

## **Proposal for the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences**

### **Rationale**

The practice of Dental Medicine has evolved in recent years to a science based on the principles of medicine and the association between oral and systemic health. Oral disease has been linked to conditions such as asthma, systemic infection, immune dysfunction, and levels of circulating inflammatory markers. The oral health clinician of the 21st century should be a professional versed on the impact of oral care in a patient's medical status, and on the role that dentists can play in risk assessment and detection of medical disorders. Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Science is the foundation of the overlap between Dental Medicine and Medicine. This discipline combines the skills of oral and maxillofacial pathology, medicine, and radiology into a department that will contribute to the mission of the School of Dental Medicine and Case Western Reserve University. We propose building upon the experience gained with the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology and the Department of Oral Pathology at our institution. Combining the collective strengths of these two departments will create a strong organization with team thinking that will streamline the core missions of the School of Dental Medicine and the University.

### **Vision**

Become a world-class center for oral medicine education, research, and the diagnosis and non-surgical treatment of conditions affecting the oral and maxillofacial complex.

### **Mission**

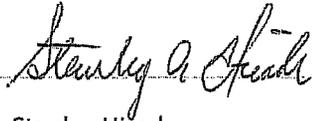
To be an internationally renowned Diagnostic Science center, we will develop focused themes of expertise. These will directly foster and develop interdisciplinary collaboration with other areas of Dental Medicine and Medicine, leading to top quality care. The Department will contribute to the scientific literature with active funded projects and peer-reviewed publications. Regional, national, and international collaborations will promote the inception of multi-site clinical research projects having a major impact in the practice of these disciplines. The core educational mission will prepare general dentists who are proficient with the role of Dental Medicine in health care, and who recognize the importance of Diagnostic Sciences in overall patient care. We will also educate specialists who are keenly aware of the relevance of our disciplines in their respective diagnostic practice.

**Proposed: To disestablish the Department of Oral Pathology and rename the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology as the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences. The renamed Department will subsume the faculty and responsibilities of the Department of Oral Pathology.**

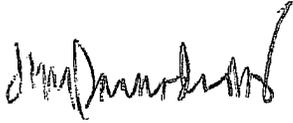
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Andres Pinto



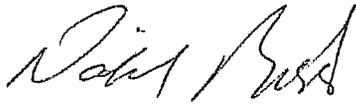
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