

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

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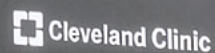
AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUTSTANDING CARE

Take a tour through the state-of-the-art
facilities at the new CWRU Dental Clinic

Health
Education
Campus

School of
Dental
Medicine

Dental Clinic



CONTENTS

Fall 2021 | volume 21 | issue 2

features



8 An inside look at outstanding care



14 Investing in our community

departments

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Message from the Dean | 29 EFDA Update |
| 4 On Campus | 30 Class Notes |
| 7 Research Briefs | 32 In Memoriam |
| 18 Philanthropy Update | 34 A Look Back |
| 20 Alumni News | 35 Upcoming Events |

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The start of an exciting new chapter

Dear alumni and friends:

Case Western Reserve University and the School of Dental Medicine recently kicked off the 2021-22 academic year—successfully reuniting as a community and embarking on an exciting new chapter.

After navigating a year unlike any other, the start of this semester feels particularly meaningful, with students enjoying in-person learning experiences and dental clinic operations nearing pre-COVID levels. These notable accomplishments are made possible thanks to the diligence and determination of our faculty, staff and students to keep one another safe.

The last 18 months have served as a powerful reminder of what we are able to accomplish when we all come together for a common purpose. Building on this collective spirit, I have no doubt we will continue to work toward our mission of transforming the dental profession in order to best serve our patients.

This fall also marks an important personal milestone, my 50th Bronx High School of Science reunion. Mixed with the fall season, this has me feeling especially sentimental. Growing up in the Southeast Bronx, the time I spent at Bronx Science—known for its high-caliber learning environment—changed the trajectory of my life. It broadened my worldview and knowledge, pushing me to reach higher and farther.

We are faced with a similar opportunity to remap the trajectory of our school to face what lies ahead. Taking what we learned throughout this pandemic—the lessons we gathered from experiencing what we've never experienced before—we are expanding our vision for the future. Looking onward, we are focused on advancing our technological capabilities and fostering a more diverse and inclusive community to combat health care inequities and transform our communities for the better.

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.

Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79)
Dean, Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine



Kenneth Chance, DDS (DEN '79)

After navigating a year unlike any other, the start of this semester feels particularly meaningful, with students enjoying in-person learning experiences and dental clinic operations nearing pre-COVID levels.

Guiding the periodontics department

When Gian Pietro Schincaglia, DDS, helmed the periodontics department at West Virginia University's School of Dentistry, he launched the school's robotic dental implant program—establishing the university as the second institution in the nation to offer robotic-guided implant surgeries.

This summer, he joined the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine as its new chair of periodontics.

"Becoming a part of the outstanding history of Case Western Reserve and the fantastic new School of Dental Medicine facility presented an exciting opportunity," said Schincaglia. "I look forward to cultivating the best periodontics program in the country, weaving the digital era and my expertise to further enhance the education for the next generation of dental professionals and the care we provide the community."

At West Virginia University, Schincaglia was a tenured professor, chair and graduate program director of the Department of Periodontics. Prior to that, he was an associate professor with tenure and chair of oral implantology for the School of Dentistry at the University of Ferrara in Italy; and a clinical associate professor and graduate program director for the Division of Periodontology, Department of Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. In addition, he spent time specializing in periodontics and implants in private practice, as well as with the faculty practice at the UConn Center for Implant and Reconstructive Dentistry in Farmington, Connecticut.

Schincaglia received his degree in dental surgery from the University of Ferrara School of Dentistry in 1989, a certificate in periodontics from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles in 2000 and a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Ferrara in 2006. In 2003, he became a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology.



Gian Pietro Schincaglia, DDS

"Dr. Schincaglia boasts an impressive background in periodontics and integrating technology with the patient experience to deliver best-in-class care," said Dean Kenneth Chance, DDS (DEN '79). "I look forward to partnering together to advance the dental profession." ■

Lessons in a **lunchbox**

With COVID-19 precautions limiting in-person community outreach opportunities, Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine DMD students went virtual in 2021, creating a helpful video on the importance of oral health and tips for local elementary students.

In partnership with the Children's Oral Health Institute, the dental school also sent 125 lunchboxes to second- and third-grade students at Shoreview Elementary School in Euclid, Ohio. Each carrot-shaped lunchbox contains oral health and nutrition facts, as well as a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss.

Students who helped create the video included Imani Behrens, Erica Chambers, Kevin Dobbins, Alisha Jiminez-Thompson, Ashleigh Kmentt, Chidera Nwobu, Eduardo Julián (EJ) Santos and Alexandra Wehr, as well as recent graduate Mona Jabari. ■



New organization connects Middle Eastern and North African students

When the School of Dental Medicine launched its Cultural Diversity Roundtable in 2020, it highlighted the void of formal representation for students of Middle Eastern and North African descent.

So students Rebecca Farag, Amannie Abu-Kweik, Gabriella Koussa and Jenna Farraj came together to create the Middle Eastern North African (MENA) Dental Student Association.

Even with the constraints of a virtual-only environment due to COVID-19, MENA already has over 30 members, and has hosted virtual meet-and-greet events and regular board meetings.

"My hope for MENA is to help assimilate Middle Eastern culture in order to foster professional diversity and cultural awareness," said Abu-Kweik, the organization's president. "MENA includes more than 20 countries, each with its own twist on culture and tradition. I find this creates a lot of room for interaction within the organization and with the outer community."

All of the founders reinforced the importance of coming together to celebrate their backgrounds and find a sense of belonging within the organization.

"Being raised in the Middle East has meant that I've had to adapt to a different social environment and lifestyle," Farraj said, "so having a piece of home at dental school is always comforting."

Looking ahead, the group is focused on educational programming, highlighting the different aspects of the cultures represented, as well as community outreach supporting refugees and providing dental care to the neighboring areas.

"The Middle Eastern and North African community in Cleveland is much larger than most realize," said Koussa. "There is so much potential for bilingual speakers in the dental profession to incorporate a patient's native language to aid in optimal dental care." ■

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



Dean Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79), was named president-elect of the Supreme Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), the national dental society. Chance will serve as president-elect until March 2022, when he will assume the role of president—and also become the society's first Black president. Since its founding in 1914, OKU has represented the highest standards of dentistry. Chance has been a member of the organization for almost 30 years, and was elected vice president in 2019.



Kristin Williams, DDS (DEN '89; GRS '05, public health), assistant dean for student affairs and associate professor in the Department of Community Dentistry, was featured by *Crain's Cleveland Business* in an article focusing on how a diverse health care workforce would have a positive impact on disparities in health-related outcomes.



Rui Amaral Mendes, DMD, PhD, adjunct professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine, recently served as a corresponding author on a piece in *British Medical Journal*. The article explains how stringent genomics surveillance and monitoring of the viral epidemiology and genetic diversity can help explain why people respond to COVID-19 in different ways.



Anita Aminoshariae, DDS (DEN '99), professor in the Department of Endodontics, and **Dale Baur, DDS (DEN '80)**, vice dean of the dental school and chair and professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, collaborated with interdisciplinary, interinstitutional experts to co-author "Perioperative Antiplatelet and Anticoagulant Management with Endodontic Microsurgical Techniques." Published in the *Journal of Endodontics*, the article recommends how to safely treat patients on blood thinners.



Nabil Bissada, BDS, DDS, MSD, professor in the Department of Periodontics and associate dean for global relations, published a second textbook, *Periodontics in the Tradition of Bissada*, edited by Sorin Boeriu.



J. Martin Palomo, DDS, MSD (DEN '97), professor in the Department of Orthodontics and orthodontic residency director, discussed with *U.S. News & World Report* how discounted services are often available to those who live near a dental school offering an orthodontic program.

Hispanic and Latinx students unite to build community, improve patient care

Embracing all forms of Hispanic and Latin culture and cultivating an inclusive, accepting community are at the heart of the mission of Case Western Reserve University's Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA). Through events, education, community outreach and social gatherings, the organization is enhancing representation and increasing awareness.

With a prominent focus on community engagement, the group supports the Latin and Hispanic community in Cleveland through drives, donations and events. HSDA also educates on the importance of knowing how to have simple conversations and communicate messages to those who don't speak English, especially during patient visits.

"It's unsettling for patients when their dentist doesn't understand them at all," said Miguel Ascencio, HSDA president and second-year dental student. "As a provider, being able to show you're trying to communicate with [patients] can make a world of difference in the perception of the treatment they're going to receive."

Eduardo Julián (EJ) Santos, vice president of HSDA and third-year dental student, also shed light on the need for ongoing education—particularly relating to the health gap in dental care for the Latin and Hispanic community—and creating a space for conversations in order to increase understanding.

"Members of HSDA are here to help better explain cultural differences or translate more directly," said Santos. "This can help make the clinical environment more welcoming and assuring for the provider to be able to treat the patient the way they want, so those barriers don't seem as large." ■



Interdisciplinary team earns NIH grant to speed **oral cancer testing**

How a microscopic fungus could lead to a breakthrough in oral cancer research

Microscopic fungus may have more to do with oral cancer and aging than first thought.

Researchers from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center and School of Medicine are hoping a new study could lead to a medical breakthrough in understanding certain types of oral cancer.



