

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

SPRING 2022 | VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 1

A WELCOME RETURN

After a pandemic pause the School of Dental Medicine restores care to the community



CONTENTS

Spring 2022 | volume 22 | issue 1

features



12 A welcome return to the community



18 How to navigate a crisis

departments

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Message from the Dean | 22 | Alumni News |
| 4 | Student News | 26 | Class Notes |
| 8 | On Campus | 27 | Upcoming Events |
| 10 | Research Briefs | 29 | In Memoriam |
| 20 | Philanthropy Update | 30 | A Look Back |

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Incredible accomplishments

Dear alumni and friends:

As Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine enters its 130th year, it is with deep pride that I acknowledge our recent accomplishments, especially amid the pandemic. Though many programs had to pause due to COVID-19 protocols, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serve our community. It is a unique privilege bestowed upon our school to have such trust and respect from our neighbors, and it fuels our determination to provide outstanding dental care in Cleveland and beyond.

So, as soon as it was deemed safe, we reinstated many of our programs, including services at the Dental Clinic and others well beyond it. The Healthy Smiles Sealant Program, for example, hit the ground running in late January after its nearly two-year hiatus, providing sealants and dental health education to children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. We've deepened our partnership with The MetroHealth System so that our dental residents can gain clinical training by providing essential dental care in the new Ohio City Family Dentistry Clinic. (For more on these community initiatives, turn to p. 12.)

And, as ever, our research continues to advance. Ge Jin, PhD, of the school's Department of Biological Sciences earned a significant National Institutes of Health grant for his research on the connection between HIV and certain cancers (see p. 11), while Aaron Weinberg of the same department continues his research on COVID-19 and its link to oral health.

The School of Dental Medicine's ability to leverage available resources and technology has made us increasingly competitive in our field, and I am exceedingly proud of the work we have done and continue to do.

As the world at large works toward a return to normalcy, let us not forget the valuable lessons we have learned throughout these trying times. The support system we have built as a school—and as a university—will continue to be the foundation on which we stand as we move into the future. I look forward to seeing where this newfound strength will take us.

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



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The School of Dental Medicine's ability to leverage available resources and technology has made us increasingly competitive in our field, and I am exceedingly proud of the work we have done and continue to do.

Returning to tradition

A longstanding School of Dental Medicine event took a pandemic pause in 2020, but returned in 2021—to double the effect.

In August, the first- and second-year classes gathered at the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve and Cleveland Clinic for their individual White Coat Ceremonies. Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, only students and faculty attended in person, while friends and family watched in viewing rooms in the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion or via livestream.

After reciting their professional oath together, each student donned their white coat during a no-touch ceremony.

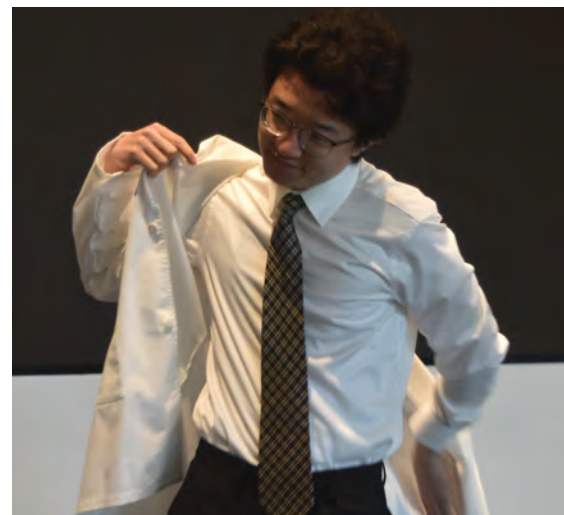
Speaking to the Class of 2025, Dean **Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79)**, remembered his emotions on his first day at the dental school—the excitement, nerves and even fear.

“But above all, the feeling that resonated most,” he said, “was hope: hope for the future, hope for making a broader impact, and hope for contributing to the greater good.” ■



“Your resilience is an inspiration to your character.
... The patience and professionalism you exhibited
[this past year] will continue to serve you well as you
advance in your career.”

—Dean Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79), to the Class of 2024





At Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, residents and interns specialize their training and skills through post-graduate programs. While the majority of the nine programs are based at the school's new Dental Clinic, some offer opportunities at area hospital systems such as Cleveland Clinic, Louis Stokes VA Medical Center, MetroHealth System and University Hospitals.

Learn more about our postdoctoral education:



16 countries represented among our postdocs



PROGRAMS

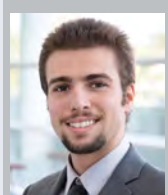
Periodontics
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Endodontics
Oral Medicine
Pediatric Dentistry
Dental Public Health
Orthodontics
Advanced Education in General Dentistry
Craniofacial and Special Care
Orthodontic Fellowship

1- to 5-year program options

ADVANCING EDUCATION

Class of 2025: Continuing a legacy

At the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, our alumni often encourage their loved ones to continue the tradition of attending their alma mater. Here, we take a look at the family relationships reported to us by our newest students.



Khaled Ali



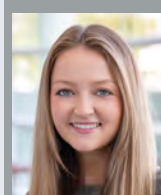
Vassili Bietsos



Olivia Bodnar



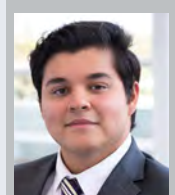
Rachel Elkowitz



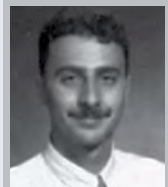
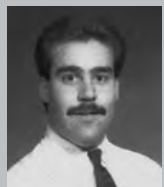
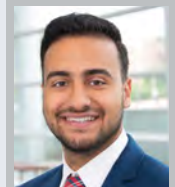
Emily Fromel



Sophia Iwasaki



Zayan Khan

Adel Mahmoud
Abdelmagid
(DEN '96), UncleFrank Petrakos
(DEN '95)
UncleThomas Bodnar
(DEN '98)
FatherGeorge Elkowitz
(DEN '60)
GrandfatherLloyd Elkowitz
(DEN '60)
UncleJosh Fromel
Class of 2023
BrotherDavid Iwasaki
(DEN '88)
FatherKaram Marji
Class of 2023
Cousin

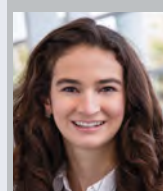
Edward Kim



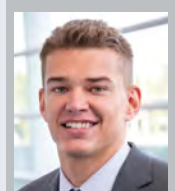
Nathan Kirk

Julie Doyoung Kim
(DEN '15)
SisterLouie "Joe" Kirk
(DEN '66)
Grandfather

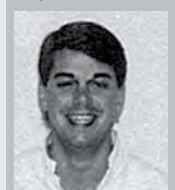
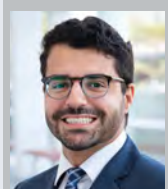
Kaleigh Koski

Kyle Koski
(DEN '18)
BrotherDiane DePaul
(DEN '87)
MotherDavid Koski
(WRC '83, DEN '87)
FatherRichard DePaul Jr.
(DEN '94)
Uncle

Juliette Palusak



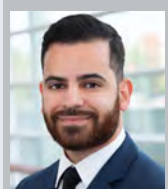
Jake Kosman

Jeffrey Palusak
(DEN '95)
FatherJeffrey Kosman
(DEN '91)
Father

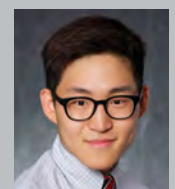
Ali Shakibai



Kunwoo Shin

Pedram Abolhassani
Class of 2023
CousinJeeyoun Park
(DEN '06)
MotherKevin Dickinson
(DEN '86)
CousinRaymond Najem
(ADL '59, DEN '63)
Great UncleRichard DePaul
(ADL '57, DEN '62)
Grandfather

Hyunsun Yuh

Renee Yuh Lee
(DEN '20)
SisterSunggyu Lee
(DEN '18)
Brother-in-Law

Finding success thanks to second chances

Student profiles by Jenny Westfall

Third-year Doctor of Dental Medicine student **Ty Hearn**s knows firsthand that second chances can change lives.

