

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

WINTER/SPRING 2021
VOLUME 21 ■ ISSUE 1

PIVOTING AMID A PANDEMIC

Inside the transformation
and continuation of student
education and patient care
during the COVID-19 pandemic



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2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

April 21

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery:
Changing Faces, Saving Lives
Virtual Continuing Education Program
6–7:30 p.m. EDT

April 21

Alumni Gathering at the Virtual American
Association of Endodontics Annual
Meeting
7–8 p.m. EDT / 6–7 p.m. CT

MAY

May 19

Grand Rounds
Virtual Continuing Education Program
5–7 p.m. EDT

See a full list of upcoming events at
case.edu/dental/alumni-friends/events.

For more information and to register,
contact the Office of Development and
Alumni Relations at 216.368.3924 or
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Adversity to Advantage: Navigating a Year of Change

To our alumni and friends:

Embarking on 2020, no one could have predicted what was in store. Together, the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine rose to the uncertainty of the moment with a remarkable level of resilience and courage. I could not be more proud of this community.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, our faculty, staff and students quickly transitioned to a fully virtual learning and work environment. Our focus was, and continues to be, ensuring our students receive the education they deserve—and require—to be successful professionals, while also providing high-quality care to our patients.

In preparation for the dental school's return to campus, the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion went through quite a few transitions, from its everyday setup as home to the dental, medicine and nursing schools, to a Cleveland Clinic surge facility, and back to an educational space—albeit outfitted for COVID-19 safety precautions. On top of it all, Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic co-hosted the first presidential debate at the state-of-the-art Health Education Campus, virtually bringing the nation into our very own learning facility (see page 5).

As we continue through the 2020-21 academic year, our first priority is maintaining the health and safety of our community. Thanks to the tireless efforts of university and dental school leadership, we are able to provide a majority of our students with in-person learning experiences and offer routine services to Dental Clinic patients. I encourage you to read more about our response to COVID-19 on page 12.

We are also remaining acutely aware of our responsibility as dental professionals to contribute to the betterment of society—ensuring the care provided is equitable and inclusive. Building on the calls for social justice over the summer, we're continuing to facilitate opportunities for open conversations about critical issues, including systemic racism, economic inequality and racial bias in health care (read more on p. 26-27).

Looking to the future, the dental school is well-positioned to resume our high level of performance and open new avenues in community outreach, interprofessional education and collaborative global relations activities. While we are still navigating the COVID-19 environment, we are taking advantage of the improvements and sustainability efforts implemented over the last year to embark on a new beginning.

Thank you, alumni, friends and members of the School of Dental Medicine community, for your support, time and resources. We would not be where we are today without your partnership, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the years to come. ■

Dean Kenneth Chance



Kenneth Chance (DEN '79), DDS
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Looking to the future, the dental school is well-positioned to resume our high level of performance and open new avenues in community outreach, interprofessional education and collaborative global relations pursuits.

Collaboration in Action

A new course brings brings students from across the university together to help local organizations thrive



Annie O'Neill

Photo taken prior to the pandemic and mask/physical-distancing mandates.

From its start, the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic has been envisioned as a space to unite future health care professionals to improve interprofessional teamwork and, ultimately, patient care.

Since the summer 2019 opening of the campus, which includes the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion and Dental Clinic, Case Western Reserve's health profession students have learned alongside each other during events, joint classes, shared study spaces and more.

And starting last fall, interprofessional education became formalized through a new course: Collaborative Practice I. The yearlong class connects students from Case Western Reserve's dental, medicine,

nursing and social work schools, as well as programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, to learn teamwork skills and collaborate on projects that support Cleveland-area agencies and organizations.

"The best way for students to learn how to work in a team is to work on a team," explained Tyler Reimschisel, MD, the university's founding associate provost for interprofessional education, research and collaborative practice. "In other words, we don't just want to teach them teamwork skills in the classroom. We want them to have the opportunity to apply what we are teaching as they work on a real project."

About 440 students are taking the course, which meets weekly via Zoom during the pandemic. They split time between their community-based projects and classroom education—learning teamwork and other relevant skills, such as project management,

systems theory and leading change. Plus, they regularly tackle topics important to their projects and their professions, such as mitigating implicit bias, understanding how history has perpetuated health disparities, and discussing values and ethics across professions, Reimschisel explained. Faculty coach and assess the teams along the way, focusing not just on their project outcomes but how they worked together to succeed.

The projects are as varied as the organizations they benefit. For example, students are creating an after-school tutoring and wellness program in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood; improving outreach to LGBTQ individuals facing barriers to access health care; creating education and engagement opportunities to reduce infant mortality rates, especially among Black babies; and developing training for local seniors to keep them connected via technology during the pandemic.

"These projects are authentic and meaningful for the organization, so the deliverable will make an impact if they are successfully completed," Reimschisel said. "Thus, the students' time is being applied to an important task, not just a mere assignment for a class."

Each project has a "champion" from the community organization or agency who serves as a liaison to the Office of Interprofessional Education, Research and Collaborative Practice. University faculty and staff provided the champions with professional development opportunities to prepare them for the experience, and continue to offer monthly workshops throughout the year to identify best practices, address questions and make iterative improvements.

These enhancements will be especially important come fall, as the program expands to include 100 undergraduate nursing students and bring on even more projects to help community partners.

Through this course, said David Rolf II, DMD, the dental school's associate dean of academic affairs, "our students will develop their professional identity, learn about their own roles on the health care team, deliver valuable services through service learning, and strengthen their professionalism." ■

—Emily Mayock

CALCULATING COLLABORATION

- 440** students in the Collaborative Practice class
- 5-7** students per team
- 72** student teams
- 59** projects being worked on for 40 local agencies and organizations

"The best way for students to learn how to work in a team is to work on a team."

—Tyler Reimschisel, MD

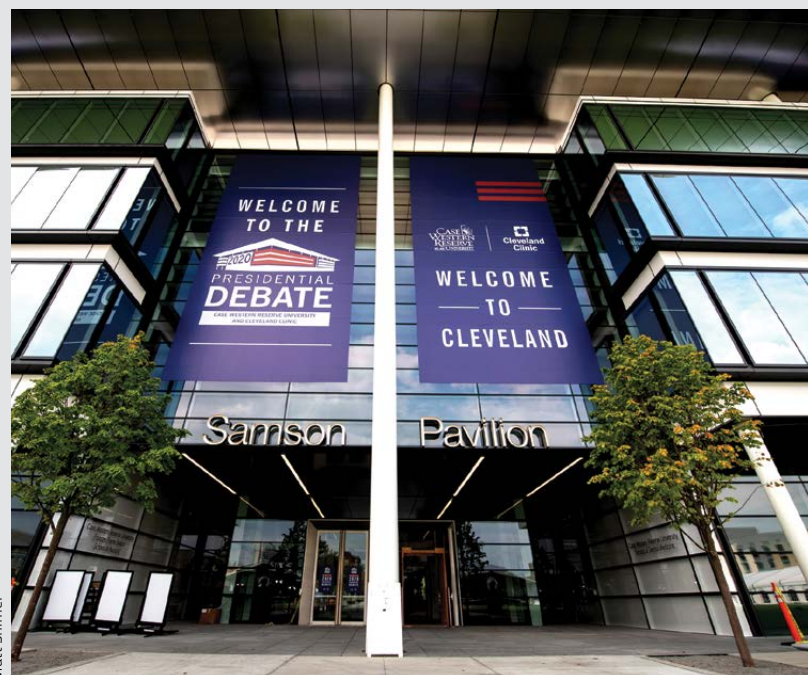
A Close-Up Look

All eyes were on our home in the Health Education Campus during the first presidential debate

On Sept. 29, 2020, millions of people around the world got a glimpse at the School of Dental Medicine's new home, as the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic hosted the first presidential debate between former President Donald Trump and now-President Joe Biden.

Presented by the Commission on Presidential Debates, *FOX News Sunday* anchor Chris Wallace moderated the event, which focused on the candidates' political records, COVID-19, racism in America, the economy, the Supreme Court and the integrity of the election. An estimated 73.1 million people watched the debate on 16 networks, according to Nielsen data, and media references to the university potentially reached more than 573 million people.

Leading up to and following the debate, members of the university community hosted and participated in a variety of virtual events on topics ranging from health and equity in Cuyahoga County to reinventing American democracy for the 21st century. ■



Preparing Students for **Patient Care**

The Preceptor Program—among the first of its kind—provides critical hands-on learning experiences for students



Nick McLaughlin/Summit Creative Arts

Preceptors Gino DiGiannantonio (DEN '95), DDS (standing right), and Jay Joseph, DDS (standing left), converse while a patient receives treatment from students. DiGiannantonio, once a student under Joseph, followed in his preceptor's footsteps. "I have had the honor to train with the very best in our profession," DiGiannantonio said. "I appreciate the opportunity to use this knowledge not only for the benefit of my patients, but to share it with the next generation of dentists."

When Professor Ronald Occhionero (DEN '61), DDS, established Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine's Preceptor Program in 1966, it was the first of its kind in the country—bridging the gap between a student's preclinical studies and successful treatment of patients.

Under the guidance of preceptors—seasoned, accomplished dentists—students learned to treat their patients in a more comprehensive fashion. No longer did students think of someone as a root canal patient or bridge patient; instead, they learned to provide holistic care and make referrals to specialty departments as needed. The program

transformed the clinical learning experience from a standardized, lockstep approach into one more reflective of a personalized private practice.

Over time, the Preceptor Program grew to include first- through fourth-year students—though the majority of work begins in the third year, when students begin significant clinical activity.

The preceptors, who teach two-and-a-half days each week, serve eight student groups and, it is estimated, provide 70% of a student's clinical education in the dental school. Students remain with their assigned preceptor group throughout their dental school tenure, giving them tangible experience working in an environment similar to a private group practice. (In

addition to learning from their faculty preceptors, students also benefit from full-time faculty members who teach restorative dentistry and provide clinical assistance.)

One of the core elements of the Preceptor Program's success is the professional, constructive relationship between the students and preceptors: They must work as a team to analyze the evidence, reach a diagnosis, establish a strategy for care, and communicate effectively with the patient. Simultaneously, the students draw on the preceptors' knowledge and experience, while the preceptors evaluate the students' abilities to apply evidence-based principles and demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of patients' conditions.

Ashleigh Kmentt said learning from her

two preceptors in the clinical setting during her third year has been invaluable to her education.

"Every preceptor has their own unique passions for niche areas of dentistry, and that passion certainly comes alive in the context of mentoring a student," she said. "I have already learned so much in just a few short months, so it is very exciting to think that this is just the tip of the iceberg."

"There is no doubt that our preceptor and comprehensive care program is a signature asset for our school. Our students experience health care in action and are exposed to the realities of our community. It is here where they learn social responsibility."

—Dean Kenneth Chance

For Mario Alemagno (DEN '88), DDS, who previously was a preceptor and now is a senior instructor of comprehensive care, the opportunity to learn from his peers and see the different teaching style each brings to the program to enhance the student experience is highly appreciated.

"You must always remember that each student is an individual," Alemagno said. "There are many different personalities as well as skill levels in each class that you must learn to accommodate—challenging highly skilled students while bringing along those who need more attention requires patience and understanding."

In his work, Alemagno focuses on teaching people skills alongside hand skills, offering students advice on mannerisms to make patients feel comfortable, such as entering the room and tone of voice. Seeing preceptors' soft skills firsthand has been a "stand-out experience" of the program, Kmentt said.

But the greatest reward of being a preceptor, Alemagno said, is forming bonds with students and watching them excel in the procedures he's taught.

"Being able to meet the distinct needs of each student," Alemagno said, "is really the art of it."

The personalized and professional approach of the preceptors is one the students appreciate, especially as they enter the relatively unknown world of clinicals.

"I knew [working in the Dental Clinic] would be challenging, but a welcome challenge. However, I could not have predicted how fun and upbeat that challenge would be, thanks to having mentors who guide us not only in the concrete skills of dentistry, but also how to enjoy it along the way," Kmentt said. "We begin our intensive clinical studies as third-year students having learned the basic tools for success, but it is thanks to the mentorship of our preceptors that we are able to use these tools to create something wonderful for our patients." ■

—Whitney Bohan

HOW TO BECOME A PRECEPTOR

Looking for a way to stay engaged in your profession post-retirement, or seeking variety while you continue your practice? Consider becoming a preceptor.

To become a preceptor at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, you must have completed a residency and have five-plus years of clinical experience.

For more information, contact Associate Professor Renato Roperto at renato.roperto@case.edu or 216.368.4777.

OUR PRECEPTORS

School of Dental Medicine preceptors are responsible for preparing clinically competent graduates, as well as guiding their ethical development. In their educator role, preceptors are models, tutors, leaders, supervisors and mentors for students, shaping them into autonomous, decision-making professionals.

Current preceptors include:

- Mohsin Ali
- Edward D'Alessandro
- Dainius Degesys
- Gino DiGiannantonio
- Amelia Dubaniewicz
- Cara Fawcett
- Steven Fox
- Richard Gustafarro
- Jean Iannadrea
- Denver Jenkins
- Jay Joseph
- Jerry Kolosionek
- Jay Resnick
- Lawrence Rossoff
- James Schneider
- Eric Smith
- Michael Zabell



After nearly 39 years, **Roger C. Williams (DEN '73), DDS**, stepped down as a preceptor in 2020—a position he found fulfilling, having experienced first-hand the importance of the program in preparing future dentists.

