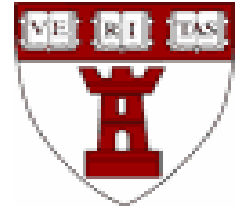


The OMFS Newsletter



CHIEF'S CORNER from Dr. Leonard B. Kaban



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This newsletter marks the beginning of my 15th year as Chief of the OMFS service at MGH. During this time, we have accomplished a great deal:

- 42 residents have graduated the Program;
- 14 clinical/research fellows have been trained;
- 2 faculty members have been promoted to Professor;
- 1 faculty member has been appointed as Associate Professor;
- 9 faculty have been promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor, and 4 of these faculty were subsequently promoted to Associate Professor;
- A new research laboratory has been built (opened in May 2007).

Along the way, faculty members have received multiple research grants from private industry, foundations, and the NIH. We have established an Education and Research Fund to support research projects of faculty, residents, fellows and students, and developed the Skeletal Biology Research Center and the Center for Applied Clinical Investigation. During this time, Department faculty and trainees have published over 300 peer reviewed papers, three books (plus one currently in press), and numerous book chapters. Faculty have edited four Oral Surgery Clinics of North America and have twice won the Daniel Laskin prize for best paper in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Our faculty are disproportionately represented on the editorial boards of the major OMFS journals and on the examination committee for the American Board of OMFS.

Despite this time consuming and productive professional life, many personal milestones have been achieved. It is difficult to calculate the exact number of marriages that have occurred, babies and even grandchildren (including my first!) that have been born, and children that have graduated from college, but there have been many. We've also had a number of faculty, including Ziggy Pozatek

and Barry Agranat, retire after many years of faithful service. It has been wonderful to watch our faculty and residents flourish both professionally and personally.

Life goes on and I am approaching, with great enthusiasm, the opportunities presented by new interns and the change in junior and senior residents that occurs every July. I want to congratulate our four interns: **Alfredo Dela Rosa, Ali Attapour, Sang Kim, and Richard Rolle** for a job well done. I wish our three categorical interns the best of luck in medical school and general surgery and Richard Rolle great success in his OMFS training in Miami at Nova Southeastern University. Our three chief residents, **Derek Steinbacher, Steven Smullin and Killian MacCarthy**, have had an excellent year and we wish them happiness and success in the next phase of their lives. I also want to welcome the three new Chief Residents: **Chris Rouleau, Nancy McDermott and Dan Richardson**. After an incredibly productive year, **Batya Goldwasser** will be completing her term as Synthes Research Fellow in OMFS. Batya will return to HSDM as a third year student and will then return to MGH as an intern in our Residency Program in July 2009. Finally, on behalf of the Department, I would like to welcome our new interns to the MGH family: **Seenu Susarla and Andrea Burke** from HSDM, **Ryan Smart** from Tufts University and, for our Preliminary Year position, **Eric Crum** from Nova Southeastern.

This year the Annual Meeting of the AAOMS will be in Hawaii. Jennifer Ferguson has again been working hard to plan a successful alumni dinner on October 11th. You will receive formal invitations this summer but please save the date. We hope to have a large turnout for a fun evening of socializing with friends and fellow alumni. Please bring to the dinner your memories and your stories that always make this a great event.

Department Highlights

New Faculty! We welcome **Ed Lahey** (MGH '06) to the full time faculty. Based on a new arrangement with Harvard Vanguard, Dr. Lahey joins the full time HSDM/MGH faculty. His time is divided 80% at HVMA and 20% at MGH. This arrangement provides continuity for HVMA inpatients and provides the template for the future long term relationship between HVMA and MGH OMFS.

