

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." ■

