BUFFALO TO HAITI

30 YEARS OF HELPING OTHERS

DR. JEREMIAH J. LOWNLEY, ’66, ’67, DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

UBDENTIST
NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
SPRING 2011
The most recent issue of UB Dentist carried an article (“When good isn’t good enough”) describing the process by which the school developed the strategic plan that will guide us in the near future. In this issue, I’d like to tell you what we discovered about ourselves along the way.

Before we could make a plan, we had to be certain of our values, our mission and our vision of what we want to be in the future.

The school discussed and refined these essential constituents of our character in open “town meetings.” So we’re now agreed that this is who we are.

Our core values are innovation, compassion and integrity. Compassion and integrity won’t surprise you, but you might wonder why innovation is as fundamental to us. We must innovate just as surely as we behave compassionately and with integrity because we believe we have a responsibility to lead in dental education and in the profession.

Our mission is leading innovation in oral health education, research and service to improve quality of life. This is what we should be doing. This is why the school exists. If we are true to our core values, and if we organize our work so that it aligns with our mission, we can’t go wrong. And we won’t be standing still, either. The mission we’ve set for ourselves is to lead. That means we have to keep ourselves in the vanguard. Our mission isn’t only to be good, or to be the best—it is also to use our skills to lead.

Finally, our vision, the fixed point we steer toward, is defining excellence in global health. This is not for the timid. We say that our work will eventually be the example for our colleagues in dental education and in the profession to learn from and to measure themselves against. By global, we mean both the whole world and the whole person. That is our ambition.

Can we achieve this? The dental school as it stands today is strong. We now have a strategic plan that supports our mission by building on existing strengths and undertaking specific initiatives. If our plans are sound, and if we stay true to our mission, our vision will draw us forward. And if we’re always reaching for it, that’s good. When we realize our vision in all respects, then we can worry about what’s next. I want to have that problem.

As alumni and friends, we invite you to come on this adventure, along with our students (who will join you as alumni soon enough) and faculty and staff. I will report to you on our progress, on our initiatives and on ways you can support this effort. For now, I’ll ask you to do just this—imagine where we can go.

Michael Glick, DMD
ON THE COVER:
Photos of Jeremiah Lowney, Certificate in Orthodontics ’66, MS ’67, that span 30 years of service in Haiti.

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News from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

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University at Buffalo The State University of New York

Publication of UB Dentist is made possible by the generous support of the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association.
Nine programs earn accreditation
At its February meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) granted the accreditation status of approval without reporting requirements to seven SDM programs: advanced education in general dentistry, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics and prosthodontics. Two programs, the predoctoral dentistry program and the general practice residency program, were given the status of approval with reporting requirements. These two programs have until January 2013 and August 2012, respectively, to report on progress made in implementing the few remaining recommendations received in order to achieve full compliance with CODA standards. Both programs are well under way in implementing changes to bring them into full compliance. The oral and maxillofacial surgery program is in the midst of completing its self-study in preparation for a site visit later this year. Calling the results “excellent,” Dean Michael Glick extended congratulations and a “thank you” to all involved in the accreditation process.

ASDA honors, responsibilities for students
SDM and several students earned recognition at the annual sessions of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) in Anaheim, Calif. The school won an honorable mention for increasing ethical awareness for creation of a nationally recognized Student Professionalism and Ethics Club. Catie Adamson, ’12, was honored as District 2 delegate of the year and Tim Calnon, ’13, was elected a District 2 trustee and will serve on two national ASDA councils. Rick Andolina, ’13, earned one of four ASDA member-at-large positions and will serve on the National Leadership Task Force. Catie Adamson is serving as chair of the Council on Professional Issues and on the ASDA Strategic Plan Oversight Committee.

15th edition talent show
Students, faculty and staff showcased their diverse and unexpected nondental talents at the school’s 15th annual talent show on Jan. 21 in UB’s Center for the Arts. The show is sponsored by SDM with support from the Alan Gross Student Resources Fund. Highlights of the evening included a production number by the Class of 2012 Spicy Masalas (pictured); a piano medley by Matt Valerio, ’14; a demonstration of yo-yo expertise by faculty member Joe Rumfola, ’02; and a performance of “Somewhere/My Heart Will Go On” by staff member Jill Uebelhoer. Faculty member Patrick Anders, ’86, GPR Certificate ’87, served as master of ceremonies for the 11-act show. Next year’s talent show is scheduled tentatively for Jan. 20.
Turning kids into dental ambassadors

Each February, as part of the ADA’s National Children’s Dental Health Month, SDM brings Smile Education Day to more than 15,000 third- and fifth-graders in Western New York schools. On Feb. 16, more than 300 dental students and the school’s dental hygienists, fanned out across the region to teach about the importance of good oral hygiene. The instructional focus was on proper brushing and flossing (every child gets a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss), structure and function of teeth, healthy nutrition and the age-specific science behind all of it. Fifth-graders also were introduced to smoking cessation.

“The importance of this goes beyond the classroom,” says M. Dian Chin-Kit-Wells, clinical assistant professor in pediatric and community dentistry who coordinates the effort. “We want the kids to go home to their families and act as little dental ambassadors who practice and teach what they’ve learned.”