- **Graduation!** We congratulate our resident **Salim Afshar**, who graduated from Harvard Medical School on June 7th.
- **Promotion!** The Department is proud to announce the promotion of **Agnes Lau** to Assistant Professor at HSDM. Congratulations!
- **Wedding!** Congratulations to **Harutsugi Abukawa**, former Researcher in OMFS, who was married at the International House of Japan in Tokyo on May 4th. Best wishes to Haru and Yuka!
- **Baby!** Congratulations to **Tricia Young-Shaw** and **Elroy Shaw** on the birth in May of their third daughter, Mia Elizabeth.
- **Maria Troulis** and **Kathy Keeley** (MGH '97) join **Bonnie Padwa** as current members of the Examination Committee of ABOMS.
- **Leonard Kaban** was Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland OMS Program on April 28th and 29th. He lectured on "Diagnosis and Management of Jaw Tumors in Children: A 30 Year Experience" and "Diagnosis and Management of Hemifacial Microsomia in Children: The 4th Dimension". **Thomas Dodson** gave the Geller Lecture at NYU School of Dentistry on June 27th. His topic was "Evidence-Based Third Molar Management."
- **Leslie Halpern** and **Meredith August** were the guest editors of the May 2007 Oral and Maxillofacial Clinics of North America entitled: Treatment of the Female Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Patient.
- **Thomas Flynn** and **Rabie Shanti**, a 3rd year HSDM student, received the Daniel M. Laskin Award for the most outstanding article published in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 2006. Their two-part article was titled: Severe Odontogenic Infections, Part One: Prospective Report. J Oral Maxillofac Surg 2006;64:1093-1103 and Severe odontogenic infections, part 2: prospective outcomes study. (J Oral Maxillofac Surg. 2006 Jul;64(7):1104-13.) **Thomas Dodson** was awarded the OMS Foundation's Ambassador Service Award, presented only when deemed appropriate, to a leader who has shown outstanding service to the Foundation.
- **Thomas Dodson** was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Alumni News

Arthur Sperling – Class of 1967: A brief update of our travels after completion of my residency. After leaving Boston I went on active duty with the US Air Force and was Chief of OMFS at the USAF regional hospital at Sheppard AFB in Texas. On discharge, Harriet and I moved to Wethersfield, CT, where we still live. We have two children, Bradley and Audrey. I am in private practice with offices in Middletown, Glastonbury and Avon. In the interim, I have served in numerous positions and have been continuously involved with teaching, holding an Assistant Professorship in

OMFS at UConn. Health Center Residency Program, a senior teaching staff position at Hartford Hospital and Conn. Children's Medical Center, and Chief of OMFS at Middlesex Hospital. In the past, I have served on the board of directors of the Hartford Division of the American Heart Association and for 11 years on the Board of Directors of Connecticut HMO. I am presently on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Health Foundation. Over the years I served on many state and local committees as well as being president of the Conn. Society of OMFS.

Meredith August – Class of 1987: I am currently an Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at HSDM and on the full time surgical staff at MGH. I am happy to report that Nalt and I are empty nesters and that Sarah has completed her first year at Vanderbilt. I continue to teach the first year students in patient history taking and run both the HSDM and outside externship programs. I enjoy my busy clinical practice at MGH and conduct outcomes based research in the field of pathology.

Other Alumni News: **Charles Bertolami** (MGH '80) has been appointed the Dean of NYU College of Dentistry. **Reed Day** (MGH '89) was inducted into the American College of Dentists.

Residency Program

Dr. Maria Troulis

As this academic year draws to a close, I would like to provide a brief update of our residency program. Changes instituted this year included:

- a pathophysiology review course integrated with the didactic session;
- most of the laboratory work for orthognathic work ups being performed by an outside lab;
- resident reviews held three times a year with formal written documentation; and
- for the second year we had a 4th intern, taken outside the Match for a Preliminary Year.

We also had the use of a beautiful, newly renovated conference room/library. The residents have direct access to over 90 books. Many of these books are ones the residents requested. I hope the residents know that the department is committed to them. The faculty and I are always "trying harder" to improve our residency program!

With regards to the graduating residents, **Killian MacCarthy** is entering a private group practice in Maine with MGH alumni **Mark Zajkowski** and **Brian Shah**. **Derek Steinbacher** will be entering a Plastic and Reconstruction Surgery Residency at John Hopkins, while **Steve Smullin** will stay in academics at Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA. These residents have been an absolute joy to work with!! I look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments and wish them the best of luck. Please do not forget to visit or call. The rising senior residents are **Nancy McDermott**, **Daniel Richardson** and **Christian Rouleau**. I know it will be a great year for the chief residents: The best ever, I hope!! The junior residents will be **Basel Sharef**, **Matt Jacobsen** and **Jay Ramirez**. Welcome back team! As I complete my second year as Program Director, I want to thank our terrific faculty and especially **Meredith August** for being a great Didactic Course co-director and **Bonnie Padwa** for all your assistance in the Longwood area. I greatly appreciated guidance and support from Drs. **Len Kaban**, **Jules Dienstag**, **Ron Arky**, **Katherine Treadway**, **Charlie Jeffrey**, **Peter Dunn** and **Charlie Ferguson**. I wish everyone a terrific summer!

