



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

# James E. Melvin, DDS '78, PhD

**James E. Melvin, DDS '78, PhD** is an internationally renowned investigator who has made landmark contributions to the field of exocrine gland physiology. After graduating from the dental school in 1978, he rose to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force Dental Command while earning his PhD in neurobiology from the University of Rochester.

Following postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Dental Research—that would be renamed the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)—Dr. Melvin was professor of pharmacology and physiology in the Center for Oral Biology, School of Medicine and Dentistry, at the University of Rochester where he held numerous appointments including director of the Center for Oral Biology. He received tenure there in 1997 and published more than 125 papers.

In 2010, Dr. Melvin joined the NIDCR where he served as senior investigator and chief of the Secretary Mechanisms & Dysfunction Section, as well as clinical director, deputy scientific director, and



acting chief of the Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer Branch. He is currently the co-director of the Dental Clinical Research Fellowship. An elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he is the recipient of the National Institutes of Health MERIT Award and the Distinguished Scientist Award by the International Association for Dental Research. During his accomplished career, Dr. Melvin has made numerous contributions to the field of exocrine gland physiology and played a key role in the consortium that decoded the saliva proteome.

"Dr. James Melvin has had a remarkable and distinguished career in dentistry. He chose a career path unlike the majority of the Class of 1978 who chose to treat patients chairside and maintain private practices. Dr. Melvin followed his passion and became a research scientist," notes Dr. Nancy E. Kiesel, who nominated him. "He is instrumental in training the next generation of dental scholars."

Dr. Melvin and his wife, Charlotte, reside in Lakewood, Ohio, and have two married sons and two grandchildren. ■