

The OMFS Newsletter



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June is always a very interesting month for faculty and staff in academic medical centers. It is a time of mixed emotions: happiness for our chief residents, but sadness on a personal note that their time with us has come to an end; a sense of accomplishment for our interns but a sense of loss that they will be away from the service for the next 3 years; excitement for the beginning of a new academic year with new chief residents and new interns. On behalf of our faculty and staff I want to congratulate **Nancy McDermott, Daniel Richardson** and **Christian Rouleau**, our Chief Residents. For the first time, all our chief residents will be going on to fellowships next year: head and neck oncology, pediatric OMFS and cosmetic surgery, respectively. We wish them good health, success and happiness and we know they will make us proud to have them represent the MGH at their new institutions.

Life goes on and, as always, I approach 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 graduating interns: **Andrea Burke, Seenu Susarla, Ryan Smart** and **Eric Crum**. They were a wonderful group to work with. They became friends and bonded very early in the year. Their teamwork was a pleasure to observe. They were all eager to learn, dedicated and hard workers. This year we received more complimentary notes and letters from grateful patients than ever before, the result of the excellent quality of empathic patient care provided by these four interns. I wish our three categorical interns the best of luck in medical school and general surgery and Eric Crum great success in his OMFS training at Harbor UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles County. I also want to welcome the three new Chief Residents, **Basel Sharaf, Matthew Jacobsen, and Jay Ramirez**, as well as our new Interns: **Shawn Marsh** (Tufts), **Fardad Tayebaty** (HSDM and former Synthes fellow in OMFS), **Natalie Tung** (UCLA), and **Yedeh Ying** (UPenn).

Zachary Abramson will be completing his year as Synthes Research Fellow in OMFS. He's had an incredibly productive year investigating three-dimensional airway changes in patients with obstructive sleep apnea and developing and validating a standardized method of assessing condylar growth using skeletal scintigraphy, among other projects. Zach will be returning to HSDM

as a third year student and will then return to MGH as an intern in our Residency Program beginning July 2010.

Another important transition this year is the retirement of **Dan Nozik**. Most of you know Dan. He has been on the MGH staff for over 40 years as an OMFS resident, Anesthesia Resident and as an Anesthesia and OMFS attending. Dan has been the tutor for generations of OMFS residents during their Anesthesia rotations. He has also played a significant role in the teaching of conscious sedation. Words cannot express our deep appreciation and gratitude for his dedication to the care of our patients and the teaching of our residents. We all wish Dan and Gail a healthy and happy retirement and hope they stay in touch.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our faculty that have been honored recently: **Maria Troulis** was one of the recipients of the HMS A. Clifford Barger Award for Excellence in Mentoring. **Bradford Williams**, an HSDM graduate, former MGH Synthes Fellow and current OMFS resident, presented the award to Dr. Troulis at a very touching ceremony earlier this month. **Tom Dodson** was also a nominee for this award. **Meredith August** and **Maria Troulis** were recognized as nominees for the McGovern Award for Clinical Excellence awarded by the Mass General Physicians Organization in honor of Brian McGovern, MD.

We have had significant changes in our Administrative staff this year. **John McGillivray** joined us as Administrative Director in July 2007 and **Carolyn Dever** as Practice Manager in September 2007. They have both been a tremendously positive force in the Department and we are all grateful to have them.

This year the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons will be in Seattle, Washington. Jennifer Ferguson has again been working hard to plan a successful alumni dinner on Thursday, September 18, 2008. It will be held at the Columbia Tower Club in a beautiful room with a spectacular view of the city. You will receive formal invitations this summer but please save the date. We hope to have a large turnout again 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.

I hope that you all have a wonderful year and that I see you in Seattle in September!

Alumni News

Rocco Addante – Class of 1978: I graduated in 1978 from the MGH residency followed by the medical school program and then a year at the Beth Israel Hospital. I moved to New Hampshire in 1980 and have been at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center ever since. My practice is entirely within the Medical Center where I serve as Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with a primary interest in oral pathology dealing with both benign and malignant disease. We also provide dento-alveolar surgery for the community, orthognathic surgery and yes, even an occasional implant. I have served on the Commission of Professional Conduct for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for the past 6 years and am now serving as a consultant. Prior to this I was an examiner for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for 7 years.

On the home front, the first of my six children has just graduated from college and I will have three more in college come the fall. They just don't make ATM's big enough to handle this endeavor. I am fortunate to have Linda as my wife and companion and her psychiatric training has certainly been challenged with balancing work, career, kids, and all those things that surface in the mystery of life.

I often reflect on my days at the MGH, the learning, the experience, the sleepless nights, the complex cases, Dr. Guralnick's words of wisdom and most of all, the bonds with many thoughtful individuals who have given of themselves so that the program and the profession can succeed and flourish. Without their encouragement and mentoring, I would not have come this far.