Center for Applied Clinical Investigation

Dr. Thomas Dodson

Since its launch in 2006, CACI faculty have had an active and productive year pursuing patient-oriented research as investigators and mentors. This year we hosted a visiting dental student, **Michael Markiewicz** from the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry, who pursued outcomes studies while attaining an MPH from HSPH. CACI was approved to enroll its fourth Fellow in Clinical Investigation sponsored by the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Research Foundation. CACI also hit a major milestone receiving a generous grant from Bicon, Inc., a leader in dental implants, to support its outcomes research efforts.

CACI faculty and fellows have published 14 articles and chapters this year. Significant ongoing research activities include analyses from the AAOMS-sponsored anesthesia and 3rd molar outcomes studies spearheaded by **Dr. Sung-Kiang Chuang** and “**Dr.**” **Seenu Susarla** (HSDM '07), estimates of and predictors of implant survival by Michael Markiewicz and mentored by Drs. Dodson and Chuang, and **Dr. Leslie Halpern**'s continuing work identifying markers for intimate partner violence.

Dr. Dodson has been active in the controversy surrounding bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaws (BRON), contributing to the preparation of the AAOMS Taskforce White Paper on BRON, participating in a recent “webinar” on BRON hosted by AAOMS, implementing a case-control study looking for risk factors for BRON, evaluating how BRON affects quality of life, and working in collaboration with the MGH Cancer Center to screen subjects for genetic markers of BRON. In collaboration with Dr. Zavras from the HSDM Dept. of Dental Public Health and Epidemiology, Dr. Dodson will be examining the pharmacogenetics of BRON under a NIH R21 award. Visit us at www.caciOMS.org for information on research and fellowships.

Skeletal Biology Research Center

Dr. Maria Troulis

On Friday, May 4th, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery **Skeletal Biology Research Center (SBRC)** moved into its new laboratory in the Thier Building. After five years in temporary quarters, the group was ecstatic to be moved into its long awaited home on the main campus in close proximity to the Knight Surgical Laboratory where we do our animal surgery. The SBRC conducts research in 4 areas related to skeletal biology and reconstruction: 1) Distraction osteogenesis, that is, bone lengthening by creating an osteotomy and placing tension on the callus to stimulate the body to form new bone; 2) Design of totally buried, miniature distraction devices capable of accurate 3-dimensional movements and controlled by an electrically driven micromotor; 3) CT-based, 3-dimensional surgical treatment planning and navigation; and, 4) Minimally invasive access to the craniomaxillofacial skeleton. The second major area of interest is in the classification, biology and novel management of giant cell tumors of the jaw bones. The third area of interest is the development of databases to carry out outcome studies in the areas of implantology, nerve injury and repair, trauma and orthognathic surgery. **Maria Troulis** is the Director of the SBRC and **Maria Papadaki** oversees the day to day research operation. Current fellows include: **Batya Goldwasser, Fardad Tayebaty and Brad Williams**.

MGH Dental Group

Dr. Agnes Lau

The MGH Dental Group is continually expanding and increasing its scope of services. **Michael Joseph** joined the group as an endodontist after having completed his general practice residency at the BWH/MGH and his postdoctoral endodontic training at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. He has a special interest in surgical endodontics.

