orthopedics after he graduates in May. Kim will attend Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York where he can help engineer new smiles for his young patients.

"I believe both the comprehensive and innovative nature of the ortho program will position me well wherever my various interests take me," Kim said.

Kim hopes to continue to change the narrative in the field of dentistry, by growing "The Mouth Guardians" into a series of books to hand out to his patients during each visit, serving as a reminder to attend their follow up appointments to learn what happens next with the Mouth Guardians.

"I have a big heart for kids and love the idea of having a book to give my patients." ♥





Dr. Jacqueline Burgette on the White House lawn

## Alumni Focus

# A Dentist Goes to Washington

HSDM ALUMNA JACQUELINE BURGETTE, DMD08, holds the honor of being the first dentist to be selected as a White House Fellow. The prestigious leadership program brings together individuals from across the country with backgrounds in local government, academia, the nonprofit sector, medicine, law, the private sector, and the armed forces, to work alongside public servants at the highest levels of the executive branch of the United States government. She describes her experience in the 2022–23 fellowship and what dentists can learn from public service.

### Could you describe what receiving the fellowship means to you?

I am the first dentist to be a White House Fellow and hope not to be the last. I've learned a great deal about leadership and advocating for oral health by being outside the silo of our field. There is so much to

learn about effective leadership and policy-making from other areas and taking a wider perspective. We can take guidance from federal policymakers who have effectively made an impact in many areas and apply them to oral health. I also find that I am a better storyteller when I can place oral health within the wider perspective of the needs and values of our country. All of this has made it more clear to me that it is important that not only experts in oral health but also experts in policy-making are at the table to shape the priorities for oral health in our Nation.

### What led you to apply for the fellowship?

I have been lucky to have had an incredibly fulfilling career in academics. I believe I've made a lasting impact on my patients, students, mentees, colleagues, and community. I wanted to do this fellowship because health care and equity are priorities

of the Biden-Harris administration and there is a window for change in health policy for this country. I wanted a front row seat to learn about federal policy-making and bring my skills and perspective to the table to serve at the highest levels of our government.

### What has been your favorite or most interesting aspect of the fellowship thus far?

This has been an incredible year. I have changed as a person and professional in a fundamental way. There are experiences that foster moments of insight and self-reflection, which have bolstered my faith in myself and this country in a very moving way. The number one thing that I'm walking away with this year is that there are incredible leaders in the White House who have surpassed any image I previously held of a servant leader. The President values and demands tolerance, and when we treat each other well in our interpersonal relationships in the process of policy-making great things result.

I am incredibly grateful for the many examples of superb leadership that I have been exposed to in federal government through the White House Fellows Program. For example, I now see that my nurturing and collaborative leadership style was not only a strength in academics, but is also a strength in the White House. My mentor and the Office of the National Cyber Director Inaugural Director, Chris Inglis, deepened my belief that good leadership is built on interpersonal relationships. "Lead with kindness," he says. The same tenets of building a research team apply in government: create an environment where people can surface bold solutions with psychological safety, convene voices to the table including those that are most affected by the issue at hand, and create a cohesive narrative that amplifies stories and data to support a solution.

### From your work with the Office of the National Cyber Director, what takeaways might you bring to your role in dentistry/academia/public health?

When I first started working in cybersecurity, I was struck by the magnitude and severity of the cyberattacks on our health



care system. Our world is increasingly digital, and this trend has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to my time in the fellowship, I worked on improving access to teledentistry and telehealth, and to increase access to care in resource-poor communities. I also analyzed large data sets from electronic health records and Medicaid claims to improve health systems. With this new perspective in cybersecurity, I now see the potential for malignant actors to gain access to all of these digital resources. It's not a question of *if* the health care system will be attacked, but *when*. We need to plan not only for when a clinic experiences a flood, but also a cyberattack.

The last thing I want is to have patients lose confidence that the privacy and security of their health visits and protected health information when they visit me in a clinic. The parts of society that we rely on every day, like hospitals and clinics, are vulnerable and need to be protected. This affects every part of our health system, not just dental health services. When a dental clinic experiences a cyber breach, they may not even know. Ultimately, if the attackers exploit patient data and ask for a ransom, this is an economic harm and may affect whether the dental clinic can stay in business and serve patients. Most importantly, the attackers may be foreign actors, and an attack on our health care critical infrastructure is an attack on our country. My hope is that all leaders in health care—including dental health—see the larger context that this can be an issue of national security.

