

The OMFS Newsletter

CHIEF'S CORNER

from Dr. Leonard B. Kaban

It is again time for me to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy and successful new year. This year the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) Annual Meeting was held in Boston from September 21st to 24th. We therefore had a wonderful turnout for the annual alumni dinner. The event was held in a private room at Locke-Ober Restaurant and there were almost 100 alumni and guests present. It was especially nice to have graduates of the residency program from every decade since the 1950's. Norman Trieger and Earle Rosenberg were the senior alumni attendees representing the 1950's. Walter Guralnick and Bob Lincoln were the most senior faculty present. The entire group enjoyed the anecdotes and stories that have become a tradition at this event. In addition, we announced the start of an initiative to raise funds to support resident scholarships and junior faculty academic activities. We also announced the establishment of the Education and Research Fund, with a gift from faculty of approximately \$300,000, to support faculty, resident and student research. You will be hearing more about this "program for the future of MGH OMFS" in the coming months.

As usual, the Department was well represented at the AAOMS Annual Meeting:

Surgical Roundtable Clinic: Anatomy and Surgery of OMF Infections

Presenter: Thomas Flynn

Open Forum: Research Planning and Technology Assessment

Presentation: Emerging Technologies *Presenter: Maria Troulis*

Symposium: Pediatric Clinical Interest Group's (CIG) on Reconstruction of Cleft Maxilla

Presentation: Orthodontic management of the cleft patient *Presenter: Bonnie Padwa*

Abstract: Conventional versus immediate loading implants: survival analysis and risk factors for dental implant failure *Presenter: Sung-Kiang Chuang*

Mini-Lecture: for Professional Allied Staff

Presentation: Detection of child abuse and neglect: Treatment strategies

Presenter: Leslie Halpern

Surgical Mini-Lecture: Microbiology and antibiotic therapy of oral and maxillofacial infections

Presenter: Thomas Flynn

Abstract: Arterial stents to assist in sialoendoscopy: An animal study

Presenter: Maria Papadaki

Abstract: Functional sensory recovery following trigeminal (V3) nerve repair

Presenter: Seenu Susarla

Abstract: Condylectomy and costochondral graft reconstruction for treatment of active idiopathic condylar resorption *Presenter: Fardad Tayebaty*

Philip Maloney Lecture: Pediatric Maxillofacial Trauma *Presenter: Leonard Kaban*

Symposium Lecture: Pharmacology of New Antibiotics *Presenter: Thomas Flynn*

Mini-Lecture: Classification of vascular lesions *Presenter: Thomas Dodson*

Mini-Lecture: Infections in immunocompromised patients *Presenter: Thomas Dodson*

The next annual meeting of the AAOMS will be in sunny San Diego. We hope many of you will be able to attend and we look forward to seeing you then. ***In addition, I encourage all of***

you during the coming months to submit updates on yourselves and what is happening in your lives for the Alumni News section of the Summer newsletter.

In July 2005 Tom Dodson stepped down as Residency Program Director to spend more time on his research and the development of a Patient-Oriented Research and Outcomes Unit. Tom was Program Director for 7 years and we all thank him for his dedication and hard work and all the progress he made in rejuvenating the Resident Service. Maria Troulis became the new Program Director and has brought to the position all the enthusiasm and spirit for which she has become known.

Three other major events in the Department occurred this fall:

- Dr. Leonard Kaban hosted the Viking Study Club (VSC) meeting in Boston from September 18th to 20th. The VSC is a biennial event that gathers an invited international group of senior oral and maxillofacial surgeons to participate in presentations and discussions related to major scientific, clinical and political issues facing the specialty. This was the first VSC meeting to be held in North America and included participants from the USA, the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, and Australia. Drs. Peter Slavin (President and CEO), David Rattner (Director of the Operating Room of the Future Project), Jay Vacanti (Director of the Laboratory for Tissue and Organ Regeneration) and Steve Dawson (Director of Procedural Simulation Program) from the MGH all addressed the group.
- Dr. Maria Troulis directed the 4th Annual Harvard/MGH Course entitled: Endoscopy for Mandibular Reconstruction and Salivary Disease. This year the course was completely subscribed and received among the highest ratings for an HMS continuing education course. Dr. Troulis has become one of the international leaders in minimally invasive surgery and she chairs an AAOMS task force on the future of minimally invasive surgery in OMFS. I would recommend that you consider taking this course in the future. The technology will change your practice.
- The Department hosted its 1st annual visiting professor, Dr. Jeffrey Posnick, who spoke on: Cleft Orthognathic Surgery. This is a program started by Dr. Maria Troulis and is described in more detail in her Residency Program news.
- The Department has gone live with two new websites. Our main academic department site, which describes our faculty and academic programs, is found at www.massgeneral.org/omfs. Please check the ‘**News and Events**’ page on this site regularly for an up-to-date listing of Grand Rounds and department news. In addition, our new patient-oriented site has been launched at www.harvardOMS.org. We’ve had a tremendous response from patients and referring physicians who are now downloading their medical history and referral forms. Through this site, our Department will be the hospital-wide pilot for online appointment requests. These enhancements underscore our Department’s commitment to patient care excellence and a paperless environment.