Members of the MGH Dental Group staff have been active in a number of professional activities. **Arnold Weiss** gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry on “Infant Oral Health and Caries Risk Assessment” in May. He has also been a visiting lecturer at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine's Department of Pediatric Dentistry. **Yana Posemeynik** was a guest lecturer at Mount Ida College on the topic of hospital dentistry, and she organized the dental effort at the MGH Children's Health Fair in April. Special thanks to **Tiffany Sum** for making the dental booth both fun and educational for hundreds of school children. **Jeff Shaefer** presented abstracts at the MGH Research Day on “Alternative Anesthetic Techniques for Inferior Alveolar Nerve Blocks” and “The Use of Mandibular Appliances in NFL Football Players to Prevent Concussions.” This past spring he presented talks on “TMJ Development and Facial Pain in Children” at Children's Hospital and “Atypical Facial Pain” at the BWH Pain Clinic. **David Kim** co-authored an article entitled “Regeneration of Standardized Mandibular Bone Defects Using Expanded Polytetrafluoroethylene Membrane and Various Bone Fillers” in the March/April issue of International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry. We congratulate Dr. Kim for an award he received from the HMS Fund for Women's Health for his project on cultivated oral mucosal transplantation for ocular surface reconstruction. We thank **Rishi Verma** for a job well done as he completes his general practice residency program. He will be pursuing private practice in New Jersey. **Jennifer Magee**, a graduate of the UConn. School of Dental Medicine, will be the next resident starting at the end of June.

Pre-Doctoral OMFS at HSDM

Dr. Thomas Flynn

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery continues to flourish at 188 Longwood Avenue. Over the past eight years, the Department has provided consistent personnel, including Drs. **Bruce Donoff** and **Tom Flynn**, as a base for constant improvement and development of the predoctoral program. The Advanced Surgical Treatment Course (ASTX) is enjoying its sixth consecutive year with the same outstanding tutors, **John DaSilva, Leslie Halpern, Sung-Kiang Chuang, and Tom Flynn**. At the same time, the oral surgery section of the course has been augmented by three new lectures on distraction osteogenesis and sialoendoscopy by **Maria Papadaki**, and domestic violence by **Leslie Halpern**. **Jeffrey Shaefer, Maria Papadaki, and Bruce Donoff** have also served as substitute tutors. In addition, a new course is being developed in which OMFS will have significant input. Near the end of the second year, the new Introduction to the Dental Patient course will take the opportunity to apply the students' recent preclinical education at the Medical School to the evaluation of medical and surgical risk in the dental patient. Our department will play a key role in developing these skills just as the dental students begin their clinical education.

(Continued next page.)

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The predoctoral student clinic has also expanded at HSDM to a total of three sessions per week, under the able preceptorship of **Maria Papadaki**, **Tore Bjornland** (Visiting Professor from the University of Oslo, Norway), and **Tom Flynn**. The increased clinic time in oral surgery has helped the students gain more surgical experience, increased exposure to oral surgery faculty, and time-concentrated experience, since the students will now have two week-long OMS rotations during their 3rd year. This should better prepare them for their 4th year hospital OMS rotation. The graduating class of 2007 boasts 29 new dentists who have all completed their OMFS requirements and competencies. This class performed an average of 50.2 extractions, 3.3 nitrous oxide sedations, and observed 5.6 operating room surgeries.

Four graduates are entering OMS residencies: Seenu Susarla and Andrea Burke at MGH; Tyler Nelson at UCSF; and Tyson Teeple at the Mayo Clinic. Our best wishes to them for long and productive careers in OMFS! A student in the rising 4th year class deserves special recognition. Rabie Shanti was recently a co-recipient of the coveted Laskin Award for two articles voted the most outstanding published in the Journal of OMFS in 2006. Strong work, Rabie!

Our outstanding track record of consistent progress in predoctoral OMS is due to the vision and support of **Bruce Donoff** and **Leonard Kaban**. They deserve our gratitude and support for having made OMFS a strong, vital presence in the education of the best dental students in the whole world.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

AAOMS ANNUAL MEETING

October 3-6, 2007 in San Diego, CA

MGH ALUMNI DINNER at AAOMS MEETING

Le Mer Restaurant at the Halekulani Hotel

Thursday, October 11, 2007

Annual OMFS Residency Visiting Professor: Dr. Raymond Fonseca

October 17, 2007, Ether Dome

*If you would like any further information on these events, please contact
Jennifer Ferguson at 617-726-8222 or jeferguson@partners.org.*