We can do something to prevent large-scale harm to our health care system. We can isolate and minimize risk so our overall security isn't reliant on one person making the wrong decision and clicking on a harmful link. I now see that the health care settings where I have worked—such as safety net hospitals and cottage dental clinics—are considered target rich and resource poor. They may not have many protections in place to prevent a cyberattack, and few resources to come back with resilience after an attack. If we care about our patients and health outcomes, we need to make efforts to ensure that the underlying technology is safe, secure and resilient. The good news is that we can strategically build health systems that are secure by design to improve peoples' lives and instill confidence in patients that they won't be at risk if they visit their health care provider.

### How did your dental education at HSDM shape your career and pursuits?

HSDM is a unique training environment that supports student leaders. During my dental training at HSDM, I had mentors, peers and alumni that taught me to have faith and trust in my ideas so that I could champion them with confidence. It was a great learning environment with support across the graduate schools to exchange ideas and support each other, especially in the unpolished early stages of a new endeavor. The Harvard system also taught me the importance of convening. When I was working in global health at HSDM,



Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with Dr. Jacqueline Burgette

I realized that one of the unique strengths of Harvard is the ability to convene to inspire innovative ideas and build collaborations. This is where the magic happens! This lesson has been reinforced at during my time here at the White House. Convening with intentionality is essential to everyone move forward in a shared direction, get excited, and coordinate more effectively.

### What advice do you have for predoctoral students who have an interest in taking a similar career path? Or getting involved in government/public policy?

The number one piece of advice that I have for trainees is to put away the false narrative that dentists can pursue one of two career paths: private practice or academia. When I work with mentees and trainees on life guidance, I enjoy doing an interactive thought exercise to surface the many opportunities to make an impact. I, too, have to constantly remind myself to think broadly and not be limited by what has been before. I would encourage all students—including the health science professions, public health and researchers—to let themselves think freely about who they are as a unique person and the contribution they'd like to make. I hope that we all direct our careers with intentionality based on our values and the impact that we'd like to make in the time we have. Within public service, federal government is just one level. State and local governments, too, make a huge impact. ♥

White House 2022–23 Fellows





## Policy Perspective

# The Impact of Dental Insurance Reform

IN NOVEMBER 2022, Massachusetts voters approved a ballot initiative that will require dental insurers to spend at least 83% of customer premiums on patient care and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of care. The new law will require insurance companies that don't reach that minimum percentage, known as a medical loss ratio, to issue rebates to their customers, beginning in 2024. Health insurance companies across the country are already subject to similar rules for medical care, but the law is the first of its kind to apply to dental insurers.

Alec Eidelman, PD19, HSDM lecturer on Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, provides perspective on what the impact of the law may be in Massachusetts and its implications for other states. Eidelman practices as a general dentist at Cambridge Health Alliance, where he is the program director for the General Practice Residency. He holds a DMD, MPH, and Master of Medical Education degrees and is actively involved in state level oral health policy. He was a recipient of Massachusetts Dental Society's 10 Under Ten award in 2022.

### **With dental insurance being treated more like medical insurance, with similar standards, regulatory compliance, and oversight, does it elevate the importance of oral health?**

The dental medical loss ratio legislation enacted in 2023 in Massachusetts is a critically important legislative advancement in oral health policy whereby dental insurance plans will be treated similarly to medical insurance. When the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 was enacted, the medical loss ratio reporting and regulatory language was crafted. It was intended to enhance transparency by for-profit insurance

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**It will change dentistry as we know it and greatly benefit patient care.”**

PATRICIA BROWN, DMSC76, MPH76

carriers and to meet the triple aim of the ACA—specifically controlling cost growth on healthcare spending and maximizing access to care. The regulatory oversight that will now be present in Massachusetts to have standard reporting requirements for commercial insurance companies is a vital step in healthcare finance transparency. Dental insurance policy holders and public health officials will have stronger abilities to hold dental plans accountable.