Pushpa Pandiyan, PhD

Pushpa Pandiyan, PhD, an associate professor of biological sciences at the dental school, led a team of local researchers studying the function of specific T cells, known as Tregs,

during the development of oral cancer in aging mucosa, the moist inner lining of some organs and body cavities, such as the nose, mouth and lungs.

"We think this is the beginning of something important and monumental," she said of the work, which appeared in *Frontiers in Oncology*.

Pandiyan and the researchers examined the role of dectin-1—a cell's pattern-recognition and immune receptor—and its ability to trigger an inflammatory response that resists fungal infection. Dectin-1 is among the fungi receptors that expresses on a host cell.

Typically, human white blood cells have regulatory (Tregs) and myeloid derived suppressor cells, which curb the immune responses of cancer-fighting immune cells. Problems occur, Pandiyan said, when these cells accumulate during tumor growth.



"What we're finding now is that the dectin-1 receptor, usually responsible for antifungal immunity, is now responsible for accumulation of these cells at excessive levels in tumors," she said.

Researchers point out that the culprit is likely the result of immune cells somehow overreacting to fungal microbiota. Although dectin in normal levels serves as a protective measure, Pandiyan said excessive amounts can promote tumor growth "because of its ability to recruit immunosuppressive cells."

"Accumulation of these cells were much worse during aging," Pandiyan said, adding that the findings may relate to aging. "Our bodies produce more dectin-1 the older that we get. In other words, anti-tumor defense mechanisms are weakened with age."

While the research was limited to studying aging oral mucosa, Pandiyan said the

findings may have broader implications for additional cancer research.

"We don't know about other cancers yet, but in oral cancers, if there is dectin-1, there's a better chance that anti-tumor cells can be staved off," she said.

The research was funded by the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center's Specialized Program of Research Excellence pilot program.

Other researchers involved in the work include: Natarajan Bhaskaran, Sangeetha Jayaraman, Cherie Quigley and Prerna Mamileti from the School of Dental Medicine; Mahmoud Ghannoum, PhD, and Quintin Pan, PhD, from the School of Medicine; Aaron Weinberg, DMD, PhD, from the dental school and Case Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Jason Thuener, MD, from the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. ■

—Colin McEwen



Left: On each floor of the dental clinic, patients are welcomed by light, open waiting areas.

The third floor of the dental clinic is dedicated to providing DMD students with real-life learning opportunities through patient visits. Under the supervision of the clinic's preceptor faculty members, students develop treatment plans for patients and build invaluable technical and professional skills.



An inside look at outstanding care

Take a tour through the state-of-the-art facilities at the new CWRU Dental Clinic



When the School of Dental Medicine's Dental Clinic opened in summer 2019, it was a welcome move to the new Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic, located less than a mile down Euclid Avenue from CWRU's main campus. Adjacent to the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion—where Case Western Reserve's dental, medical, nursing and physician assistant students study and learn alongside each other—the 132,000-square-foot clinic building features a light, open environment and upgraded, high-tech equipment to serve the Dental Clinic's base of more than 19,000 Cleveland-area patients.

But just months after opening, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the Dental Clinic temporarily shuttered operations in March 2020. By May, emergency care resumed, and by mid-August, the Dental Clinic started welcoming more and more patients back for routine appointments. By March 2021, patients were visiting the Dental Clinic in levels higher than ever seen in its former location—a testament to the easier-to-access location (including parking) as well as the enhanced quality of care provided through the state-of-the-art facilities.

**BY JENNY WESTFALL
PHOTOS BY MATT SHIFFLER**

Orthodontics clinic

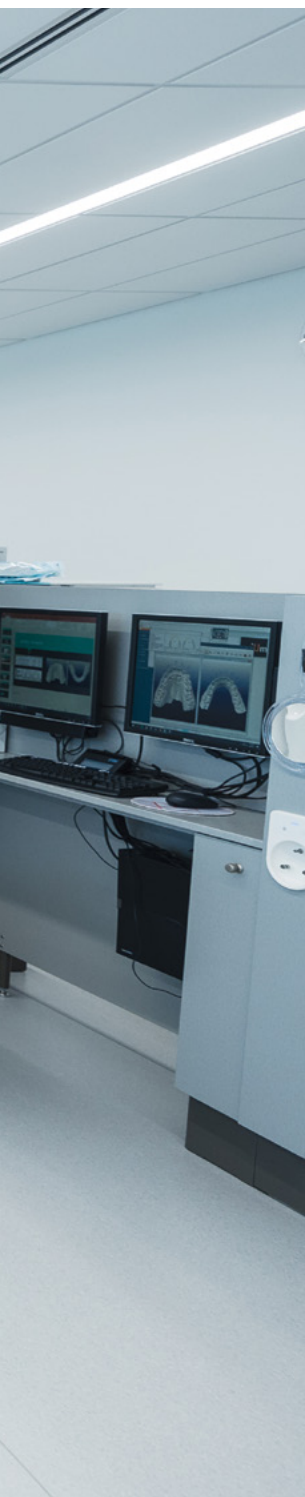


In the Orthodontics clinic, residents receive clinical training encompassing all aspects of current orthodontic practice, including full treatment cases with bands and brackets, early treatment, adult treatment, craniofacial anomalies, orthognathic surgery and TMJ/occlusion. Residents have access to digital scanners (above right) to further examine areas of the mouth and develop treatment plans.

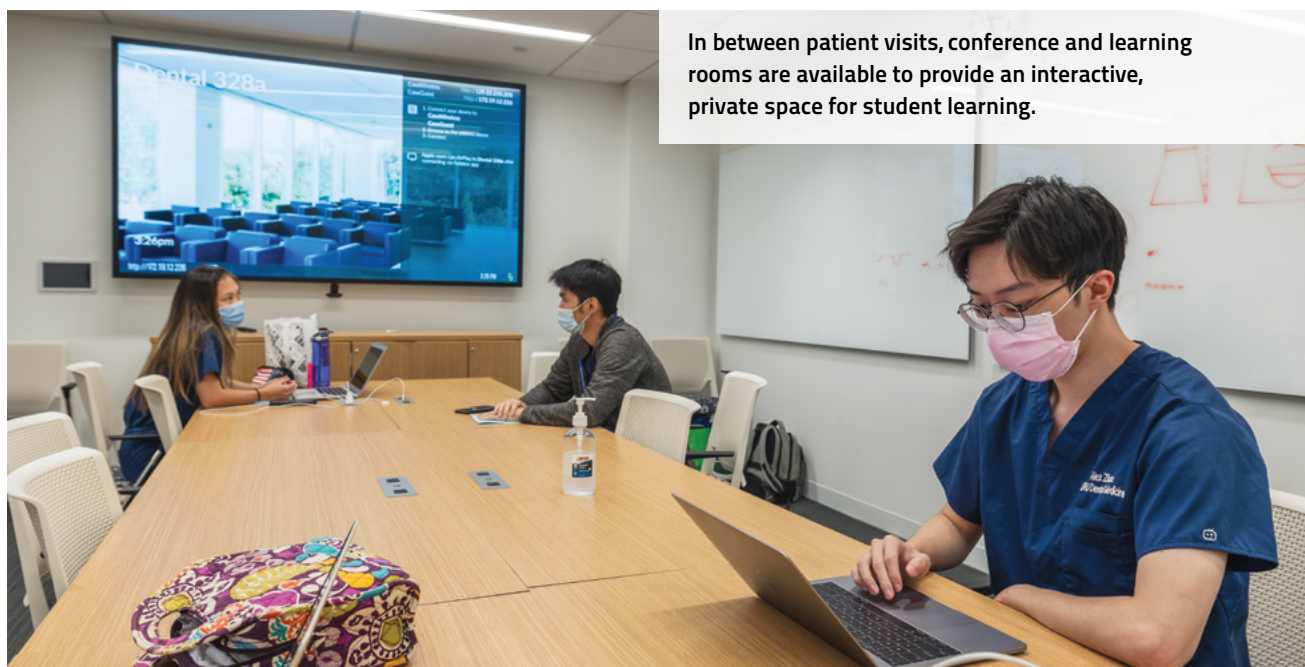




Left: Manish Valiathan, DDS, MSD (DEN '99, '02), is assistant dean for clinical affairs, associate professor in the Department of Orthodontics and director of Craniofacial Surgical and Special Care Orthodontics Fellowship.