During his first two years of undergraduate study at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, Hearn was playing football with hopes to one day play in the NFL. After a series of injuries and academic struggles, he lost his scholarship and dropped out of college.

That might have been the end of the academic road for some, but Hearn wasn't deterred. After moving home and working in landscaping, his mentor, an oral surgeon, eventually inspired him to pursue a career in dental medicine.

With the unwavering support of his father and grandfather, Hearn went back to school at Southeast Missouri State University and finished his undergraduate degree. He then moved to Cleveland to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

Now, Hearn's passion not only lies in supporting his community through oral health care and education, but also in mentoring disadvantaged youth.

"If people had given up on me, I definitely wouldn't be here," he said. "My heart goes out to people who have had a short stick in life, who haven't had that figure to look up to or those opportunities. I want to be able to give that to people who missed out on those."

Hearn is involved in the Student National Dental Association and Business in Dentistry Club. After dental school, he hopes to pursue a residency program, with an interest in orthodontics, and eventually run his own practice. ■

Photo courtesy of Fraternal Composite Service



Overcoming the unthinkable to pursue a future in dentistry

A week after Hurricane Maria devastated her home country of Puerto Rico in 2017, **Andrea Ciuro Sone** was invited to interview for the Doctor of Dental Medicine program at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. In addition to the stress of preparing for her interview, Ciuro Sone was navigating the aftermath of a natural disaster that upended life at home.

"We had no power, no water. My family was safe but there was severe destruction on the island and emotionally I was very affected," she said. "I barely made it to Cleveland. I spent 18 hours stuck in an airport trying to make it to the interview."

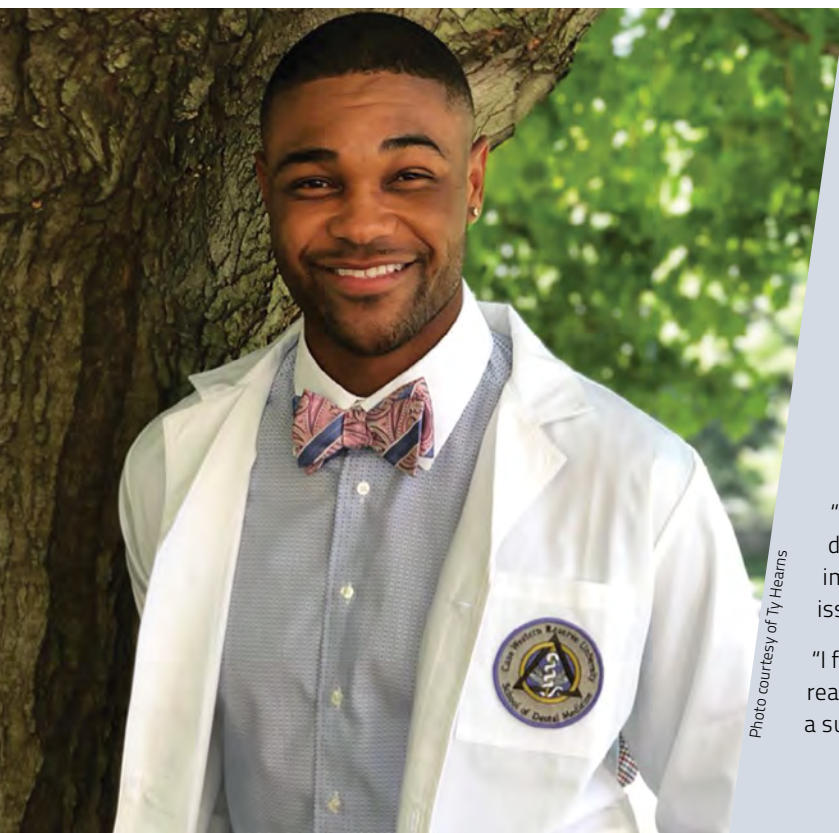
Four years later, after relocating with her mother and brother to Ohio, Ciuro Sone is now in her final year as a DMD student and balancing that commitment with serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Dental Corps.

After her expected graduation in May, Ciuro Sone plans to continue her military career as a dentist in the Army, with a specialization in periodontics.

"I've encountered a lot of people who have suffered from health disparities or not having the perfect smile, and they are emotionally impacted," said Ciuro Sone. "Dentistry gives me the chance to fix those issues to give them a better quality of life."

"I feel prepared to start working," she said. "I feel that my hands are ready. I have the training that I can combine with my military skills to be a successful dentist." ■

Photo courtesy of Ty Hearn



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



Chmieliauskaite

Milda Chmieliauskaite, DMD, assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial medicine and diagnostic sciences, published "Consensus agreement to rename burning mouth syndrome and improve international classification of diseases-11 disease criteria: an international Delphi study" in the October issue of *Pain*.



Palomo

Tarek Maher Elshebiny, DDS (DEN '18), assistant professor of orthodontics, **J. Martin Palomo, DDS (DEN '97)**, professor of orthodontics, and alum **Noha Orabi (DEN '19)** published their article, "Pharyngeal airway dimensional changes after orthodontic treatment with premolar extractions: A systematic review with meta-analysis," in the October issue of *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*. Elshebiny and Palomo also published "Comparing different software packages for measuring the oropharynx and minimum cross-sectional area" in the September issue of *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*.



Orabi



Faddoul

Alumnus and former professor **Fady Faddoul, DDS (DEN '93)**, **Andre Paes da Silva, DDS, PhD**, assistant professor of periodontics, and **Pushpa Pandiyan, PhD**, associate professor of biological sciences, and colleagues published an article in the August issue of *Nature Communications* titled "Oral immune dysfunction is associated with the expansion of FOXP3(+)/PD-1(+)/Amphiregulin(+) T cells during HIV infection."



Pandiyan

Jay Joseph, DDS (DEN '84), was named the general chairperson of the 2022 Annual Session of the Ohio Dental Association, which is scheduled for Sept. 15–17 in Columbus, Ohio.

Nasrin Kalantaripour is the new director of patient services in the school's Dental Clinic. Previously with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine's Department of Pathology, Kalantaripour plans to improve the patient experience and support the students who provide them care.



Alluri

Andre Paes da Silva, DDS, PhD, assistant professor of periodontics, and recent graduate **Leela Subhashini Choudary Alluri (DEN '20)** published "Estimation and correlation of serum albumin and serum alkaline phosphatase levels between smokers and non-smokers with generalized chronic periodontitis" in the August issue of *Cureus* and "Presence of specific periodontal pathogens in prostate gland diagnosed with chronic inflammation and adenocarcinoma" in the September issue of *Cureus*.

Pushpa Pandiyan, PhD, associate professor of biological sciences, published findings from her five-year, \$1.6 million National Institutes of Health-funded study on the oral complications of HIV in the September issue of *The Journal of Investigative Dermatology*. Her article was titled "Regulation of IL-17A-producing cells in skin inflammatory disorders."



Apostolopoulos

"A 3D mirroring and colormap asymmetry study of Class II subdivision patients" by **J. Martin Palomo, DDS (DEN '97)**, professor of orthodontics; and recent alum **Konstantinos Apostolopoulos (DEN '21)**, was published in December's issue of *Journal of Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research*.



Valiathan



Bazina



Morcos

Manish Valiathan DDS (DEN '02), associate professor of orthodontics and assistant dean for clinical affairs, along with alumni **Mohamed Bazina (DEN '16)** and **Sherif Morcos (DEN '21)**, published "The relationship between dental agenesis and maxillary hypoplasia in patients with cleft lip and palate" in the September issue of the *Journal of Craniofacial Surgery*.