Baier named UB Distinguished Professor

Robert Baier, professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, has been named a UB Distinguished Professor. The designation honors professors who have achieved national or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within their field through significant contributions to the research/scholarly literature or through artistic performance or achievement in the fine arts. A UB faculty member since 1978, Baier is executive director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Industry/University Cooperative Research Center in Biosurfaces at UB, as well as director of UB’s Biomaterials Graduate Program. An expert in biomaterials and surface sciences, he also holds appointments in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, UB’s Biomedical Engineering Program and Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Baier’s work has impacted greatly on the practice of medicine and dentistry, including cardiovascular implants, dental implants and ophthalmologic care. He has conducted more than 100 research trials, which have produced numerous publications. He has received more than 20 national and international awards and honors, and served on more than 25 editorial boards and specialty panels, as well as numerous university committees.

AADR Buffalo section holds research meeting

Representatives from three SDM departments and Ivoclar-Vivadent Inc. presented ongoing research when the Buffalo section of the American Association for Dental Research held its semi-annual research meeting on Nov. 19, 2010. Faculty discussing research included Frank Scannapieco, PhD ’91, professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology; Willard D. McCall, professor and chair of the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences; Carlos Munoz-Viveros, professor and chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry; and Sibel Antonson, clinical associate professor of restorative dentistry and director of professional services with Ivoclar-Vivadent. The meeting concluded with a social hour sponsored by Ivoclar-Vivadent.
Orthodontist Jeremiah J. Lowney Jr. took his first trip to Haiti in 1982 with no idea what to expect. He went as part of a 10-person contingent organized and led by the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Conn., who had been encouraged by Pope John Paul II to explore how people from the wealthiest part of the United States might help those who lived in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Lowney left Haiti inspired to address the overwhelming needs he encountered there.
Nearly 30 years later, Lowney, who received his Certificate in Orthodontics and MS from UB in 1966 and 1967, respectively, is still addressing the needs of thousands of Haitians as founder and volunteer president of the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF).

HHF has provided health care, education, housing and nutritional services to more than 200,000 Haitians in Jérémie, a rural city in southwestern Haiti, and 105 rural mountain villages that surround it. After the earthquake in Port-au-Prince in January 2010, its outreach expanded to include more than 100,000 refugees who fled the devastation and chaos that remains in Port-au-Prince.

Lowney has always had a penchant for outreach. He came from a very poor background, the oldest in a family of 11 children supported by his father, a church janitor. “My siblings and I depended upon scholarships and being able to work to pay for college, so I think we all developed an empathy for others who are in need,” he explains.

Lowney, who earned his DDS degree from Temple University, came to UB in 1964 after serving three years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps. He interviewed with John Cunat, ‘52, orthodontics chair at the time, who accepted him into the program and, over time, established a life-long friendship with him.

“I had an excellent education,” Lowney recalls. “UB prepared me to go out and practice. One of the nice things was that most of the faculty at the time were retired Navy (personnel). As an ex-Navy dentist, I felt right at home.”

At the time that Lowney answered the call to venture to Haiti, he also was finishing his second bout with cancer. Although physically weak, he was determined to follow through on his commitment.

“I figured God spared me for a reason,” he recalls. “I started working with Mother Teresa’s sisters in Port-au-Prince, in the yard of the clinic under a tree. I extracted about 300 diseased and infected teeth each day, and maintained that pace all week. I was so taken with the poverty the people lived in, the extreme commitment of the sisters and the fulfillment I was getting working among the poor that I returned to Haiti three months later and have returned there at least four times per year for the past 29 years.”

Lowney’s work in Haiti took a major turn after three years of serving in Port-au-Prince when Mother Teresa personally requested he join four of her sisters in Jérémie. “I went there thinking I could still only offer the people dentistry. However, I found myself in an area with 600,000 people and no health care except for a small, ill-equipped, government-run hospital,” he says. “It was clear the area needed an outpatient medical facility.”

With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Lowney established the first public health program in Jérémie in 1985. The agency today still supports a small part of the program, which is operated by the foundation.

“We started in 25 villages surrounding Jérémie with a population of around 40,000 people. We offered children’s immunizations in a regular public health program,” Lowney recalls. “At the same time, I was building the outpatient facility in Jérémie. My wife and I put up our money to purchase the land and start construction. As we spread the word about our mission, other people learned what we were doing and wanted to share their time, talents and treasure. Many generous donations started coming in from many different people who wanted to help.”

The relief effort mushroomed over time. The outpatient facility in Jérémie became a full-service medical building with a walk-in clinic, optometry services, dental services, the area’s only sonogram and pharmacy, and the only access to diabetes detection and treatment for 100 miles.

The HHF also built a clinic called the Center of Hope designed to care for women in high-risk pregnancies and children suffering from severe malnutrition.
only facility of its kind in Haiti, it has greatly reduced maternal and infant mortality in Jérémie.

When Lowney first arrived in Jérémie, the major causes of death for children were bacterial pneumonia and diarrhea. Deaths caused by bacterial pneumonia have since been reduced by 50 percent, and diarrheal fatalities have virtually been eliminated.

The HHF—now the area’s largest employer with 175 employees, most of whom are Haitian—also addresses other aspects of life. Because many of the people, especially in the villages, reside in hovels made of cardboard, thatch and banana leaves, a “Happy House” program was developed to build clean, cement-block homes for the most desperate families.

The HHF also built a school in Jérémie that now educates more than 1,200 children each year, providing students with tuition, free uniforms, books and supplies and, most importantly, a hot daily meal. Another 1,000 children go to other area schools with the support of the Save a Family program started by Lowney’s wife, Virginia.

Five food manufacturing plants were built to help sustain Haitians by producing a high-protein cereal of ground rice, beans and corn called akamil, which is distributed from factories each serving about 20 mountain villages.

