SUNG CHOI, SM, PhD **RECEIVES NIH K99 AWARD**



Dr. Sung Choi, instructor in Oral **Health Policy and** Epidemiology, received a K99 award from the **National Institute** of Minority Health and Disparities entitled. "Reducing Oral **Health Disparities** in Children **Using Predictive Analytics and Mathematical** Modeling."

For this project, Dr. Choi will investigate the influence of race/ethnicity on progression of dental caries, identify modifiable structural risk factors of disparities in quality of dental care, and assess the cost-effectiveness and value of dental care, incorporating racial/ethnic disparities in the assessment of value. Findings from this project are expected to inform multilevel interventions and support evidence-based policymaking by identifying targets resulting in high-value care in the US.

Dr. Choi's primary mentor for her K99 project is Dr. Sharon-Lise Normand, professor of Health Care Policy in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School and in the Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Choi holds a master's degree in biostatistics from Harvard University and a PhD in management science and engineering (health policy) from Stanford University. Her methodological interests include integrating data science and operations research methods to inform health decision-making.

DAVID T. WU, DMD, **DMSc23 RECEIVES OSTEOLOGY FOUNDATION AWARD**



David T. Wu, DMSc 23, **Advanced Graduate Education student** in Periodontology, received the Young **Researcher Grant** from the Osteology Foundation for his project "Hydrogels with Tunable Stress **Relaxation Control Fusion of MSC Spheroids for Bone** Formation."

Dr. Wu is currently working with co-investigators, David J. Mooney, Robert P. Pinkas Family Professor of Bioengineering and Dr. Mani Diba, postdoctoral fellow in the Mooney Laboratory for Cell and Tissue Engineering at the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The study aims to uncover the role of matrix viscoelasticity, a key mechanical cue guiding cell behavior, on the migration of mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) and fusion of MSC spheroids for bone tissue formation. The findings of this study will help understand the migration of cells that naturally occurs following tissue injury, and define a key biomaterial design parameter that can be applied to direct spheroid and organoid behavior for in vitro tissue models development as well as in vivo therapies to promote the regeneration of dental, oral, and craniofacial (DOC) tissues.

PUBLICATIONS

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

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ORAL MEDICINE, INFECTION AND IMMUNITY

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RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY AND BIOMATERIALS SCIENCES

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SCIENCE SERIES

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm - LOGISTICS TO FOLLOW



March 10, 2022
Ralph Marcucio, PhD
Professor of Developmental and
Stem Cell Biology, University of
California at San Francisco



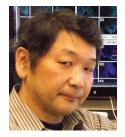
November 10, 2022 Noriaki Ono, DDS, PhD Associate Professor of Dentistry, University of Texas Health Science Center



April 14, 2022 Joy Richman, DDS, PhD Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, Department of Oral Health Sciences, University of British Columbia



December 8, 2022 Jeffrey Bush, PhD *Professor of Cell and Tissue Biology, University of California at San Francisco*



May 12, 2022 Yuji Mishina PhD Professor of Dentistry, Department of Biologic and Materials Sciences & Prosthodontics, University of Michigan



June 9, 2022
Wanida Ono, DDS, DMSc, PhD
Assistant Professor of Dentistry,
Department of Orthodontics & Pediatric
Dentistry, University of Texas Health
Science Center



September 15, 2022 Aaron James, MD, PhD *Professor of Pathology Division of Pathology & Surgical Pathology, Johns Hopkins University*



October 13, 2022
Patricia Diaz, DDS, PhD
Associate Professor in the Division of Periodontology, University of Buffalo

MULTI-DEPARTMENTAL

Bajonaid A, Park S, Villa A. Oral medicine education in predoctoral programs in US dental schools. *Journal of Dental Education* 2022; Feb 3.

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ORAL MEDICINE NEWS



Dr. Lama
Alabdulaaly,
advanced graduate
education student
in oral medicine,
received the Oral
Medicine Residents
Research Award
from the American
Academy of Oral
Medicine Research
Advancement
Committee to
fund her research
"Transcriptomic

Profiling of Marrow Adipose Lineage
Precursors Lacking Parathyroid Hormone
Receptor." This work is part of a broader
project focusing on the role of marrow adipose
lineage precursors on skeletal homeostasis. Dr.
Alabdulaaly is working under the supervision
of Dr. Roland Baron, professor of Oral Medicine,
Infection and Immunity and Dr. Francesca Gori,
associate professor of Oral Medicine, Infection
and Immunity.