Other Alumni News:

- **Mark Glyman** (Class of 1992) has been elected Chief of Staff at HCA Southern Hills Hospital in Las Vegas, NV.
- **Marci Levine** (Class of 2006) has joined the full-time faculty at New York University starting in July 2008.
- Congratulations to **An-Louise Johnson** (Class of 2005) on the birth on New Year's Day of her first child, Maximilian Slater.

Department Highlights

- **Wedding!** Congratulations to **Sang Kim**, resident in OMFS and current student at HMS, who was married in Korea on April 5th, followed by a reception in Georgia on April 19th. Best wishes to Sang and Arin!
- **Graduates!** Congratulations to our three residents, **Paul Gordon, Cory Resnick and Brad Williams**, who graduated from Harvard Medical School on June 5th. We look forward to their being back on campus at the MGH when they start their General Surgery rotation in July.
- **Retirement!** After more than 40 years of service at the MGH, **Daniel Nozik** retired on December 31, 2007. We are grateful to Dr. Nozik for playing a vital role in the education of our residents over the years and extend our best wishes to him and his family for happy healthy future!
- **Brad Williams** was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from Windent OMS. This scholarship is open to all OMFS residents in the country, but is only awarded to 10 recipients.
- **Maria Troulis** was one of the recipients of the A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award from Harvard School of Dental Medicine, presented on May 20, 2008.
- **Thomas Dodson** was the Keynote Speaker for Student Research Day at University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine on March 3, 2008. His lecture was titled, "Clinical Decision-making in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery"

- **Jeffrey Shaefer** gave a lecture on Atypical Facial Pain to the Norfolk Dental society in Dedham, MA on February 28 and volunteered with the Massachusetts Dental Society in the Dental Van giving free dental treatment to kids on February 19. Dr. Shaefer also gave a three-day course to a mixed group of dentists and physicians in Alta, Utah on March 5-7 entitled, "Case studies in occlusion for the primary care provider".

- **33rd Yankee Dental Congress: Leonard Kaban and Jeffrey Shaefer** presented a three-hour seminar on Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Dr. Shaefer also presented a seminar on Temporomandibular Joint Disorders. **David Keith** gave the Minuteman Lecture on Non-Odontogenic Orofacial Pain. **Leslie Halpern** presented a lecture entitled, "Diagnosis of violence and abuse".

- **Leslie Halpern** was appointed as the liaison for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons to the AMA National Advisory Council on Violence and Abuse.

- **David Keith** attended the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain in Los Angeles on April 10-13 and was part of an Advisory group to the Board on Orofacial Pain Fellowship programs and a member of the Education Subcommittee. Dr. Keith also was a member of a panel discussion on temporomandibular disorders.

- **Thomas B. Dodson** was the Course director of AO North America Principles of Operative Treatment or Craniomaxillofacial Trauma and Reconstruction in Boston on May 3-4, 2008.

Residency Program

By Maria Troulis, DDS, Msc

As this academic year draws to a close, I would like to provide a brief update of improvements and changes made to our residency program:

- A formal surgical anatomy course (10 hours) was held in April, followed by a great dinner.
- **Krystal Haller** has returned to Estonia and **Joyce Ahern** is now assisting with orthognathic work-ups, but with most of the laboratory work being performed by an outside lab;
- **Maureen McGowan**, a Physician Assistant, has joined the Ward Service and we are happy to welcome her to the team!
- **Dr. Sue Farrell**, a curriculum specialist from the Graduate Medical Education Office, is working with me to review, assess and improve our residency curriculum.
- **Dr. Nalt Ferraro** has been recruited to teach the Crash-Course in Physical Diagnosis to the incoming Intern class.

With regards to the chief residents, all three are going on to fellowships!!! **Nancy McDermott** is going to train in Head and Neck Oncology with Bob Ord in Maryland. **Dan Richardson** is going to Chevy Chase, Maryland to complete Dr. Jeff Posnick's Craniofacial Fellowship. **Chris Rouleau** will complete a Cosmetic Fellowship with Dr. Howard Tobin in Abilene, Texas. We are very proud of all of you! 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.

We have four interns starting in July 2007: **Shawn Marsh** (Tufts), **Fardad Tayebaty** (HSDM), **Natalie Tung** (UCSF), and **Yedeh Ying** (UPenn). The graduating intern class - **Andrea Burke, Seenu Susurla and Ryan Smart** - will be entering Harvard Medical School. Work hard and represent us well! **Eric Crum**, a very talented surgeon, will be starting his formal OMFS residency at Harbor UCLA Medical Center. Congratulations, Eric! We will miss you.