Finally, the Department is beginning a major strategic planning process to establish our direction in patient care, research and education for the next 10 years. We will be soliciting input from alumni during this exercise and will keep you all informed in future newsletters as we proceed.

I will end my remarks by again wishing you all a happy, healthy and successful new year and by extending an open invitation for you to visit the Department when you are in Boston. I am

now in my 11th year as Chief of OMFS at MGH and I enthusiastically look forward to the future as this Department continues to grow and evolve.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Dr. Maria Troulis

It is very exciting for me to give my first report as the new Residency Program Director. First, I want to thank my predecessor, Tom Dodson, for his invaluable guidance during the transition. Second, I want to thank our Residency Coordinator, Jennifer Ferguson. Our three new interns, Brad Williams, Cory Resnick and Paul Gordon, have started off quick at the gate! They are simply doing a fabulous job. Keep it up! The three chiefs are equally impressive. Drs. Ed Lahey, Marci Levine and Brian Shah are not only well-organized, caring, and hard-working, but also wonderful teachers to the “younger ones”.

The Residency is undergoing some “mid-course corrections”. Started by Dr. Dodson and fully supported by me, we are working hard to be compliant with the 80-hour work week guidelines. The interns are now attending Patient-Doctor II. We have formal chief rounds every Wednesday morning at 6:45am, headed by Dr. Kaban. They are followed by a formal didactic session (Course Directors: Meredith August and Maria Troulis). There is now an annual OMFS Residency Program Visiting Professorship. We were delighted to have Dr. Jeff Posnick as the first Visiting Professor. Dr. Posnick gave Grand Rounds on October 5th, followed by a sit down dinner with the residents and a resident clinic the following day. It was a terrific two days! The Grand Rounds presentations, in general, have been outstanding. In addition to Dr. Posnick’s talk on Cleft Orthognathic Surgery, other highlights included Dr. Katherine Treadway who gave a lecture entitled “Notes to the Class” and Dr. Judah Folkman who spoke on Antiangiogenic Therapy for Cancer. The lectures are getting better and better! For the spring, we will have an updated residency manual and a formal cadaver head and neck surgical anatomy course. I am most pleased to be working with a fabulous faculty, outstanding resident team, and terrific auxillary staff. This team is fulfilling our purpose to provide top patient care and concurrent outstanding teaching on a daily basis. Furthermore, we are all having fun!!

MGH DENTAL GROUP

Dr. Agnes Lau

After seven years of dedicated service to the MGH, **Dr. Traci Portnoff** decided to pursue partnership in a private practice in Hopkinton, where she lives. We thank her for her superlative care of our patients and her enthusiasm and excellence in teaching. Her presence is missed, but we wish her all the best in her professional and personal endeavors.

Dr. Jason Burak has also left for partnership in a private periodontal practice on the North Shore. However, we welcome **Dr. David Kim**, the newly appointed Program Director of Pre-Doctoral Periodontology at HSDM, who is working with us one day a week. **Dr. Shanta Richardson**, a pediatric dentist trained at Boston Children’s Hospital and wife of MGH oral and maxillofacial surgery resident Dr. Daniel Richardson, has joined the MGH Dental Group as well. She is in our practice providing outpatient pediatric dental care and OR dental care for adults and children while working toward her MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. **Dr. Saeed Kashafi**, former BWH resident and attending, has also joined our group as a full time general dentist.