Russell Wang, DDS, MSD, professor of comprehensive care, won a one-year, \$25,000 grant from the American Academy of Implant Dentistry Foundation to study the integration of microsensors and bluetooth technology to telemetrically detect biomechanical loading for dental cantilever

implant prostheses. Wang also published "Evaluation of a custom-designed human-robot collaboration control system for dental implant robot" in *International Journal of Medical Robotics and Computer Assisted Surgery* in October, and "Biomechanical behavior of mandible with posterior marginal resection using finite element analysis" in the *International Journal for Numerical Methods in Biomedical Engineering* in November.



Diploma ceremony speaker selected

The School of Dental Medicine selected Raymond Gist, DDS, as the diploma ceremony speaker for the Class of 2022's commencement.

A general dentist in Flint, Michigan, Gist was the first Black president of the American Dental Association, serving as president elect beginning in 2009 and as president in 2010 and 2011.



Raymond Gist, DDS

Gist will deliver the diploma ceremony address at the Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 15.

Moving beyond virtual

Last fall, more than 200 people attended Case Western Reserve University's Pediatric Dentistry Symposium—from the location of their choice.

Following the university's COVID-19 protocol, an in-person audience listened to presentations in the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion on the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic, while virtual attendees participated via Zoom from all over the world.

"After our successful first virtual symposium [in 2020], we were thrilled to have the in-person attendance option this year," said **Ying An, DMD, PhD**, a visiting assistant professor of pediatric dentistry and event organizer.

The symposium featured speakers Gerry Samson, DDS; David Rothman, DDS; **Jed Best, DDS (DEN '79, ADL '72)**; and keynote speaker Martha Ann Keels, DDS, PhD. Although the symposium was free of charge, participants donated more than \$13,500 to support the Pediatric Residency Program.



Developing a distinction between major and minor surgeries to keep patients safe

While researching how to preemptively manage patients on blood thinners for endodontic surgery last year, dental medicine professor **Anita Aminoshariae, DDS (DEN '99)**, was surprised to find no clear medical guidelines about what differentiates a major surgery from a minor one.



"These distinctions matter because it's a delicate balancing between bleeding too much during a procedure and, God forbid, having a heart attack or stroke before or after a procedure," Aminoshariae said.

Their absence prompted Aminoshariae to begin a comprehensive effort to provide them. In late 2020, she rallied a nationwide team of researchers—including **Dale Baur, DDS (DEN '80)**, and

Michael Horan, DDS, MD, PhD (MED '09), of Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine—from multiple disciplines to study the issue.

They combed through medical databases; consulted the American Heart Association, the American Medical Association and the American Dental Association; and hand-searched bibliographies of relevant articles and textbooks.

No luck.

"We couldn't find any consensus among the medical establishment," she said. "Clinicians should be aware of the best available evidence when considering continuation or discontinuation of antiplatelet and anticoagulant agents perioperatively for endodontic microsurgery. This became even a greater issue with the newer drugs, such as direct oral anticoagulant agents."

The team then turned to medical professionals in other countries, where there are better, more well-defined guidelines. Sometimes the formula was as simple as time, Aminoshariae said. For example, in Australia, complicated procedures taking longer than 45 minutes are considered major. In other cases, different factors came into play, such as the invasiveness of the surgery.



In October, Aminoshariae and her colleagues published the results of their odyssey—along with recommendations—in the *Journal of Endodontics*.

In the article, the authors called for guidelines for what constitutes a major surgery versus a minor procedure. They also urged creation of an expert panel, drawn from several disciplines, including cardiology, pharmacology, oncology, endodontology and physicians, to develop clear standards.

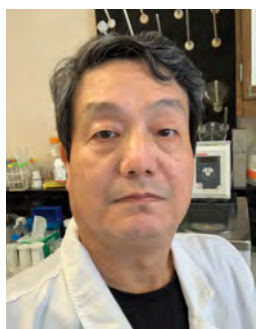
"Because any minor surgery can become a major surgery, the treating doctor needs to best assess the risk of bleeding, especially if the surgery is anticipated to take longer than 45 minutes," said Aminoshariae. "Every patient should be stratified on a case-by-case basis, and consultation with the patient's physician is highly recommended." ■

—Colin McEwen

Studying the connection between HIV and other diseases

About 1.2 million people with HIV in the United States live relatively normal lives with uncompromised immune systems and the virus medically controlled.

But there are two rising concerns, said **Ge Jin, PhD (GRS '00, physiology)**, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.



"One: They are aging and will develop all the diseases or illnesses of the general population, like you or me," said Jin, who is also a member of Case Comprehensive Cancer Center's Molecular Oncology Program. "The other problem: Those morbidities, like cancer or co-infection with other viruses, happen at an earlier stage, occur at a higher rate and are more severe [for people with HIV]."

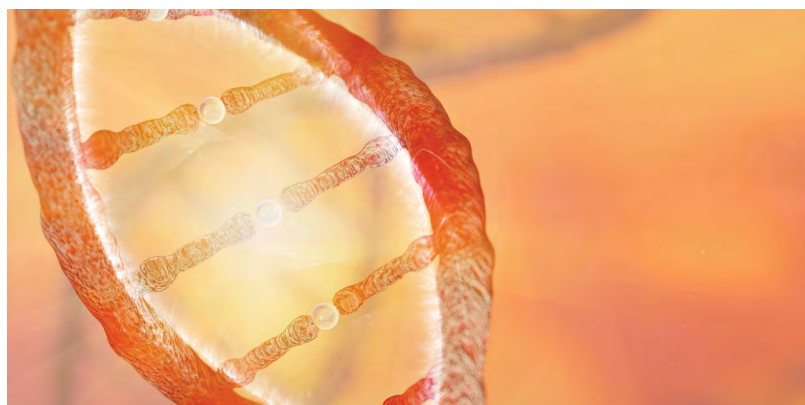
With two new research grants totaling \$3.7 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Jin and his co-investigators hope to learn why.

The new grants will focus on identifying the reasons for higher rates of cancers in the head and neck within this population, as well as co-infection with the herpes virus (Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus, or KSHV). KSHV causes Kaposi sarcoma, one of the most common malignancies in people living with HIV. While the oral cavity contains the highest levels of infectious KSHV—and saliva is the most common way to transmit the infection—how that happens isn't understood.

Through a five-year, \$3.3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute at NIH, Jin and his team—including co-investigator Jonathan Karn, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology at the School of Medicine and director of the Case Center for AIDS Research—will investigate the mechanisms underlying transmission of KSHV in the oral cavity in people living with HIV.

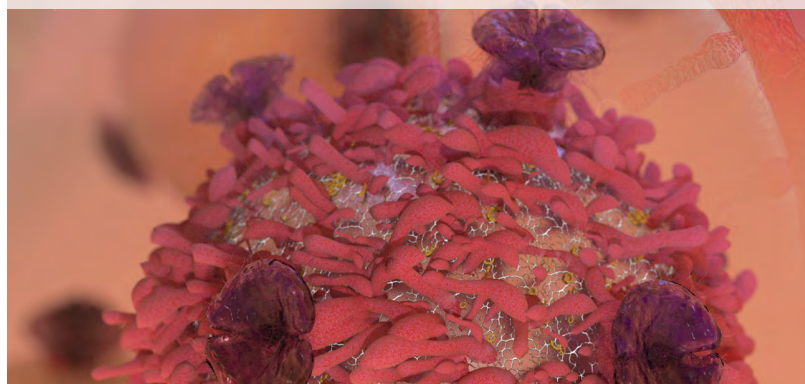
In addition, Jin and co-investigator Michael Lederman, MD, professor emeritus of medicine, received a related \$401,000 grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at NIH to study why cases of oral diseases, like lesions that could develop into oral cancers, increase as people with HIV age—and then identify new therapies.

This new round of funding builds on a \$3.7 million grant Jin and his



"The first thing is identifying how and why they can talk with each other."

— Ge Jin, PhD (GRS '00, physiology)



research team received from NCI in July 2020 to study HIV and lung cancer—specifically why lung cancer rates are higher for people living with HIV, and the mechanism and markers to predict and treat the disease.

HIV infects immune cells; cancers in the lung and oral cavity affect epithelial cells. If researchers can figure out the link between HIV and higher cancer rates—and how to break that connection—then the next step would be to focus on therapies to treat the diseases.