The combination of teaching and having a private practice [Williams Family Dentistry in Westlake, Ohio, first owned by his father George A. Williams (DEN '73), DDS, and now led by his daughter, Kate Williams Kelly (DEN '06), DDS], he said, was the perfect mix.

Interdisciplinary Team Earns NIH Grant to Speed **Oral Cancer Testing**



In a separate effort to improve screening for malignant oral cancer, Professor Aaron Weinberg went to West Virginia University in early 2020 to train clinicians from West Virginia and Maryland for a pilot test of a new method. After discovering that malignant oral cancers produce an abnormally high level of beta defensin, Weinberg and his colleagues developed a screening system through which the dentist gently scrapes surface cells from a suspicious lesion to compare its protein levels to the opposite, healthy area of the mouth.

Mouth lesions are among the main early indicators of oral cancer, but determining whether a sore is actually malignant typically involves painful, costly biopsies. Case Western Reserve University researchers think they have a better idea—and the National Institutes of Health has given them \$420,000 to advance it.

The researchers—from the university's dental medicine, medical and engineering schools—are looking to combine imaging and algorithmic technologies to assess whether or not a lesion's cells are malignant.

"The idea is to quickly, easily, non-invasively and cost-effectively determine if a suspicious lesion is cancerous or, in other cases, to screen individuals on a regular basis to see if their lesion has progressed to cancer," said Aaron Weinberg, DMD, PhD, department chair and professor of biological sciences in the School of Dental Medicine and the project's principal investigator.

Weinberg and his collaborators—engineering's Umut Gurkan, PhD, biomedical engineering's Anant Madabhushi, PhD, and medicine's Rod Rezaee, MD—envision a handheld device that can determine the ratios of two key proteins, where one goes up in cancer while the other one does not. By collecting cells swabbed from suspicious oral lesions, and using fluorescent

antibodies that bind specifically to one or the other protein within the cells, the device collects images of fields of cells and an app converts the fluorescence intensity of each protein into numbers and calculates the ratio. A numerical value above a given threshold indicates cancer.

This procedure has already proven accurate and effective in laboratory-based techniques, Weinberg said, so they intend to convert the lab procedure into a device that will cut the time in obtaining results from two days to about 30 minutes.

"This will address major unmet needs in early oral cancer detection worldwide, especially in resource-poor settings where pathology review is lacking and/or unreliable," he said. ■

Uncovering the Connection Between HIV and Cancer

More than 1.7 million people are newly infected with HIV every year, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And those living with HIV have a higher risk for certain types of cancers, such as lung cancer.

With a five-year, \$3.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute, researchers from Case Western Reserve University hope to find out why.

School of Dental Medicine Professor Ge Jin (GRS '00, physiology), PhD, and School of Medicine Professor Bingcheng Wang, PhD, already have found that the immune cells

from HIV patients secrete exosomes—think tiny nanoparticles—and attack lung cells, thus promoting the growth of cancer. However, the causes for increased lung cancer among people living with HIV remain elusive.

The prevailing belief has been that those with HIV have weakened immune systems, but it's not that simple, Jin said.

"If you're living with HIV, the virus is arrested—it's kept at bay," he said. "That's why the disease doesn't manifest itself to become AIDS. It's why those with HIV can live normal, healthy lives. There's something

else going on at the cellular level."

Jin said their new research will further explore potential causes—and remedies. He called his laboratory at the School of Dental Medicine "a pioneer" in the field of identifying exosomes in the blood of HIV patients, promoting the growth of oral cancer cells.

"This is a very exciting project, as our investigation will help understand how lung cancer progresses in people living with HIV, which will potentially assist clinicians to assess risk factors of cancers and better treatment in the population," he said. ■

Urgent Care and ER Physicians **Overprescribing Antibiotics** for Dental Issues

Dentists, emergency room doctors and primary care physicians need to ease up on prescribing antibiotics for dental issues in patients who are otherwise healthy and have no manifestation of systemic disease, according to an American Dental Association clinical practice guideline co-authored by Case Western Reserve University Endodontics Professor Anita Aminoshariae (DEN '99), DDS.

A study published in *The Journal of the American Dental Association* concluded that antibiotics should only be used for systemic issues, such as fever and swelling, or when an infection is clearly present and worsening. It also advised that patients receive dental treatment instead and manage pain with over-the-counter medications.

"Antibiotics shouldn't be the first line of defense for dental pain and swelling," said Aminoshariae, who also is director of the school's Predoctoral Endodontics Program. The results of the study, which led to five new clinical recommendations and two practice statements, suggested that "antibiotics may provide negligible benefits" at best. ■





During the past two decades, Martin Nweeia (back row, fourth from left) has studied the narwhal with teams of researchers, including indigenous experts. The photos featured here show previous expeditions related to his wildlife research.

Preventing a **COVID-19** Pandemic in Wildlife

While most of the global effort to contain COVID-19 concentrates on its continuing human cost, a team of researchers has formed to focus on protecting the next potential wave of virus victims: wildlife.

Martin Nweeia (DEN '84), DMD, an assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, is leading an effort to learn more about how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may spread to certain non-domesticated animals. The team—which includes Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, founder and CEO of the Ugandan nonprofit Conservation Through Public Health, and Harris Lewin, a professor at University of California, Davis—is focusing on the narwhal, an arctic whale with a 9-foot tusk and a high potential for infection.

“Scientists have a difficult-enough time keeping up with the human spread of this virus, so we are eager to monitor an animal that is particularly susceptible to infection,” said Nweeia, who has studied the narwhal with indigenous experts for two decades. “If this coronavirus were to gain a foothold in wildlife, there could be potential cascading impacts for ecosystems worldwide, and the communities that rely on them.”

Researchers already know that the virus can spread to animals—the most well-known cases were those of the lions and tigers infected at the Bronx Zoo. And narwhal, like other toothed whales, do not have the customary immune systems to combat viruses. Making matters worse, the SARS-CoV-2 virus has a higher capacity to bind to certain receptors—essentially, infection points—in the animals, Nweeia said.



Sheepshead fish jaws



"This research is about prevention, not reaction."

—Martin Nweeia (DEN '84), DMD

With a ban on such research in international Arctic waters still in place, Nweeia is working with local Inuit residents and Canadian organizations to collect tissue samples from the narwhal. Those samples are then shipped to the U.S. in liquid nitrogen for analysis and to determine if living cells from these collected samples can contract the virus.

"People wonder whether the virus can survive in Arctic sea water," Nweeia said, "but they forget that the Arctic is among the least salient oceans in the world, with many freshwater inlets that are inviting to a variety of marine animals."

In fact, that coldness of water could actually allow the virus to survive longer, he added.

In addition to identifying the risk COVID-19 poses to wildlife, the team has its sights set on mitigating the modes of potential pathways of human-to-wildlife transmission.

SARS-CoV-2 can survive in wastewater—a scary prospect, Nweeia said, in a world where an estimated 2.2 million people die every year from contaminated water alone. So researchers will study the impact of how untreated water can affect the potential spread of the virus on wildlife as well.

"This research is about prevention, not reaction," Nweeia said. "By better understanding what can happen, we're trying to stay ahead of problems and prevent them." ■







PIVOTING

AMID A PANDEMIC

From remote classes and virtual appointments to cleaning protocols and physical distancing guidelines, the School of Dental Medicine has made major changes since the onset of the global pandemic

By Jenny Westfall

Photography by Nick McLaughlin/Summit Creative Arts

COVID-19: What started as a quick notation for an unknown virus soon became part of everyday vernacular, seeping its way into conversations, thoughts and planning—ultimately shaping how people across the world live, work and learn.

“In March, we were abruptly thrown into a new reality that forced us to quickly reevaluate our expectations and priorities,” said School of Dental Medicine Dean Kenneth Chance (DEN ’79), DDS. “We went from seeing each other in person every day to interacting over Zoom. Handshakes and hugs were replaced with at-a-distance waves and virtual greetings. Even the simple act of sharing a meal and socializing with friends no longer felt safe. Our entire lives changed.”

On March 9, 2020, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced that the state’s first three COVID-19 cases had been reported in Cuyahoga County. Following this news, Case Western Reserve University and the School of Dental Medicine leapt into action.

Endodontics resident Iman Attar treats a patient on Feb. 17. After pausing operations for a few months in early to mid-2020, the Dental Clinic is now back to safely providing care for patients.



A VIRTUAL TRANSITION

With the campus community's health and safety of paramount concern, classes went remote and the Dental Clinic closed its doors in the midst of the spring semester. Students adapted to virtual learning, attending live sessions via Zoom and watching recorded lectures from their homes.

"Leading up to the decision to move to remote learning, the university and dental school leadership efforts centered on preparing faculty to deliver courses virtually in order to maintain the educational experience for students," said Chance.

Faculty members stepped up to the task of adjusting courses to fit this new format, making changes in real time to incorporate never-before-used platforms and technologies, all while ensuring students didn't miss a beat in their learning.

Some even found engagement increased in certain aspects, whether through the use of polls to help gauge understanding, virtual

breakout rooms to foster discussions, or the Zoom private chat function to accommodate more student questions.

Using time creatively and efficiently became the collective mantra across the school. Curriculum schedules shifted to make up for the lack of in-person opportunities, focusing on virtual didactic courses to keep students on track.

"Our first priority—in addition to keeping everyone safe—was, and continues to be, focused on ensuring students are able to graduate on time, as planned," said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs David Rolf, DMD. "Courses normally given during other times and semesters were moved up due to their ability to be delivered virtually. This shift allowed for additional hours of patient interaction to be introduced later on as clinic operations reopened."

THE NEW NORMAL

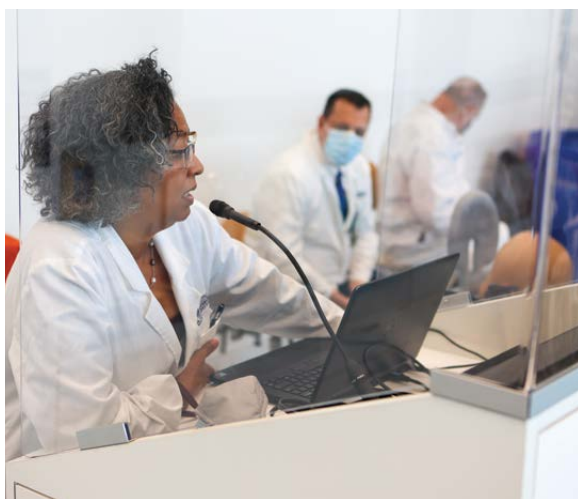
In preparation for students to return to campus in the fall of 2020, university

administrators and dental school leadership collaborated with health and emergency management experts to determine classroom and lab capacities consistent with physical distancing requirements.

"We witnessed the effects of not taking safety measures seriously in real time, as other institutions opened and then, shortly thereafter, closed—and we learned from those examples," said Chance. "We partnered with our colleagues across the medical and nursing schools, as well as Cleveland Clinic, to try to ensure a safe start to the academic year. We continue to draw insight and inspiration from each other."

Staff and faculty implemented changes throughout the school to create a safer learning environment, such as capacity limitations, smaller class sizes and Plexiglas partitions in the Simulation Lab, and new protocols for cleaning to reduce infection risks.

In addition, they established specific student groups based on commonalities in schedules and roommate arrangements. The small groups help address room-



Students, faculty and staff in the dental school follow strict COVID-19 guidelines, including mask/face covering and sterilization/cleaning requirements. Plexiglas and other protective measures also were installed throughout the Health Education Campus. Patients wear masks at all times except for while being treated.



capacity constraints and attempt to limit the number of people with whom the students regularly interact during the course of the day.

In line with the reduced number of students able to be on campus, and based on curriculum delivery, the class of 2024 DMD students are virtual for the 2020–21 academic year. These first-year students received instrument kits for more hands-on and interactive remote instruction.

And to mitigate health risks and reinforce the daily actions that must be taken to limit the spread of COVID-19, students, faculty and staff on campus must complete a daily health attestation form regarding any symptoms and participate in weekly COVID testing on campus.

"Since beginning in-person learning opportunities in August, positivity rates have continued to remain low among students, faculty and staff," said Chance. "These trends are a testament to the strength of the protocols in place, as well as our community's overall adherence to them."

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

A large portion of a dental student's experience extends beyond the classroom and into real-life interactions with patients. However, as COVID-19 first began to spread across the state, the school made the difficult decision to halt Dental Clinic operations in March.

"With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and concern for our community's overall health at the forefront, closing the clinic was not an easy decision, but one that had to be made," said Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs Manish Valiathan (DEN '99, '02), DDS, MSD.

During the course of the clinic closure, scheduling staff worked tirelessly to reschedule almost 8,000 patient appointments. In May, Dental Clinic operations tentatively resumed to address emergency and urgent care, providing an opportunity for faculty and staff to see patients in critical need of support. While the dental clinic was closed from March until May, area hospitals provided emergency clinical services.