Another HHF program has distributed more than 2,000 pregnant goats to Haitian families, giving each an opportunity to improve their quality of life.

Gregory Abbott, ’74, who has anesthesia/IV sedation training, participated in two volunteer missions in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake that devastated the nation’s capital and largest city, Port-au-Prince.

Abbott was part of a first-responder team sponsored by Florida-based Hearts Afire that was in Haiti for 10 days in early February 2010. The nine-member team also included his wife, Elizabeth, a labor-and-delivery nurse with training as an anesthesia assistant.

The team worked in Petit-Goâve, a coastal town 40 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince. It assumed coverage of daytime surgical emergencies at Notre Dame Hospital, which had mostly been destroyed by the quake. At night, it covered surgical emergencies and labor-and-delivery cases at the nearby Wesleyan Field Hospital.

Noting that he and two orthopaedic surgeons on the team “had substantial field-hospital experience,” Abbott writes: “All of those experiences paled in the reality of immediate post-quake Haiti. Many people were beyond helping. Amputations were, just before our arrival, performed without or with limited anesthesia and post-operative pain management was nearly non-existent and limited mainly to ibuprofen and acetaminophen.”

He adds: “Anesthesia as commonly practiced is impossible in a disaster. We can, though, bring to use other combination techniques and have a good, workable anesthesia system.”

Abbott reports that the team utilized a technique combining nerve blocks and intravenous sedation that was “rapid, effective, as safe as possible and reproducible. This protocol required minimal support and was readily learnable by most doctors and nurses.”

During the mission, the team recorded 26 deliveries and performed 78 surgeries. Abbott and his wife were part of a team that visited the area again in the summer of 2010 and performed some 90 surgeries.

Abbott lives in Amherst, N.Y., and practices general dentistry in Amherst and nearby West Seneca.

Abbott next to wife Virginia with volunteers and patients at outpatient clinic in Jérémie.
in 2010, Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance (BOCA), a student-run outreach organization of the School of Dental Medicine, continued to provide free dental care to underserved individuals in the United States and abroad.

Supervised by SDM faculty, 62 student dentists provided restorative, periodontal, endodontic and oral surgical treatment to approximately 2,200 people in Appalachia, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Virginia and Western New York.

The orthodontist, who turns 75 in June, says that he and his wife are determined to continue their mission. “We have our daughter, Marilyn (executive director of the HHF), and a nice staff, so when we go to our heavenly reward, they’ll be here taking care of Haiti.”

Lowney is slated to receive humanitarian awards for his efforts later this year from both the American Dental Association and the American Association of Orthodontists. He is honored, but at the same time always appreciates a monetary contribution to the HHF, which operates very frugally with an overhead of less than 8 percent of every dollar donated. “I always hope a cash stipend goes with the awards. I’m compelled to continue collecting money as long as the need exists.”

Even in the wake of a dire 2010, which saw an earthquake, a hurricane and an outbreak of cholera each take a toll on the area, the massive infrastructure that Lowney put into place continues to meet such adversity, bringing support and hope to an impoverished land, with the help of volunteers and donors from across the country.

For those interested in contributing to the cause, contact the HHF at 97 Sherman St., Norwich, CT 06360, or at www.HaitianHealthFoundation.org.

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Supervised by SDM faculty, 62 student dentists provided restorative, periodontal, endodontic and oral surgical treatment to approximately 2,200 people in Appalachia, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Virginia and Western New York.

With the annual outreach to Tampico, Mexico, canceled again due to drug-cartel violence in that city, BOCA visited the Dominican Republic twice. To view a video of BOCA’s last visit to Tampico, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16lNUmrMrXs. The video was shot by Phanith Lim, AEGD Cert. ’06.

Since BOCA’s inception in 2003, more than 335 student dentists and 30 residents have participated in the program, along with more than 54 supervising faculty members. The outreach strives to provide the dental care most needed by a particular community. Primarily, this includes extractions and restorative dental work, as well as endodontic treatment, oral prophylaxis, sealants, topical fluoride applications and oral hygiene education. Current tallies indicate that we have seen 12,150 patients on outreach trips. We have performed 7,756 dental restorations and extracted 10,823 teeth. This is the equivalent of more than $3,235,499 in free dental care.

This March, 51 students and faculty provided care in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Tonga in the South Pacific. BOCA thanks all faculty and SDM alumni for their assistance and support. It is truly appreciated.

—JUDE FABIANO

BOCA: MORE THAN $3.2 MILLION IN FREE DENTAL CARE SINCE 2003

Carlos Munoz-Viveros, Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, and Shirley Triplet Examined, Medically Screened and Triaged More Than 500 Patients During an Outreach in the Dominican Republic.
IT TAKES A Village

TENTH ANNUAL GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

By Sara Saldi
Give Kids a Smile Day isn’t just about free dental checkups for children from the Buffalo Public Schools and Bethel Head Start who have limited or no access to dental care. It really is about the smiles—creating a welcoming and fun environment so that kids feel good about visiting the dentist and develop lifelong habits to promote excellent oral health.

That happy atmosphere doesn’t happen by accident. It is a result of the hard work and generosity of many dedicated individuals and organizations. Here are just a few of the key participants.

M. DIAN CHINKIT-WELLS

M. Dian ChinKit-Wells, ’94, clinical assistant professor, pediatric and community dentistry.

As director of the Community Dentistry Programs, “Dr. Dian,” as she is known, oversees the planning and implementation of GKSD. Wells says it is an honor to coordinate a nationally recognized day of free dentistry for children, especially when there is such a need in Western New York.
EIGHTH DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

Eighth District Dental Society, whose membership is dentists from the eight counties of Western New York. Members annually donate time and staff to help on GKSD in and out of the clinics.