"The first thing," Jin said, "is identifying how and why they can talk with each other." ■

—Bill Lubinger

A WELCOME RETURN

BY LAUREN MARCHAZA

A young girl gets a routine cleaning at the Ohio City Family Dentistry clinic.



A child is rewarded with a dental care goody bag after his appointment at Ohio City Family Dentistry. (Photos by Nicholas McLaughlin)

As the pandemic lingers, the need for dental care surges—and the School of Dental Medicine restores care to the community

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Gerald Ferretti, DDS**, has witnessed yet another of its heartbreaking ripple effects: Pediatric dental emergencies, he said, have quadrupled.

"We've seen a tremendous number of children in the ER because they've had facial swelling, pain and abscesses"—all of which, said the professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, are preventable conditions with access to basic dental care.

Ferretti would know. He and **Chandra Drews**, the school's dental hygienist program manager, oversee Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine's Early Childhood Pediatric Dental Outreach Program, through which dental residents have provided preventive screenings, treatments and education to more than 50,000 children in local Head Start agencies since 2007 in an effort to reduce the risk of dental emergencies.

The program's impact is clear. "When we started, about 45 percent of these children aged 2 to 6 had tooth decay," Drews, a registered dental hygienist, said. "Over the last 15 years, we've reduced that number to less than 30 percent."

But throughout the course of the pandemic, they were forced to suspend



*A young patient at the Ohio City Family Dentistry clinic is examined by dental resident Mary Whitmore, with a little help from the patient's brother.
(Photo by Nicholas McLaughlin)*

their in-home program, which was recently created to provide care and education to children who can't reach Head Start centers. Additionally, some of the 168 affiliated Head Start centers began to temporarily shut their doors. "When the sites closed, we weren't allowed in," Drews recalled, and preventive dental care was rendered inaccessible to thousands of young children across northeast Ohio.

Ferretti, who is also chief of pediatric dentistry at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, and Drews quickly created a COVID-19 action plan, securing plenty of personal protective equipment and implementing new training for the residents to prepare for when the centers reopened.

Ferretti and Drews and a team of students began returning to centers in September 2020; they've since had to pause programs sporadically to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but they have been providing care whenever the centers say it's safe to do so.

"We have to take care of our kids," said Ferretti. "If you look at how a child's oral health follows them all the way to adulthood, the best way to preserve their oral health is to start in childhood. This program is the best way to accomplish that."

Back to school

As Ferretti watched pediatric dental emergencies soar at the hospital due, in part, to a loss of services like their outreach program, **Kristin Williams, DDS (DEN '89; GRS '05, public health)**—who oversees the Healthy Smiles Sealant Program at the dental school—worried about

the pandemic's lasting impact on the oral health of the kids her program serves. She knew, for example, that untreated cavities, tooth decay and infections can cause children difficulties when eating, sleeping, socializing and focusing in school.

In a typical year for the Healthy Smiles program, first-year dental residents provide dental care across multiple visits to second-, third- and sixth-grade students at 72 Cleveland-area schools. Residents divide into pairs, visit different schools throughout the Cleveland community, and use portable equipment to provide screenings, sealants and dental health education. "This program is an opportunity to care for the underserved," said Williams, who joined the Case Western Reserve faculty specifically to be a part of this program. "Often, this is the only dental visit these kids have ever had."

Normally, Healthy Smiles kicks off each year in September and runs through April, but when the pandemic forced many Cleveland schools to switch to remote learning, Healthy Smiles—like so many other things over the past two years—was put on hold. In fact, during the first wave of the pandemic, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported a 69 percent decline in dental services provided to children.

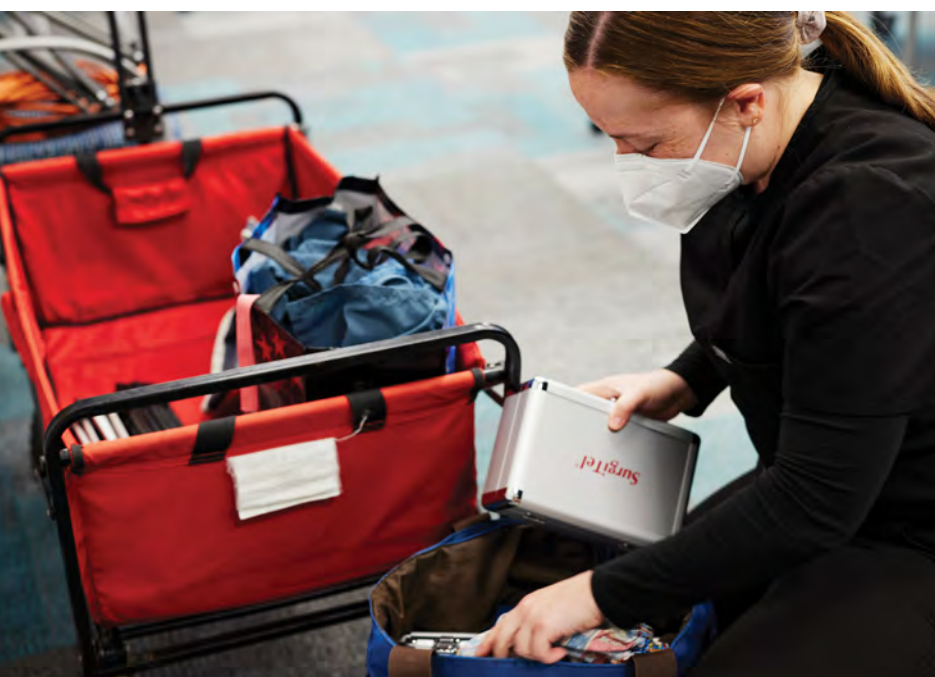
It wasn't until January that the Cleveland schools agreed it was time to bring Healthy Smiles back—and Williams and her collaborators were thrilled to return. "The fact that the school nurses are so excited we're coming back made me realize how much the kids in this community really need care," said Williams.



Two children at the William Patrick Day Early Learning Center finish up their dental exams. (Photos by Angelo Merendino)



Dental school resident Paul Kolman cleans the teeth of a young patient at the Ohio City Family Dentistry clinic. (Photo by Nicholas McLaughlin)



First year dental resident Emily Steiner (top left, center, and bottom) provides dental services via the entirely mobile Early Childhood Pediatric Dental Outreach Program.

A new home for dental care

In the middle of a medically underserved Cleveland neighborhood—at the corner of Fulton Road and Lorain Avenue—a closed video store sat vacant for more than a decade. Then in 2016, The MetroHealth System purchased the property with plans to bring expert dental care services to a neighborhood that historically lacked access to them.

MetroHealth's Ohio City Family Dentistry opened last July and has become a dental home for the neighborhood in the midst of the pandemic. It's also now home to a joint residency program in pediatric dentistry between MetroHealth and Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, which was formerly housed at the hospital's main campus. In its new Ohio City location, the program's dental residents provide exams, cleanings, X-rays, root canals, bridges, partial dentures and crowns to patients from surrounding communities.

No one could have anticipated a once-in-a-century public health crisis just two years into the residency program. "It was only a pilot program at the time, and then COVID hit and we had to pause," said **Dale Baur, DDS (DEN '80)**, professor, chair and vice dean of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Baur and his team halted their plans to grow the program and incorporate it into the standard curriculum, but residents continued their rotations. As the pandemic hopefully subsides, Baur and his colleagues hope to expand the program and include it in the curriculum for all students.

This commitment to the MetroHealth residency program—and the neighborhoods it serves—is welcome news to former residents, such as **Petra Olivieri, DMD, MD (DEN '16, MED '19)**, who completed her residency in the program last year as the only female chief resident on service. Her experience in the Ohio City clinic solidified her commitment to providing care in underserved areas of Cleveland, and, after earning her Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery certificate in 2021, she became a staff oral and maxillofacial attending surgeon at MetroHealth.