SYMBOL OF HOPE

Last spring, Cleveland Clinic transformed the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion at the joint Health Education Campus into Hope Hospital, a temporary hospital to meet the potential needs of patients and the community in the event of a surge of patients with COVID-19. The decision to create this overflow space was based on predictive modeling of anticipated cases, suggesting that a worst-case scenario for the pandemic would potentially see patients exceeding capacity with a peak in April or May of 2020. It was one of six planned surge hospitals located in the largest population hubs across the state.

To make the conversion, furnishings, non-essential equipment, personal belongings and even the 20 large trees in the atrium were all carefully packed, moved and put into storage. Meanwhile, planning teams determined the reconfigured building could hold up to 1,000 patients. Partitions, patient beds, additional lighting, medical monitoring equipment, computers, exterior oxygen tanks and miles of medical-grade copper tubing to relay airflow were all installed to ensure functionality.

Typically, creating a new hospital is a years-long process of planning, design and construction, but the facility was ready for potential patients by April 15—only a few short weeks after the university shifted to remote learning. Due to aggressive public health measures, the Cleveland Clinic system did not exceed its capacity; Hope Hospital was never used for its intended purpose and instead was restored to its original learning environment.



Photo courtesy of Cleveland Clinic

A Year of Change

MARCH

MARCH 9 - Ohio's first three COVID-19 cases are reported in Cuyahoga County. Ohio declares a state of emergency.

MARCH 11 - Dental Clinic institutes respiratory screening process for patients.

MARCH 18 - CWRU begins remote education.

MARCH 22 - Ohio issues stay-at-home order.

MARCH 23 - Dental Clinic is closed and in-person preclinical curriculum postponed. Didactic courses switch to virtual learning.

APRIL

APRIL - Dental students, faculty and staff came together to support #MedSupplyDrive, a nationwide effort to redirect unused PPE, and partner with local hospitals to create face masks.

APRIL 14 - Commission on Dental Accreditation releases guidance on temporary flexibilities in accreditation standards for the Class of 2020.

APRIL 15 - Samson Pavilion is transformed into Hope Hospital, a potential overflow space for Cleveland Clinic patients with COVID-19; fortunately, it never had to be used.

MAY

MAY 17 - CWRU and School of Dental Medicine host first-ever virtual commencement celebration.

MAY 18 - Dental Clinic resumes emergency and urgent care services for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Advanced Education in General Dentistry provided by faculty and residents.

JUNE

END OF JUNE - Samson Pavilion and the Health Education Campus are restored for academic use.

JULY

JULY 20 - New and returning residents in specialty dental school programs return to campus.

AUGUST

AUG. 4-6 - Class of 2024 dental students begin academic year with virtual orientation.

AUG. 10 - Fall 2020 virtual didactic courses begin.

AUG. 17 - Dental clinic operations expand beyond emergency and urgent care.

AUG. 24 - CWRU fall semester begins, along with the first phase of pre-clinical education in the Simulation Lab; DMD Dental Clinic opens.

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 29 - CWRU and Cleveland Clinic host first presidential debate in Samson Pavilion.

OCTOBER

OCT. 8-11 - CWRU and dental school host the first virtual Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

NOVEMBER

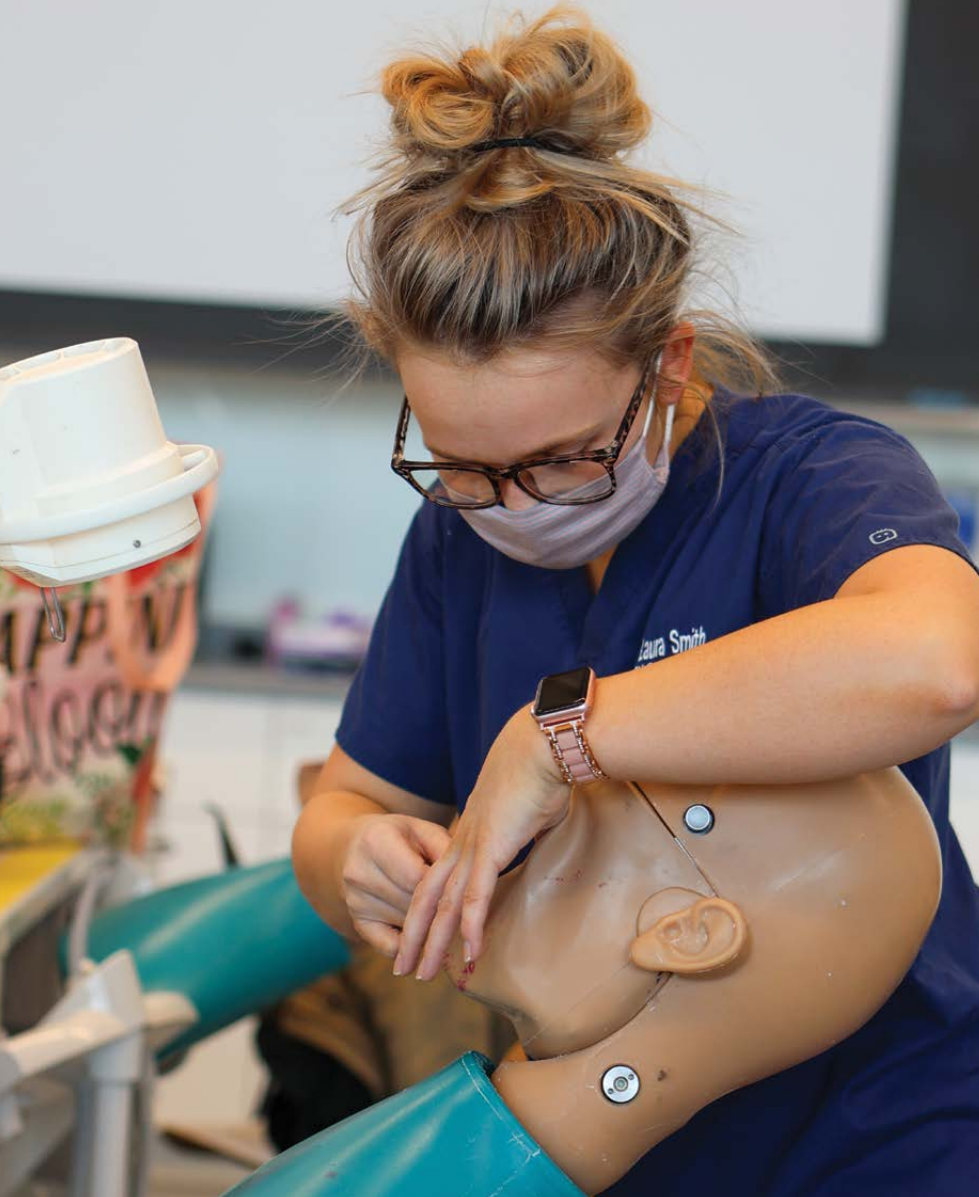
NOV. 18 - Cuyahoga County issues stay-at-home advisory.

NOV. 30 - University implements work-from-home guidance and begins requiring weekly testing for those visiting campus.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

JAN. 4 - Dental school begins spring semester.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY - Members of the dental school community essential to Dental Clinic operations receive both doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.



Working closely with the university and health officials, the school acquired necessary protective equipment for those working in the clinic, developed detailed COVID-19 screening protocols for patients, installed Plexiglas dividers and arranged all spaces to meet physical distancing guidelines. In addition, anyone entering the clinics must complete a symptom screening and temperature check.

With the implementation of these enhanced safety measures, the Dental Clinic expanded services beyond emergency and urgent care in mid-August, allowing students to resume clinical learning and offer patients routine dental care. As of March 2021, the clinic is functioning at 75% capacity—comparable to the levels seen in private practices amid the pandemic.

As COVID-19 vaccines begin to be distributed across the country, members of the dental school community feel a new level of hope. Those critical to Dental Clinic operations received both doses of the Moderna vaccine in early 2021, adding another layer of safety to those providing patient support.

“By investing early and working together, we were able to safely resume in-person learning and clinic operations,” said Chance. “Our success is thanks to our people—our faculty, staff and students—who showed unwavering courage, tenacity and resilience in the face of adversity.” ■

LONG-DISTANCE CARE, PERSONALIZED TOUCH

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and dental clinics closing across the country, the Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain Clinic at the School of Dental Medicine quickly transitioned from in-person appointments to telemedicine offerings in a matter of weeks.

Because this specialty clinic focuses on patients in need of acute or chronic care—seeking to support the long-term management of conditions such as chronic head and neck pain or discomfort associated with abnormalities in the oral/maxillofacial soft tissue—most patients have recurring visits.

So when the school's Dental Clinic closed in March 2020, it was evident it would be a challenge to provide continued care. Andres Pinto (MGT '17), DMD, chair and

professor of oral and maxillofacial medicine and diagnostic sciences and assistant dean of graduate studies, saw this as an opportunity. Telemedicine had been on his radar for some time. The pandemic quickly made it a reality.

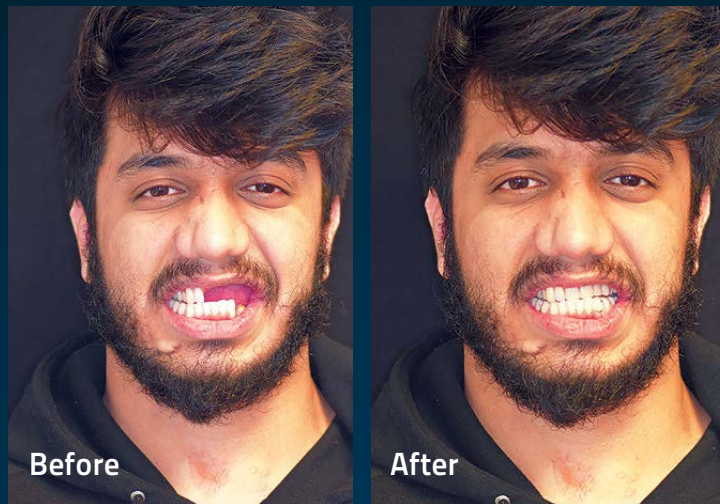
“We were faced with a moment to reinvent ourselves and how we deliver care,” said Pinto. “We see patients from all over the country, so we had to figure out how we could still provide the support they need. Telemedicine was our best option.”

During virtual appointments, patients interact with a specialist through Zoom or FaceTime, going through their medication regimen, providing feedback on pain-mitigation measures and discussing pre-submitted photos of the problem areas in the mouth. This touchpoint also provides

the opportunity for the dental professional to explain what can be done to address the issue and get a faster start on a treatment plan.

“The virtual appointments allow more time for the patient to spend with the dental professional,” said Pinto. “We are not as pressed for time as we would be during an in-person visit. This also provides a more comfortable environment for older patients or those who are immunocompromised, particularly in the current public health situation.”

Since implementing this new method of care last April, the clinic has conducted almost 1,000 telemedicine visits, and plans to keep this as a permanent appointment option for those who prefer to meet virtually.



From Terror to HOPE

School of Dental Medicine
helps victim of terrorist attack
put his life back together

In a matter of about 90 seconds, Talha Ali's life changed forever. He went from a promising high-school student in Pakistan, consistently at the top of his class, to the victim of a terrorist attack, who would spend the next six years trying to put his body—and his life—back together again.

That journey culminated last year at Case Western Reserve University, where faculty members from the School of Dental Medicine rebuilt Ali's face in a complicated reconstructive surgery—free of charge to his family.

BY COLIN MCEWEN

The morning of Dec. 16, 2014, was like any other for Ali, in 10th grade at the time. He and his classmates were huddled on the floor of the auditorium, laughing before the start of a lecture on first aid.

Then, Ali heard commotion—it sounded like gunfire—toward the rear of the auditorium, near the entrance. Unknown to Ali and his classmates, six gunmen affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban had stormed the school grounds and the auditorium and opened fire on the students, ranging from eighth to 12th grade.

"I saw the gunmen, firing blindly at us," he said. "I stood up, and I'm tall, so the bullets were flying around my head."

One of the gunmen cut through the crowd and stood face-to-face with him. "He shot me at point-blank range," Ali said. "I felt a strong, painful jerk in my face. Blood was everywhere."

He didn't yet realize he'd been shot three more times—twice in the chest and once in the back; one of the bullets punctured his lung. He'd also been wounded by grenade shrapnel.

A nearby teacher encouraged him to scramble to his feet. Ali made it out, applying pressure to his wounds. "The pain was unimaginable," Ali said. "I didn't know if I was going to die. I called out for my mother and father."

As quickly as the shooting began, it abruptly ended—the sounds of gunfire replaced by feet shuffling and children screaming.

Of the 150 people killed in the attack that day, 134 were Ali's fellow students. While he waited for medical help, Ali saw that one of his friends, with whom he'd been socializing only moments before, had died.

At the hospital, doctors worked to save Ali's life. Some encouraged his parents to prepare for funeral arrangements. He was on a ventilator for more than two weeks.

PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

Six years later, Ali, then 22, finished his last portion of facial reconstruction surgery at



"My treatment in America was incredible. [The School of Dental Medicine faculty] are the best of the best. They showed me so much care."

the School of Dental Medicine. The first bullet that hit Ali during the attack had crushed the lower half of his face, taking bone and teeth with it.

Since the shooting, he wore a surgical mask to hide what he described as a deformity. The next six years were a revolving door of surgeries—some in Pakistan, others in Dubai and a recent operation in New York City to repair his nose in a septum rhinoplasty procedure.