THE UB SMILE TEAM

The UB Smile Team works to coordinate the children, the clinic time, the volunteers, the refreshments and the award-winning Teddy Bear clinic.

EOC AND ECC STUDENTS

Dental assistant and dental hygiene students from UB’s Educational Opportunity Center and Erie Community College assist UB dentists and dental students, and provide cleaning and dental education.
Since 1997, SDM has operated a mobile dental unit (MDU) providing free dental screenings and care for uninsured children and those with Medicaid coverage at 21 elementary schools and other sites in rural Chautauqua County.

In that time, services have been provided to children who have logged more than 38,000 visits. Eighty-five percent of the children seen—an annual average of 3,100—are Medicaid patients in third and fifth grades.

The project team has been successful in sustaining the operation of the MDU with little additional financial assistance. However, costs are rising with an aging vehicle and we are looking for assistance to replace the van.

Preventive interventions, restorative treatment, referrals for acute cases and educational services have been delivered to children in a dental health professional shortage area where few other dentists accept Medicaid patients.

Eighty percent of patients identify the MDU as their “dentist.”
James Schlesinger, DDS ’79, MD ’86

James Schlesinger, DDS ’79, MD ’86, practices emergency medicine in Fredericksburg, Va. When he makes mission trips to Haiti, he practices dentistry. He recently made a generous gift to BOCA (Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance).

WHY I GIVE TO BOCA

When I reached the time in my life when I could make a major gift to the School of Dental Medicine—not a huge gift, but large for me—I directed it to BOCA. You could say I did that for selfish reasons.

I’ve been making mission trips to Haiti and to Peru since 1994. When I’m in Haiti, I do dentistry when I can; when we have no electricity, I do medicine. Most people don’t realize, although dentists will understand this, that in a poor country without dental care, a visiting dentist has a much greater impact than a visiting physician, except in extreme cases like broken bones. Physicians I travel with always remark on that. I know it’s true because I do both.

Something else I’ve learned from taking colleagues on these trips: Once you go, you go again. I’m not sure I know anyone who doesn’t go back. So, if I can help BOCA get more students to volunteer their time and skills on trips to places that desperately need them, I know that means more dentists will be making more trips in the future. That’s the selfish part for me: I’m recruiting for the needy places.

So I’ll take this opportunity to recruit you, too. Picture yourself seeing one patient after another with no office, no forms, not a single thing that’s extraneous to that case at that moment. To be followed by another and then another. You work all day doing only what you can do. The patients might walk 10 miles to see you and wait all day, and if the day ends before you can see some, they’ll say that’s OK and walk back again the next day. At the end of each day, you’re exhausted and exhilarated.

I once removed a supernumerary tooth from a little girl that was preventing her from biting and chewing; she was ostracized by other kids because her condition made her strange to them. I changed that child’s life by making that particular trip. It could have been another dentist—there was nothing special about what I did—but it had to be a dentist.

We dentists and physicians are fortunate people. We make good livings, we have interesting careers, we have nice positions in society; we don’t ever worry about food on the table or a roof over our heads. When you travel to a place where people worry about finding their next drink of water, where if they get sick, they’ll either get better or die where they lie, it will change your life.

There was no BOCA when I was in dental school. When I was a fourth-year dental student, I had the chance to visit Guy’s Hospital in London. That was the extent of my experience of the wider world.

If our gifts to BOCA—mine and yours—make it possible for more dental students to travel to places in the world where they can make a difference right away, while they’re still in school, that plants seeds that will yield good beyond any amount we can give. That’s why I give to BOCA. I hope you will, too.
How would you define visibility?
For me, from a marketing perspective, visibility is a degree of exposure or an indicator of the strength of your brand.

How does that apply to the dental school?
First, let me explain what I mean when I use the term brand.

All great brands have four things in common: they deliver the message clearly, confirm your credibility, connect with your audience emotionally and create user loyalty.

Our goal is to continue to build on the already outstanding reputation of SDM by creating communications that convey a positive and consistent public image that establishes us as the standard of excellence for our peers.

Achieving our mission and vision helps to improve and strengthen the school’s identity/brand. It also will help to recruit the very best students, faculty and staff while bolstering the SDM’s standing and assisting with the attainment of its goal for additional public and private investment.

What should people know that they don’t already know about the school?
Sometimes our most obvious qualities get overlooked.

Many may not know that the UB dental school plays a unique role in the community by providing more than 150,000 patient visits annually to individuals within a 150-mile radius, an area that includes seven counties, two states and two countries.

We want our communities to understand that UB is known for its medicine-oriented approach to dental care. Patients who are treated by our students and faculty are viewed holistically so that their general health is always considered as part of their dental checkup.

And finally, if you’re seeing a general dentist, a periodontist or an orthodontist in Western New York, chances are excellent that he or she was educated at UB. We want our Buffalo-Niagara communities to make the connection that having a high-quality dental school, like UB, is a terrific benefit that not all regions can claim.

How do you get the word out locally, nationally, internationally?
We get the word out by focusing on promoting what we do best: providing care to our communities, and presenting and publishing our extensive research.

When Western New Yorkers found themselves without dental care because of the recent closing of Allcare Dental, UB and the Eighth District Dental Society set up call centers to refer patients to new dental homes.

Every year we hold Give Kids a Smile Day and provide free dental checkups to more than 500 children in need from the Buffalo Public Schools and Bethel Head Start who have little or no access to dental care.