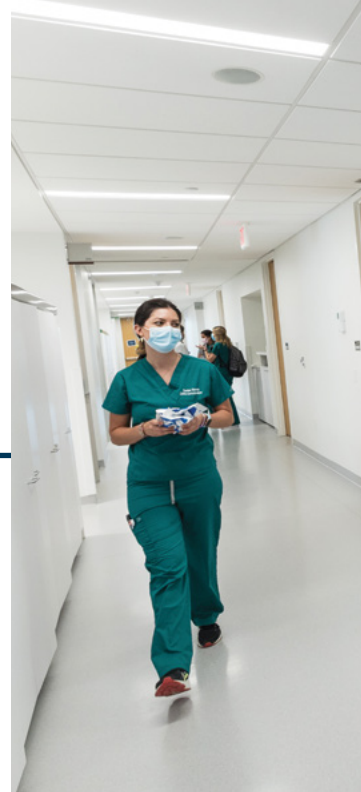
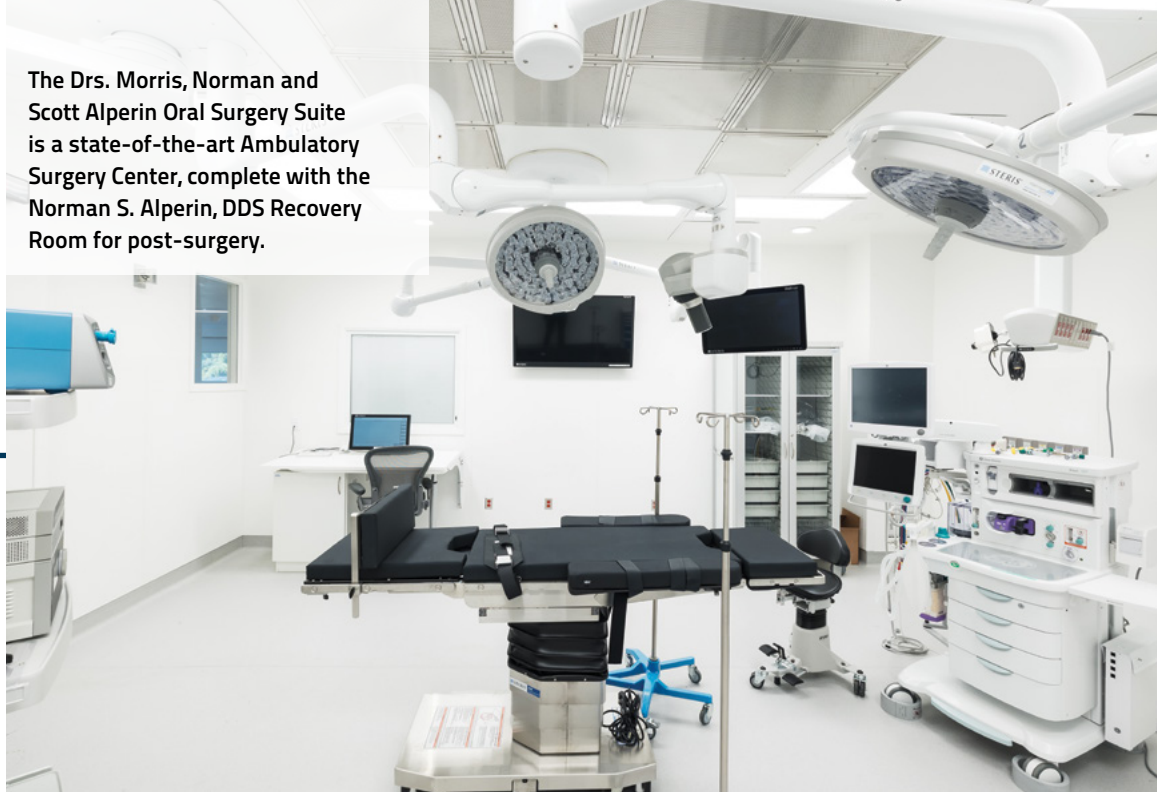


The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery clinic, specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the head, mouth, teeth, gums, jaws and neck, often sees complex, involved cases.

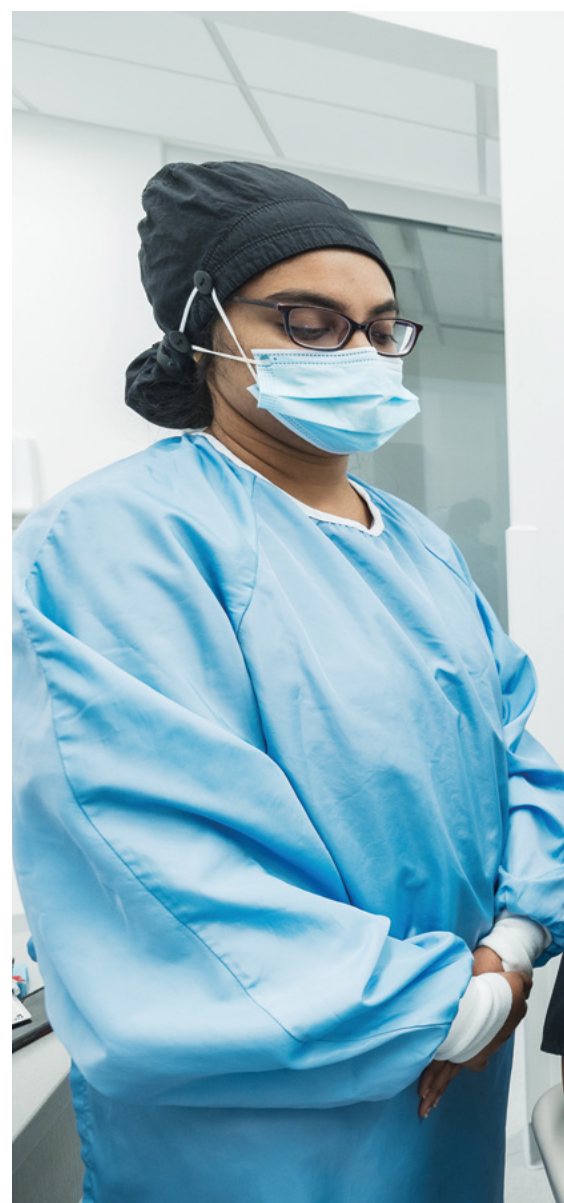


In between patient visits, conference and learning rooms are available to provide an interactive, private space for student learning.

The Drs. Morris, Norman and Scott Alperin Oral Surgery Suite is a state-of-the-art Ambulatory Surgery Center, complete with the Norman S. Alperin, DDS Recovery Room for post-surgery.



Located on the secure basement level of the dental clinic is the sterilization facility—built in large part thanks to a \$5 million donation from STERIS Corp.—where tools used during patient visits are thoroughly cleaned. After patient visits, used tools go through an extensive, automated sterilization process that takes an hour-and-a-half from start to finish, including ultrasonic cleaning and steam heating.



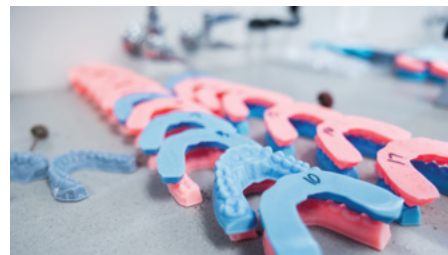


The dispensary, located on each clinic floor, is stocked with the materials student dentists and residents need, such as floss.



Student-only lounge area

The Endodontics clinic boasts leading technology to assist in patient visits focused on examining the cause, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases of dental pulp and the tissues surrounding the root of a tooth for patients of all ages. During patient visits, residents use scopes and large screens to magnify areas of concern to closer analyze and provide viewing access to faculty advisors in the clinic.



Students in the dental clinic use 3D printing to make teeth impressions (above), retainers and appliances for patients



CBCT scanners are used to create 3D images of the skull. This technology is used extensively in surgery, orthodontics and implant placements.

Investing in our community

Molina Healthcare aims to address access issues in dental care in Ohio—starting first by supporting CWRU students

Ohio has faced a dental care shortage for well over a decade, with low-income communities suffering the consequences. Between high patient-to-provider ratios and lack of insurance coverage, many Ohioans are left vulnerable to other health risks.

Poor oral health can lead to a number of serious conditions, including cardiovascular disease, pneumonia and even pregnancy complications—an area in which Ohio already struggles, particularly among women of color. Patients experiencing even minor infections are often forced to seek treatment in the emergency room and end up facing astronomical hospital bills.

Through a \$1.2 million gift to Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, MolinaCares Accord, a charitable arm of Molina Healthcare Inc., hopes to take steps to address these access issues in health care—starting first with the providers. Molina's gift is intended to increase diversity in the field of dental medicine while alleviating students' financial burdens through scholarship support.

The approach fulfills the Accord's aims of working with local organizations around the country to address the unique needs of the regions Molina Healthcare serves—from supplying clean drinking water to Texans affected by Winter Storm Uri to funding the recruitment of peer support specialists for Arizonians experiencing mental health or substance abuse issues.

"We hope that the scholarship fund will help train and educate a new generation of dentists," said Carolyn Ingram, executive director of the MolinaCares Accord, "and enable them to practice in underserved communities in Ohio where their skills can help address gaps in health equity and outcomes for the people in those communities."

Each year, four students (one from each dental school class) will be selected based on their commitment to diversity and passion for serving underrepresented communities. This year's recipients—the first in the new program—expressed their gratitude to the MolinaCares Accord for the support and shared how the scholarship will help them better serve their communities.

Gabrielle Dean

First-year dental student

Gabrielle Dean was raised in a biracial household and recognized early on how differently her parents approached health care. Stories of their contrasting experiences from childhood shed light on the disparities in access to care between Black and white communities.

The university's focus on addressing these disparities is the main reason Dean was attracted to the dental school. "Case Western Reserve really emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and diversity," she continued. "My entire class is incredibly diverse, filled with people from different backgrounds, religions and ethnicities—and the faculty is the same way."