Faisal Quereshy (MED '97, DEN '99), DDS, MD, a professor at the School of Dental Medicine and director of the residency program in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, led the effort in Cleveland, joined by Fady Faddoul (DEN '88, '93), DDS, then a professor at the dental school.

"This is really in line with the School of Dental Medicine's commitment to serving those in need," Quereshy said. "Our mission is not only to our commitment to science, treatment and health, but delivering the best patient care using state-of-the-art technology and evidence-based practices."

Even with the dental school's longstanding commitment to helping others, this was an unusually involved project: The assessment fees were pro bono. The implant company waived the cost of the materials. The lab work was donated.

Quereshy learned about Ali from members of Khyber Medical College Alumni Association of North America, which raised more than \$50,000 to help pay for the young man's travel, lodging and daily needs during his time in the U.S. The Khyber Alumni Association is affiliated with the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America—an organization Quereshy's mother cofounded in 1976.

"This is really a special circumstance," Quereshy said. "I feel fortunate to be a part of this."

After bone reconstruction, the final phase of Ali's treatment at Case Western Reserve involved getting his new prosthetic teeth set in place.

"My treatment in America was incredible," Ali said. The School of Dental Medicine faculty, he noted, "are the best of the best. They showed me so much care."

MOVING FORWARD

Ali said he's ready to move on with his life. His reconstructive surgery was a big part of that. He's even considering applying to the university's Weatherhead School of Management to study business.

"I want to be the productive man I was before," he said. "It's this pause that my life has taken that has been the hardest. I'll get back to it. I am mentally and emotionally strong. Under no circumstance will you find me giving up—I just don't give up." ■

Elevating Patient Care

A new Ambulatory Surgery Center in the dental clinic honors three generations of dentistry

When Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine's new clinic opened in 2019, it introduced a state-of-the-art Ambulatory Surgery Center, complete with a post-surgery recovery room.

The Drs. Morris, Norman and Scott Alperin Oral Surgery Suite and the Norman S. Alperin, DDS Recovery Room have elevated the level of education Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery students earn—and, more importantly, the care patients receive.

For Scott Alperin (DEN '74), DDS, contributing to the Dental Clinic at the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic was a chance to make a major impact on the future of dental education.

"I have lived in Cleveland for 70 years, and I believe the CWRU and Cleveland Clinic partnership that has given us the Health Education Campus is the single most pivotal development in my lifetime," Scott Alperin said. So, he continued, "I not only wanted to commemorate my father and grandfather, but encourage others to join in this effort that is revolutionizing [health] education."

Named for three generations, the Alperin suite and room are tributes to the school that made the men's careers possible.

Morris Alperin became a general dentist in the early 1900s and was a faculty member at the dental school; his son, Norman Alperin (ADL '46, DEN '48), established a successful general dentistry practice and served as a dental school faculty member for more than 40 years.

Norman Alperin was a preceptor when his son, Scott, entered dental school. In 1977, Scott Alperin opened his practice in Mayfield Heights, Ohio, and, in 2008, built



Nick McLaughlin/Summit Creative Arts

a new facility nearby, where he continues to see patients part time. From 1984 to 2019, Scott Alperin, also a clinical assistant professor at CWRU, served as chief of the Department of Dentistry and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Hillcrest Hospital, which became part of Cleveland Clinic in 1997. A Diplomate of the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, he has been active in organized dentistry throughout his career and has lectured worldwide on the topic of implantology.

With reduced office hours, Scott Alperin can devote more time to his primary passion: road cycling. An avid cyclist since 1976, he has ridden extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. He also holds a pilot's license, has flown more than 5,400 hours and is on his 10th airplane. With a hangar in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, flying makes skiing trips possible, as well as visits to a home in the Bahamas. It also allows him

to make trips on behalf of Remote Area Medical, a nonprofit organization that sets up temporary mobile clinics to provide free, quality health care to those in need, for which he has served as a volunteer for more than 25 years.

Scott Alperin also serves as president of the School of Dental Medicine's Alumni Association, which he views as instrumental at this vital time. One of his goals is to integrate the alumni groups of the dental, medical and nursing schools during reunion weekends as an extension of the interprofessional education students now receive at the Health Education Campus.

"For his noteworthy contributions of both time and resources, as well as for his leadership, we extend great appreciation to Scott," said Dale Baur (DEN '80), DDS, chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. ■

—Whitney Bohan

WHY I *give*

Frederick H. Rosenberg, DDS

For Frederick H. Rosenberg (DEN '66, '68), fly fishing is an art form.

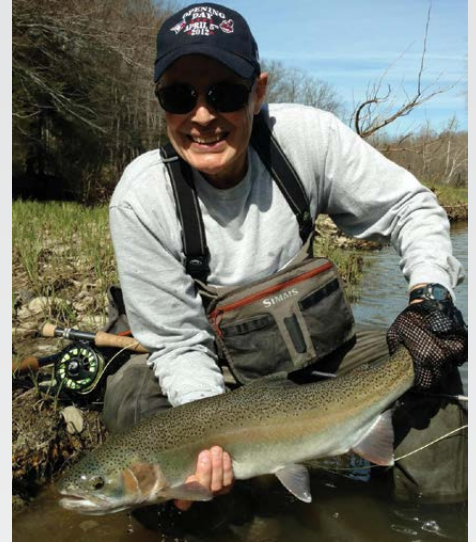
It's an art he's found time to perfect—alongside repairing and refinishing antique clocks and “square-foot gardening”—since he retired in 2016.

Throughout his nearly 50 years of private practice in Beachwood, Ohio, Rosenberg honed another art form that he now teaches to Case Western Reserve dental students as a clinical associate professor: periodontics.

Rosenberg got his start in the dental field by entering an accelerated undergraduate program at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, where he earned his BS in 1966 and his DDS two years later, making him one of the youngest students in his class. Upon graduation, he entered into a general practice residency at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where he treated returning Vietnam veterans with complex traumatic oral injuries. He followed this with a six-month residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland, then earned a periodontics certificate at University of Kentucky College of Dentistry to combine the biological and mechanical aspects of dentistry.

“I was quite influenced by the manner of teaching during my specialty training—it was very affirming and supportive—and this instructional approach has continued as a volunteer faculty member at CWRU,” noted Rosenberg, an associate clinical professor who has been a part-time instructor at the dental school since 1972. “I also teach students to work as a team with the other dental departments because it not only produces the best patient outcomes but also is most rewarding to the student.”

The same year that Rosenberg began teaching at the School of Dental Medicine, he went into practice with classmate Stuart Sears (DEN '68), DDS. When Charlene B. Krejci (DEN '84, '86), DDS, MSD, joined them, their practice on the east side of Cleveland became known as Western Reserve Periodontics. Five years after his retirement from private practice, Rosenberg continues to teach at the university to give back to his profession and his alma mater, which he also graciously supports as a steadfast



Since retiring in 2016, Fred Rosenberg takes full advantage of the Chagrin River as a “steelhead trout mecca.”

donor to the dental school. Over the years, he's shared the art of periodontics with hundreds of Case Western Reserve alumni.

“As a colleague of Dr. Rosenberg from the late 1970s, I can attest that he is the quintessential professional, truly a role model for us all,” said T. Roma Jasinevicius (DEN '76), DDS, associate professor of comprehensive care and interim chair of the Department of Periodontics. “He generously shares not only his resources as a loyal donor, but just as importantly he also shares his knowledge, time, and passion for the profession with the CWRU students and residents—we are grateful.” ■

—Whitney Bohan

Developments highlights special philanthropic support to the School of Dental Medicine from alumni, friends, corporations and other constituents.

Alvetro (DEN '93), DDS, MSD, and Thomas M. Rossman contributed nearly \$25,000 worth of gift-in-kind equipment to the Department of Orthodontics to support the education and training of orthodontic residents as well as enhanced patient care.

Howard Allen Bloom (DEN '61), DDS, and Joan R. Bloom made a commitment of \$25,000 to create the Howard A. Bloom, DDS '61, Scholarship Fund.

Fredrick A. Rosenberg (DEN '66, '68), DDS, made an estate commitment of \$91,000 in support of the periodontics department.

Kristin A. Williams (DEN '89; GRS '05, public health), DDS, made a \$25,000 gift to create the Frank C. Williams, DDS '62, Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of her father, who passed away in July 2019.

The Dental Medicine Class of 1979—under the leadership of **Joseph Briggie, Curtis Hayden and Mark Hans** and including **Jed Best, Keith A. Hoover, William Parker, Gary Piroutek and John Wazney**—made a commitment of \$40,000 to create the Dental Medicine Class of 1979 Scholarship Fund in honor of their recent 40th reunion. ■

WHY I *give*

Michael E. Gallagher, DDS

When Michael Gallagher (DEN '83), DDS, graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, he didn't need to go far to launch his career. A native Cleveland, Gallagher opened a private practice, West Park Dental, on the city's near west side.

It's where he remains nearly 40 years later—though his practice since has expanded to include his son, Brian Gallagher (DEN '16), DMD.

In addition to his private practice, Michael Gallagher is in his ninth year as a clinical senior instructor in CWRU's Advanced Education in General Dentistry department, where he is able to share his knowledge and also keep pace with current research and technology.

Gallagher was inspired to teach because of his experience at Case Western Reserve—both during his time as a student and through the continued collegiality of his peers and mentors, especially David Atkins (DEN '60), DDS; Stephen D. Cooke (DEN '75), DDS; Lawrence Frankel (DEN '77, '81), DMD; Donald P. Lewis Jr. (DEN '76, '80), DDS; and the late Jefferson Jones, DMD.

Whether volunteering to train students or providing philanthropic support to the school, Gallagher has long shown his commitment to Case Western Reserve. "I am quite proud to be a CWRU dental school graduate, and supporting the dental school is important to me," he said. "They took care of me during my student days, and now I enjoy giving back." The desire to give back fuels much of Gallagher's interests and activities, as he's engaged in both his profession and community.

A leader in organized dentistry, Gallagher is a member of the American Dental Association and Ohio Dental Association, through which he has served as a state delegate and on committees. In 1990, he chaired the communications efforts for the "Smile Cleveland" campaign for the Greater Cleveland Dental Society and became its president in 1997. Selected by his peers as a "Top Dentist in Northeast Ohio" and "Top Dentist in Cleveland," Gallagher also is a member of the Academy of



Michael Gallagher and his wife, Cathy, have three children: Mary, Brian (DEN '16) and Kelly (SAS '19; GRS '19, public health).

General Dentistry and the Academy of Sports Dentistry, a fellow of the International College of Dentists, and a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

For 10 years, Gallagher—an accomplished triathlete who runs and races regularly—coached track and cross country at St. Bernadette School. He is now in his 19th year as the head cross country coach at St. Ignatius High School where, under Gallagher's leadership, the team has placed in the top 10 of Division I high schools 14 times and won two state titles. He also has earned awards for his efforts on a child-abuse-prevention campaign, and has served as a Cleveland Museum of Natural History trustee for more than a decade.

Through opportunities to get involved and volunteer at Case Western Reserve, in his community and in his profession, Gallagher said, he gains far more than he gives. ■

—Whitney Bohan

New Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Focuses on Student Professionalism and Interprofessionalism

David Rolf II, DMD, came to Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine just over a year ago, joining an institution amid an intense focus on interprofessional education—training students from across health care disciplines to learn with, and from, each other through shared classes and real-world experiences.

“There’s a paradigm shift happening among health professionals in recognizing dentistry’s primary role in patient overall health,” said Rolf, associate dean for academic affairs and a member of the university’s Interprofessional Education, Research and Collaborative Practice Steering Committee. “The challenge for dental students and faculty alike is learning how to effectively collaborate with our colleagues to advance total patient health.”

It’s a challenge for which Rolf, a periodontist and clinical ethicist by training, is well-prepared: He comes to the dental school after a decade at the Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine—Arizona, where he was a founding faculty member. There, he helped develop and teach an innovative, team-taught integrated biomedical and oral health sciences curriculum in periodontics, implant dentistry, preventive dental medicine, dental ethics and professionalism, and interprofessional education.

Prior to Midwestern University, Rolf held a range of roles, including as a general dentist and periodontist in private practice, a faculty member of Loma Linda



David Rolf II, DMD, FACD

University and Indiana University Schools of Dentistry, and an industry consultant. A widely published author, he has delivered 56 invited presentations and continues to be a principal investigator of implant biomaterials research.

A fellow of the American College of Dentists and the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute, Rolf received his Doctor of Dental Medicine from Washington University School of Dental Medicine in St. Louis, his Master of Science in Oral Science and certificate in periodontics from University of Iowa College of Dentistry, and a graduate certificate in healthcare ethics from Rush University College of Health Sciences.

Combined, his professional experiences

“My passion is educating and mentoring dental students in the art and science of dental medicine and helping them become ethical and excellent dental practitioners.”

have instilled in him a commitment to ensuring Case Western Reserve graduates are practice-ready on day one and are able to navigate and apply the explosion of new knowledge that will be a constant during their careers. To achieve this, the school’s curriculum will need to focus on preparing students to be critical thinkers, incorporating digital dentistry and other emerging technologies, and, importantly, making ethics and professionalism an academic priority.