"A lot of patients are in a lot of pain or they have infections, but you're treating them and helping them immediately," Olivieri said. "It feels like I'm really helping, and like I'm more in tune with the community." ■

Photos by Angelo Merendino



Dental resident Mary Whitmore helps soothe a nervous patient with his mother's help at the Ohio City Family Dentistry clinic. (Photos by Nicholas McLaughlin)



Dental resident Paul Kolman uses a translator on the phone to speak with a patient at the Ohio City Family Dentistry clinic.

Veterans Day clinic returns after pandemic pause

There are approximately 60,000 veterans in Cuyahoga County, but more than half of them cannot access free or discounted care because they don't meet the criteria set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

That's why **Ali Syed, BDS**, assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences and director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Clinic, launched an annual event five years ago to provide free dental exams to local veterans. Put on hold in 2020 because of the pandemic, the Veterans Day clinic returned in November with COVID-19 protocols in place—including patient health pre-screenings and personal protective equipment for students, residents and faculty—to keep everyone safe.

The event's location in the school's new Dental Clinic, which offers free parking, easy access to public transportation, increased capacity and additional specialty care, is a big advantage for patients, Syed said.

Although they saw fewer veterans this year than at pre-pandemic events, Syed is committed to continuing this care in years ahead.

"This is our way of saying a special 'thank you' to our war heroes," Syed said.

How do you navigate a **CRISIS?**

Lead with a trait essential to patient care: empathy

BY LAUREN MARCENZA



In March of 2020, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered all dental services suspended to help slow the spread of a new virus in the state, SARS-CoV-2. As Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine's Dental Clinic shut down, **Manish Valiathan, DDS (DEN '02)**, associate professor and assistant dean for clinical affairs, and his team got to work: They began to route emergencies to local hospitals, made calls to reschedule thousands of appointments, and worked with the university to stock personal protective equipment and ensure compliance with new COVID-19 regulations.

Two months later, Valiathan's guidance—along with the hard work of faculty and staff—allowed the dental clinic to reopen for limited services and slowly increase its capacity for patient care over the following months.

To manage the COVID-19 crisis, Valiathan—who is also program director for craniofacial and special care orthodontics at the dental school—called upon his decades of practical experience, but also a trait that is essential to his work as a craniofacial and special care orthodontist: empathy.

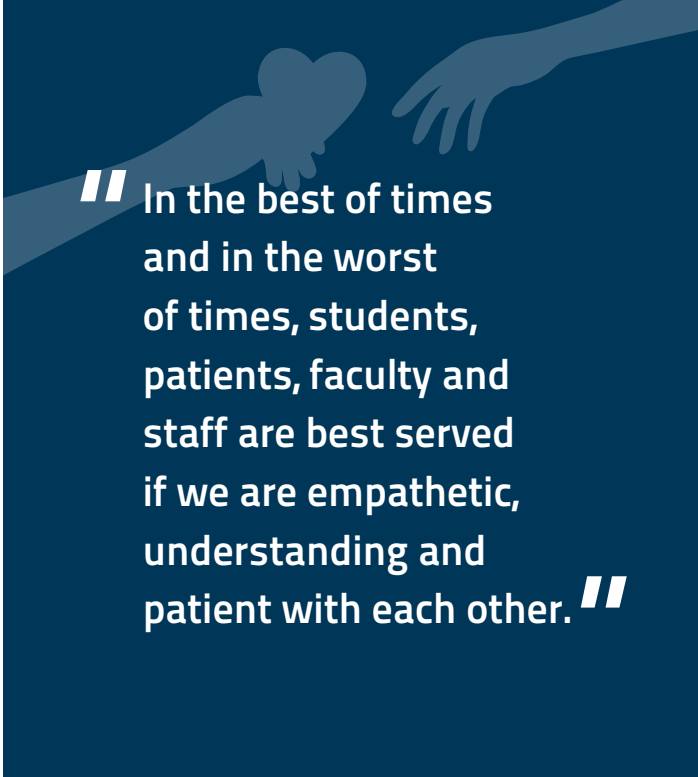
In a recent conversation with Valiathan, we discussed how his background and training helped him chart a course through unprecedented times.

What originally drew you into the field of dentistry, and to Case Western Reserve University?

Definitely the influence of my mother, who was an academic orthodontist. I also fell in love with the field of orthodontics. My first round of training was in India, then I came to Case Western Reserve where I repeated my training. The history of orthodontics here at our university is really what attracted me.

Tell me about your work—why craniofacial and special care?

I'm an orthodontist by training, but my area of interest is working with children born with facial deformities. It's one area where you can really have a very different impact than you do as an orthodontist.



"In the best of times and in the worst of times, students, patients, faculty and staff are best served if we are empathetic, understanding and patient with each other."

When you get into craniofacial orthodontics, it's a different level of satisfaction. Your relationship with these children is qualitatively different. You're often engaged with the family before the child is even born, and you see them through to when they are hopefully ready to go to college. You get invited to their baseball games, and it's very different from having a relationship with any other patient. The same is true of the family—it's a very different bond that you build with them.

How have you seen the department grow since you arrived?

We set up the Craniofacial and Special Care Orthodontics Fellowship program about 10 years ago, and became the first accredited program at a university. Out of the 16 fellows that we have graduated from the program, half of them came from our own orthodontic program, which means they see some added value to this fellowship, even though they came from our own program, which is world-class in and of itself.

Would you say that the compassion required in your daily work with craniofacial and special care patients prepared you for this historic public health crisis?

The pandemic magnified something we all know, but sometimes forget: In the best of times and in the worst of times, students, patients, faculty and staff are best served if we are empathetic, understanding and patient with each other.

Do things seem to be getting back to a (new) normal at the dental clinic?

In spite of the new variants we faced in 2021, the measures put in place, along with the vaccinations, have allowed us to step up activities. Much like other sectors and industries, we too have faced workforce concerns and have to deal with delays of some materials and supplies. We now need to continue to stay vigilant, cautious and optimistic.

What inspires you most about your work lately?

Definitely patient care. And there's no question that being able to share that with our students is the next best thing. It's quite gratifying. ■

Building a legacy

"It all goes back to my dear friend," reflected retired corporate lawyer Gilbert Kelling.

He was speaking of 93-year-old **John Kulick, DDS (DEN '58)**, whose partnership in building a dental clinic in rural Honduras ignited in each of them a love of public health work.

Kulick, the son of Ukrainian immigrants, grew up in relative poverty in Pennsylvania, learning a strong work ethic from his coal mining father and seamstress mother. He moved to Cleveland in his mid-20s, where he put himself through Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and established his career.

The pair met in the early 1970s when Kulick needed legal advice for a small side business, and Kelling happened to

be looking for a dentist. Before long, they became friends. And even after moving to Montana, Kelling would occasionally return to Ohio and see Kulick (and get a cleaning).

During one such visit in the mid-1980s, Kelling shared that he had met two missionaries working in a rural Honduran village where indigenous people were losing their teeth; it was affecting their nutrition and compounding other health conditions.



John Kulick, DDS (DEN '58), (right) opened a dental clinic in his home country of Ukraine.

**"I've been blessed, and I reflect often.
If it wasn't for John, his humility
and willingness to venture out and
help others, I wouldn't have had these
incredible experiences."**

—Gilbert Kelling

"I thought, with John's handyman skills and knowledge as a plumber," recalled Kelling, "we could turn an RV into a mobile clinic and somehow get it over there." Then the missionaries reminded Kelling that, in order to reach the remote village, they had to cross over 16 rivers and streams.

Thus began a four-year process during which Kulick and Kelling would work with missionaries, the United Nations, Eastern Airlines, Ohio's Patterson Dental supply company and the people of the Honduran village to build a dental clinic from the ground up.

The construction included thousands of clay bricks, hand-sculpted and dried by the villagers. When it was complete, the clinic offered three dental setups, a lab and a steady stream of graduates from a nearby dental college.

"Gil has always been such a wonderful friend and an amazing person," remarked Kulick. "I learned a great deal from him when working on mission trips together."