Members of the staff have been active in a variety of professional activities. **Dr. Nicholas Dello Russo** is the Chairman of the Allied Scientific Committee for the 31st Yankee Dental

Congress. For the 32nd Yankee Dental Congress, he is Chairman of the Professional Relations Committee and a member of the Steering Committee. Dr. Dello Russo has also been asked to be a member of the Oral Health Group Advisory Committee for Proctor and Gamble. **Dr. Leslie Will** recently returned from China, where she gave lectures on space maintenance and orthodontics for general dentists at the International Symposium and Workshop on Children's and Preventive Dentistry at the Shanghai Children's Medical Center. In October, she organized the Coenraad FA Moorrees Symposium on Growth and Development at HSDM, where she gave a lecture entitled "How Teeth Move: On the Trail of the Missing Link." **Dr. David Kim** received the Balint Orban Memorial Prize from the American Academy of Periodontology for his research project, Genetic Expression Profiles in Refractory Periodontitis Patients. He also was a guest speaker at the Philips Oral Healthcare Symposium in November. Dr. Kim recently published an article entitled "Squamous cell carcinoma presenting as endodontic and periodontic lesion: A case report" in the Journal of Periodontology, 2005; 76:1798-1804.

Our GPR resident, **Dr. Courtney Ullrich**, has completed her six-month rotation at the MGH. We commend her for her diligent efforts. **Dr. Adam May**, a graduate of Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, will be our next GPR resident.

Personal celebrations in the past half year included the marriage of **Dr. David Kim** in Korea in June and the birth of a son, Pablo, to our dental assistant, **Jose Diaz**. Congratulations!

ALUMNI NEWS

This is from a note Dr. Kaban received from Dr. Richard Miner, the son of Dr. Leroy Miner, Dean of HSDM and first Chief of OMFS at MGH: "At the old age of 92, I don't get around much anymore. I sure do value and enjoy your Chief's Corner. Keep it coming to keep me informed of your important activities. To you all, my best regards."

Dr. Samuel Molind (MGH OMFS '72) received the U.S. Agency of International Development's first-ever Outstanding Citizen Achievement Citation for coordinating the work for hundreds of medical volunteers to poor nations. Dr. Molind commented, "I accept this award for the unsung, and for those who labor in the vineyard. In all my years working with other dedicated humanitarians, I've learned that medicine apart from love leaves the patient empty." Congratulations, Dr. Molind!

Pre-Doctoral OMFS at HSDM

Dr. Thomas Flynn

It has been a very good year for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at HSDM. We have made significant progress, both in resident and dental student training. On the resident level, we have begun to receive referrals of complex reconstruction cases from the prosthodontic department. Dr. Robert Wright, the new director of postgraduate prosthodontics, who came to HSDM from Columbia (Thank you, Steve Roser!), has graciously referred several complex prosthodontic cases to our department for bone grafting and implant reconstruction. Our residents have treated cases using advanced implantology techniques, such as Nobel Biocare's "All on Four" procedure, in which either arch can be immediately restored with four specially placed implants. We are even planning our first NobelGuide case, which uses CAD/CAM techniques to construct a surgical guide that allows the patient to receive implants and the final prosthesis in one visit, using a minimally invasive technique.

On the predoctoral level, our students have again rated the Advanced Surgical Treatment Course very highly. Special credit goes to the ASTX tutors, Drs. Sung-Kiang Chuang, Leslie Halpern, John DaSilva, and Tom Flynn. The students felt their tutorial sessions made the best use of problem-based learning of any course in their curriculum so far.

The Class of 2005 recently graduated from HSDM, having completed all of their OMS requirements on time. The Class of 2005 extracted 1239 teeth, with a mean of 39, and a range of 7 to 89 extractions per student. Most of those extractions were performed at HSDM under the able guidance of Drs. Barry Agranat, Naama Samet-Rubinstein, and Tom Flynn. During the busiest months, HSDM offered students three oral surgery sessions per week in which they could perform extractions on their own, with one-on-one faculty guidance. Every student performed at least two cases of inhalation sedation with nitrous oxide, ranging from 2 to 8 experiences. Under Meredith August's guidance, in their OMS externships they observed 158 OR cases, a mean of 4.8, ranging from 3 to 12 cases.

The number of students interested in OMS residency training has increased in the Class of 2006 to 5 among 31 students (not counting our own Mark Nissenbaum, who is already a fully trained OMS.) Having Mark at HSDM has made a big difference in putting a human face on our specialty. Thank you for all your help, Mark!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MGH OMFS ANNUAL CHANGE PARTY

6:00 p.m. Friday, June 23, 2006

Exchange Conference Center, Boston, MA

AAOMS ANNUAL MEETING

October 4-7, 2006 in San Diego

NEXT NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2006

We plan to feature the graduates of 1976, 1986, and 1996.

If you have any Alumni News or other information you'd like to share, please let us know!