“Professionalism is ethics in action,” Rolf said, “and we must teach and mentor our students on how to maintain our professionalism at the highest level.” ■

—Whitney Bohan

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



Andres Pinto (MGT '17), DMD, chair and professor of oral and maxillofacial medicine and diagnostic sciences and associate dean of graduate studies, is the new president-elect of the American Academy of Oral Medicine (AAOM), a membership organization representing the specialty of oral medicine in the United States. Pinto has been part of the academy's executive committee for the past seven years and an

active member of the AAOM for two decades, and has received five certificate of merit awards. He is slated to receive the Herschfus Award (one of three top awards in the field) for service to the academy in 2021. Pinto will become president of the American Academy of Oral Medicine for the 2021-22 year, coinciding with oral medicine's first full year as an American Dental Association nationally recognized specialty.

In addition, Pinto, along with an interdisciplinary team of health professionals, received the *Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology Journal* Millard Award, selected by the editorial board to spotlight the best publication for July 2019-June 2020 in oral medicine. This recognition was for their "Risk Factors for Caries Development in Primary Sjogren Syndrome" study.



Anita Aminoshariae (DEN '99), DDS, professor in the Department of Endodontics at the School of Dental Medicine and director of the Predoctoral Endodontics Program, was named associate editor of the *Journal of Endodontics*. This role is a three-year post. Aminoshariae was also elected to serve on the American Dental Association on the Council on Scientific Affairs.



Ali Syed, BSD, MS, assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial medicine and diagnostic sciences and director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Clinic, was nominated to the interdisciplinary Ohio Department of Health Radiation Advisory Council's Radiation-Generating Equipment Committee. Syed also was invited to be a member of the editorial board for *Imaging Sciences in Dentistry*.

Carrie Lovelace (LAW '07, MGT '19), JD, joined the School of Dental Medicine community in November as associate dean of development and alumni relations. In this role, she works to cultivate the dental school's relationships with alumni across the country and oversee fundraising for major gifts and special school initiatives. Prior to joining the dental school, Lovelace served for more than seven years as the university's executive director for endowment and restricted funds.



Renato Roperto, DDS, PhD, was named interim chair of the Department of Comprehensive Care in January 2021. Roperto has been part of the School of Dental Medicine community since 2012 as an associate professor in the comprehensive care department.

The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery welcomed new members to the team. **Joseph Helman, DMD**, a renowned surgeon known for management of oral malignancies and reconstruction with microvascular free-tissue transfer, joined as a visiting professor, and **James Perhavec (DEN '75), DDS**, is a clinical assistant professor.

Milda Chmieliauskaite, DMD, assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial medicine and diagnostic sciences, co-authored "Including vaccinations in the scope of dental practice," an article published in *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, advocating for dentist offices to be used as vaccination sites.



Leena Palomo, DDS, professor of periodontics and director of the DMD Periodontics Program, was quoted in a series of articles addressing the importance of oral hygiene. Her insights were included in an article in *The New York Times* discussing teeth grinding, a *Healthline* piece on how the stress from COVID-19 impacts facial pain and teeth grinding, and a *Best Life* story on how dental health is an indicator for overall health.

An Unexpected—Yet Successful—End for the EFDA Class of 2020

Last spring, the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) Class of 2020 joined the nearly 6,200 Case Western Reserve University graduate and professional students in switching to an all-virtual learning format—navigating the new environment while also gearing up for graduation.

Through remote instruction, the students completed the program requirements in May. And once the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion at the Health Education Campus reopened in the fall, students used the lab for in-person practice before taking the board exam in October.

“Despite having to complete their education remotely, and having their board exam delayed,” said Shelly Feiwell, director of the EFDA program. “Now, all of the graduating students are practicing EFDAs.”

This program is designed to train certified dental assistants and registered dental hygienists in the art of restorative dentistry. An Ohio EFDA specializes in the placement of advanced remedial intraoral procedures, involving the placement of preventative or restorative materials, including sealants and fillings. ■

NOT PICTURED:

Erika Antenori
Rita Antolick
Kristy Kelly
Alexandra King
Taylor Sutherland
Melanie Truskot
Nicole Waters



Brittani Sisouphanh



April Blake



Mandy Bowen



Ericka Bush



Jennifer Case



Melanie Cervantes



Natasha Diaz



Cindy Dyson



Shayla Gavin



Danielle Griffin



Dua Gharaibeh



Shandi Gravitte



Lucia Ianiro



Sanja Kennedy



Aminah Khan



Nicole Koscelnik



Angela Kotyash



Mandi Leben



Rebecca Madda



Melissa Morales



Brandy O'Brien



Stephanie Radwanski



Marisa Rock



Nicole Roth



Rebecca Shamblin



Christina Smith



Daira Smith



Sade Ward-Smith



Gennifer Williams



Kathy Witmer



Liliya Yakovets



THE RONALD L. OCCHIONERO AND FAMILY EFDA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Established by Ronald Occhionero (DEN '61) in 2020, this award recognizes a graduating EFDA student who exhibits passion and commitment to the field. **Danielle Griffin** received the inaugural award for her dedication to the EFDA profession and outstanding efforts in the face of adversity.

Taking Action on **Racial Injustice**

After the killing of George Floyd in May 2020—and the protests that ensued, calling for action to address racial injustice—third-year dental student Imani Behrens saw an opportunity to raise awareness across the School of Dental Medicine.

As president of the Case Western Reserve University chapter of the Student National Dental Association, a historically Black dental organization, she was instrumental in planning the first school-wide forum, "Let's Talk About Race," focused on engaging in productive conversations.

"It made me realize the importance of creating space for people to share their beliefs and experiences, which led me to structure future forums through different organizations using a similar approach," said Behrens.

Following the event, she and the Class of 2022 Student Council led weekly forums in June discussing racial injustice and its impacts in health care—sharing educational resources, research and personal stories. And she helped create the dental school's Cultural Diversity Roundtable, which engages the leaders of cultural groups on campus to support a better learning environment for all (see next page).

"Many communities of different races and backgrounds face significant health adversities and limitations, all stemming from systemic injustice," Behrens said. "By taking action and taking the time to become aware of the various cultures' histories and persisting disadvantages in our country today, the better we will be equipped to lessen the gap in care we provide."

Behrens holds a number of other leadership roles at the school, including serving as vice president of the Class of 2022 Student Council and the pre-dental chair, through which she supports students interested in

"By taking action and taking the time to become aware of the various cultures' histories and persisting disadvantages in our country today, the better we will be equipped to lessen the gap in care we provide."

—Imani Behrens



pursuing careers in dentistry. In that role, she has made it a priority to help recruit Black pre-dental students to improve their representation at the school.

Though Behrens initially came to Case Western Reserve as an undergraduate

pursuing a pre-med track, discussions with leaders at the School of Dental Medicine inspired her to change her career path.

"I wanted to go into dental medicine," she said, "to be able to instill confidence in people by fixing their smiles." ■

Bringing Diversity Discussions to the Table

Dental school students launch new Cultural Diversity Roundtable to improve student experience, patient interactions

Over the summer, calls for action to address social justice rang out across the country and at Case Western Reserve University. In response, School of Dental Medicine students launched the Cultural Diversity Roundtable to connect leaders across the breadth of cultural organizations and address wide-ranging issues.

"I felt like a lot of things were happening in the Black community, and I wanted to bring light to the issues impacting Black students in the dental school," said Imani Behrens, a third-year dental student who, as president of the university's Student National Dental Association chapter, helped launch the roundtable. "But I also knew that other groups were dealing with their own challenges, and so this needed to be an inclusive effort to ensure everyone's voices are heard."

Working closely with dental school leadership and the university's Office for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, Behrens and other student leaders established the roundtable to support a better learning environment for all. The school's Student National Dental Association, Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA), Chinese Student Dental Association, Middle Eastern North African Dental Association (MENA), Desi Dental Students and Korean American Dental Association Ohio chapters are represented, with the American Student Dental Association serving as a neutral party in the discussions.

The creation of the roundtable also spurred the establishment of some new cultural organizations, such as MENA. "Such organizations, led by students who value diversity within the student body,



Nick McLaughlin/Summit Creative Arts

ensure mutual respect and appreciation for individuals of different backgrounds," said second-year student Jenna Farraj.

The roundtable provides a safe space to discuss social justice issues impacting each community, such as racial bias in health care and microaggressions, and how these should be considered when working with patients.

"Every patient who visits the dental clinic deserves to be at maximum comfort," said Behrens. "The experience can be overwhelming if you're already anxious about receiving dental care. You also deserve to be treated with respect."

During regular meetings, student leaders address concerns raised by their peers and develop plans to increase awareness and education—both formally through the curriculum, and informally, through events and workshops.

"The discussions in the group on diversifying curriculum have enhanced my understanding of inclusion," said EJ Santos, a second-year student and vice president of HSDA. "I have learned a ton from my colleagues just from listening to different inputs based on their unique backgrounds."

In addition to offering resources and educational opportunities for students, they hope to help develop a more diverse pipeline of incoming students to enhance representation in the dental profession.

"The roundtable really exists for everyone," said third-year student Becky Farag. "I hope in the future our work can spread wider in the dental school, and engage more students and faculty who might not feel as comfortable engaging in conversations of social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. The more students and faculty are able to engage in these topics, the larger the roundtable itself becomes." ■

Honored for Outstanding Service



Fourth-year dental student Jin (Jason) Kim was named Case Western Reserve University's recipient of the 2020 Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Dental Student Certificate of Merit. Presented to dental students across the country for outstanding service to the profession, the award particularly focused on contributions to dental literature.

Through his studies and his service as president of the school's Executive Student Council, Kim has shown professionalism and dedication to the field.

"Jin is incredibly deserving of this recognition," said Kristin Williams (DEN '89; GRS '05, public health), DDS, assistant dean for admissions and student affairs. "He is a team player who is always looking out for his fellow students, and his classmates and instructors shared how much they enjoy working with him." ■

Endodontics Student Earns Highest Exam Score in the U.S.

Left to right: Jenna Gaw, Kerolos Elsayed, Jennifer Barrord and Alexis Herring



On June 5, Kerolos Elsayed was focused on one thing: defending his thesis, the culmination of his studies and experience in the endodontics program.

But moments before he began, Department Chair Andre Mickel (DEN '91, '94), DDS, MSD, shared some news: Elsayed achieved the highest score in the U.S. on the Endolit

final exam, which was offered to all graduating endodontic residents across the country in preparation for the American Board of Endodontics written exam. (To become board certified, endodontists must complete written, case history and oral examinations.)

"That was a pretty good boost to my morale before my thesis defense," Elsayed said.

While board certification is not required,

the university's endodontic program is continuing its 22-year tradition of 100% of residents passing the exam. Overall, fewer than 25% of endodontists are board certified.

Elsayed's colleagues joined him in the top 20 highest scores on the preparatory exam, with Jennifer Barrord ranking No. 5, Alexis Herring ranking No. 10 and Jenna Gaw ranking No. 16. ■

A Virtual Send-Off to Successful Careers

Amid the pandemic, commencement celebrations for the Class of 2020 went virtual

When the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world in early 2020, people across the globe were asking a common question: What does the future hold? This was particularly apt for the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine class of 2020, who grappled with the uncertainty of their final weeks leading up to graduation.

With health and safety of paramount concern, Case Western Reserve University and the School of Dental Medicine hosted the first virtual commencement in the university's history on May 17.

The online event featured a convocation ceremony with remarks from President Emerita Barbara R. Snyder. In addition, the dental school celebrated with a separate diploma ceremony video, including remarks from Dean Kenneth B. Chance (DEN '79), DDS, and a keynote address from President and CEO of the American Dental Education Association Karen P. West, DMD.

During her speech, West recognized the challenges and disappointment of ending this chapter in such an unusual manner, but encouraged students to remain determined, dream bigger and drive innovation in dentistry.

"Sometimes life will deliver the unexpected, the harsh and often ironic situations," said West. "But we can and do persevere. In fact, we thrive."

Scott Alperin (DEN '74), DDS, president of the School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association, encouraged students to continue to lean on the Case Western Reserve community, and Jeffrey Young, DDS, secretary and treasurer for the Greater Cleveland Dental Society, shared recommendations for a successful career.

Closing out the ceremony, Haesun Souh (DEN '20), president of the class of 2020, and Sarah Elizabeth Forsberg (DEN '20), student council president, reflected on their time with the dental school.

"There is a saying in Korean culture that goes: 'Even the piece of paper is easier lifted by many hands.' I am thankful to each of you for sharing the weight and working together," said Souh. "Today is the proof of all we've achieved together."

Forsberg encouraged her colleagues to build on the lessons learned throughout this pandemic and use them to benefit the dental profession as a whole.

"Now is the time to set a precedent for a new normal," she said, "and reflect on what you want to put back into your life and career when that opportunity comes." ■

CELEBRATING IN COMFORT

What was going to be Shahin Pahlevani's (DEN '20) first time participating in a commencement ceremony suddenly lacked the pomp and circumstance he'd envisioned. Despite the disappointment, he found a silver lining. Instead of donning a traditional graduation gown and standing in a crowd, Pahlevani and his wife, Sara, wore pajamas as they watched the ceremonies and were surrounded by cake, flowers and messages of love from friends and family.

"Everything together made that day truly special for me, and I realized I have a much larger support group than I previously imagined," Pahlevani noted. "That's a blessing that I owe to this situation."