Minority representation in health care is deeply personal to Dean. She recounted how meaningful it was to shadow a Black dentist the summer after her first year of college. "I grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood [in Columbus, Mississippi], so I understand the importance of representation," she remarked. "I'm so thankful that Molina has recognized the need [for representation] and wants to address it."

Dean now proudly calls Cleveland home and intends to practice in Northeast Ohio after graduation.



BY CAREY SKINNER MOSS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN MILNER

Wynette Bender

Second-year dental student

When Wynette Bender's grandfather had a stroke in 2007, she began visiting him often in the nursing home. "One day when I came to see him, he was crying during his physical therapy," said Bender. "That shocked me because my grandfather was a 6-foot-5-inch, 200-plus pound man who I had never seen cry before."

But the pain wasn't from physical therapy; it was from his teeth. "The facility didn't have anyone on staff for dental care, and the process to get him into an appointment and to get transportation would mean a long wait," she said.

Bender was sympathetic because of her own ongoing dental problems. Before she became a student at Case Western Reserve, she was a patient of the dental school. Her positive experience is part of the reason why she chose CWRU for her studies.

After graduation, Bender wants to stay close to home in Cleveland, to serve the community where she was raised and with which she identifies.

Bender struggled with insurance coverage growing up and wants to support others facing those issues. "I've been there," she continued. "I want to help overlooked communities start the journey of recovery."

If she has the opportunity, Bender said she would enjoy working with the geriatric population, where her passion for dentistry began.



"I've been there. I want to help overlooked communities start the journey of recovery."

Otis Bevel

Third-year dental student

After graduating from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, Otis Bevel returned home to Cleveland and earned his MBA while conducting research at Cleveland Clinic. He watched from his office window as Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University collaborated on constructing the new Health Education Campus. While he enjoyed his research, the visual cue constantly reminded him of his childhood dream to become a dentist.

"Watching the new campus get built just made me want to go there even more," said Bevel. "And when I got accepted [into the dental school], it was completely surreal to walk into that building."

Bevel recalled the financial strain his family felt in finding health care, and hopes he can reduce that strain for others. Now in his third year in the dental program, Bevel looks forward to being a role model for Black youth, and to serving his community.

Bevel and his wife have three young children, and the scholarship is a welcome financial relief—but the impact goes further. "Yes, this scholarship will free up money to help me care for my family," he continued. "But on top of that, it releases a mental burden, which will help me really focus on my studies."



"I became passionate about public health and social justice and I wanted to advocate for those who couldn't advocate for themselves."

Alisha Thompson

Fourth-year dental student

It's not unusual for children to be afraid of the dentist. But for a young Alisha Thompson, it was an experience to which she looked forward.

"I just thought it was a cool place to be," she said. "All the tools and sounds—there was so much going on, I loved it."

When she was older, an immersion trip to El Salvador clarified her career goals. "I became passionate about public health and social justice," she remarked, "and I wanted to advocate for those who couldn't advocate for themselves."

That's when Thompson decided to pursue a five-year dual degree program at Case Western Reserve, completing a Master of Public Health degree during her first year of dental school.

Thompson hopes to one day start a private practice that provides her with the funds and flexibility to run a dental nonprofit serving underrepresented communities. "Whether it's through pop-up clinics or a mobile van, I just want to get to the places where people need help the most."

Thanks to the Molina scholarship, Thompson is happily retired from her side job of waiting tables. "Now I can focus my time and energy," she said, "on doing the community service activities that I love." ■



Retirement creates legacy for faculty member, alumnus Jack Love, DDS

When Jack Love (WRC '54, DEN '58), DDS, retired from the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine faculty last year, he culminated nearly four decades of service to the school, the end of his "fourth career" in dentistry, and the launch of a new fund in his honor to support dental students.

Upon graduating from the dental school—the second generation in his family to do so, following his father, Charles Love Jr., DDS (DEN 1914)—Love joined the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, where he started his first career, a three-year stint with the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

He then returned to Lorain, Ohio, to join his father's general dentistry practice, launching his next career—18 years in restorative dentistry—which led him to his third career. Love put his practice on hold for three years to earn a certificate in the specialty of prosthodontics from the University of Washington in Seattle. He returned to Lorain to restart his practice and specialize in prosthodontic dentistry, with special emphasis on fixed prosthodontics.

It was during this time that he began volunteering with CWRU School of Dental Medicine for nearly 20 years—a side project that launched his fourth, and final, career shift: On retiring from his practice in 2000, Love joined the Department of Comprehensive Care faculty full time.

Although he'd never considered teaching before, Love recalled being eager to try it for a year. Perhaps if he liked it, he thought, he might stay for five.

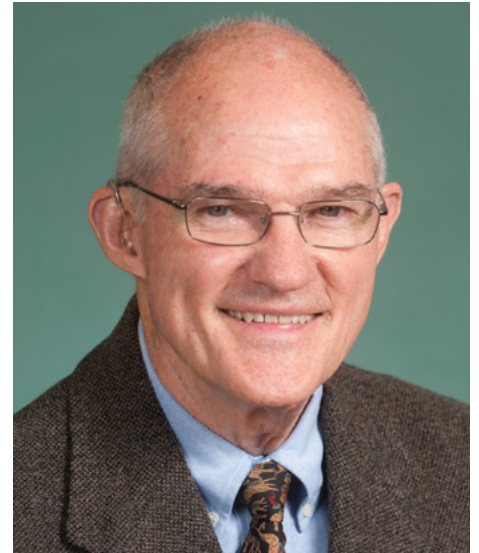
That year turned into five, which turned into 20—time spent educating and mentoring hundreds of future dentists until his retirement at age 88.

"For me, dentistry has opened so many doors," Love said. "Among the most impactful experiences [of my career] has been the opportunity to spend these last 20 years working with dedicated young people and the stimulating faculty at CWRU."

So immense was Love's impact that, at his virtual retirement party last summer, Associate Professor Roma Jasinevicius, DDS (DEN '74, '76), and Dan Degesys, DDS (ADL '69, DEN '73) announced a collaboration with the faculty to establish a fund in his honor to benefit students—a fund toward which Love has also contributed \$100,000.

In defining the fund's parameters, Love considered the School of Dental Medicine's long history of training students in the art and science of prosthodontics to prepare them for general dentistry.

So, to further enhance their training, The Jack Love, DDS, Fund for Prosthodontic



Jack Love, DDS

Excellence aims to inspire and support talented fourth-year students to present their growing knowledge at prosthodontic meetings held in the United States—representation that will solidify the expertise of the restorative dentistry faculty who trained them and enhance the school's reputation. Looking forward, as the fund grows, it could also provide resources to bring in other well-known and respected prosthodontists to share their knowledge with the faculty and students. ■

Jack Love hopes other alumni and friends of the School of Dental Medicine will also see the possibilities the fund could generate. To support the Jack Love, DDS, Fund for Prosthodontic Excellence, please contact Carolyn Gordon, director of development, at 216.368.3481 or carolyn.gordon@case.edu.

DEVELOPMENTS

Sharing recent philanthropic support to Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine from alumni and friends.

Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79), made a commitment of \$50,000 to establish the Dean Kenneth B. Chance, DDS, Endowed Distinguished Lectureship Fund. The inaugural lecture will be presented in 2022.

Lawrence Edward Kalke, DMD (DEN '08, '09, '11), and **Misty Kalke** created the Larry and Misty Kalke Endowed Scholarship Fund in Pediatric Dentistry through a \$25,000 pledge.

In honor of Professor Mark Hans, DDS (DEN '79, '81), **Cynthia C. Leung, DDS, MSD (DEN '09)**, contributed \$10,000 to the orthodontics department.

WHY I *give*

Ashoo Khanuja, DDS, MD, and Vinson Vig, DDS

Ashoo Khanuja, DDS, MD (CWR '91; DEN '95, '00; MED '98) and Vinson Vig, DDS, MSD (DEN '94, '97) just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Now, more than 30 years after meeting at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, they're giving back to the school where their story began.

"This is where we met. This is where our lives started," Vig remarked. "Deep in our hearts, we found [donating to Case Western Reserve University] to be an easy decision."

Their gift to the School of Dental Medicine funded the purchase of an endodontics microscope—a surgical tool that magnifies vision up to 25 times that of the naked eye.

"This is a tool I use every day at work. I understand how important the instrument is and how it changes the specialty entirely," said Vig, who remembers being one of the first residents at CWRU to be trained using microscopic surgery techniques.

The couple, who now live in Westlake, Ohio, with their three children, hopes their gift will make a lasting impact on the next generation of students, just as the university has had a lasting impact on them.

Khanuja and Vig have stayed in touch with classmates and professors over the years, and they attribute their success to the faculty members and colleagues who have guided them.

For Vig, faculty members Andre Mickel, DDS, DMD (DEN '91, '94), and the late Jefferson J. Jones, DMD, were both beloved mentors and highly influential in his career. Jones, Ohio's first African American endodontist, was chair of the endodontics department from 1974 to 2009. Mickel is the department's current chair, as well as the director of the Postgraduate Endodontic Program.