The two went on to build another clinic together in the early 1990s—this time in Kulick's native Ukraine.

"I've been blessed, and I reflect often," said Kelling. "If it wasn't for John, his humility and willingness to venture out and help others, I wouldn't have had these incredible experiences."

Kelling decided to show his gratitude by supporting the John Kulick Scholarship Fund, which Kulick established at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in 1982.

"I am extremely thankful for Gil's gift to my scholarship fund," said Kulick. "His generosity has deeply touched me, and the lives of so many."

Kulick's daughter, Diane M. Smyth (SAS '93), is thankful for the friendship her father and Kelling share.

"My dad is a very kind and generous person," said Smyth. "His passion in life has always been to help his family and others. I am beyond blessed to have my dad and Mr. Kelling as role models who serve people with humility."

The old friends reunited in summer 2021 after not seeing each other for more than 15 years. When they were finished reminiscing, Kulick simply smiled at Kelling and said: "We sure had a lot of fun, didn't we, Gil?" ■

—Carey Skinner Moss

DEVELOPMENTS

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

An anonymous donor pledged \$1 million to establish a fund for DMD student scholarships.

Philip S. Nash, DDS (DEN '77), made a \$56,000 estate commitment to the School of Dental Medicine.

Bruce A. Abbott, DDS (DEN '71), and his wife, Diana W. Abbott, DDS, pledged \$50,000 toward DMD student scholarships.

Mrs. Ellen Elkowitz and Ms. Robin Elkowitz committed \$25,000 in memory of the late **George Elkowitz, DDS (DEN '60)** to name a room at the School of Dental Medicine Dental Clinic.

April A. Yanda, DDS (DEN '89), **Gery P. Benza, DDS (DEN '81)**, **Chelsea Ann (Yanda) Benza, DMD (DEN '15)**, and **Anthony John Benza, DMD (DEN '15)**, committed \$25,000 to establish The Benza ('81, '15) Yanda ('89, '15) Endowed Scholarship Fund.



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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

Each one, reach one, teach one

Dear Friends,

When I was in the eighth grade, we took a course called "Career Skills." We were charged with picking a career, researching the pathway into that profession and shadowing a professional in that field. You can see where this is going—I chose dentistry, of course!

I was connected with an alumna of Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine who owned and operated her practice near my childhood home. I observed her running her office, effectively communicating with her team and engaging patients in their oral health. She was so inviting and encouraging and it made a lasting impression.

Now that I have a private practice of my own, I make an effort to give that invaluable experience to the next generation. At Panther Pediatric Dentistry in Euclid, Ohio, I accept applications for the Panthers Observing the Pride Shadowing (POPS) program. From pre-dental to residency, students at any point in their education can experience firsthand what it is like to own, operate and work in a dental practice, particularly with children.



MESSAGE
from the
alumna
association
president

Some POPS students have left the experience feeling reassured in their choice to pursue pediatric dentistry, while others realize it may not be the path for them—and I consider either outcome a success. Beyond clinical practice and providing a peek behind the curtain of running a business, POPS students give back to the community, interact with patients, expand their network and are encouraged to ask questions.

When we take the time to mentor students, we extend a helping hand to our future colleagues—just as others did for us. I feel privileged to shape the future of our profession by imparting a culture of curiosity, empathy and excellence.

In my last letter to you, I told you my vision for my term as president: Each one. Reach one. Teach one. Today, I encourage you to think beyond the possible with your outreach. Make yourself available to your future colleagues. You never know the impact it may have.

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

Reuniting with their alma mater— from anywhere

Last fall, Case Western Reserve University hosted its first hybrid Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, allowing alumni, students, faculty, staff and families to gather in person or virtually to celebrate, reconnect and reminisce.

For the School of Dental Medicine, this hybrid approach included lectures and events, including a presentation about the university's Student Run Health Clinic, in which dental, medical, nursing and social work students outlined how they work together interprofessionally.

In addition, School of Dental Medicine alumni enjoyed class dinners at the Sheila and Eric

Continued on page 24



School of Dental Medicine Dean Kenneth B. Chance (pictured), along with many alumni and friends, gathered in October at the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve and Cleveland Clinic.



Reuniting with their alma mater—from anywhere

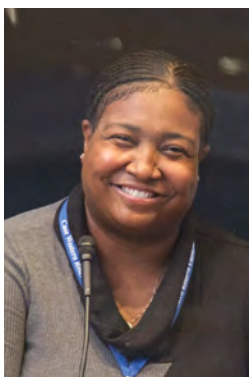
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Samson Pavilion on the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve and Cleveland Clinic, which is home to the school's educational programs. As part of the dinners, the classes of 1970 and 1971 both celebrated a milestone: the 50th anniversary of their graduation (postponed from last year for 1970 graduates).

The School of Dental Medicine Alumni Board also presented its 2021 awards to three distinguished graduates, featured here. ■



Brian Gallagher, DMD (DEN '16), who won the 2020 Outstanding New Dentist Award, joined the school this year for an in-person presentation of his honor.



Kari Cunningham, School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association Board President



Kenneth Chance, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Fady Faddoul, DDS (DEN '88, '93)

Originally from Lebanon, **Fady Faddoul, DDS (DEN '88, '93)**, called Cleveland home for 40 years—36 of which he spent at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

He started as a graduate student, earning a master's degree in dentistry as well as certificates in both Oral Medicine and Advanced Education in General Dentistry—a program for which he would later be an attending and director. He served the university in several capacities during his tenure, including chairing the Department of Comprehensive Care until fall 2020.

Leonard Weiss, DDS (DEN '63), the 2012 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, said he has seen Faddoul "grow as an outstanding educator, professional and role model for our undergraduate and graduate students."

Faddoul shares his passion for Case Western Reserve and dentistry with his wife, **Palma Freyding, DDS (DEN '92)**, and their two sons, **John Pierre**, a CWRU dental student expected to graduate in 2023, and **Alexandre, DMD (DEN '21)**.

In addition to his family, Faddoul credits several dental school mentors with his success, including former and current School of Dental Medicine Deans **Jerold Goldberg, DDS (CIT '68; DEN '70, '74)**, and **Kenneth B. Chance, DDS (DEN '79)**.

In December 2020, Faddoul accepted an opportunity to help establish Texas Tech University's Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine in El Paso, Texas, where he serves as associate dean of clinical affairs. "But no matter where I go," he said, "my heart will always be in Cleveland, and Case Western Reserve will always be my school." ■



Outstanding New Dentist Award

Keith Schneider, DMD (DEN '08)

Keith Schneider, DMD (DEN '08), remembers being 5 years old and watching his father, **E. Karl Schneider II, DDS (DEN '71)**, prepare for surgeries. His dad's legacy inspired him to pursue dentistry and brought him to Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

"I loved my time at Case Western Reserve—it was magical," said Schneider, noting he felt privileged to walk the same halls as his dad. "It was a lot of hard work, but that's where I grew to be the man that I am today." It's also where he met his wife, **Crystal Schneider, DMD (DEN '08)**.

After graduating from CWRU, he went on to complete training in oral and maxillofacial surgery before joining his father's practice in Mentor, Ohio, in 2012.

When his father passed away in 2017, Schneider took over the practice—now

Ohio's Center for Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery—and expanded to two additional locations in Northeast Ohio. When he's not working with patients, he's at Case Western Reserve teaching courses on oral surgery, dental implants and various types of anesthesia.

"I have watched [Schneider] grow and mature into a leader in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery, and a true educator," said **Donald P. Lewis Jr., DDS (DEN '76, '80)**, noting that Schneider is known for his "boundless enthusiasm" as an instructor.