BY THE NUMBERS

Following this notable milestone, the 72 graduates in the School of Dental Medicine class of 2020 each embarked on an exciting new journey. Here is a glimpse into their next chapter.

- 37** practicing dentists
- 22** pursuing a General Practice Residence/Advanced Education in General Dentistry certificate
- 4** entering a program in orthodontics
- 3** joining the military
- 2** specializing in endodontics
- 2** focusing on pediatric dentistry
- 1** studying periodontics
- 1** specializing in prosthodontics



Dean Kenneth B. Chance



Haesun Souh



Sarah Elizabeth Forsberg

Class of 2020 Awards

Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of its students through annual awards. And though the Class of 2020's celebrations weren't traditional, the honors continued.

"Though an in-person ceremony could not be held, on behalf of our faculty and staff, I wish to extend our deepest congratulations to the 2020 award winners," said School of Dental Medicine Dean Kenneth Chance (DEN '79), DDS.

Thirty-five students were chosen for honors, prizes and awards for exceptional achievements in the field of dentistry.

"It is my privilege and my honor to recognize these students," Chance said.

Elected to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Honor Society

For scholastic attainment and professional potential

- Wangsoo Lee
- Gideon Michael Arnett
- Anna Maria Ganos
- Ana Burilo
- Alexander John DeBernardo
- Robert Joseph Pacella
- Jeremy Parco Koontz
- Hollie Christine Koberlein
- Sarah June Easton

Award of the American College of Dentists, Ohio Division

To the graduate selected for scholastic attainment and the greatest potential for professional achievement

- Morgan Simone Celistan

Callahan Prize

To the graduate who excelled in scholarship, clinical achievement and worthy extracurricular activities, and who shows promise of professional attainment

- Wangsoo Lee

Recognition Plaque of the International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

To the graduate who demonstrated the most professional development during the four years of dental school

- Morgan Simone Celistan

Recognition Plaque of the International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award

To the graduate who demonstrated significant leadership and exemplary character traits when participating in humanitarian service or projects

- Haesun Souh

Academy of General Dentistry Senior Dental Student Award

To the senior student displaying the highest potential and aptitude for the general practice of dentistry

- Chang Hyun Lee

The Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

For excellence in operative dentistry at the undergraduate level

- Abrar Jahin Khan

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry

To the graduate who has demonstrated the most clinical proficiency and interest in esthetic dentistry during the year

- Jeremy Parco Koontz

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

For the senior student who has demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in OAMP

- Jeremy Parco Koontz

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award

For exceptional interest and accomplishments in the field of dental radiology

- Lauren Hoang Thai

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award

To the senior student who is outstanding in the field of oral medicine

- Alexander John DeBernardo

Annual Student Award of the American Academy of Periodontology

In recognition of outstanding achievement in periodontics

- Jeong Min Kim

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

For exemplary aptitude and achievement in the field of oral surgery

- Jeremy Parco Koontz

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

For outstanding achievements and performance related to the placement of dental implants

- Ana Burilo

American Association of Orthodontists Award

For exceptional interest in the field of orthodontics

- Jiabao Sun

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award

In recognition of achievements in community dentistry and dental public health

- Melany E Leek

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Inc. Horace Wells Senior Student Award

In recognition of proficiency in the field of anesthesia in dentistry

- Ana Burilo

Certificate of Merit AAPD Predoctoral Student Award

To the most outstanding senior in the field of dentistry for children

- Cody Wei Ming Sia

Dean's Award

Presented in recognition of academic and clinical excellence

- Tasneem Zaben
- Kyeong Hwan Kim
- Ru Guo Yang
- Laura Marie Gennaro
- Rock Tyler Shaddock
- Amanda Beauchamp Pillai
- Christopher Legendre
- Myoungsu Song

The Eleanor Bushee AAWD Senior Woman Dental Award

For recognition of a senior woman dental student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and academic excellence

- Hanan Izzat Beck

The International Congress of Oral Implantologists

In recognition of outstanding contribution to research and education in the field of oral implantology

- Jacob Allen Tall

The Joseph D. Gage Award

For the senior exemplifying the highest level of professional and humanitarian ideals in the field of general practice dentistry

- Sarah Elizabeth Forsberg

The Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Award

For leadership and dedication to the advancement of dental literature

- Rohan Madyhani

The Pierre Fauchard Academy Dental Student Scholarship Award

To the individual who has demonstrated the greatest potential of developing into an outstanding leader in the dental profession

- Sarah Elizabeth Forsberg

The Quintessence Award

For clinical achievement in periodontics

- Haesun Souh

The Quintessence Award

For clinical achievement in restorative dentistry

- Alexander Joseph DiMassa

The Quintessence Award

For research achievement

- Lauren Hoang Thai

The Richard A. Collier Prize

For the most outstanding business plan

- Jeremy Parco Koontz

The Robert Dean Feder Award

For exceptional interest in community dentistry

- Morgan Simone Celistan

Sherwood/Hrutkay Award

For excellence in the field of endodontics

- Brandt Samuel Hansen

Hanau Award, Given by Whip Mix Corp.

To the graduate who has excelled in the study and clinical application of prosthodontics

- Tasneem Zaben

American Equilibration Society Award

For outstanding performance in the science of occlusion and temporomandibular joint function

- Gideon Michael Arnett

Delta Dental Fund Student Leadership Award

To the graduate who displayed outstanding leadership, service and scholarship in the School of Dental Medicine

- Sarah Elizabeth Forsberg

Delta Dental Fund Community Commitment Award

To an outstanding student who has demonstrated commitment to community service by agreeing to practice in an identified underserved community that has received a federal designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area

- Anthony Victor Lyamichev

Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award

For excellent performance in periodontics

- Wangsoo Lee

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

To the graduate who has demonstrated the most interest, academically and clinically, in implant dentistry

- Brandt Samuel Hansen

The Academy of Osseointegration Award

To an outstanding student in the field of implant dentistry

- Wangsoo Lee

Department of Periodontics Recognition Award

For outstanding clinical achievement in periodontology and dental implants

- Jeong Min Kim

Dr. B.D. Amberman Award

To the graduating senior who shows the greatest promise in pursuing a career in the specialty of orthodontics

- Anna Maria Ganos

American College of Prosthodontists

For prosthodontic accomplishments during dental school education and not for those in specialty training programs

- Phillip Mui

American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award

To an outstanding student who has demonstrated the greatest commitment and interest to temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and orofacial pain

- Sarah Grace Curtis

Chalmers J. Lyons Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (CJL) Award

To the student who has achieved didactic and clinical excellence in oral and maxillofacial surgery

- Jeremy Parco Koontz

Class of 2024 Legacies

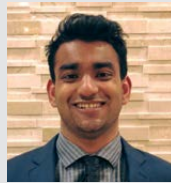
In recognition of the talented students who chose the alma mater of their family members, Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, we highlight the connections the Class of 2024 shared with us.



Chandler Bell



Joshua Bell (DEN '06),
uncle



Rohan Chinwalla



Juzer Chinwalla
(DEN '92, '95), *father*



Elliott Detrich



Roscoe Swartz (DEN '56),
grandfather



Emily Fromknecht



Kristine Fromknecht
(DEN '22), *sister*



Hannah Hales



Denise Heyman-Hales
(DEN '86), *mother*



Victor Heyman (DEN '93),
uncle



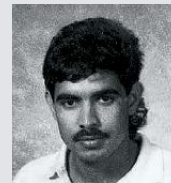
Hannah Jung



Jennifer Jung (DEN '22),
sister



Japmeet Kang



Kulwant Verraich
(DEN '93), *grandfather*



Alexander Mickel



André Mickel
(DEN '91, '94), *father*



Chidera Nwobu



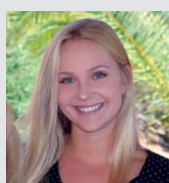
Chigozie Achuko
(DEN '12), *cousin*



Mitchell Thai



Lauren Thai (DEN '20),
sister



Mackenzie Velk



Eric Velk (DEN '96),
father



Angela Velk (DEN '94),
mother

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Kristin A. Williams (DEN '89; GRS '05, public health),
DDS, Cleveland, Ohio
Winnie W. Wong (DEN '16), DMD, Cleveland, Ohio
April A. Yanda (DEN '89), DDS, Hudson, Ohio

To my fellow alumni:

Welcome to 2021! Please remember: As we look back on our accomplishments, trials and tribulations of the past year, **hindsight will be 2020!** (Sorry—I couldn't pass it up.)

In spite of the difficulties of the past year, I am pleased to report the School of Dental Medicine is doing well, and our students are progressing in their education to become incredibly well-trained dentists. Dean Ken Chance, the faculty and the staff continue to rise to and overcome adversities. And there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel, as many of us have begun to receive our COVID-19 vaccinations.

Throughout the past year, the board of directors has continued to meet virtually to conduct our business; our next board meeting is April 28. I am happy to share with you that Carolyn Gordon, the dental school's director of development, and her husband, Adam, became parents on Dec. 30 when they welcomed their son, Louis. We also are pleased to welcome Carrie Lovelace, associate dean for development and alumni relations, to our staff on Nov. 2. And my message wouldn't be complete if I didn't mention the tireless efforts, energy and organization of our director of alumni relations, Sara (Fields) Lyons, whom many of you have met and worked with during her 20 years at the school.

Our board will be working on two tasks this winter. First, we will organize a nominating committee to begin making recommendations for new officers to begin July 1, 2021; every two years, we must elect a new president, vice president and secretary of this organization.

Second, we will gather recommendations from alumni for possible recipients of our Distinguished Alumnus, Outstanding New Dentist and Special Recognition awards, presented annually during homecoming weekend. We will send out information and requests for nominations for the various awards, so watch your emails or visit case.edu/dental to make your nomination.

During Homecoming and Reunion 2020, we had a very well-received virtual continuing education program, "Successfully Aging," in collaboration with the nursing and medical schools. We will look to continue that collaborative effort for homecoming this year, whether online or in person. I welcome your recommendations for topics and presenters we might consider for this year's event.

Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to continued excellence coming from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. ■

Warm regards,

Scott L. Alperin, DDS
Class of 1974



MESSAGE
from the
alumni
association
president

class notes

1955

Burton Saidel is retired and living with his wife, Alice, in Dayton, Ohio, where he is involved in the Dayton Opera, Discover Classical Radio Station and Dayton Masters Track Club. He is an emeritus member of North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners and a Haverford College alumni representative. He enjoys woodworking and has gifted installations to schools, churches, synagogues and community organizations. As his 90th birthday nears, Saidel—a former U.S. Master's National Champion in running—is training for a national championship challenge in New York City.

1960

Jay Chaney is retired and now lives with his wife, Barbara, in Sun City West, Arizona, after 30 years of practicing in Heath, Ohio. They have two grown sons, Mark and Stephen.

Robert William Cornell Jr. is retired and lives most of the year in Naples, Florida, with his wife, Chloe, where he teaches pediatric dentistry part time in University of Florida's post-graduate program. They typically spend summers at their family cottage in Chautauqua, New York, where they partake in summer programs at the Chautauqua Institution. He enjoys playing golf and sailing.

Robert Krasny retired as professor emeritus from University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry, Section of Endodontics. Krasny and his wife of 62 years, Rita, now live in Palm Desert, California, where they conduct a weekly singing and music group for people suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's, post-stroke and Parkinson's Disease through MusicMendsMinds.org.

Paul Sidlo lives in a retirement facility in Tampa, Florida, where he stays busy with activities and visits from his daughters, two of three of whom live nearby. His wife, Peggy, passed away in July 2018.

Jerome Socha is retired and lives with his wife, Mary Ann, in Lorain, Ohio.

Val Jensen is retired, after 39 years of general dentistry. He and his wife, Donna, have been married for 69 years and live in Carson City, Nevada. They have five children and 10 grandchildren, are active in their church, and enjoy playing golf and tennis together.

1965

David Hertel and his wife, Nancy, spend the majority of the year in Fort Myers, Florida, though they return home to Avon Lake, Ohio, in the summer. They enjoy playing golf and riding bikes.

Gerald McDonnell retired from private practice in 2008 and the Michigan prison system in 2012. He lives with his wife, Lorraine, in Novi, Michigan, and has six grandchildren.

1966

Gerald "Jerry" Adelstein is enjoying retirement in Solon, Ohio, where he lives with his wife of 58 years, Marilyn. The couple has five children and 15 grandchildren, one of whom, Melanie, will graduate this spring from the School of Dental Medicine.

Richard "Dee" Calderwood was named an honored professional of the National Directory of Who's Who America for his work establishing a dental clinic in Window Rock, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation. He practiced there for 14 years and now lives in Shumway, Arizona.

Richard Streem and his wife, Carol, spend most of the year in Florida near Bonita Springs; their children and grandchildren live in Cleveland.

1968

Robert Goldman self-published his book, *The Slammer: A Critique of Prison Overpopulation*, a menacing flaw in American culture. The book, which is 536 pages and five years in the making, is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and independent booksellers.

1969

Larry Piotrowski and his wife of 50 years, **Nancy Woodward** (NUR '69), have four daughters and 13 grandchildren. They enjoy traveling in fall and winter, and spend their summers with family and friends at their cottage in Harbor Springs, Michigan.