Nationally, our dental, periodontal and oral biology research is recognized through the ADA, the presentations and poster sessions at academic and professional conferences and our articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Internationally, we have dental care programs, such as BOCA and mentoring programs, to recruit international dentists to participate in our Individualized Advanced Education Program.

As part of the strategic plan, “blow our own horns” is listed. What does that mean?
I think we do everything well except for acknowledging to ourselves how much we accomplish year in and year out. We’re taking more time to inform the media when we reach out to the community and we’re planning to honor our individual achievements more.

What part can dental school alumni play in raising visibility?
UB Dentist is a terrific communication that helps us get the word out—that’s a big contribution for the dental school. I think the alumni already play a huge role in raising awareness and visibility for the school. Our educational mission wouldn’t be possible without them.
Research is integral to the School of Dental Medicine’s mission, goals and objectives. Faculty and student research takes place at all levels, from the basic research of molecular and cellular biology and genomics, to understanding underlying epidemiologic factors of oral cancer.

The scope of the dental school’s applied and clinical research includes studies of new tissue engineering scaffolds and artificial saliva, as well as evaluation of new dental care products, such as mouth rinses and denture liners.

In addition to funding from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, school researchers are supported by other branches of the NIH, industry and private foundations.

This year the UB dental school had 39 abstracts accepted for presentation by the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). In this issue, we are featuring an overview of UB studies and trends in two of the areas represented by those abstracts: dental materials and salivary research.

**Dental materials research**

“When a company says that five out of seven patients have more comfort using a particular dental product, we are among those who have verified that claim through our research,” says UB’s Carlos Munoz-Viveros, professor and chair of restorative dentistry.

Munoz-Viveros and Marc Campillo-Funollet, senior research scientist and clinical instructor in restorative dentistry, conduct research on dental materials, but in completely different ways.

Munoz-Viveros, as a dentist and head of the department, is primarily a research clinician who oversees the laboratory, as well as the clinical research of dental materials in UB dental clinic patients. Campillo-Funollet is an analytical chemist who manages and conducts all of his research within the dental materials laboratory.

Dental materials research often is used to validate the marketing claims of manufacturers that dental products, such as composites, bonding products, toothpastes, denture adhesives and ceramics, have been proven safe for use in the laboratory and in patients.

Some of the companies that collaborate with UB for dental materials research are Ivoclar Vivadent, Kerr Corp., 3M, Dentsply, Church & Dwight, and GSK.

Munoz-Viveros explains: “As researchers, we want to give practicing dentists the best products for their patients.”

Currently, approximately 50 percent of the physical, chemical and mechanical characterization tests carried on in
Saliva research

Sjögren’s Syndrome (SS), an autoimmune disease that results in decreased tears and saliva, can exist on its own or can be associated with other diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. The dry eyes and mouth associated with the disease can be extremely painful. Needless to say, SS represents a major challenge to dental practitioners.

Scientists in UB’s Department of Oral Biology are conducting research that may help to change this.

Sjögren’s pathophysiology includes elevated levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α). Currently, no therapy can restore salivary function. Recent studies demonstrate that human and animal cells can convert a specific kind of polyunsaturated fatty acid into resolvins—highly potent anti-inflammatory agents that can control the duration and magnitude of inflammation in animal models of complex diseases.

Oral biologist Olga Baker is attempting to determine if a novel lipid mediator named Resolvin Di (RvD1) can prevent and/or resolve TNF-α and thus serve as a new therapy for treating SS.

According to Frank Scannapieco, professor and chair of oral biology, his department has a long history of achievement in biochemical salivary research—from identifying the constituents of saliva, to identification of salivary proteins and glyco-proteins and their function with the idea of producing synthetic saliva.

Asked what makes saliva a medium of choice to study, Scannapieco explains: “Saliva has almost all of the biomarkers for various diseases that blood has. But because it’s accessible without the use of an invasive procedure like venipuncture, it’s easier to collect, which may make it a preferable sample.”

Oral biology professor Libuse Bobek is conducting research on insufficiency profiling of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* essential gene mutant pool using MUC7 (a salivary peptide that UB has been working with since the 1990s) and three other cationic antimicrobial peptides to understand how these peptides can treat yeast infections. Histatin 5 (Hst 5), a peptide secreted by the salivary gland with potent antifungal activity, is being studied by Mira Edgerton, research professor in oral biology, to identify and characterize polyamine transporters involved in the translocation of Hst 5 in *Candida albicans*, the microbial agent responsible for oral candidiasis.

In addition to the above studies, UB is using metabolomics—a way of describing distinctive chemical remnants that some cellular activities leave behind—as a tool for disease characterization and biomarker discovery. Using gingival crevicular fluid and saliva, Sebastian G. Ciancio, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, chair of periodontics and endodontics, and director of the Center of Dental Studies, in conjunction with Colgate Palmolive Co., has used metabolomics to study the effect of Colgate Total®, the only FDA-approved dentifrice for the treatment of gingivitis, on the metabolic composition of saliva. The results indicated that Colgate Total® has beneficial effects against gum disease.

Scannapieco, a researcher as well as a periodontist who sees patients in the UB periodontal clinic, knows the importance of taking research from bench to chair side.

“From chronic dry mouth to thrush to gingivitis,” he notes, “salivary research at UB continues to explore saliva for its basic components and to use information from laboratory and clinical studies to further the understanding of how saliva can help clinicians fight infection and chronic diseases.”
STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

UB dental students gain hands-on research experience in many ways, including participating in their own research club, the Dental Student Research Group, and/or in the formal summer research program. Students also can participate in research through less formal channels, simply by identifying a faculty mentor with mutual research interests and satisfying their academic curiosity in their free time.