### **What immediate impact do you think this will have for patients?**

It is unclear to say yet with any certainty what the law's impact will be on the number of dental services covered by commercial dental insurance in Massachusetts, rates of reimbursement, number of individuals covered by commercial dental insurance, or the number of services that individuals are eligible for in different commercial insurance plans. One thing we will have, is a clearer understanding of whether premium dollar revenue from commercial insurance subscribers in Massachusetts is spent on clinical care and quality improvement, or on administrative costs. Patients may see rebate checks if the

thresholds for spending are not met by their dental plan. Depending on the definitions of what could be considered clinical care and quality improvement, which will presumably be standardized, individuals with dental insurance in Massachusetts are likely to see these refund checks.

### **For providers?**

The potential impact for dentists contracted with dental commercial insurance plans might be changes to reimbursement rates, number of services covered, or the number of patients now covered by commercial plans to request appointments with their preferred dentist. Rebate checks are not expected to be sent to dentists, but as part of potential rebate checks, there may be stipulations that the money be spent toward future dental services.

### **For dental insurance plans?**

Dental insurance plans are correct to speculate that if individual and small market commercial insurance companies are held to the same standards as large plans, there will likely be decreased competition and ability for them to operate effectively—this was evidenced by data from California policy changes since 2014. The argument also presented by dental plans that this will result in cost-shifting by dentists and increased premiums for patients is not necessarily based on evidence.

### **What implications could this new law in MA have for other states?**

From what we witnessed in MA, with a resounding 71.6% voter approval for the ballot initiative, it's likely that many more states will have public support in passing similar legislation. The question will be if they approach it like California, where there is no strict threshold of 83% spending, and only reporting requirements and loose guidance on how to spend surplus premium dollars, or if other states will mirror Massachusetts and leapfrog this legislation and jump right to a threshold spending number such as 83% before having full reporting requirements.

### **What should we expect to see once the law is implemented in Massachusetts?**

The dental medical loss ratio will have a





very significant impact on reporting for commercial dental insurance companies with uncertain impacts on access to dental care and financing. How the Massachusetts commissioner of insurance oversight defines clinical care and quality improvement will likely determine if subscriber premium dollars are experienced at the dental office, or seen in advertisements, education, or prevention programs in the community. One thing we do know from the resounding voter support for commercial dental insurance oversight, is that dentists and the public want to know where their money is going and are depending on state oversight to monitor spending growth on administrative costs. ♥



**One thing we do know from the resounding voter support for commercial dental insurance oversight, is that dentists and the public want to know where their money is going and are depending on state oversight to monitor spending growth on administrative costs.”**

**DR. ALEC EIDELMAN**

HSDM LECTURER ON ORAL HEALTH POLICY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY



## Giving Focus

# A Legacy in Periodontology Amplified by Generosity

THE CAREER OF THE LATE Michael Lawrence Barnett, PD73, reflected a life full of service to others. It took him from the ranks of the U.S. Army and service in Vietnam, to the halls of academia, and then into the corporate world of consumer healthcare. His impact as an educator and leader in the field of periodontology is well known at dental schools across the country. The Michael L. Barnett Fellowship in Graduate Periodontology was first established in 2019 with an initial bequest of \$500,000, and recently augmented

through a gift from his estate. Now his legacy will continue to influence the next generation of periodontists through a second generous gift of \$1.1 million from his trust to support Harvard School of Dental Medicine's (HSDM) Department of Periodontology. The Barnett Fund will continue to be used to provide financial aid to deserving residents in HSDM's Advanced Graduate Education (AGE) program.

Barnett graduated from Columbia College and the Columbia University School of Oral and Dental Surgery. He

went on to complete post-doctoral fellowships in periodontology at both the University of Washington and HSDM.

"Mike was a marvelous colleague during my first years as a resident at HSDM," said T. Howard Howell, the A. Lee Loomis Professor Emeritus of Periodontology. "Following graduation, he remained a loyal and supportive alum of the program. Mike's gift will continue to support the division in recruiting and retaining the best and brightest residents in periodontology."

Barnett went on to serve in periodontology professorships at the New Jersey Dental School (now Rutgers School of Dental Medicine), the State University of New York at Buffalo, and the University of Louisville, Kentucky School of Dentistry. He also served as the chairman of the Department of Dentistry at Morristown Medical Center where he directed the dental residency program and developed a hospital-based program for the dental treatment of developmentally challenged children and adults.

In addition to conducting research in the field of dentistry, he also served on the boards of various organizations including the American Dental Association (ADA) Health Foundation, Friends of the National Institute of Dental Research, Community Without Walls, and the Princeton Healthcare System Foundation.