1970



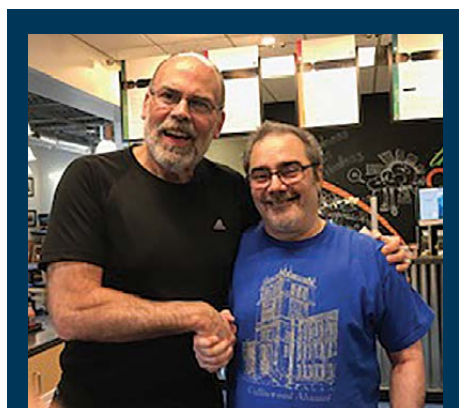
Robert Weinstein is pictured with his wife, Zvia, at the 2019 Australian Open with friend and former patient Venus Williams. The Weinsteins hope to travel more soon. Weinstein purchased and is restoring a 1957 Corvette—the first model to combine fuel injection with a four-speed manual transmission and 283-horsepower engine.

1975

Rolf G. Behrents received the American Board of Orthodontics' 2020 Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award, its highest honor. Behrents is professor emeritus of orthodontics at Saint Louis University. He also serves as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*.

Robert Doty is retired from dental practice, though he actively manages several rental real estate properties and serves as president of the Nautilus Community Association. He and his wife, Chera (WRC '73), live in Richfield, Ohio, and have two sons and four grandchildren.

Alan Metzger, who is retired, enjoys hiking, biking, golfing and sculling on the local lake near his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Last year, he went on a hike that started in Vienna, Austria, and finished in Prague, Czech Republic.



1975 Classmates Greg Davenport and Richard Grasso

1979



Jed Best is a consultant to the Scientific Affairs Committee of the American Dental Association. In his free time, he enjoys biking, traveling and photography.

1980

Bruce Barbash and his wife, Janis, live in Dallas, Texas, where he has a full-time private practice focusing on prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics. He has two adult sons, and enjoys attending tennis and bike tournaments and fishing in his free time.

Craig Callen, who practices full time in Mansfield, Ohio, is associate editor of the *Profitable Dentist Magazine* and editor of the online dental Facebook group, The Cutting Edge Dental Practice. He enjoys spending his free time in Catawba, Ohio, with his five children.

Roy Lindblad retired from his Connecticut practice in October 2019 after 34 years. He and his wife recently moved back to Cleveland.

Gary Olson practices at Falls Family Dental in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, but is nearing retirement. He's spending more time boating, camping, golfing and fly fishing, and enjoys spending time with his wife, Patricia, and children, Erika (Jason) Brasure and Jon Olson.

Donald Powers and his wife, Suzanne, work part time and like to vacation at their condo in Sarasota, Florida. They are active in their church, enjoy learning about history, philosophy, and theology, and enjoy their daily walks.

Mark Worford and his wife, Cindy, were married in 2015 and live in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He enjoys playing tennis and has a general practice in Beachwood, Ohio.

1984



Marsha Pyle was named the American Dental Education Association's Senior Scholar in Residence, after retiring in September 2020 as dean of the University of

Missouri – Kansas City School of Dentistry. Pyle previously was associate dean for academic affairs at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. She serves as chair of the ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition Planning Committee, of the curriculum project for older adults and the Macy curriculum projects, and

of the American Dental Association's Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. She previously was an advisor for the ADEA Leadership Institute and chair of the ADEA Council of Deans.

1985

Mehrdad Vajdi lives in Washington, D.C., and is moving toward retirement.

1990

Mary Jennings has spent the last 24 years working in nonprofit clinics in Washington. For six years, she served on the Board of Directors of the Washington State Dental Association, and was editor of its magazine for nine. Jennings is the past president of the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists Association, a member of the Tri-College and served on the American Dental Association Counsel of Government Affairs for four years. Recently, she moved to Oklahoma to work with her brother, **James Jennings (DEN '93)** for their tribe, the Chickasaw Nation.

Gus Komar has dedicated his career to helping others. For the past 11 years, Komar has worked with missionaries in Mexico, Bolivia, Peru and Guatemala to reach people in the mountains, prisons and orphanages. In 2018, he was awarded the Ohio Association of Free Clinics Volunteer Dentist of the Year. He and his wife, Joni, have been married for 40 years, and have six grown children and six grandchildren.

Imaad Shaikh and his wife, Lubna, live in Bloomington, Illinois. He has a general practice, Dental Access Centers, with two locations, where his wife is a hygienist. He is a board member of the College Preparatory School of America. Their daughter, Zoya, is in her final year of dental school at CWRU, while their son is in a medical program in Florida and their son-in-law earned his MD and is doing his residency in radiology at CWRU. They all enjoy playing tennis, basketball and badminton.

1992



John Nase was recently awarded the designation of Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Odontology. In addition to practicing general

dentistry, Nase specializes in forensic dental identification of the deceased as well as dental age assessment and bitemark analysis. He is a forensic expert consultant for the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office and several of the surrounding county coroner's offices. Nase is a fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and presents frequently during its national annual meeting.

1993

David Kimberly was installed as president of the Ohio Dental Association at a virtual meeting in September 2020.

1995

Rajesh Baji is lead dentist at Refresh Dental in Canfield, Ohio.

Rony Dagher lives with his wife, Mariana, and their 6-year-old twin boys in Toronto. He has a dental practice focusing on endodontics, in addition to lecturing full time and providing hands-on training with Dentsply Sirona. He and his wife enjoy traveling, skiing and activities with their children. They volunteer with World Vision, Operation Smile and Sick Kids Hospital Foundation.

Alex Mihailoff owns and works full time in his endodontics practices in Cincinnati. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Daniela, and family.

2000

W. Jay Marley Jr. practices in Homer, Alaska, where he has a special interest in all aspects of implant dentistry. He recently has pursued interests in dental sleep medicine and the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea with oral appliances. Marley has earned Diplomate status with the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. He and his wife, Erica, have three boys, and they enjoy camping, fishing and hunting together.

2009



Maemie Chan and her husband, **Dave Hudec** (DEN '11) welcomed their first child, Andrew Michael Da Wei Hudec, on Feb. 11. Pictured here at the baby shower, **Winnie Wong** (DEN '16) and **Kari Cunningham** (DEN '10) are celebrating with them and claiming the title of "aunties."

2014



Marcus Johnson recently received the National Dental Association 2020 Faculty Recognition Award for his work at Interfaith Medical Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

2011



Nila Nosrati has been practicing in Toronto since 2016. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, cooking and walking her dog.

2015



Avi Willis completed a two-year pediatric dental residency at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia in 2019, following a general practice residency at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. During his pediatric residency, Willis volunteered at Dental Volunteers for Israel, a free pediatric dental clinic—funded by dentals around the world—in Jerusalem to treat children in need. He also teaches part time at Temple University's Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry. Willis and his wife, Yonit, have a son, Ronen.

2017

Peter Markov recently opened a practice, Virginia Kids Pediatric Dentistry in Arlington, specializing in pediatric dentistry. Markov received multiple awards throughout his studies from the American Academy of Oral Medicine and the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, as well as earning the School of Dental Medicine's Dean's Award.



Arun Arora (DEN '88) died April 25, 2020, at his home in Galena, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Shashi; sons Amol (Jacquelyn) and Amit (Leena Nahata); brothers, Ashok, Rajiv and Nimesh; and five grandchildren.



Thomas Beach (DEN '87) died June 28, 2020, at Harvest Home Farm in Middlefield, Ohio. He is survived by his father, Charles "Chick" Beach, and his children and their families: Elizabeth (Ryan) Lawson, Katherine (Robert) Stuart, Alexander Beach, and Sarah Beach.



Jeffrey Bilfield (DEN '84) of Beachwood, Ohio, died Aug. 2, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Adam, Samantha (Drew) Nichols and Tyler (Morgan); and two grandchildren.

Richard E. Caliri (DEN '57) died March 13, 2019, in Medford, Massachusetts. He is survived by wife of 61 years, Claudette, and children, Richard Caliri Jr. and Lisa Caliri.

Reed Call (DEN '57) of Provo, Utah, died Sept. 5, 2020. He is survived by his children, Christopher, Brenda (Dbrav) Dunkley, Jennifer (Robert) Hekking, Stephanie (Mike) Bradshaw and Jon Richard (Charity); 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Jack L. Clark (DEN '64) died Sept. 19, 2019, in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He is survived by his children, Pamela and Jon.

Sarah J. Davis (DEN '92) died March 7, 2020, in Brecksville, Ohio. She is survived by her husband, John "Jay"; son, John "Jack"; and mother, Gretchen Beebe.

In Memory of Student Services' Philip Aftoora



During his 40-plus-year tenure as the director of student services at the School of Dental Medicine, Philip C. Aftoora worked with more than 3,000 students who now make up the majority of the school's alumni. Aftoora died in April 2020, and is fondly remembered and appreciated by students, staff and faculty alike for his contributions to launching careers.

Always prepared to help any student or alumni, Aftoora was continually ready to give career advice—even giving one-on-one guidance for negotiating contracts. He viewed it as his personal mission to help students understand the business side of the dental profession, and his approach was always "teach them how to fish."

Perhaps best known for being a compassionate and skilled listener, Aftoora, who retired in 2018, regularly assisted those who were experiencing personal or academic problems. And he continued to receive calls from alumni long after they graduated, with many crediting him for the success they achieved.

For those who would like to honor his memory, the Philip C. Aftoora Student Support and Assistance Endowment Fund has been created to aid students who experience critical needs including personal emergencies, national academic travel, and special program opportunities. To donate to the fund, please send a contribution to the attention of Carolyn Gordon, director of development, or contact her at 216.368.3481 or carolyn.gordon@case.edu.



John DiStefano Jr. (ADL '70; DEN '72, '76; MGT '98) of Big Lake, Minnesota, died July 13, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Lynne; daughters, Emily (William)

Kennedy, Katherine McFarlane, Elizabeth (Andrew) Milner; and grandchildren.

Robert L. Endersen (DEN '57) died Aug. 18, 2019, in Lakewood, Colorado.

Richard A. Engel (WRC '42, DEN '44)

died Nov. 3, 2020, in Beachwood, Ohio. He is survived by his brother and sister, David and Elaine Hunt; children, Barbara and Roger; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Gary Michael Ewald (DEN '77) of Ashland, Ohio, died Oct. 5, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Janet Ewald; son, Dan (Kelly) Ewald; daughter, Erin (Korey) Kaufman; six grandchildren; and brother, Joseph (Catherine) Ewald.

Edward R. Falkner (ADL '50, DEN '55) of Shaker Heights, Ohio, died June 2, 2020. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 66 years; his children, Nancy (Louis), Jimmy (Kelly) and Douglas (Ellen); his grandchildren; and his great-granddaughter.



John W. Fisher (DEN '77) died Nov. 8, 2019, in Stow, Ohio. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jane, and children, Ellen Schultz, Jennifer Peace and Stephen Fisher.

Rees C. Flannery (DEN '67) died Jan. 19, 2021, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jane Weingartner Flannery; son, Rees C. (Jenni) Flannery Jr.; daughter, Lauren (Eric) Flannery Thiele; and three grandchildren.

Jeffrey M. Ford (DEN '72, GRS '74) died June 2, 2020.

Stephen M. Gage (DEN '62) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, died April 9, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Nancy.



Harry E. Glatz (DEN '51) of Jamestown, New York, died July 12, 2020. He is survived by his son, Jay; daughter, Kim (Nick) Majetich; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Stephen M. Goldstein (DEN '65) died Nov. 5, 2019, in Bay Shore, New York.

William W. Harlan (DEN '56) died Dec. 6, 2019, in Dublin, Ohio. He is survived by his children, Pamela Ribic, Hallie Krieg and Kirk Harlan.



Donald J. Kne (DEN '68) died Feb. 14, 2020, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and children, Gregory, Eric and Michelle Kne.

Remembering Third-Year Student Katie Nelson



Third-year dental student Katie Nelson died April 6, 2020, after being diagnosed with leukemia six months earlier.

The 23-year-old joined the Case Western Reserve community as part of the School of Dental Medicine's pre-professional scholar program partnership with her undergraduate alma mater, Westminster College, in her home state of Pennsylvania. Case Western Reserve was an ideal fit for Nelson—a driven and intelligent student who wanted her dental school experience to focus heavily on community engagement and service, said Kristin Williams, assistant dean for admissions and student affairs at the dental school.

Nelson was an active member of the Student National Dental Association, American Student Dental Association and Delta Sigma Delta fraternity, and she tutored multiple classes and labs.

She was "the total package—a true superstar," said Natalie El Dabh, now a third-year dental student. "As a dental student, she shined academically and clinically, learning material and skills well enough to tutor others."



Richard A. Krantz (DEN '69) of Highland Heights, Ohio, died Aug. 6, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, David (Malinda), Amanda (James Jarrett), Victoria (Chris)

Nassif, and Matthew (Kendall) Rhodes; and six grandchildren.

Jerome S. Kustin (DEN '64, '66) of Beachwood, Ohio, died Jan. 13, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Gayle; children, Ira and Melissa (David) Tonisson; and three grandchildren.



James L. Lowder (DEN '54) died Jan. 11, 2020, in Bratenahl, Ohio. He is survived by his children, James N. Lowder, Janet Kinkaid and Judith Vazquez.