Jones and Mickel were instrumental, Vig said, in making the endodontics program what it is today—one where residents present



Ashoo Khanuja, DDS, MD and Vinson Vig, DDS, MSD with their family

more research at the annual American Association of Endodontists meeting than any other graduate program.

Vig also emphasized the importance of alumni relations, and credits his partners of over 20 years with his fulfilling career—Joong Hahn, DDS, (CWR '89; DEN '90, '92), and Hui-Jin Lee, DDS, (CWR '89; DEN '92, '95) of Southwest Endodontics & Periodontics.

Khanuja was inspired by the dedication of former dean Jerold Goldberg, DDS (DEN '70, '74), who chaired the oral surgery department during Khanuja's residency and established the unique five-year double degree in oral and maxillofacial surgery that she completed.

Marion Wazney, DMD (WRC '74, DEN '80), a part-time instructor during Khanuja's time at the dental school, was also an important influence. Only 8% of oral surgeons in the country are women, so it was important for Khanuja to have a role model in the field. She wants to be that role model for other women, and plans to resume volunteering in CWRU student clinics soon now that her children are nearly grown.

"The knowledge that you're helping others is hugely fulfilling," Vig shared. "This is the least that we could do; this is the program that started our lives." ■

Two gifts of \$30,000 each—one from **Michael James Mindiola, DDS (DEN '04)**, and **Kelly C. Mindiola** and another from **George Brown Jr., DMD, MSD (DEN '04)**, and **Rena Owsley-Brown, DDS**—funded two Zeiss Microscopes for the endodontics department.

Paul C. Rohner, DDS (DEN '69), contributed \$25,000 to the School of Dental Medicine Annual Fund.

To recognize Dean Kenneth B. Chance (DEN '79), DDS, **Kumar Subramanian (DEN '04)** contributed \$10,000 to the School of Dental Medicine.

Leroy Vego, DDS (DEN '59; GRS '61, orthodontics), made a \$25,000 estate commitment to the School of Dental Medicine.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021–22

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Justin R. McCray, DMD (DEN '21)

Philip Mui, DMD (DEN '20)

Cara E. Murthy, DMD (CWR '17, DEN '21)

EFDA REPRESENTATIVE

Shelly Feiwell

20 ■ SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Each one, reach one, teach one

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I'm thrilled to begin my term as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and to share my vision for our beloved school.

For those of you I have yet to meet, my name is Kari Cunningham. I earned my Doctor of Dental Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in 2010, and completed my specialty training at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in 2012. "I'm a clinical assistant professor of pediatric dentistry in the CWRU dental school in addition to running my practice, Panther Pediatric Dentistry, in my hometown of Euclid, Ohio."

Like many of you, my time on the Case Western Reserve campus was transformative. My instructors, mentors and colleagues at the dental school shaped me into the professional I am today—and that's why I want to give back with my time and energy.

One of the many things that makes Case Western Reserve University special is the interprofessional and interdisciplinary approach to health care. Future dentists and specialists in training learn alongside future nurses, physicians and physician assistants.

The comprehensive training not only better prepares practitioners and vastly improves the quality of patient care—it provides a built-in community graduates can rely on in future years. As I like to say: What you know got you to where you are today. Who you know will get you to where you're going next.

That's why I plan to build on the work of immediate past president Scott Alperin, DDS (DEN '74), by fostering communication and collaboration among the various health care programs.

I also hope to create more opportunities for meaningful interaction among alumni, administrators and current students—what I'm calling "Each One, Reach One, Teach One." This means working together to provide students with opportunities to engage with and learn from CWRU alumni.

We have a tremendous responsibility to our next wave of colleagues. In the coming years, they will emerge from their studies with new experiences and specialties that will enrich our profession and the lives of our patients. That's why I'm excited that graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 are serving on our Alumni Association Board of Directors. Their fresh ideas will breathe new life into our board, and I know they will benefit from the wealth of knowledge our more experienced alumni bring.

Case Western Reserve has given me so much in my life—my career, my passion, and my community. I'm sure you feel the same way. And it's up to us to ensure every graduate has the same enriching experience we were afforded.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Kari A. Cunningham, DMD (DEN '10, '12)

[*Learn more about Cunningham on p. 26.*](#)



MESSAGE
from the
alumni
association
president

Recent alum's soul—and internet—search **leads to dentistry**



A text message Justin McCray received from his father during his first year at Southwest Mississippi Community College set off an internet—and soul—search.

His dad's message had encouraged McCray to explore his career opportunities and follow his passion. And, through his personal research, McCray, DMD (DEN '21), landed on dentistry. He quickly found a summer internship with the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry, where he shadowed and assisted residents—seeing firsthand what a career in dentistry would entail.

But it was one experience in particular that solidified his career path: An Army veteran visited the dental clinic seeking treatment

for a partial denture that was causing a lot of pain.

"After about four to five [adjustments], we finally got [the placement] right, and the Army veteran started crying," said McCray, who also is a new member of the school's alumni board. "It was the coolest thing. He got out of his chair and hugged me. From that moment, I was sold. I knew dentistry was for me."

After that experience, McCray went back to the internet to find summer dentistry programs for undergraduates, where he came across the six-week Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at Case Western Reserve University.

He also participated in the six-week program after his second year and knew he wanted

to attend Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine. After transferring from SMCC and graduating from University of Mississippi, McCray moved to Cleveland for dental school.

While he became interested in pediatric dentistry through rotational experiences and working with mentors, becoming a basketball coach for third- and fifth-grade students in inner-city Cleveland gave him the confidence to know this was the right path.

"It gave me confidence to know that I can successfully work with young people and give them confidence—and it's the same thing with dentistry," said McCray. "If a young patient has that same confidence in me, together we can get through the appointment." ■

Rain or shine

Class of 2021 celebrates commencement in person

Over the course of their third and fourth years, members of the School of Dental Medicine Class of 2021 students adapted to sudden closures and evolving health protocols. They endured dramatic changes to classroom and clinical experiences, as well as the isolation, fear and uncertainty that COVID-19 imposed on so many.

"What you have accomplished is remarkable," School of Dental Medicine Dean Kenneth Chance, DDS (DEN '79), said during the in-person commencement address at Freiburger Field on May 28. "It is a testament to your commitment to dentistry, strength of purpose and passion for helping others."

The dental school celebration event—which was live-streamed for family and friends as well as those graduates unable to attend in person—included live remarks from Dean Chance, Vice Dean Dale Baur, Class of 2021 President Nivien Masoud and Student Council President Jin Yeop Kim.

"Becoming a doctor teaches you the responsibility of selflessly putting aside your personal pains in order to give the precious life sitting in your chair the best dental care they deserve," said Masoud.

"Your four years here and your diploma are the example of your success built by your dedication, perseverance, and also built by many failures," said Kim.

Unfortunately, due to the rainy conditions, the ceremony was abbreviated—with the virtual keynote address by National Dental Association President Pamela Alston, DDS, as well as remarks from former Alumni Association Board of Directors President Scott Alperin, DDS (DEN '74), and Greater Cleveland Dental Society President Kari Cunningham, DMD (DEN '10, '12), delivered in a post-event recap video.

Acknowledging the tremendous challenges the last year presented, including the disparities in health care the pandemic exposed, Alston encouraged the students to consider how they will apply the lessons learned to their professional career.

"The pandemic brought with it some revelations about who you were as dental students," said Alston. "And beyond dental school, it will bring about some revelations about who you are as dental professionals." ■





*Class of 2021 President
Nivien Masoud*



*Student Council President
Jin Yeop Kim*



"Receiving a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree is rigorous in its own right, without the addition of a once-in-a-century pandemic. Through it all, you maintained your focus and dedication, honing your skills and providing best-in-class patient care, while also enduring dramatic life events."

—Dean Kenneth Chance

Outstanding achievements

Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of its students through annual awards.

The 2020-21 awardees are listed below. Congratulations!