Schneider calls Lewis, an associate professor at CWRU School of Dental Medicine and a surgeon at Schneider's practice, among the most influential figures in his career—a list that includes faculty members of the dental school who Schneider said have gone from being instructors and mentors to colleagues and friends. ■



Special Recognition Award

Faisal Quereshy, MD, DDS, FACS (MED '97)

In the 24 years since his first graduation from Case Western Reserve University, **Faisal Quereshy, MD, DDS (MED '97)**, has made his mark in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

"I have known Faisal for over 20 years," said **Fady Faddoul, DDS, MSD (DEN '88, '93)**. "He has distinguished himself in every aspect of his professional career, and proudly represented our school [in] local, national and international arenas."

Quereshy, who earned his oral and maxillofacial surgery certificate from the dental school in 1999, is a professor and residency program director for the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at CWRU School of Dental Medicine. His achievements and contributions to the field of dentistry are many—including providing pro bono surgeries to a young survivor of a terrorist attack in Pakistan.

A career highlight for Quereshy was serving on the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for eight years, first as an examiner then section chair. In 2018, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Quereshy to the State of Ohio Dental Board, a term that runs through April 2022.

Today, Quereshy runs his 19-year-old practice—the Visage Surgical Institute in Medina, Ohio—with his wife of 27 years and endodontist specialist, Najia Usman, DDS. The couple has four children together, two of whom have followed in their father's footsteps: their son **Humzah Quereshy, MD (CWR '16, MGT '21, MED '21)**, and daughter **Alyzah Quereshy, DMD (DEN '21)**.

Quereshy is a lifelong learner and, at age 52, is once again a student at Case Western Reserve, pursuing his Master of Business Administration at Weatherhead School of Management. ■



CLASS NOTES

1961

Howard L. Pressman (DEN '61) lives in Slingerlands, New York, with his wife, Marlene. After his retirement more than a decade ago, Pressman stays busy by taking educational courses and spending time with his two children and two grandchildren.

1964

James T. Fanno (ADL '64; DEN '66; GRS '68, orthodontics) is retired from his career in orthodontics. He lives in Canton, Ohio, where he spends time with family and friends. He travels to Florida each year to escape the cold Ohio winters.

Manny Frankel (DEN '64) and his wife of 44 years, Paula, are both retired and live in Ormond Beach, Florida. Frankel practiced for 48 years, and still does pro bono work at a free dental clinic in nearby Bunnell. He has three sons, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

1966

Edwin R. Tucker (DEN '66) is retired and lives with his wife, Nancy, in Highland, Utah. They have 12 children, 34 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

1970

George (Rod) Hempt (DEN '70) lives in Brentwood, California, where he practiced general dentistry for 40 years. He enjoys spending time with his two children and five grandchildren.

1971

Barry Bloomfield (DEN '71) retired in 2007 and now resides in Las Vegas. During his career, he loved seeing smiling faces of patients. Bloomfield also coached basketball and saw many players excel to higher levels. He has two children and five grandchildren.

Edward J. Durica Jr. (DEN '71), who practiced for 35 years before retiring, lives in Littleton, Colorado, with his wife, Karen. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Ace Goerig (DEN '71) was a dentist in the U.S. Army for two decades before opening his own practice in Olympia, Washington, 30 years ago. He now works with his son and daughter, and has been teaching endodontics for 25 years. Goerig and his wife of 52 years, Nancy, have five children and 13 grandchildren.

Hugh Habas (DEN '71) retired in 2016 after managing his own practice for 39 years. He has since passed the practice on to his son-in-law. Habas lives in Somerset, New Jersey, with his wife of 44 years, Sherry. They have two children and five grandchildren.

John Michael Uhrich (DEN '71) retired in 2012 after selling his practice, and now enjoys a second career as a blueberry and asparagus farmer and railroad curator. He and his wife of 53 years, Roberta Virsila Uhrich (GRS '68, nutrition), live in Kirtland Hills, Ohio. They have four children—John (MGT '99), Marc (MGT '03), **Margaret Uhrich Howell (DEN '09)** and Jennifer Lyden (CWR '04)—and six grandchildren.

1976

Paul J. Cain (DEN '76) retired in 2020 and now resides in Napa, California, where he works part time at Raymond Vineyards.

Mark Nankin (DEN '76) is enjoying his retirement in Boynton Beach, Florida, where he lives with his wife, Janis.

1977

Elliot Jon Fidler (DEN '77) is semi-retired and practices endodontics two days per week in Hicksville, New York. He and his wife, Christine, have three grown children.

1991

Robert Deloso (DEN '91) is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon at Alameda Health System's Highland Hospital in Oakland, California. He lives in Concord, California, with his wife of 30 years, Jessica. Deloso is training to run his third San Francisco Marathon in 2022.

1981

Russell Cureton (DEN '81) manages his own practice and stays active in Salinas, California, where he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.



1986

Jeff Collins (DEN '86) operates his own practice, Parker Orthodontics, in Parker, Colorado, which was recently selected to be the Invisalign provider for the Denver Broncos. Collins also joined MB2 Dental, a dental partnership organization.



1996

Bob Le (DEN '96) practices in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, where he lives with his wife, Le Lam, who is an optometrist. Their children, Amelia and Noah, both attend Ohio State University.

Gary Schween (DEN '96) completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at The MetroHealth System. He lives in Medina, Ohio, with his wife, Maren, and three children, where he enjoys drag racing, boating and home remodeling.

2001

Gretchen Palmer (DEN '01) practices in Rochester, New York, where she lives with her husband, Matt, and 10-year-old daughter, Avery.

2003

Nawaf Masri (DEN '03) manages his own practice in Livonia, Michigan, where he lives with his wife and three children, the oldest of whom hopes to pursue orthodontics.

2004

Chris Spoonhower (DEN '04) lives in Dublin, Ohio, with his wife of 21 years, Kim Spoonhower (MED '01). They stay busy with their 12-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son.

2006



Meredith Bailey (DEN '06) lives in Boston and is a group practice leader at Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. Bailey serves on the Alumni Board of

Directors for Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, and has continued her involvement in the American Student Dental Association since graduating. Bailey is chair of the American Dental Association Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs representing the First District, and president of the Massachusetts Dental Society, where she created the Boston District Dental Society.

2011

Elizabeth Brack (DEN '11) lives in Chanhassen, Minnesota, and practices at ForeverSmiles in Arlington. Brack enjoys gardening, exercising and spending time outdoors. She is involved in local and state dental associations.

Lafe Chaffee (DEN '11) opened his own practice in Mesa, Arizona, where he lives with his wife, Lacy, and five children.

Jason Graves (DEN '11) lives in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where he manages his own practice, Dentistry of the Pines. He enjoys a busy family life with his wife and four children.

Dwetta Santos (DEN '11) was named Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry in 2020. She lives in Novelty, Ohio, with her husband, Ryan Radonich.



2012

Kari Alexis Cunningham (DEN '12) has been appointed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine to the Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board for a term beginning Feb. 11 and ending Jan. 28, 2024.

2016

Haviland Watkins (DEN '16) lives in North Petersburg, Indiana, where he works at a family dental practice.

Upcoming Events

May 15

Commencement and Reception



June 17

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Continuing Education Course and Graduation Dinner

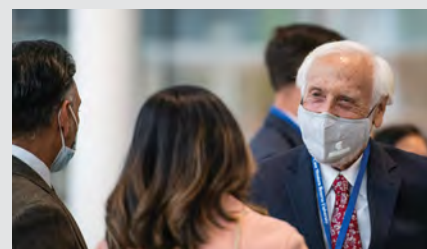
Aug. 5

White Coat Ceremony and Reception



Oct. 6–9

Homecoming and Reunion



For more information about events, visit case.edu/dental/alumni-friends/events.

Individuals attending Case Western Reserve events are expected to be fully vaccinated, including booster if eligible. Masks are not required at this time, but we respect the choices of those who elect to wear them. University leaders continue to monitor pandemic developments and will adjust health protocols as circumstances warrant.

Family Ties



On the day of national boards, in the middle of her fourth year at Case Western Reserve University, dental student **April Yanda, DDS (DEN '89)**, gave birth to a baby girl. As Chelsea Yanda was beginning her life, her mother was beginning her career in dentistry in Northeast Ohio. She would eventually pass on that career to her daughter.