The rising senior residents are **Matt Jacobsen, Basel Sharaf** and **Jay Ramirez**. I know it will be a great year for the chief residents: The best ever, I hope!! The junior residents will be Sal Afshar and Rizan Nashef, joining our program from Israel. Welcome back, Sal, and welcome to the team, Rizan!

As I complete my third year as Program Director, I want to thank our terrific faculty, especially **Meredith August** for being a great Didactic Course co-director and **Bonnie Padwa** for all your assistance in the Longwood area. An extra special thank you to **Meredith August, Nalt Ferraro** and **Ed Lahey** for making the Surgical Anatomy Course terrific. I both needed and greatly appreciated guidance and support from **Len Kaban, Jules Dienstag, Ron Arky, Bob Mayer, Charlie Jeffrey, Peter Dunn** and **Charlie Ferguson**. Our Residency Coordinator, **Jennifer Ferguson**, has done a fantastic job. Jennifer, thank you for all do! **John McGillivray**, our Administrative Director, has become a terrific asset in helping with the residency! I wish everyone a terrific summer!

MGH Dental Group

By Agnes Lau, DMD

After three years of dedicated service to the pediatric patients of the MGH Dental Group, **Shanta Richardson** will be moving to the Washington, DC area with her husband, **Daniel Richardson**, and their daughter, Victoria. We thank her for her superlative care of our patients. We, along with her patients, will miss her enthusiasm and cheerful smile. **Carolyn Coppe**, a graduate of HSDM and the postdoctoral pediatric dentistry program at UCSF, will join **Arnold Weiss** as a member of the pediatric dental care team in July. She will assume the care of Dr. Richardson's outpatients and OR rehabilitation cases.

Members of the MGH Dental Group staff have been active in a number of professional activities. **Arnold Weiss** was chosen by the American Dental Association as a Champion of Evidence-Based Dentistry in Chicago in May, and presented a talk on "How to make our personal and professional lives what we want them to be" at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry meeting in Washington, DC. **Leslie Will** became Professor and Program Director of Orthodontics at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. She is also now Associate Editor of the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and Program Co-chair for the 2009 American Association of Orthodontists meeting to be held in Boston. Dr. Will was elected President of the Northeastern Society of Orthodontics and was chosen as an examiner for the American Board of Orthodontics and as a site visitor for graduate orthodontic programs by the American Dental Association. Dr. Will traveled to Taichung, Taiwan in April 2008 to give talks entitled "Improving patient care with cone beam CT" and "Arch form and basal bone – to extract or not?" to the Orthodontic Department of China Medical University. She was awarded a \$120,000 grant by the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation to fund an effort to digitize longitudinal growth collections and to make them available on the web. **Tiffany Sum** and **Yana Posemeynik** opened the eyes of many children to the world of dental health by organizing the dental booth at the MGH Children's Health Fair in May. **Nicholas Dello Russo** was named State Ambassador for the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation, which awards grants to support and develop young periodontists as educators.

Michael Joseph, our endodontist, published an article entitled "Endodontic treatment in three taurodontic teeth associated with 48,XXX Y Klinefelter syndrome: a review and case report" (Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod 2008;105:670-7).

Leslie Will co-authored "Malposition of unerupted mandibular second premolars in children with unilateral cleft lip and palate" (Angle Orthod 2007; 77:1062-1066) and "Psychological and behavioral responses associated with mechanical tooth movement" (Sem Orthod 2007; 13:212-219).

We thank our general practice resident, **Winnie Hsu**, for a job well done and wish her well as she pursues her career in general dentistry. **Colleen Anderson** from the University of Michigan and **Sumra Khan** from the University of Pennsylvania will be the first general practice residents of the new academic year rotating at the MGH Dental Group. **Jingyi He** from Harvard School of Dental Medicine will be the general practice resident rotating through MGH OMFS in June/July.

Center for Applied Clinical Investigation

By Thomas Dodson, DMD, MPH

As CACI prepares for its second anniversary, its faculty and mentees continue to be active contributors to patient-oriented research activities. During its second year, CACI has embarked on its initial molecular epidemiology research activities. With Dr. **Thanos Zavras** at HSDM, we initiated a NIH-funded project looking at genetic markers associated with BRON. CACI faculty along with other departmental faculty submitted a manuscript looking at the role of CD34 as an OKC biomarker. Also with other departmental faculty and as a joint venture with the Department of Orthopedics, we are looking for a genetic signature to discriminate between aggressive and non-aggressive giant cell lesions.

Since the last newsletter was published, **Sung-Kiang Chuang** presented an abstract at AADR and co-authored an abstract with **Michael Markiewicz** presented at the Academy of Osseointegration meeting. Dr. Markiewicz, a 2006-07 CACI fellow, graduated last month from the University of Buffalo and is now at Oregon Health and Sciences Center entering his internship year in OMFS. During his last year of dental school, he had a very productive time preparing and presenting this spring three manuscripts and five abstracts on topics ranging from implant survival to a systematic review of corticosteroids in third molar surgery.