After a distinguished career in academia with scientific and clinical teaching accomplishments, Barnett transitioned to industry, leading Pfizer Consumer Healthcare as the Senior Director of Dental Affairs and Oral Technology Development. During his retirement, he sustained an active consulting practice in dental research and oral hygiene fields. He was also a generous supporter of the arts and passionate about music and travel.



Dr. Michael Lawrence Barnett





Danielle Danni Burgess, MMSc24

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

DR. DANIELLE “DANNI” BURGESS

In 2017, Barnett passed away and his trust subsequently established the Barnett Fellowship in Periodontology, to remember Dr. Barnett at HSDM in perpetuity.

### First-Hand Student Impact

Danielle “Danni” Burgess, MMSc24, was one of the first periodontology residents to receive funding from the Barnett Fellowship in 2020. Burgess is passionate about using her training to assist older individuals who struggle with periodontal disease and tooth loss.

“Observing the burden of oral health problems within my community in Jamaica and recognizing the disparities in access to oral health care across socioeconomic groups influenced my desire to explore periodontics from a public health perspective,” said Burgess. “This fellowship helped shoulder some of the financial burden associated with pursuing my postdoctoral education and will help foster my development as a clinician, public health advocate, and educator.”

Corinthia Wilkerson’s, MMSc24, interest in periodontology developed through her own experience with wound healing and understanding of oral health disparities and barriers to getting treatment. Now in her second year at HSDM, the Barnett Fellowship funded a portion of Wilkerson’s tuition in the program so she can put her knowledge of periodontology, public health, and health policy to use by helping historically marginalized communities.

“The Perio Fellowship helped decrease the amount of loans I will have to repay. It will assist me on the road to achieving my financial goals as well as supporting my postdoctoral education,” Wilkerson said. The impact of the fellowship on her own dental career has also inspired Wilkerson to pledge to giving back to the schools that have given her so much.

Now that it has grown, the Barnett Fellowship will help attract the highest caliber of students and will be awarded to future deserving residents pursuing

their periodontology training at HSDM.

“Dr. Barnett was an accomplished clinician and instructor whom I had the privilege of meeting during my residency and early faculty years. Now our School’s community will remember him as a generous benefactor who is making an enduring impact on the HSDM community with his gift,” said William Giannobile, Dean of HSDM. “Gifts like this uplift the entire community, easing the burden on students, recruitment, and elevating our scholarly endeavors. We are grateful for Michael’s foresight and will honor his intent with this special and lasting gift.” ♥

For further information about funding fellowships and scholarships, or to name HSDM in your will or estate plan, please contact: Jody Johnson, Associate Dean, Development and Alumni Relations at 617-432-0538.



## Alumni Focus

# Unlocking Opportunity

AGAINST THE ODDS David Rosenstein, DMD<sup>70</sup>, rose from a childhood spent living in poverty with disabled parents, periodic homelessness, foster home stays, and a stint in reform school as a teenager, to lead an accomplished career as a public health dentist and educator. His humble beginnings ignited a lifelong passion to make a difference for the underserved and to give back to those who gave him a chance.

Now professor emeritus with Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), at age 78, Rosenstein reflected with humility and gratitude on the doors that were opened for him.

"How did I get to Harvard? I am perhaps the graduate with the single worst entering academic record," Rosenstein said. "I had to work almost full-time loading trucks while I attended undergraduate school. My average was not impressive although my test scores were."

Rosenstein described a circuitous path that took him from the streets of Boston to academia. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Boston University, his tenacity and test scores landed him a spot in the predoctoral dental program at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). With encouragement from a research mentor who saw potential in Rosenstein, he transferred from UPenn to Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) to complete his dental degree.

"Dean Oaks informed me that since I already had \$5,000 in loans, all my expenses including living expenses would be provided at no cost by Harvard. The support I received was unimaginable to someone with my background," Rosenstein said.

It was at HSDM where Rosenstein developed an interest in public health dentistry following in the footsteps of former dean James Dunning, the chair of Ecological Dentistry. Rosenstein would go on to pursue a master's degree in public health and become chairman of OHSU's community dentistry department at the young age of 31. At OHSU, he founded the Russell Street Clinic, a free dental clinic to treat underserved populations in Portland, Oregon. There he treated some of the first HIV-AIDS patients in the earliest days of the epidemic when many dentists would not, and he conducted research to advance the understanding of AIDS.