As hard as it is to imagine any dental student having free time, four of the 22 dental students who presented their research at the 2011 Student Research Day in early March took this less formal approach over the past year and completed very worthwhile and interesting projects.

In addition to the fun of networking and learning about exciting new research results, Student Research Day is an important “dress rehearsal” for students who will be presenting their work at upcoming conferences, such as the annual meetings of the International Association for Dental Research and the American Association for Dental Research.

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY HONORS

At this year’s Student Research Day, 22 dental students and 17 graduate students, postdocs and fellows presented recent research through poster presentations. Faculty judging of the poster presentations resulted in several awards. The winners, with faculty mentors’ names in parentheses, included dental students:

- Shweta Vora [Sebastiano Andreana, mentor]
  ADA Dental Students Conference on Research Award
- Gregory White [Stefan Ruhl]
  Hinman Student Research Symposium Award and Undergraduate Maryanne Mather Clinical Research Award
- Nathan Schoenly [Libuse Bobek], ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Competition Award
- Elizabeth Lozier [Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker]
  Proctor & Gamble/Crest Traveling Fellowship Award
- Jake Wilding [Robert Genco]
  James English Research Award for Predoctoral Students

Graduate students who won awards included:

- Olutayo Odusanwo [Olga Baker]
  School of Dental Medicine Award
- Chingwooen Sze [Chris Li]
  Department of Oral Biology Presentation Award
- Allen Ho [Sarah Gaffen]
  Robert J. Genco Research Award
- Supaporn Thamidalok [Stefan Ruhl]
  James English Research Award for PhD Students
- Anna Nikitkova [Frank Scannapieco]
  AADR Buffalo Section Award
- Timothy Violante [Meg Vickerman]
  James English Award for Advanced Education and/or MS Students
- Sri Myneni Venkatasatya [Ashu Sharma] and Asim Alsuwaiyan [Bing-Yan Wang]
  Graduate Maryanne Mather Clinical Research Awards
Sherri Alpert, ’90, has written a children’s book, “Cassandra Gets Her Smile Back,” to prepare children for their visits to her office in Monroe, N.Y., with a message communicating that the dentist’s office can be fun, and not scary.

The book is about a young girl who loves to smile and is proud of her pretty white teeth, but also loves to eat candy and chooses to ignore her mother’s instructions to brush her teeth. One day, Cassandra notices ugly brown spots on her teeth that she cannot make go away no matter how many times she brushes her teeth. Cassandra’s mother takes Cassandra to the dentist’s office to get her teeth fixed, but Cassandra is frightened of seeing the dentist. What will happen to Cassandra when she arrives at the dentist?

Alpert says she created the book after being unable to find “a book with a likeable main character and an appealing story that also included information about a real dental visit.”

She explains, “I have been using this story, originally in handwritten form, for almost 20 years and have also found that reading to young children gets them to settle down and relax in the dental chair.”

Joseph Gambacorta, ’93, is clearly one of the Buffalo Sabres’ greatest fans, with an unsurpassed collection of Sabres’ mementos and a vision to preserve the history of hockey in Buffalo called the Buffalo Hockey Experience and Museum (BHE+M).

His treasure trove of Sabres’ memorabilia was the basis for a special BHE+M exhibit commemorating the hockey team’s 40th anniversary on display on the second floor mezzanine in Buffalo’s HSBC Arena through the team’s 2010-11 season.

Gambacorta says the display “is our first large-scale exhibit dedicated to telling the story of the Buffalo Sabres.” Designed by Otherwiz Creative, it focuses on highlights from the Sabres’ inaugural year in 1970 to the 2008 Winter Classic. The exhibit includes a rare 1974 Tim Horton home jersey and items from the legendary Soviet Series game against Russia in 1976.

Gambacorta, who lives on Grand Island, N.Y., and practices in Snyder, N.Y., is founder of BHE+M, which is using its extensive collection of memorabilia to raise funds in conjunction with local charities and corporate sponsors to support charitable causes.

Raymond Miller

Raymond Miller, ’85, Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Dental Medicine, received the Frank Stone Distinguished Service Award from the Erie County Dental Society at its recent installation dinner. He was honored for his outstanding contributions to the dental profession in Erie County. Miller was cited as a role model for the dental profession, an inspiration to his colleagues and a mentor to younger dentists. He has demonstrated a high level of involvement in organized dentistry, as well as in the community.

Miller was deployed as a forensic dentist following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He also led the dental identification section at the Erie County Medical Examiner’s Office in the aftermath of the crash of Flight 3407 in Clarence, N.Y., in 2009. As a dental officer with the 107th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard, he was activated for service to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008.

A partner in Como Park Dental Associates in Lancaster, N.Y., he has been a part-time faculty member in the School of Dental Medicine since 1987.

If you know of an alumnus who is deserving of honor, please contact UB Dental Alumni at (800) 756-0328 ext. 2 or (716) 829-2061; fax (716) 829-3609; email ss287@buffalo.edu.
William J. Williams, ’59, enjoys keeping in touch with his dental school classmates. He is proud to have two cousins and a nephew follow in his footsteps. Two graduated from the School of Dental Medicine and one graduated from New York University. He still enjoys golf, gardening and family.