Elected to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Honor Society

For scholastic attainment and professional potential

- Lisa Ann Jedacek
- Zheng Qian
- Erin Ashley Sinha
- Daniela Michelle Diaz Gonzalez
- Wing Yau Kwok
- Manbir Joginder Singh
- Kinajl Patel
- Thomas Mark Rodriguez

Award of the American College of Dentists, Ohio Division

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

- Briana Ruszkiewicz

Callahan Prize

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

- Lisa Ann Jedacek

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

- Wing Yau Kwok

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

- Christiane Paul Chammas

The Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

For excellence in operative dentistry at the undergraduate level

- Daniela Michelle Diaz Gonzalez

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry

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

- Mustafa Adel

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

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

- Daniela Michelle Diaz Gonzalez

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award

For exceptional interest and accomplishments in the field of dental radiology

- Nivien Masoud

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award

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

- Cara Elizabeth Murthy

Annual Student Award of the American Academy of Periodontology

In recognition of outstanding achievement in periodontics

- Kristy Marie Calderon

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

For exemplary aptitude and achievement in the field of oral surgery

- Manbir Joginder Singh

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

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

- Manbir Joginder Singh

American Association of Orthodontists Award

For exceptional interest in the field of orthodontics

- Melanie Brooke Adelstein

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award

In recognition of achievements in community dentistry and dental public health

- Christiane Paul Chammas

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

In recognition of proficiency in the field of anesthesia in dentistry

- Lisa Ann Jedacek

Certificate of Merit AAPD Predoctoral Student Award

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

- Justin Randall McCray

Dean's Award

Presented in recognition of academic and clinical excellence

- Alexandre Joseph Faddoul
- Adam Edward King
- Jennifer Ashley Latsko
- Casey Anne Chantry
- Jaspreet Singh
- Rouba Maluf
- Hong-Anh Ngoc Tran
- Nicola George Zaboura

The International Congress of Oral Implantologists

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

- Phillip Florian Chirla

The Joseph D. Gage Award

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

- Nego Negus Roberts

The Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Award

For leadership and dedication to the advancement of dental literature

- Jin Yeop Kim

The Quintessence Award

For clinical achievement in periodontics

- Nicola George Zaboura

The Quintessence Award

For clinical achievement in restorative dentistry

- Zheng Qian

The Quintessence Award

For research achievement

- Alyzah Usman Quereshey

The Richard A. Collier Prize

For the most outstanding business plan

- Justin Randall McCray

The Robert Dean Feder Award

For exceptional interest in community dentistry

- Christiane Paul Chammas

Sherwood/Hrutkay Award

For excellence in the field of endodontics

- MinGoo Kang

Hanau Award, Given by Whip Mix Corporation

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

- Wing Yau Kwok

American Equilibration Society Award

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

- Erin Ashley Sinha

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 (HPSA)

- Nivien Masoud

Stanley M. Koobation Award

In recognition of outstanding clinical skills

- Lisa Ann Jedacek

Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award

For an excellent performance in periodontics

- Nicola George Zaboura

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

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

- Joel Alan Missentzis

Dean's Clinical Scholarship Award

For exceptional clinical achievements

- Wing Yau Kwok
- Mustafa Adel
- Kinjal Patel
- Erin Ashley Sinha
- Ahmed Hussein Amine
- Zheng Qian

The Academy of Osseointegration Award

To an outstanding student in the field of implant dentistry

- Alexandre Joseph Faddoul

Dr. B.D. Amberman Award

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

- Nicola George Zaboura

American College of Prosthodontists

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

- Daniel Carl Nemeth

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

- Jodie Ashley Smith

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

- Daniela Michelle Diaz Gonzalez

Leading amid a pandemic

Lessons learned by alumni navigating the highs and lows of leadership during the COVID-19 crisis

Kari Cunningham, DMD (DEN '10, '12), has a healthy sense of humor looking back on what she calls her "pandemic presidency" of the Greater Cleveland Dental Society. She came into the role during a time filled with uncertainty, yet was able to make significant contributions during her one-year term.

"Patience is truly a virtue," Cunningham said with a laugh, as she reflected on the weighty responsibility of disseminating ever-changing safety guidelines to society members. "And you have to stay flexible."

Alex Mellion, DMD (DEN '11), who served a one-year term as president of the Akron Dental Society beginning in May 2020, shared a similar sentiment.

"The most important thing was just to keep [the society] going," said Mellion. "What I learned immediately and still take away from the experience was the need to change quickly and adapt easily. We learned to be more resilient."

Empathy also proved to be a crucial tool. "I had to furlough employees at my practice for a period of time, and many people had to leave the workforce as they took on the role of teacher or suddenly became the main care provider for their children," said Cunningham. "Being understanding, compassionate and flexible in that regard was huge when people came to me as a leader of the dental society, as well as a business owner."

During a typical year, a local dental society arranges continuing education programs and speaker series to keep members informed of the latest trends in the field. The gatherings became more vital than ever while navigating COVID-19.

**"Patience is truly a virtue.
And you have to stay flexible."**

—Kari Cunningham



Kari Cunningham, DMD (pictured here with her niece), owns Panther Pediatric Dentistry in Euclid, Ohio.

"Our meetings provided an opportunity for people to ask questions, a time to share what was going on in our practices, and they just gave a sense of camaraderie," reflected Mellion.

That camaraderie was critical to enduring months of isolation throughout 2020.

Emotions were high as people dealt with depression, the loss of loved ones, and the wave of civil unrest following the death of George Floyd. "I am the first Black woman to serve as president of the Greater Cleveland Dental Society, and I took that to heart," Cunningham shared. "I would be remiss not to acknowledge the impact of this event on my patients, my colleagues, and our community."

Cunningham was thankful to have colleagues in her corner, and together

"Our meetings provided an opportunity for people to ask questions, a time to share what was going on in our practices, and they just gave a sense of camaraderie."

— Alex Mellion

they established a group within the society called TEAM DDS, which stands for "Together Everyone Achieves More, Diversity in Dentistry Subcommittee." The group obtained grant funding and plans to host its first Diversity and Inclusion Dinner this fall. The event will feature a speaker who will discuss diversity in organized dentistry leadership and the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities in U.S. dental schools.

"We need to learn how we, as a dental community, can mentor and support young kids through the education pipeline so that they can ultimately join us in this profession as colleagues one day," Cunningham said. "We are more than oral health care practitioners. We are leaders in our community." ■

—Carey Skinner Moss



Alex Mellion, DMD (pictured at right) is part of the Akron, Ohio-based family practice Mellion Orthodontics with his brother Zachary Mellion, DMD (DEN '04), and father, Joseph Mellion, DDS (DEN '78).



Helping captive animals through **big cat dentistry**

When Kerry E. Robson, DDS (DEN '83), learned of the dental health neglect that captive animals often suffer, he was inspired to take action.

At Big Cat Rescue, the Tampa, Florida, sanctuary near his dental practice, he'd seen firsthand the need for dental treatment for exotic big cats, such as African lions, Bengal tigers, panthers, leopards and mountain lions. So he volunteered to provide advanced veterinary dental care through the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to training veterinary and caretaker staff, as well as dentists, in advanced exotic animal veterinary dental techniques.

Each procedure is a team effort, Robson said, with as many as 10 people around each operating table working under the direction of a veterinary dentist. After the cats are sedated, they are brought to a treatment location in the sanctuary, where they undergo general anesthesia. Then, the team has a two-and-a-half-hour window to complete the needed dental treatment, most of which is extractions and root canals.

"The caretakers at the sanctuaries know their animals very well and can identify when there is a problem—if a cat isn't eating well and losing weight, for example, a dental issue is often the cause," Robson explained. "Many animals were simply mistreated or harmed by their former owners and now have damaged or fractured teeth."

With more than 400 sanctuaries and captive animal facilities in the United States, foundation volunteers travel across the country to offer their services. Robson noted that the scope of the work is expanding to include chimpanzees and other primates that have the same teeth and jaw morphology as humans.

Robson recently retired from practice in Palm Harbor, Florida, where he lives with his wife, Lori. The couple has two adult children and two granddaughters. While in practice, Robson volunteered for two missions to help exotic animals each year—but now, in retirement, he plans to complete even more. ■

—Whitney Bohan

Watch a video about the foundation's work at bit.ly/big-cat-dentistry.

EFDA Class of 2021 complete program successfully—and virtually

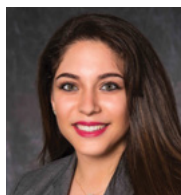
The 2020–21 academic year posed a unique challenge for students across the country, particularly the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) Class of 2021, who completed their studies in an all-virtual learning environment.

The students, all of whom enter the program as certified dental assistants and registered dental hygienists, learned the art of restorative dentistry through remote instruction. Culminating the skills learned throughout the year, program participants then used the lab for in-person practice in April prior to taking the board exam in May.

An Ohio EFDA specializes in the placement of advanced remedial intraoral procedures, involving the placement of preventative or restorative materials, including sealants and fillings. ■



Mona Aqel



Shirin Azadi



Keren Calderon



Carrie Crews



Ashley Deamon



Amber Dell



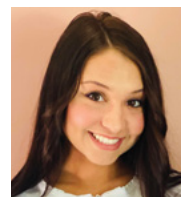
Heather Ferreira



Kristen Funk



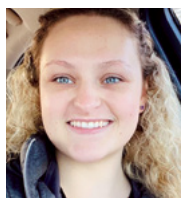
Jami Gabriel



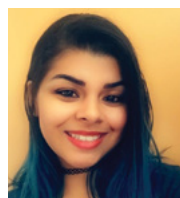
Courtney Juris



Mollie Kaple



Amanda Martin



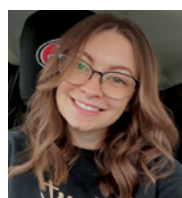
Stephany Martinez



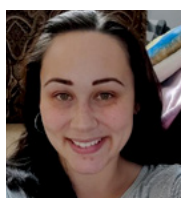
Monika McPherson



Marina Morgan



Alyssa Rospieski



Brittany Sanchez



Asha Spencer



Sara Wade



Assra Zubair



THE RONALD L. OCCHIONERO AND FAMILY EFDA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Established by Ronald Occhionero, DDS (DEN '61), in 2020, this award recognizes a graduating EFDA student who exhibits passion and commitment to the field. 2021 EFDA graduate Jetmir Gjini received this year's award for his dedication to the profession and outstanding efforts in the face of adversity.