Rosenstein is credited with inspiring more than 100 students to go into public health careers during his tenure. And while he understands the financial pressures today's dental students face to go into private practice and more lucrative specialties, he remains a dedicated advocate for public health dentistry.

Rosenstein is also a proponent of giving back to the community and to institutions that gave him so much.

"I am one of a handful of HSDM grads who have contributed financially every year since my graduation. The early years I think it was \$50, but that may be a poor memory and it might have been less—the point is that it was important to me to give back," Rosenstein said.

Rosenstein has donated to HSDM each year for a remarkable 53 consecutive years. He hopes his generosity will give students like him without means the opportunity of an HSDM education.

"The doors that were unlocked because of Harvard were many. Aside from my wife, Harvard was the single most influential factor in my life." ♥





# News & Notes

## Alumni News

**Chiho Ahn, PD21, Erin Breen, PD18,** and **Joseph W. Costa, Jr., DMD91,** were named American College of Dentists 2022 Fellows for their distinguished achievements, honors, and contributions to the dental profession in leadership positions.

**1 Shaima Bahammam, DMSc22,** organized a gathering of HSDM alumni at the Saudi International Dental Conference held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in January. Attendees included graduates from different programs over the span of 30 years.

**2** After meeting as postdoctoral students at HSDM, **Sergio Florencio, Jr., DMSc17,** and **Jane Jiao, MMSc17,** got married in 2018 and now live in the San Francisco Bay area with their two kids, where they run their own dental practice together.



**3 Mercedes Franklin, DMD74,** was awarded the *Dolores Mercedes Franklin Trailblazer Award*—an award created in her honor in recognition of her trailblazing achievements throughout her career starting with being the first woman of color to attend the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Franklin is an accomplished global leader, achieving many firsts that have paved the way for generations to come, especially those that are historically underrepresented in medicine. Dr. Rueben C. Warren, keynote speaker at *Diversity Week* also received the award that evening.





**4 Lauren Hum, DMD16, Sang Park, MMSc01, and Lisa Lian, DMD16,** caught up with each other at the recent ADEA conference. Both Hum and Lian are faculty in academia and were the original founders of the Curriculum Hackathon which has gone viral nationally.



**5 Jim Hupp, DMD77, and Linda Niessen, DMD77, MPH77, MPP82, PD82,** reunited at the Kansas City University (KCU) College of Dental Medicine in Joplin, Missouri where Niessen serves as Vice Provost for Oral Health Affairs, and Founding Dean and Professor for the College. Hupp is currently Special Advisor to the President for Oral Health at Louisiana Tech University. The former classmates shared ideas about the future of the dental profession and dental education; as well as reminisced about their time at HSDM.



**Jeffrey Posnick, DMD77,** published a new book "Facial Deformities in Children," which covers current techniques used to reconstruct facial conditions in children such as craniosynostosis, skull defects, congenital tumors, cleft lip and palate, and developmental and posttraumatic jaw, nasal, and ear deformities.



**6 Neda Shah-Hosseini, DMD96, PD96, and Faheem Rasool, MMSc93, DMD95,** Annual Fund co-chairs, led a successful Giving Week challenge for HSDM raising over \$160,000 in donations for the School and unlocking a generous \$50,000 matching gift.

**Lisa Simon, DMD14, PD15, MD20,** was honored with a STAT Wunderkind Award, an award that celebrates the unheralded heroes of science and medicine. Simon trained as both a dentist and a MD to bridge the historical divide between oral health and the rest of medicine. Simon's bigger-picture vision is to see her pilot initiatives—integrating dentistry in clinics and hospitals—play out in the U.S. medical and oral health care systems.



Faculty, staff, students, and alumni represented Harvard School of Dental Medicine at the annual Yankee Dental Congress in Boston. Dean William Giannobile hosted a well-attended alumni reception. Several alumni and students were recognized with awards and honors. During the conference the Massachusetts Dental Society appointed alumnus **Steve Spitz, PD97,** as Vice-President and HSDM instructor in Developmental Biology **Maritza Morell** as Secretary.