A few years earlier, another dental alumnus, **Gery Benza, DDS (DEN '81)**, and his wife welcomed their own child, Anthony, into the world. Despite being a young family, now settled over a thousand miles away in Naples, Florida, the Benza family connection to Case Western Reserve was far from complete.

Decades later, in 2011, the alumni families would reconnect with CWRU as **Chelsea Yanda, DMD (DEN '15)**, and **Anthony Benza,**

DMD (DEN '15), enrolled at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

As two first-year students, the aspiring dentists met and struck up a friendship, as is common with members of a cohort. And, when they reached their graduation, they did so with their alumni parents—in full academic regalia—presenting them with their degrees.

Through their scholastic endeavors the two students' friendship eventually blossomed into a romance, and the couple married in October of 2016.

Today, Gery, Anthony and Chelsea practice in Naples, while April Yanda continues her practice in Hudson, Ohio.

Will there be a triple legacy? Only time will tell. ■

IN MEMORIAM *Notices received from Sept. 2021 through Jan. 2022.*

Stuart Paul Goldberg, DDS (DEN '75), died June 7, 2020, in Saratoga, California. He is survived by his wife, Tatijana; sister, Gayle Bernstein; daughters, Remy Goldbao, Jody Lipkin and Polina; and grandson, Francisco Lipkin.

Edward K. Hahn, DDS (DEN '56), of Fort Worth, Texas, died Oct. 20. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris, and is survived by his son, Edward Jr. (Kathy); his daughter, Sheryl (Charlie) Smith; four grandchildren; and other family and friends.

William "Bill" B. Kent III, DDS (DEN '66), of Zellwood, Florida, died Sept. 17. He is preceded in death by his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Hart Rapier, and is survived by his siblings, George, Madelyn Smith, Marcie Grealis and Constance Rieblin; daughters, Deborah (Gordon) Hart Thomas, Lisa (Mark) Hayden Meyer and Diane Forbes; son, William Benjamin IV (Kristi); and nine grandchildren.

Stephanie C. Radwanski, a graduate of the School of Dental Medicine's EFDA program, of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, died Dec. 7. She is survived by her parents, Jerome and Jeanne, her sisters, Tiffanie and Kacie, and other friends and relatives.

M. William Rose, DDS (DEN '53), of Shaker Heights, Ohio, died on Jan. 18. He was preceded in death by his son, Marc, and is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; daughter, Debby (Jerry) Grammas; son, Jeffrey (Carla); and five grandchildren.

Ronald J. Scaletta, DDS (DEN '66), of Mayfield Heights, Ohio, died Sept. 27. He is survived by his wife, Lenore Palma; sons, Ronald Jr. (Debbie); Michael (Jennifer) and David; daughters, Suzanne (James) Meola; Jacqueline (Dave) Steigerwald; and Gina (David) Schmidt; 16 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brothers, Lawrence (Marsha) and Richard (Patricia).

Robert F. Williams, DDS (ADL '60, DEN '62), of Delaware, Ohio, died Sept. 5. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris, and brother, Timothy. He is survived by his daughters, Heidi (Victor) Leggett, Brenda (Joe) DiRuzza, and Anne (Walt) Pollock; and five grandchildren.

William H. Yergin, DDS (DEN '76), of Wooster, Ohio, died Oct. 21. He is survived by his wife, Diana "Annie" (Stewart); daughters, Lindsay (Brian) Witt, Chelsea (Jerney) Gajadhar, and Courtney; Annie's children, Katie (Scott) Pack and Nathan Rearden; sister, Linda Ruth (Sam) Nesbit; eight grandchildren, and several nieces.



Remembering Angelo A. Daprano, DDS

Angelo A. Daprano, DDS (DEN '67, '71), died Oct. 25 in Las Vegas. In addition to his own practice in San Francisco, Daprano owned a series of chocolate shops and restaurants.

In 2019, Daprano honored his parents' memory by establishing the Tony and Louise Daprano Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Angelo A. Daprano Partnership for Orthodontic Excellence at the School of Dental Medicine.

He is preceded in death by his brother John (Margaret), and is survived by his brother Arthur (Judith); nephews, Anthony (Emily), John (Jodi) and Tony; and nieces, Jodi (Adam) and Jennifer (Farid).

A Look **Back**

From the Archives of the School of Dental Medicine

Dental education **through the decades**

The lasting tradition of providing dental care to kids in the community began with an alumnus's experiment

Since the founding of Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, its faculty have recognized that oral healthcare is essential to children's overall health, behavior and happiness. William George Ebersole, an 1890s alumnus of both the Western Reserve University dental and medical schools, noted that, "... one little lad was found to have three abscesses ... could it be surprising if he annoyed his classmates or refused to conform to the simplest regulations ...?"

This notion is what compelled Ebersole and Henry Lovejoy Ambler, dean of the dental school from 1893 to 1906, to form the Cleveland Dental Society in 1886. It was the first area organization dedicated to providing



Children listen to an educational presentation from dental school faculty in the 1950s.



A child learns the basics of oral hygiene with a dental school resident in the 1970s.



Toothbrush drill in 1910 at Marion School.



Students in the first dental initiative at the Marion School in 1910-1911.

free preventive dentistry for disadvantaged children. The society's Committee on Dental Instruction was formed in 1897 to promote preventive dental hygiene—a fairly new concept—in the public schools.

Together with the Cleveland Board of Education and the city, the society began to develop dental clinics for Cleveland children in 1910. In an effort to demonstrate the importance of preventive care to a somewhat skeptical public, Ebersole conducted an experiment with the Marion School that same year. He observed a group of 40 students in fourth through seventh grades to determine whether regular preventive oral healthcare and education contributed to better overall health and academic performance. Over a period of six months, the students received dental exams and education on how to care for their teeth. Fillings, cleanings and oral surgery were provided free of charge. Sure enough, by the end of the experiment, Ebersole observed better health and academic performance in these students, confirming what is well-known today: Ongoing dental care and education are key to children's health and wellbeing.

Since then, the dental school's faculty and students have carried forward the tradition Ebersole and Ambler started: meeting children where they are to teach them the importance of regular dental care and hygiene. Learn more about the dental school's continued commitment to care today on p. 12. ■

Invest in the dental school's success.



"I have chosen to give back through the Partners in Progress program to personally help ensure that future generations will enjoy and benefit from the many opportunities afforded me at the School of Dental Medicine."

—Michael E. Gallagher, DDS (DEN '83)

Across its 130-year history, Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine has brought teaching, technology and research into powerful alignment, establishing itself as a leader in the field. Through our **Partners in Progress** (PIP) multi-year annual fund program, you can help the dental school continue its success.

With a monthly gift of less than \$85, you can create and expand opportunities for our students and faculty by directly funding:

- Student aid and scholarships,
- Cutting-edge research, equipment and technology,
- Endowed faculty positions, and
- Community clinical care and outreach programs.

Plus, with a three-year annual or monthly commitment, you'll earn:

- Name recognition on the annual Honor Roll of Donors and
- Invitation to a donor appreciation event hosted by the dean of the School of Dental Medicine

Become a member of the PIP program today at [**case.edu/dental-pip**](http://case.edu/dental-pip).



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HOME COMING & REUNION CELEBRATION

students • alumni • parents & families



Welcome home.

Join us Oct. 6-9 for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, with an assortment of special events planned for our valued alumni. Unable to attend in person? You can still take part in the fun! This year's celebrations will include in-person, virtual and hybrid events.

If you are interested in serving as a class representative (for the Classes of 1972, 1982 or 1997) to gather classmates for a breakfast or dinner, please contact Carolyn Gordon, director of development, at 216.368.3481 or carolyn.gordon@case.edu.

We look forward to seeing you!
For more information, visit case.edu/homecoming.

Individuals attending Case Western Reserve events are expected to be fully vaccinated, including booster if eligible. Masks are not required at this time, but we respect the choices of those who elect to wear them. University leaders continue to monitor pandemic developments and will adjust health protocols as circumstances warrant.