

# The OMFS Newsletter

MGH Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

June, 2005

## CHIEF'S CORNER

from Dr. Leonard B. Kaban

This has been an exciting and challenging year for the Department. In September, we went through another Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit and received full accreditation, without any recommendations.

Congratulations to **Dr. Thomas Dodson** for his leadership in getting us through this process. Also, a special thanks to Tom, who has stepped down as Program Director after 7 years (see the section on the Residency Program). Tom shepherded the residents during a period of growth and change and we are all grateful for the job he did. **Dr. Maria Troulis** will succeed Tom as Program Director and we all wish her great success in this position. We know she will bring changes to the Program and that she will move it forward to the next level.

This has been my 11<sup>th</sup> year as Chief of the Service. I have been working on a detailed 10 Year Report which will be mailed to all alumni and friends of the Department in the late summer or early fall. I hope you will all have a chance to read it before you visit us at the AAOMS Annual Meeting in Boston this year. I also hope that this document will impart to you the excitement that has been present for the past 10 years and the accomplishments of our terrific faculty and residents. It has been my privilege to work with them.

Jennifer Ferguson has been working hard to plan a successful **Alumni Dinner at Locke-Ober Restaurant** during the AAOMS meeting. 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 which always make this a great event.

**Dr. Maria Papadaki** will be completing her first year as AO/Synthes Fellow in Pediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Thanks to Synthes CMF and the AO-ASIF Foundation, this fellowship has been in existence since 1996. We have had a wonderful group of oral and maxillofacial surgeons who have been fellows and who have enriched our Department during this period. The list includes **Paul Tompach, Maria Troulis, David Emanuel, Petra Thurmüller, Corinna Zimmermann, Brad Williams, and Arnulf Baumann**. Dr. Papadaki will be the third fellow to spend a second year with us, the other two being Maria Troulis and Petra Thurmüller. She is working on projects in minimally invasive surgical techniques and distraction osteogenesis. This year, for the first time, we will have a second fellow, **Fardad Tayebaty**. Fardad is an HSDM student taking one year

off from school to do research in our laboratory. **Brad Williams**, a graduate of that program, is now a new PGY 1 resident in the OMFS Training Program. Please join me in welcoming our three new interns: **Brad Williams, Paul Gordon and Cory Resnick**.

We will be moving our laboratory to a new 2,300 square foot space in the Thier Research Building on the main campus. This move has allowed us to design and outfit a conveniently located new space to our desired specifications. This is an exciting time for research in the Department. **Maria Troulis** will remain as Director of the Skeletal Biology Research Center in this new space.

Finally, the annual MGH/Harvard Continuing Education Course, **Endoscopy for Mandibular Reconstruction and Salivary Gland Disease**, will be held on the Sunday and Monday (September 25-26) following the close of the AAOMS meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity for alumni to learn new and valuable technology developed at MGH and which may, in the future, have a significant impact on OMFS practice. I encourage you to sign up for the course.

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Graduates!** The Department would like to congratulate our residents **Nancy McDermott, Daniel Richardson, and Christian Rouleau**. All graduated from Harvard Medical School on June 9th.
- **Dr. Edward Seldin** of the MGH Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department left Boston on February 26th to join the MGH/Project Hope Team and served for three weeks on the USNS Mercy, a Navy Hospital, in the Aceh province of Indonesia, aiding victims of the December tsunami. More information on their mission can be found at: <http://www.massgeneral.org/projecthope/>
- **Dr. Maria Troulis** was recognized by Congressman Mike Capuano as a Local Legend from Massachusetts. This honor has been bestowed upon women physicians who have demonstrated commitment, originality, innovation, or creativity in their field of medicine. As a Local Legend, Dr. Troulis will be recognized on the Local Legends web site that will celebrate the accomplishments of America's women physicians ([www.locallegends.org](http://www.locallegends.org)). The Local Legends recognition is a companion project to an exhibition created by the National Library of Medicine entitled Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians.

You can learn more about the exhibition at [www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/). The exhibition is located at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda through April 2005. After that time, the exhibition will travel around the country.

- **Dr. Walter Guralnick**, former Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at MGH and Professor Emeritus, received the Harvard Medal for Distinguished Service during the Harvard University Commencement Day Alumni Exercises. The principal objective of the awarding of the Harvard Medal is to recognize extraordinary service to Harvard University and it is given in recognition of exceptional service to the University. Further information can be found at: <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2005/05.19/11-medals.html>
- **Dr. Leonard Kaban** made his annual trip to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to work in the Odontological-Maxillofacial Hospital. Two foundations sponsor the trip, Face the Challenge (Denver, Colorado) and Facing Futures (Jacksonville, Florida), and Drs. Barry Steinberg, Jerry Popham, and Randy Robinson were again the leaders and organizers. Dr. Pepper Denman of the MGH Pediatric Anesthesia Service also accompanied Dr. Kaban. The group evaluated over 125 patients and treated approximately 75. Drs. Steinberg, Popham, Robinson, Kaban and Denman received Ho Chi Minh Medals from the Minister of Health for service to the children of Ho Chi Minh City.

## **RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

### **from Dr. Thomas Dodson**

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to provide a brief update on our graduating residents and introduce our new interns who will start July 2005.

**Dr. An-Louise Johnson** is entering solo private practice in Scituate, MA, having purchased the practice of **Dr. Ziggy Pozatek** (HSDM '64, MGH OMFS '69). **Dr. Lawrence "Mike" Juvet** is joining the practice of Drs. Catrambone, Parsons, and Ferraro in Brockton, MA. **Dr. Tuan Bui** completed his year of General Surgery and is returning to Montreal to pursue his professional activities. **Dr. Nanlin Chiang** has completed his OMS training rotations and is scheduled to start his General Surgery year in mid-June. He will graduate from the program in 2006. These residents have been a terrific crew to work with. We wish them the best of luck in their respective futures.