William P. Mara Jr. (DEN '80) died Oct. 5, 2019, in Stamford, Connecticut. He is survived by his wife, Suzan, and daughters, Rachel E. Mara, Amy Duffy and Jamie Mara Rinaldi.



E. Thomas Marshall Sr. (DEN '68) died Feb. 6, 2020, in Pinehurst, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo; sons and daughters, Ed (Barb), David (Sherry),

Craig (Janice), Deborah (Al) Hinson, and Karen (Tom) Kaim; stepson, Ryan (Shannon) Janovic, and stepdaughter Andrea Janovic; and grandchildren.

Patrick S. Metro (DEN '61) died Sept. 12, 2020, in Naples, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen; daughters, Jennifer (George) Paterakis and Suzanne Metro; sister, Virginia Stalzer; four grandchildren; and many nieces and a nephew.

Frederick G. Miller (DEN '63) died May 20, 2020, in Roswell, Georgia. He is survived by Janet, his wife of nearly 60 years; his sister, Ruth Gove; sons, Kurt, Brian and Eric; and six grandchildren.



Bruce L. Motter (ADL '59, DEN '61) of Gates Mills, Ohio, died July 14, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary Ann; children, Sally (Michael) Rauch, Denise (Thomas) McDonald, Bruce (Emily), Christa (Paul) Holzer, and Erin; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



Robert M. Newman (DEN '76) died Sept. 30, 2019, in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Cheryl, and daughters, Marni Newman and Kara Culp.

James E. Noonan Jr. (DEN '67) of Denver died Jan. 30, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Clare; sons, Terrence (Yukiko) and Christopher (Stevany); three grandchildren; and sister, Jeanne (Robert).

Kenneth Novak (DEN '90) died Sept. 30, 2020, in Twinsburg, Ohio. He is survived by his son, John, and siblings Kathy (Michael) Crislip and Steven (Isabel) Novak.

Eric Ornella (DEN '82, '84) died Dec. 21, 2019, in Cincinnati. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Julia, and sons, Devin and Brett.

Joseph L. Plew (ADL '59, DEN '61) died Oct. 24, 2020, in Mansfield, Ohio. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Theresa ("Terry"); daughter, Karen (Jeff) Knight; son, Scott (Marcia) Plew; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.



Seymour Reifman (DEN '62) died Dec. 10, 2019, in Beachwood, Ohio. He is survived by his children, Joel Reifman and Anne Peterlin.

Gale Lee Scott (DEN '60) died Sept. 22, 2019, in Meridian, Idaho.

H. Gene Shafer (DEN '56) of Salem, Ohio, died Sept. 16, 2020. He is survived by his son, Hal (Tici) Shafer; daughter, Carol Shafer Brown; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



William S. Shaw (DEN '66) of Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, died May 23, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Norma Jean; children, Jennifer (Rick) Letterman, Heather (Brian) Crawford, Stephanie (Mike) Brown and Bill (Kristen) Shaw; and seven grandchildren.

Arthur Patrick Sheehan Jr. (ADL '48, DEN '51) died Nov. 12, 2020, in Wilson, North Carolina. He is survived by his daughters, Carol (Mike) Bowen and Nancy Harris; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert F. Shively (DEN '56) died Jan. 1, 2021, in Milford, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Jackie; children, Robert E. (Judy) Shively, Mandy (Max) Reverman, and Libby (Pat) McAvoy; and grandchildren.



Wayne O. Smith (DEN '59, ADL '59) of Vero Beach, Florida, died March 6, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Lorrie, of 34 years; children, Courtney (David), Bradford (Tracey), Whitney (David) and Kent; stepchildren, Tracey (Raymond), Darrin and Brad (Jope); 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Lester Taylor (DEN '58) died Jan. 2, 2021, in St. George, Utah. He is survived by his wife, Therese; children, Bradley (Sandra) Taylor, Teri (James) Kennedy, Douglas (Suzanne) Taylor, Jennifer (Douglas) Sargent, and Kimberly (Don) Bosco; 16 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.



Charles R. Vath (DEN '62) of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, died Jan. 9, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Mary, daughter, Laura Kaiser, and grandson, Daniel Kaiser.



Gerald S. Wahl (DEN '59) died Nov. 24, 2019, in Strongsville, Ohio. He is survived by wife of 60 years, Phyllis, and children, Roberta, Monica Shaffer, William, Melanie Petras, Amy Stark and Jim.



Walter Yankovich (DEN '53) of Akron, Ohio, died Jan. 17, 2019. He is survived by his children, Renee Yankovich and Rhonda Miko, and four grandchildren.

Carl Hubert Yoder (DEN '53) of Berlin, Ohio, died Dec. 12, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Sue; children, Kevin (Judy) and Mary Beth Stuckey; stepchildren Myron (Andrea) Miller, Maurice (Cindy) Miller and Scott (Missy) Miller; eight grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Reconnecting from Afar

Homecoming and Reunion 2020 went virtual—but the events, camaraderie and celebrations continued

Though the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to in-person activities for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, members of the School of Dental Medicine community still came together last fall to talk with former classmates, longtime colleagues and current students.

Through a mix of virtual events, ranging from a photography-driven “reunion class parade” to a tour of the state-of-the-art Dental Clinic that opened in 2019, the weekend connected dental school alumni from across the country. Zoom happy hours supplanted traditional reunion dinners and events, while the university’s Blue Block Party, typically held amid the bustle of Uptown, moved online, with a performance by the Department of Music.

And while the ceremony itself was different, the esteem of the School of Dental Medicine’s Alumni Awards remained. This year’s honorees, recognized during an awards celebration led by Dean Kenneth B. Chance (DEN ’75), DDS, have positively impacted the School of Dental Medicine, provided outstanding service to their local community, and/or modeled exceptional leadership in the dental profession. ■

UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES DENTAL ALUMNUS



Case Western Reserve University’s African American Alumni Association recognized Francis Curd (DEN ’77), DMD, with its Ella Mae Johnson Service Award, which is given to African American graduates who have made a difference at the university and in their community through volunteerism and civic engagement.

Throughout his career, Curd has spent more than 40 years advancing excellence in dentistry at Case Western Reserve and other institutions. Through myriad initiatives, including addressing the United States Congress, Curd has raised awareness of and led the charge to ameliorate dental health disparities.

Curd has served in numerous leadership positions in local, national and international dental organizations, including the American Dental Education Association and the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments. ■

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Rolf Behrents



Rolf “Buzz” G. Behrents (DEN ’75), DDS, MSD, PhD, is a leader in orthodontic teaching and research, dedicated to advancing the profession.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College and a degree in dental medicine from the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, Behrents attended Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine for his orthodontic training. He later earned a PhD in human craniofacial growth and development from the University of Michigan, and was

awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Athens in Greece.

Behrents taught and served as director of Case Western Reserve’s orthodontic program from 1978 to 1984. Throughout his career, he has held leadership and teaching positions at the University of Tennessee, Baylor University and St. Louis University, where he is a professor emeritus of orthodontics. An active researcher and editorial contributor, Behrents is editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics* and author of *Growth of the Aging Craniofacial Skeleton*, and has published more than 70 articles in refereed journals and worked as an editorial board member and referee.

Behrents is a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists, co-director of the Graduate Orthodontics Residents Program and a non-voting member of the American Association of Orthodontists Board of Trustees. He has received notable industry recognition, including the 2018 Callahan Memorial Award from the Ohio Dental Association and, most recently, the 2020 Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award—the highest honor presented by the American Board of Orthodontics.

Behrents and his wife, Eileen, have two children and reside in St. Louis. ■



OUTSTANDING NEW DENTIST AWARD

Brian Gallagher

Since graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, Brian Gallagher (DEN '16), DDS, has taken on the role of dentist and positive driving force in his community.

Shortly after graduation, Gallagher joined West Park Dental on Cleveland's west side as a dentist—and also joined the Health Sciences Board at Saint Joseph Academy,

an all-girls school in Cleveland, to provide mentoring and shadowing opportunities for students considering careers in medicine or dentistry. In addition to his board responsibilities, Gallagher has provided custom-fitted mouth guards for the school's rugby team.

That same year, Gallagher joined the West Park YMCA board, where he still works with his colleagues to extend the organization's presence in the community; he recently was appointed to its fundraising campaign committee.

In 2018—learning from those who mentored him during his academic career—Gallagher co-founded the CLE Study Club to provide guidance and assistance to young dentists in navigating PACE certification and state dental board approval, and bringing monthly speakers to venues across the region.

An elected member of the Greater Cleveland Dental Society Board of Directors, Gallagher has also served as a delegate to the Ohio Dental Association. In 2020, he earned the Ohio Dental Association's N. Wayne Hiatt Rising Star Award, recognizing a young leader in dentistry who demonstrates outstanding leadership and initiative. ■

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**Itamar Carter**

When Itamar Carter (DEN '19), DMD, began his general practice dental residency program at Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center in his hometown of Brooklyn, New York, he looked forward to receiving advanced clinical and didactic training. Nine months later, at the epicenter of a global pandemic, Carter found himself treating critically ill patients recovering from COVID-19.

Leaning in to the new challenges facing all medical professionals, Carter took on new responsibilities, including recording patient histories, drawing blood, testing patients, and comforting those who were critically ill and alone. He worked tirelessly in the emergency room and rotated on call for weeks.

As a dental resident in a hospital-based program, Carter had already experienced working in the ER. "But still, nothing could quite prepare you for being on the front lines of a pandemic in the hot spot of the U.S.," he said, "seeing colleagues around you out sick, the sheer number of patients to manage, an overflowing morgue, witnessing many lives lost."

Although the long shifts were mentally taxing and emotionally draining, Carter was grateful for the opportunity to help others. His education and training at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, he said, prepared him to adapt to changes and instilled a desire to serve.

"With so many medical professionals serving on the front lines, this is not what a nine-month graduate of the dental school expected to be doing," said Kristin A. Williams (DEN '89), DDS, in her nominating letter to the board of directors. "... Each day when New York City was seeing patient numbers and deaths escalate, Itamar's commitment (and attitude) never wavered." ■





Call for Nominations

Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine seeks nominations for its annual awards, which will be presented during **Homecoming & Reunion Weekend Oct. 21-23**.

Please fill out and mail in this form, or visit case.edu/dental/alumni-friends/alumni-awards to submit the form online.

AWARD YOU ARE NOMINATING CANDIDATE FOR:

(Only select one)

- ☐ Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award
- ☐ Outstanding New Dentist Award
- ☐ Alumni Board Special Recognition Award

Nominee _____ Graduating Year (if applicable) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Home/Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Nominated By _____ Graduating Year (if applicable) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Home/Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Please submit the following documents by Friday, April 9, 2021.

1. Nomination Letter outlining achievements and why the candidate should be honored
2. Curriculum Vita of Nominee if appropriate
3. This completed Nomination Form noting proposed award

Return the completed form to:

Case Western Reserve University
School of Dental Medicine
Alumni Association Board of Directors
10900 Euclid Avenue ~ Cleveland, OH 44106-7342
E-mail: dentalalumni@case.edu

A Look Back

From the Archives of the School of Dental Medicine



In a nod to the rarity of women in the profession at the time, *The Cleveland Press* ran this photograph, alongside the headline “Girl Dentist,” in its Feb. 11, 1953, issue. Pictured: 21-year-old dental student Adele Pasiut (DEN ‘56), who became the second woman to graduate from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and the first to go into practice.

Her son, Oregon endodontist James P. Walker (DEN ‘82), DDS, said his mother greatly enjoyed the practice of dentistry, but was quiet about her status as a trailblazer. And though she went on to complete a periodontal residency at the University of Southern California, the specialty proved to be so male dominated that she returned to general dentistry. Beyond the challenge of obtaining referrals from male dentists, Pasiut was required to include her husband on her office lease in a prominent Los Angeles building—a

reality of women seeking careers in the mid-20th century. Despite the barriers, Pasiut thrived in her profession: She had a special gift for treating those who were fearful of going to the dentist, her son recalled, and her patients loved her.

“I do know that she felt very welcomed by her Western Reserve University classmates and the faculty,” Walker said of his mother, who died in 2006. “It was a very progressive school for that time, and I would say that was equally true when I was there.”

As of fall 2020, nearly 45% of the School of Dental Medicine’s students are female—thanks to the trails blazed by women such as Pasiut. ■

—Whitney Bohan



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

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Help discourage waste:

If you receive duplicate mailings, want to be removed from the mailing list or want to change an address, contact 216.368.3480 or dentalalumni@case.edu

Support the School of Dental Medicine and celebrate your personal legacy

Alumni who have thoughtfully included the school in their estate planning have helped build world-class facilities, supported hundreds of students through named, endowed scholarship funds, and provided critical support for departmental research and strategic initiatives.

"The school has been my home for nearly 60 years, and I have been very happy there both as a student and a faculty member. I am remembering the school in my will because it has been such a big part of my life. I encourage all alumni to consider making this confidential and easy commitment to the school that provided them the training that led to satisfying professional careers and comfortable lives."

—B. Douglas (Doug) Amberman (DEN '67), DDS

To learn how your support through a will bequest, a trust distribution or beneficiary designation of your IRA can benefit the School of Dental Medicine and provide tax benefits—which expire Dec. 31, 2021—visit plannedgiving.case.edu.



Tips for
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