"There's much more to this award than who completed the most or best restorations; it's also about the qualities that make the EFDA concept a success in the dental office," said Occhionero. "Very simply, that's being a team player, which Jetmir Gjini exemplified in all his EFDA courses at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine."

1960

Jerry Zimring began practicing orthodontics in Los Angeles after graduation—and he remained there for 48 years, regularly keeping in touch with several classmates from CWRU. He moved to Sarasota, Florida, in 2020 with his wife of 64 years. Zimring and his wife lost a son in 2019; their three living children and four grandchildren are located across the globe.



1970

Leonard Tomsik (pictured above with classmate Howard Richmond) is enjoying retirement in the Cleveland area with his wife, Laura. He is an active gardener and participates in Wreaths Across America, which coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 2,100 additional locations. Tomsik spends his time restoring cars and volunteering at Cleveland Clinic with his dog, Jack. He and his wife have two children, and Tomsik shares his love of CWRU with his two fellow alumni brothers, Donald M. Tomsik (ADL '56, LAW '59, MGT '62) and Thomas E. Tomsik (ADL '57).

1976



children and grandchildren.

Steven Slavkin has retired from his career as an oral and maxillofacial surgery specialist. He recently moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to be closer to his

2000



Leena Palomo (CWR '96; DEN '00, '04) began her term as chair of the Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry at New York

University College of Dentistry on Sept. 1 after spending much of her career at Case Western Reserve. As a faculty member, Palomo said she loves watching students bring evidence-based treatment and state-of-the-art technology chairside to patients.

2003

Ami Doshi works in her private practice, Dental Radiance Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, in Birmingham, Michigan. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Pranav, and two sons, Ruhaan and Aarav.



2011

Alex Mellion concluded his one-year term as president of the Akron Dental Society in May (see p. 26) and passed the gavel to incoming president **Jack H. Gerstenmaier III, DMD (DEN '10, '12).**



2014



over-the-counter medication regimens.

Jeffrey Berlin created the Comfort Control Clock product, designed to help patients effectively manage pain without narcotics using alternating

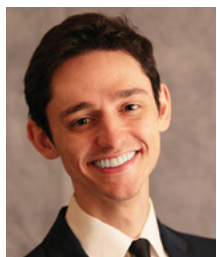
2015



in 10 different dental clinics and gained clinical experience by working closely with some of the Navy's top specialists.

Matt Jurcak served as a U.S. Navy active duty dentist for five years after graduation. Throughout his naval career, he served

2016



Tim Koehler completed a residency program at Summa Hospital in Akron, Ohio, following graduation from CWRU. He now practices at

Summit Dental Group in Canton, Ohio. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, playing board games, having campfires, and hiking in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

2020

Sarah Curtis married Kyle Krueger (CWR '16) on May 8 in Celina, Ohio. Curtis is completing a pediatric dental residency program at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minnesota.



Winnie Wong married Jeff Schroeder on June 26 in downtown Cleveland. Fellow alumni **Kari Cunningham (DEN '10, '12)**, **Maemie Chan (DEN '09)**, and **David Hudec (DEN '11)** attended the nuptials.



School of Dental Medicine faculty members, past and present: Stan Pechan, DDS (DEN '82), Mario Pavicic, DDS (CWR '90, DEN '92), Eric Berschig (DEN '90), Martin Chambers Jr., DDS (DEN '84), Marius Laniauskas, DDS (WRC '78, DEN '80), John Carlozzi, DDS (DEN '96) and John Blazar, DDS (DEN '75).

IN MEMORIAM

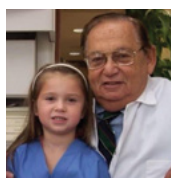
Notices received from February to August 2021.



Richard I. Berk (DEN '52) of Solon, Ohio, died April 5. He is survived by his wife, Janice; his children, Darryl (Cindy) Berk, Karen (Marty) Hiller and Lori (Marc) Blum; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Melvin A. Engelman (DEN '44) of Laguna Woods, California, died Dec. 20, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Muriel; children, Curtis and Suzanne; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.



George Elkowitz (DEN '60) of Rye Brook, New York, died Jan. 20. He is survived by his wife, Ellen; his children, Robin, Aaron and Stuart; his

brother; and many family members and friends. His granddaughter, Rachel Elkowitz, is a first-year dental student at Case Western Reserve (pictured here as a child, with her grandfather).

Harry L. Geiger (DEN '58) of Jacksonville, Florida, died Dec. 16, 2020. He is survived by his family and friends.



Daniel A. Gergel (DEN '60) of Warren, Ohio, died Dec. 12, 2020. He is survived by his sons, Jeffrey (Kim) and Jerome (Maureen); son-in-law, Ben Cagle; and five grandchildren.



Steven Paul Geroski (DEN '86) of Bowling Green, Ohio, died July 14. He is survived by his mother, Marian (Kolbus) Geroski; his wife, Cyndi; his children, Steven (Danielle),

Madison and Jordan Geroski and Lauren (Justin) Hoying; siblings, Matthew (Michelle) Geroski and Catherine (Joe) Pozzuto; and three grandchildren.

William F. Kubicek III (ADL '70, DEN '72) of Bonita Springs, Florida, died Feb. 10, 2020. He is survived by his family and friends.



Melburn E. Landin (DEN '56) of Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, died Feb. 27. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Margaret "Peggy"; his children, Mark (Beth)

Landin, Donald (Karen) Landin, Susan (John) DeLancey, Paul (Karen) Landin, and Steven Landin (Heike Newman); grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.



Thomas E. Morenz (DEN '74) died Aug. 24, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; sons, Christopher (Becky) Farwick, Nathan Morenz and Nicholas (Brittany) Morenz; four grandchildren; siblings,

Stephen (Sue) Morenz and Carol (Ron) Jewell; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Allen J. Perkins III (DEN '58) of Sugar Land, Texas, died Feb. 20. He is survived by his son, Eric Perkins (Bill Caldwell); daughter, Pam (Keith) Hall; three

grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



Donald Pirl Sr. (DEN '51) of Fresno, California, died April 15. He is survived by his sons Donald, Keith, Bruce, David and Edward; seven grandchildren; and his sister, Phyllis Rivers.



Allan H. Robbins (ADL '50, DEN '54) of Beachwood, Ohio, died Feb. 27. He is survived by his children, Cheryl (Robert) Stern and Marc (Jackie); six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.



Stanley S. Rutner (DEN '59) of Santa Rosa, California, died May 25. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters Debra (Albert) Butterfield and Terry Lasater; seven

grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



John C. Schuster (DEN '64) of Howland, Ohio, died May 17. He is survived by his former spouse and lifelong companion, Jeannette Schuster; children Lori

Kinkela, John (Kimberly) and Brian; 11 siblings; and two grandchildren.



Daniel E. Schwartz (ADL '47, DEN '50) died May 8. He is survived by his children, Jeffrey Schwartz (Betsy Bowen), Diane (Estes) Turner and David Schwartz (Vera

Brown); four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Paul Robert Sidlo (DEN '60) of Tampa, Florida, died May 5. He is survived by his daughters, Karen (Burns) Warfield, Terry and Jillyn; and four grandchildren.



Joseph H. Small (DEN '82) of Middletown, Ohio, died March 29. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Diana; children, Joseph and Christopher; siblings William (Bonnie)

Small and Helen Havlin; and several nieces and nephews.



Jerome R. Socha (DEN '60) of Lorain, Ohio, died Dec. 12, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Ann; children, Michael (Susie), Cindy and Greg Socha and

Brenda (Mike) Potyrala; four grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.



Jeffrey S. Weil (GRS '78, DEN '78) died Jan. 6, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; sons, Zach (Kate) and Gabriel (Julie); brother, Stuart; and two grandchildren.

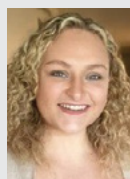


L. Gerald Winn (DEN '55)

of York, Maine, died Jan. 17. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his children Mark (Karen), Virginia, Bruce (Michele) and Gary

(Amy); 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister, Ellen (Bob) Barker; and four nephews and a niece.

Albert W. Wohlwend (DEN '78) of Navarre, Ohio, died Jan. 18. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn J. (Turner) Wohlwend; children Eric M. (Lila) Wohlwend, Glen Huskey, Gregory A. (Ashley) Wohlwend and Amber D. Huskey (James Faber); six grandchildren, Race, Kaid, Deven, Ethan, Lucas and Matthew; and five siblings.



Amanda N. Martin,

a graduate of the School of Dental Medicine's EFDA program, died Aug. 10. She is survived by

her parents, David (Teresa) and Sheri (née Deuschle); siblings Matthew (Nicole) and Michael (Halle); niece and nephew; boyfriend, Nick Decore; and other family and friends.

In memory of Bernard Tandler



Longtime School of Dental Medicine faculty member **Bernard Tandler, PhD**, passed away Feb. 24 at the age of 88. Tandler enjoyed an impressive career as a research biologist and educator, receiving numerous awards and accolades for his notable accomplishments.