## Faculty News



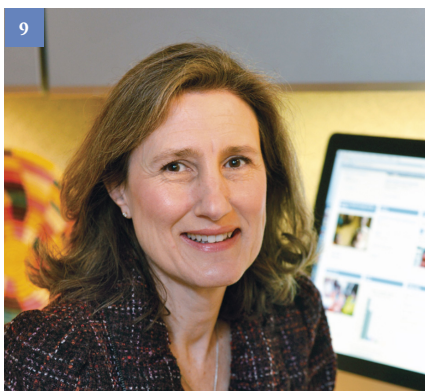
**8 Sama Abdul-Aziz, PD19,** instructor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and director of General Practice Residency in Dentistry at Massachusetts General Hospital, was named a recipient of the 10 Under Ten award from the Massachusetts Dental Society. The award is given to 10 dentists who have been in the profession for 10 years or less and have made a significant contribution to their profession, their community, and/or organized dentistry.

**Myron Allukian, Jr., MPH67, PD69,** corresponding member of the faculty in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology was honored with the Paul Revere Award for Leadership and Lifetime Achievement in Public Health, the Massachusetts Public Health Association's (MPHA) highest honor, for his lifelong work advancing the importance of oral health as a public health priority. Allukian served as Dental Director for the City of Boston for 34 years. He has worked in municipal, state, national and international venues to advance the importance of oral health as a critical public health priority.



**Hend Alqaderi, DMSc16**, was selected to serve as a member of the 2023–2026 International Association for Dental Research (AADOCR) Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. The appointment is for a three-year term. The committee of nine members focuses on developing programs for promoting diversity and inclusion within AADOCR and the dental, oral, and craniofacial research workforce.

**9 Jane Barrow**, director for Global and Community Health, executive director for the HSDM Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine, and lecturer on Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, received the 2022 Daniel D. Federman Staff Award for Exceptional Institutional Service to Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine.



**10 German Gallucci**, Raymond J. and Elva Pomfret Nagle Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, received the 2022 Barbara J. McNeil Faculty Award for Exceptional Institutional Service to Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine.



**11 Dean William Giannobile** had the honor of being a guest of Sapienza University of Rome as the university launched its first degree program in dentistry and dental prosthodontics taught in English. The program, which lasts six years, includes at least five thousand hours of theoretical and practical teaching. Dean Giannobile gave the inaugural lecture entitled “Future of Personalized Medicine in Dentistry.”



**12 Brittany Seymour, MPH11**, Global Health Discipline Director and associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, was named Cuspies Dental Educator of the Year. In addition to her global health curriculum work in dental education, she helped launch the first dental school in Rwanda, supported dental education reform in Vietnam, and helped develop a hospital wing devoted to dental care in Haiti.

**Caleb Tam, PD19**, was named Cambridge Health Alliance’s (CHA) chief of dental medicine after serving in an interim capacity since April 2022. Tam received his master’s in biomedical engineering and Doctor of Dental Surgery degrees from the University of California, San Francisco. He went on to complete a general practice residency (GPR) through CHA/Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and has since remained with the program as an attending faculty member and practicing dentist. Additionally, he serves as a lecturer and the current GPR director for HSDM’s Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology.

HSDM faculty were recognized with honors at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration. **Lorenzo Tavelli** received the AO Foundation Translational and Clinical Research Award for his project on “High-frequency Echo-Doppler Ultrasonography.”

**David Kim, DMSc05**, received the AO Foundation Basic Science Research Award for his project “Highly multiplexed Spatial Mapping for Oral Microbial Communities in peri-implant tissues.”

**German Gallucci** was the moderator for the restorative track “Prosthodontic Advantages with Digital Workflow.”



## Student News

**13 Michael Chen, DMD23**, was named a recipient of the Matthew Boylan Scholarship. The scholarship, established by the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) and Eastern Dentists Insurance Company in memory of former MDC executive director Matthew Boylan, is awarded to a Massachusetts resident and dental student who has provided distinguished service to organized dentistry and the community.



**14 Jennie Kim, DMD23**, recently traveled to Santiago, Chile with **Dr. Allen Ali Nasseh**, lecturer in HSDM's Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, to present her findings at the 13th IFEA World Endodontic Congress. Her research, "Survival Rate of Root End Resection Surgeries Using the 'Lid Technique'," investigated 108 cases of single-rooted anterior teeth treated microsurgically, and proposed the lid technique as an efficient method of retrofilling.