Dr. Sook-Bin Woo, associate professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, and Associate Surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital, has been appointed lead of the Head and Neck Oncology Program in the new Dana Farber Cancer

Institute, Center for Early Cancer Detection and Intervention. Dr. Woo will share these responsibilities with Dr. Glenn Hanna, assistant professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and medical oncologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Francesca
Gori, associate
professor of Oral
Medicine, Infection
and Immunity at
HSDM has been
named program
director of the
Biological Sciences
in Dental Medicine
(BSDM) PhD
program. Dr. Gori
assumes this role
from Dr. Yingzi
Yang, professor of

Developmental Biology and associate dean of research. The BSDM program, established in 2001, is offered through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. Dr. Gori is also the program director for the HSDM Forsyth Research Academy and director of predoctoral research at HSDM.



Dr. Jennifer
Gibbs, assistant
professor and
program director
of the Division
of Endodontics
in Restorative
Dentistry and
Biomaterials
Sciences, and her
team have just
published a multicenter clinical study
that is the largest

ever published study in pulp regeneration. This study, "Patient Centered Outcomes Among a Cohort Receiving Regenerative Endodontic Procedures or Apexification Treatments" has the potential to change the landscape of Endodontics and is at the forefront of clinical innovation. Dr. Gibbs will present her work to the community so please stay tuned for the announcement.

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY & DONALD B. GIDDON LECTURE

April 5, 2022

8:30 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	DMD Student Poster Session
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Lunch
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Donald B. Giddon, DMD, PhD Lecture
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	DMD & AGE Student Poster Session



SAVE THE DATE

PROFESSOR DONALD B. GIDDON, DMD, PHD LECTURE IN BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

APRIL 5, 2022 • 12–1:30pm • via Zoom



Lisa Jamieson, BDS, MComDent, PhD

Professor, Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health; and Director of the Indigenous Oral Health Unit, The University of Adelaide

"Indigenous Oral Health Inequities and the Role of Intersectionality"

Dr. Lisa Jamieson is recognized as a leading researcher in Indigenous oral health. In this role she has been contributor of information to national Indigenous oral health and dental services policy in Australia. She established four research interventions among Indigenous Australians and was involved in establishing the dental component of Wave-3 of the Aboriginal Birth Cohort. Dr. Jamieson has published widely and been an invited presenter at numerous international research meetings involving Indigenous oral health. She is on the Editorial Board of BMC Public Health, Community Dental Health Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology, and the Australian Dental Journal. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field, Dr. Jamieson was recently awarded an Investigator Grant from the NHMRC (2022-2026) for her project "Advancing Indigenous Australian oral health through clinical trials, cohort studies and surveillance."

FORSYTH NEWS

Researchers gain insights into how ultrasmall bacteria from the environment have adapted to

live inside humans

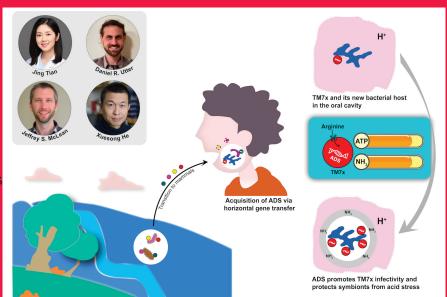
The microbes that live inside our mouths, collectively known as the oral microbiome, impact our overall health in many ways that are not yet fully understood. Among the diverse bacterial species living within our mouths is a group belonging to the Candidate Phyla Radiation (CPR). These bugs are especially mysterious because they are ultra-small, adopt a unique symbiotic lifestyle with their host bacteria, and most have yet to be cultured by scientists and studied in the lab. The only bacteria within the CPR to be examined in-depth are a group called TM7, which were cultivated in 2014 for the first time

by Forsyth Institute researcher Dr. Xuesong He, associate member of staff.

In an important step toward better understanding these elusive bacteria, Dr. He and his collaborator, Dr. Jeffrey McLean at the University of Washington, have developed a new model system using the first isolated human oral TM7 strain, TM7x, and its host bacterium, Actinomyces odontolyticus. Researchers used the model system to experimentally study these tiny bacteria, testing a hypothesis for how TM7 adapted to live inside humans, and providing empirical data to confirm previous genomic studies. Their findings were recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of

This study also adds to a growing body of evidence that TM7 bacteria may play a more protective role in oral health than researchers initially thought. For example, abundance of TM7 is found to increase drastically in the mouths of patients with periodontal disease, which led

scientists to assume the bacteria contributed to the disease. However a recent study by led by Dr. Batbileg Bor, associate member of staff at Forsyth and research associate in Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity at HSDM, showed the opposite effect—TM7 decreased periodontal inflammation and bone loss in a mouse model.





A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Yingzi Yang, PhD Professor of Developmental Biology & Associate Dean for Research

Dawn M. DeCosta Editor, Design, and Layout

Heather M. Denny Editing

Kathleen Refior Editing

Lia Sgourakes Editing

QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS?

Please contact Dawn DeCosta, Director of Research Operations at 617-824-0715/ dawn_decosta@hsdm.harvard.edu.