In the last six months, CACI faculty published eight articles. Former CACI mentee and OMFS Foundation Clinical Investigation fellow, **Seenu Susarla**, now an OMFS intern at MGH, managed to find the time to prepare four manuscripts for publication and present an abstract at the MGH Clinical Research Day. In addition, he co-authored a chapter on complications of dentoalveolar surgery with his co-intern, **Ryan Smart**.

Leslie Halpern continues to develop and refine a diagnostic protocol to identify women with injuries due to intimate partner violence (IPV). She is a national spokesperson on IPV and represents AAOMS in other clinical venues such as the AMA's taskforce on domestic violence. Dr. Halpern co-authored a chapter on maxillofacial injuries. She also authored an essay based upon her participation in the 2007 Family Violence Prevention Fund meeting on educating the healthcare practitioner on diagnosing victims of violence and abuse.

CACI director, **Thomas Dodson**, was invited to present at Student Research Day at University of Buffalo School of Dentistry in March and at the ACOMS meeting in Kansas City. He is actively mentoring both HSDM students and international dental students in research activities. He co-authored what may be the first controlled study of bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaws (BRON) with John Wessel (HSDM '09) and Dr. Thanos Zavras, HSDM Department of Oral Epidemiology and Policy.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MGH ALUMNI DINNER at AAOMS MEETING Columbia Tower Club, Seattle, WA - Thursday, September 18, 2008

Predoctoral OMFS at HSDM

By Thomas Flynn, DMD

The HSDM graduating class of 2008 boasts 40 new dentists. This class performed an average of 46 extractions, 2.8 nitrous oxide sedations, and observed 4.7 operating room surgeries. We congratulate all of the new graduates and wish them a long, happy, and healthy career. The newly graduated class has provided OMFS with a bumper crop of success this year. Six graduates have been accepted in OMFS residencies. **Fardad Tayebaty** will begin his OMFS residency at MGH; he graduated magna cum laude in a special field for his research at MGH. **Michael Bundy** won the Gold Medal for scholastic excellence; he will begin his OMFS residency at UCLA. **Cameron Cavola** won the Silver Medal as he prepares to begin his OMFS residency at LSU. **Rabie Shanti** also graduated magna cum laude in a special field and won the Laskin Award for the most outstanding article published in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 2006, for a work he coauthored with **Tom Flynn**. Rabie is headed for OMFS residency at UMDNJ in Newark. **Jonathon Fillmore** is headed for OMFS residency at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, and **Sam-peter Odera** will begin his OMFS residency at UCSF in California. One more member of the class of 2008 plans to apply for OMS residency next year, which brings the total of future oral and maxillofacial surgeons to 18% of the class of 2008.

The Advanced Surgical Treatment Course (ASTX) is enjoying its seventh consecutive year with the same OMFS tutors, **Leslie Halpern**, **Sung-Kiang Chuang**, and **Tom Flynn**. This year's expanded ASTX has 12 new lectures, all from OMFS: **Leonard Kaban** (distraction osteogenesis and sialoendoscopy); **Ed Lahey**

(surgical treatment of sleep apnea); **Jeff Shaefer** (non-surgical treatment of sleep apnea); **Elsbeth Kalendarian** (cultural competency; ethics for the dental specialist); **Tom Flynn** (early diagnosis of oral cancer; oral biopsy techniques); **Leslie Halpern** (diagnosis of violence and abuse; women in OMS); **Tom Dodson** (evidence base for socket grafting and immediate implant loading); and **Sung-Kiang Chuang** (evidence base for dental implant treatment planning.) **Dr. Elsbeth Kalendarian** is an OMFS and our new Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs. Welcome to the OMFS family, Elsbeth! **Dr. Leslie Halpern** is now covering two student clinic sessions at HSDM and she will soon join the faculty practice at HSDM.

The curriculum redesign efforts started in the medical school are now taking effect in the dental curriculum. OMFS has had significant input in an entirely new second year course called Introduction to the Dental Patient. We took this opportunity to apply the students' recently acquired medical knowledge to clinical dentistry with offerings on medical risk assessment, modifications of dental care in the medically compromised patient, infection control, prophylactic antibiotics, head and neck examination, early detection of oral cancer, domestic violence, gender disparities in oral health, and geriatric dentistry. We are following through in the Treatment of Acute Disease course with new material on oral biopsy techniques, geriatric dentistry, and preprosthetic surgery.

Our outstanding track record of consistent progress in predoctoral OMFS is due to the vision and support of Drs. **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.