Willis (Buzz) Williamson, Certificate in Ortho ’66, MS in Ortho ’67, reports that he still keeps in touch with his former professor, John Cunat, who was chair of the orthodontics department when he was a resident. Williamson is enjoying a quiet retirement in Nicaragua. He rarely travels to the U.S. unless it is to change planes en route to another country to board a cruise ship. He enjoys cruising and recently returned from a transatlantic cruise from Lisbon to Miami.

Ralph Schmauss, ’67, is saying goodbye to private practice after 40 years in Springville, N.Y. Schmauss sold the practice to Joseph Rumfola, ’02, in 2008 and cut his work hours down to two days a week and then to just one. To compensate for Schmauss’ departure, Rumfola contacted his good friend, Rick Redmin, ’02, who now works two days a week when Rumfola teaches in the dental school.

Melvyn Nathanson, ’68, retired from active practice in 2009 when he sold his practice. Although he still does some clinical dentistry for local organizations in Boynton Beach, Fla., he also enjoys traveling. Nathanson is an avid SCUBA diver and underwater photographer. He also is a Florida Dental Board examiner and an NERB examiner.

David Grubler, ’73, retired from two careers in April 2010—the private practice of dentistry in Phoenix, Ariz., and as chief dentist for the Phoenix Air National Guard. Now it’s time to travel, boat, fish and enjoy a small town in North Carolina. “To all my classmates, I would like to hear from you! My email is dgrubler@cox.net.”

Robert E. Warner, ’81, recently was named Distinguished Alumni Award recipient by Tonawanda (N.Y.) High School. He has served as both president and vice president of the Tonawanda Board of Education. A member of several professional dental organizations, he is a lifetime member of Niagara Hose Co. Engine 3. Warner has sponsored National Little League teams and the Tonawanda Football Clinic, and has coached in the Wheatfield Blades hockey organization.

Stephen A. Chidyllo, ’82, MD, is chair of the Inservice Committee of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. He is chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, N.J.

Alfredo Aguirre, MS in Oral Sciences ’83, Certificate in Oral Pathology ’83, DDS ’01, attended the council meeting of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology in November 2011 in Chicago after being elected to a two-year term as a counselor with the AAOMP in May 2010. Aguirre is professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, director of the Advanced Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Program, and director of the OMA Oral Pathology Laboratory.

Just as Dean Michael Glick currently serves as editor of the Journal of the American Dental Association, William C. Barrett, first dean of the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry, also was editor of a dental periodical for several years. The Independent Practitioner—although based in New York City in 1881—was published and edited in Buffalo, with Barrett serving as editor from 1882-88. Additionally, a group of Buffalo dentists started their own periodical, the Dental Practitioner, of which he was editor from 1891 until his death in 1903. Barrett also authored several monographs during his professional career.

Michael Hatton, ’82, MS Oral Sciences ’86, GPR ’88, Certificate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery ’88, and his wife, Elizabeth, joined two of their sons as they were sworn into the U.S. Army in November 2010. Pvt. Michael Hatton Jr. is in full-time active uniform service. Pvt. John Hatton won an ROTC scholarship at Brockport College, training in a four-year program as an Army cadet, and will graduate as a full-time officer. Both will undergo basic training in May at Fort Jackson, S.C. An older son, Sean, previously served in the U.S. Army for six years. Hatton is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences.
Raymond A. Monin, ’39, died on Dec. 30, 2010. He was 94.


Robert James Dunning, ’52, died Jan. 5, 2011, in Port St. Lucie, Fla. He was 86 and practiced in Amsterdam, N.Y., for 58 years.

Richard W. Trolley, ’54, died Nov. 8, 2010. He practiced for 53 years, the past 15 with his son, Douglas, ’92, PM-CRT ’93, in Trolley Dental Care P.C. in Pittsford, N.Y. President of Delta Sigma Delta dental fraternity as a student, he was the dental consultant for The Friendly Home in Rochester for more than 40 years.


Kevin Deeney, ’87, died Dec. 19, 2010 in Henderson, N.Y. He was in private practice in Watertown and Gouverneur since 1991.
MAY 4
CE CAFÉ LECTURE SERIES
Tobacco Use Counseling: Role of the Dental Team in Helping Smokers Quit
Othman Shibly
$65 (Buffalo) distance learning surcharge applies (3 CE hrs)

MAY 5-7
Advanced Surgical Implants... Hands-On Workshop
Sebastiano Andreana, Michael Hatton and Restorative Dentistry faculty
Register early...limited enrollment
UB dental alumni $1,195, non-member dentist $1,295, team member with dentist Saturday only $95 (16 CE hrs)

MAY 6
Does Dental Care Prevent Chronic Systemic Disease?
Frank Scannapieco
$75 (3 CE hrs)

MAY 6-7
DANB Exam Review... Warsaw, N.Y.
Two-day comprehensive review; prepare to take national dental assisting board exam.
$275 (12 CE hrs)

MAY 13
ANNUAL UB DENTAL HYGIENE SYMPOSIUM
Mission Possible... Best Hygiene
$135/RDH

MAY 13
Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy Techniques and Procedures
Patricia A. Worcester, RDH, BS

MAY 19-20
Individualized Endodontics Participation and Lecture Workshop ["Mano a Mano"]
Limited to 8 participants
$995 Register by April 29 and save $50 on tuition (14 CE hrs)

MAY 20
Conservative (and Controversial) Caries Management: From Prevention to Preparation and from Remineralization to Restoration
John Maggio
UB dental alumni $225, non-member dentist $265, team member $125 (6 CE hrs)