"Dr. Tandler was a leader in the field of salivary gland biology and ultrastructure as well as being an outstanding educator," said Aaron Weinberg, DMD, PhD, chair and professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. "We have lost a true powerhouse,

but his legacy will live on through his groundbreaking research and contributions to dental education."

Tandler received a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, master's degree from Columbia University, PhD from Cornell University and honorary Doctor of Dental Medicine from Università di Cagliari. In addition to Case Western Reserve University, he worked and taught at Cornell University; Sloan Kettering Institute; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Università di Cagliari, Italy; Kyushu Dental University, Japan; and Texas Tech University.

Tandler is survived by his children, Janice and Evan, and brother, Murray, and his family.

Remembering longtime executive aide Dorothy Caplin



Dorothy Caplin, a longtime staff member in the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, died Sept. 16. She was 98.

Before retiring in 2015 at the age of 92, Caplin served as an executive aide to 11 deans and interim deans during her 42 years at the dental school and was known as being dedicated, hard-working and well-respected. In fact, when she received the School of Dental Medicine's Alumni Board Special Recognition Award in 2018, Caplin was called a "key player" in the school's success and "the face of the dental school."

"She was a dedicated employee and touched the lives of many students, faculty and people around campus in her four decades of service to the university," said Dean Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79).

She is survived by her daughter, Martha Caplin; a granddaughter; step-grandson; and two step-great-grandchildren.

A Look **Back**

From the Archives of the School of Dental Medicine

A growing body of **knowledge**

More than 50 years ago, Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine became home to the Bolton-Brush Growth Study Center, the world's most extensive source of longitudinal human growth data. The collection's more than 200,000 X-rays of the head and major joints of the body have helped researchers and health care providers in all fields, especially dental medicine, better understand the human body's shape and growth rates.

"Most of what's known about the skeletal growth of human beings was done at the center," said Mark Hans, DDS (DEN '79, '81), chair of the Department of Orthodontics and curator and director of the center.

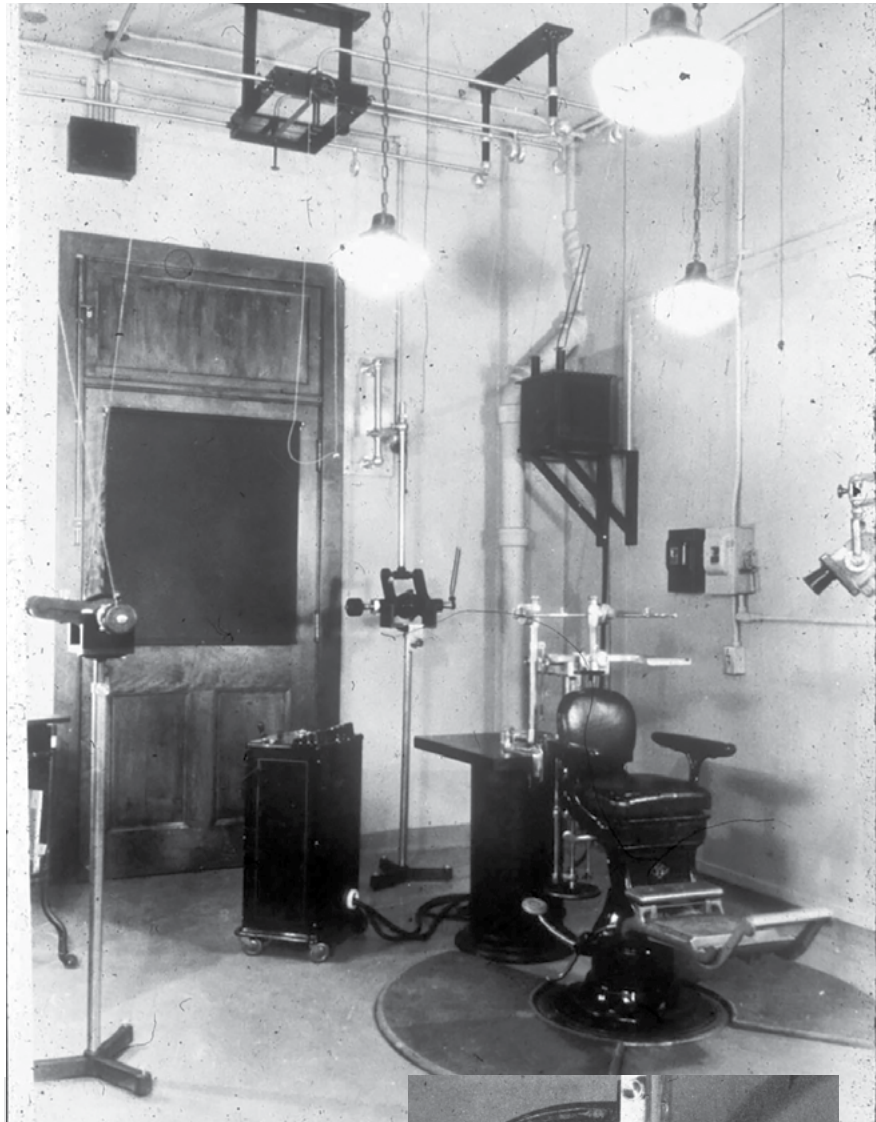
The collection comprises results of the Brush Inquiry, which ran from 1926 to 1942 and examined normal human mental and physical growth and development, and the Bolton Study, which ran from 1929 to 1959 and concentrated on growth and development of the face and teeth. Combined, the two collections studied more than 6,000 people, with nearly half participating in both studies.

In subsequent decades, researchers tried to produce follow-up studies with their research subjects, more than 100 of whom took part. And their findings debunked a long-held myth.

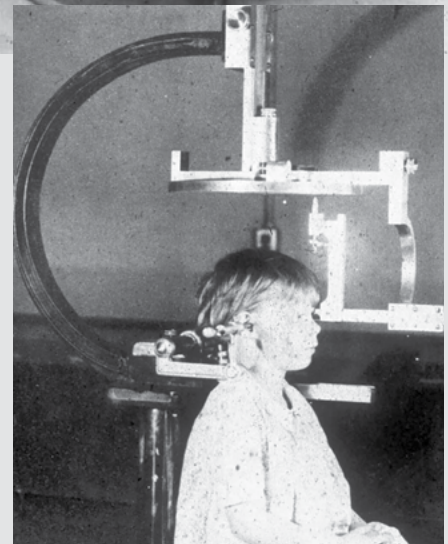
"A lot of people thought the skeleton stopped growing, including the face, around 18. But that's not true," Hans explained. "The bones are changing and are growing throughout your entire life. And the study proved that."

The studies' importance has transcended decades, as its size and regular collection of X-ray data would likely be impossible to reproduce today, Hans said. So the center helped digitize the collection (available at aaoflegacycollection.org) to provide greater access to researchers worldwide.

Now, the center is taking that digital collection a step further, uploading 3D versions of the dental casts of the subjects included in the Legacy Collection, thanks to a grant from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation—expanding knowledge about the human face worldwide. ■



The Bolton Brush Growth Study Center is generously supported by endowment gifts from Jack and Ernestine Beatty, Lysle E. Johnston Jr., Kuni Miyashita, Nick Palmer and Richard Valentine. To learn more about supporting the center, contact Carrie Lovelace, associate dean for development, at carrie.lovelace@case.edu.





HOMECOMING AND REUNION

OCT. 21-24

OCT. 23 DENTAL SCHOOL HOMECOMING EVENTS

Interprofessional Education Continuing Education Course
Awards Program Reception
Class Dinners

See the full schedule and register at case.edu/homecoming.

OCT. 30 | 9 A.M.–5 P.M. EST

Pediatric Dental Alumni Symposium

Continuing Education Credit (seven hours)

Samson Pavilion and Virtual
9501 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

PRESENTERS:

Gerry Samson, DDS
David Rothman, DDS
Martha Ann Keels, DDS, PhD
Jed Best, DDS (ADL '72, DEN '79)

For more information and to register, contact
Sara Lyons, director of alumni relations, at
dentalalumni@case.edu or 216.368.3924.



Increasing COVID-19 cases within Northeast Ohio have prompted Case Western Reserve to resume its requirement that masks be worn indoors. In addition, only those who are fully vaccinated (two weeks past their final dose) should attend any campus event. Leaders continue to monitor pandemic developments and may need to adjust health protocols further as circumstances warrant. In-person is subject to change based on COVID-19 guidelines.



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Support the School of Dental Medicine and celebrate your personal legacy

Your support of the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine has helped us expand dental clinic care, reach underrepresented populations and create opportunities for students that impact communities with significant need.

The generous tax incentives provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act have helped expand our mission even further, but these incentives expire on Dec. 31, 2021.

When considering your gift this year, remember:

- Your cash gift may be eligible for the 100% of adjusted gross income deduction offered in 2021 only
- While Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) were temporarily suspended in 2020, RMDs are again required for individuals aged 72 and older in 2021

To learn more about how cash gifts and other planned giving options can benefit Case Western Reserve University, and to take advantage of these temporary tax savings, please visit plannedgiving.case.edu or call the Office of Strategic Giving at 216.368.4460.



Tips for your 2021
philanthropic
planning



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