We have three interns matriculating in July 2005: **Drs. W. Bradford Williams (HSDM), Paul Gordon (UConn), and Corey Resnick (UPenn)**. While at the

change party or when stopping by to visit, please say hello and welcome these newest members of the MGH family.

For the coming year, the rising senior residents are **Drs. Ed Lahey, Brian Shah, and Marci Levine**. The junior residents will be **Drs. Killian MacCarthy, Steve Smullin, and Derek Steinbacher**. If you have a position or know anyone who is looking for a new associate or partner let me know and I will forward the information to the graduating residents.

Finally, after seven years, I am stepping down as residency program director. I will refocus my energies on growing my clinical practice, building an outcomes oriented research program and directing the OMS Foundation's fellowship in clinical investigation. It has been an honor and a privilege to be so closely involved with the education and training of the outstanding OMFS residents receiving their training at MGH.

## **MGH DENTAL GROUP**

The MGH Dental Group continues to provide critical support to the hospital with over 540 inpatient consults seen in the past year. Most consultations are for cardiac surgery patients and the remainder are pre-transplant evaluations, oncology patients, and patients with a variety of dental problems. Greater than seventy five percent of our outpatients are hospital affiliated either employees or patients.

Community activities have helped us to build closer ties with other hospital services. **Dr. Agnes Lau** presented a lecture on oral complications of head and neck radiation to the hospital's Head and Neck Support Group in February. In April, the MGH Dental Group worked with other hospital services to set up educational and interactive activities at the Children's Health Fair. **Dr. Traci Portnoff** offered her professional services to the Kids' Seal Program in May.

Members of the staff have been active in a variety of professional activities. **Dr. Nicholas Dello Russo** is chairman of the Yankee Dental Congress Allied Scientific Committee, and **Dr. Traci Portnoff** and **Dr. Jason Burak** are members as well. **Dr. Leslie Will** was the keynote speaker at a conference entitled "Dentistry in the Nano-Informatic-Genomic-Technology Era" in Khon Kaen University in Thailand. Her discussion was on orthodontics in multi-disciplinary care. **Dr. Yana Posemeynik** lectured on hospital dentistry to the hygiene student body of Mt. Ida College. **Dr. Arnold Weiss** presented two lectures on the business of dentistry at the annual session of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Our GPR resident, **Dr. Charles Thomas**, has completed his six month rotation at the MGH and will be pursuing endodontic training at Tufts University. **Dr. Courtney Ullrich**, a graduate of the University of

Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, will be our next GPR resident.

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

### **Barry Agranat – Class of 1965**

I still enjoy my OMS practice which I have cut down to 3 full days. I am now teaching undergraduate students at HSDM the fundamentals of OMS. The students are quite a bright bunch and they keep me on my toes. A changing emphasis in my life is in a word "family". I enjoy family occasions and being alone with Ellie. We enjoy interacting with our 5 grandchildren (4 boys, 1 girl). I am still playing golf (which keeps me nimble) and now enjoy vacations with Ellie which are golf-centered. In winter months and inclement weather, I enjoy reading and collecting postage stamps.

### **Thomas Albert – Class of 1975**

Only 30 years? First, my overall perceptions (through a 30 yr haze): The MGH residency was, and still is, one of the most poignant events of my lifetime. The relationships formed then are amongst the strongest. The learning opportunities were boundless, exciting, and sometimes frustrating. One could never quite do it right, allowing for 'reprehensible' actions. The ability to 'commune with the hospital' still finds its way into my current life, although not quite as intensely. It is a joyous sight for me to stand on occasion with the 'generations' who have done so much--Wally (still Chief), Bruce and Lenny. They are the great leaders who have shaped our lives and our profession, and are wonderful friends.

Currently, I am Emeritus Professor of Oral Surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University, having left the department after 27 years. It was time for a change. OHSU Oral Surgery is a good example of what I call the 'dental mentality'--seeing dentistry as a trade, with lip service to a larger, more integrated profession. A long way from the MGH—in humble opinion—I'm now a professor in the ENT Department, concentrating mostly on reconstructive issues--microvascular flaps, congenital anomalies etc. In addition, I consult for Kaiser Medical, a welcome change from insurance letters, case manager oversight, etc. They have a great multidisciplinary TMD clinic where surgery is only part of the management. In addition, they have a wonderful, well-run Cleft/Craniofacial clinic where for the most part, egos are left at the door.

I have two great daughters, Hannah and Kali, a wonderful wife Kathy (who may not feel as positively about her husband). Except for the lack of sunshine, Portland has been a fine place to raise a family. I hope to practice for another 10 years at least (my eldest daughter is just entering college!), but I doubt that I'll

ever come close to The Chief! I owe a lot to the MGH and HSDM for the opportunities I've had. There was, and still is, support and caring beyond the technical. Thanks!

### **BZ Song – Class of 1995**

I could not believe that it has been 10 years since I left MGH. I opened my office in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1996. In addition, I take part time job in the Newton Dental Associates, Newton and Family Dental Associates, Reading. I concentrate my effort solely on dental-alveolar surgery. Therefore, life after MGH is uneventful and content even through I miss the action during my stay in MGH.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

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### **AAOMS ANNUAL MEETING**

September 21 to September 24, 2005 in Boston, MA

### **MGH ALUMNI DINNER**

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Locke Ober Restaurant

### **MGH/HARVARD TRAINING COURSE: Endoscopy for Mandibular Reconstruction and Salivary Disease**

September 25-26, 2005