**13 Rubee Sandhu, DMD23**, was recognized as the recipient of the Student Leader Award from the American College of Dentists (ACD) for her outstanding leadership, academic performance, and impact in the dentistry profession. She currently serves as Class President for HSDM's Class of 2023 and as a student ambassador for HSDM's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

**15** The Class of 2025 delivered more than 500 chocolate-covered strawberries, 60 roses, and handwritten messages to students, residents, staff, and faculty at HSDM, raising over \$400 to support the Turkey-Syria earthquake relief effort with the Harvard Turkish Student Association.



**16 Jennifer Shahar, MMSc25**, was selected to serve as the 2023–2024 American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) Resident Director. In this role, she will provide a resident perspective for the board working to reach and connect with residents nationwide. Only two resident directors are selected each year.





17 Students swapped out their scrubs for formal attire and danced the night away during the first annual Winter Formal at the Linda K. Paresky Center hosted by HSDM ASDA.

18 **Cami Tussie, DMD25**, wrote a piece in ASDA's *Contour* magazine titled "Using saliva to track oral health: The future of dental diagnostics." She shares how scientists have discovered that salivary microbiota can reveal the state of oral health and susceptibility to disease or infection, along with the promising potential of salivary diagnostic tests.



19 Members of the Harvard Student National Dental Association (SNDA) spent an evening connecting and networking with one another at the annual SNDA meet and greet event.



20 Members of HSDM American Association for Women Dentists (AAWD) held their first mentor-mentee social this spring with pre-doctoral students, residents, faculty, alumni, and dentists from the greater Boston area. Nearly 60 HSDM female students have been paired with 30 female faculty members, residents, alumnae, and doctors in the Harvard community through the mentorship program. The networking event was a chance for mentors and mentees to connect after being matched in the fall.





21



## HSDM News

**21** Residents and faculty members in HSDM's Periodontology department participated in the annual PerioDash 5K. The event supports the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation and their mission to advance patient care, research, and education to benefit oral and periodontal health of the population.

**22** HSDM hosted its first tailgate during the annual Harvard-Yale game. The event brought alumni, students, faculty and the HSDM community together for a day of reconnection and school spirit.

22



23



**23** **Melissa S. Hunter** was named Harvard School of Dental Medicine's new Dean for Administration and Finance. Hunter serves as the School's chief financial and administrative officer, providing strategic direction on all aspects of fiscal and administrative affairs and long-term planning.

24



**24** **Myra Majewski**, from the Harvard Dental Center, was selected to serve on the 2023 Latino Board Fellows for Massachusetts. The Fellowship supports 19 Latino leaders who work within and outside the education sector in Massachusetts onto governing boards of schools and education nonprofit organizations. As a board member, she will play an important role in addressing educational inequity and influencing better educational outcomes for all children, infusing a critical Latino perspective.

25



**25** HSDM's Division of Periodontology had excellent representation at the 2022 American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) annual meeting. Congratulations to award winners **David Wu, DMSc23**, who received the Balint Orban Memorial Award in Basic Science and the AAP Foundation Educator Scholarship; **Shy Chwen Ni**, who received the Research Forum Basic Science Award and Clinical Impact Award; **Lorenzo Tavelli**, who was named the Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship Recipient; **Gustavo Avila-Ortiz**, who received the Distinguished Scientist Award and; **Larissa Steigmann**, who received the Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence!



# Upcoming Events



**May 25**  
**Class of 2023**  
**Commencement**  
**and Class Day**

Harvard Yard and HMS Quad



**May 27, 5:30–7pm**  
**AAPD HSDM and Boston**  
**Children's Hospital**  
**Reception**

Gaylord Palms, Orlando, FL



**June 1–3**  
**HSDM/HMS Reunion**

Longwood Campus  
Boston, MA



**June 1, 2:30–4pm**  
**Dr. George Grant Tribute**  
**and Portrait Presentation**

HMS Waterhouse Room  
Gordon Hall



**June 2, 8am–3pm**  
**HSDM Alumni Day**

HSDM REB Auditorium  
190 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, MA



**August 11–13**  
**Summer Learning Program**  
**on Cape Cod 2023**

Ocean Edge Resort  
& Golf Club, Brewster, MA



**September 21**  
**American Association of**  
**Oral and Maxillofacial**  
**Surgeons Reception**

San Diego, CA



**November 3–4**  
**Global Symposium on**  
**Artificial Intelligence in**  
**Dentistry**

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



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





**HARVARD**  
School of Dental Medicine

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