MAY 25
CE CAFÉ LECTURE SERIES
“Oh No, You Didn’t!” Why Pts Keep Breaking Restorations
John Maggio

JUNE 1
CE CAFÉ LECTURE SERIES
10 Myths about Endodontics
Gene Pantera
$65 (Buffalo) distance learning surcharge applies (3 CE hrs)

JUNE 2-3
Individualized Endodontics Participation and Lecture Workshop ["Mano a Mano"]
Limited to 8 participants
$995 Register by May 1 and save $50 off tuition (14 CE hrs)

JUNE 7
Dental Office Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice...Hands-on Preparation Workshop
UB’s Behling Simulation Center
Michael Hatton
$195 (4 CE hrs)

JUNE 17
DANB Exam Review... Warsaw, N.Y.
Two-day comprehensive review; prepare to take national dental assisting board exam.
$275 (12 CE hrs)

JUNE 21-22
Advanced Surgical Implants... Hands-On Workshop
Sebastiano Andreana, Michael Hatton and Restorative Dentistry faculty
Register early...limited enrollment
UB dental alumni $1,195, non-member dentist $1,295, team member with dentist Saturday only $95 (16 CE hrs)

JUNE 23
Suffolk County Dental Society Course
Suffolk County Dental Society

SEPT. 15-17
Advanced Prosthodontic Implant Dentistry...Hands-on Workshop
Sebastiano Andreana, Michael Hatton and Restorative Dentistry faculty
Register early...limited enrollment
UB dental alumni $1,195, non-member dentist $1,295, team member with dentist Saturday only $95 (16 CE hrs)

SEPT. 30
Exploring Sleep Medicine in Dentistry and New Diagnostic Tools and Treatment Protocols in Perio Management
Beth Thompson, Florida Institute of Orofacial Myology, LLC
UB dental alumni $225, non-member $265, team member $125 (6 CE hrs)

SEPT. 30 AND OCT 1.
Adding MBA to DDS; UB Micro MBA Business Strategies for Success
This program fosters an understanding of the most important functions of business and management, and builds a foundation for making sound business judgments and decisions, specific to dental practice.
Tuition $1,295, in conjunction with the Micro-MBA Online Certificate Program through the UB School of Management, $795

Tuition $1,295, in conjunction with the Micro-MBA Online Certificate Program through the UB School of Management, $795
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCT. 7
Special guest faculty Giorgio Fiorelli, professor, University of Siena, Italy
With support from the John Cunat Educational Fund and UB Department of Orthodontics
Recognition dinner on Oct. 6 for Cunat Fund donors and guests. Watch your mail for details.

NOV. 2-4
Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting sponsored by UB Dental Alumni Association
Details at ubdentalalumni.com
To register, call 716-829-2061

TO REGISTER FOR COURSES, please mail a check payable to UB Foundation to UB/CDE, 327 Squire Hall, Buffalo, NY 14214-8006. You also can register by phone with a credit card by calling 716-829-2320 or 800-756-0328, or online at www.BuffaloCE.org

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

32ND ANNUAL

CHAUTAUQUA
DENTAL CONGRESS

JUNE 29 - JULY 1, 2011

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
RICHARD HALL
Minor Oral Surgery in General Dental Practice...A Review

THURSDAY, JUNE 30
YOLY GONZALEZ
Temporomandibular Disorders: Evidence-Based Diagnosis & Rational Management

FRIDAY, JULY 1
JOHN MAGGIO
Conservative & (Controversial) Caries Management

TUITION
Dentist: $195/3 days or $85/day
Team member: $95/3 days or $45/day

For more information call 716-829-2320 or visit www.BuffaloCE.org

CONGRESS DETAILS:
Chautauqua Institution, near Jamestown, N.Y.
8 a.m. coffee & juice, Hall of Christ; lectures convene at 9 a.m.
Welcome Reception in Athenaeum Hotel Parlor, 5:30 p.m., Thursday
12 CE hrs avail ADA/CERP

The University at Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine, is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. UB CDE designates these activities for continuing education credits.
The University at Buffalo is a premier public research university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. The School of Dental Medicine is one of 12 schools that make UB New York's leading public center for graduate and professional education and one of five schools that constitute UB's Academic Health Center.

The 8th District Dental Society & UB School of Dental Medicine Present

The Lower Lakes Spring Meeting

ADAM'S MARK HOTEL, BUFFALO, NEW YORK  MAY 12-13, 2011

Thursday, May 12
5 P.M.
Welcome mingle, cash bar, light hors d'oeuvres. All registrants welcome!
6-9 P.M.
CDE LECTURE PROGRAM
Is everyone smiling but you?
How to create a more pleasurable, profitable practice
David Rice, DDS ’94
Private Practice, East Amherst, N.Y.

Friday, May 13
8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.
CDE LECTURE PROGRAM
Management of the root-form implant patient: start to finish
Diagnosis, treatment planning, medical management, peri-operative pharmacology, restoration, complication management and maintenance (lunch provided)
James L. Rutkowski, DMD, PhD
Private Practice, Clarion, Pa.
Eighth District business meeting convenes prior to lunch Friday in conference dining room.

TUITION
BOTH DAYS (9 CE HRS)
$275  Dentist
$145  Team member
FRIDAY ONLY (6 CREDIT HRS)
$245  Dentist
$135  Team member
THURSDAY EVENING ONLY
(3 CREDIT HRS)
$125  Dentist
$95   Team member

REGISTRATION INFORMATION  Call (716) 829-2061 or (716) 829-2320 or www.BuffaloCE.org

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