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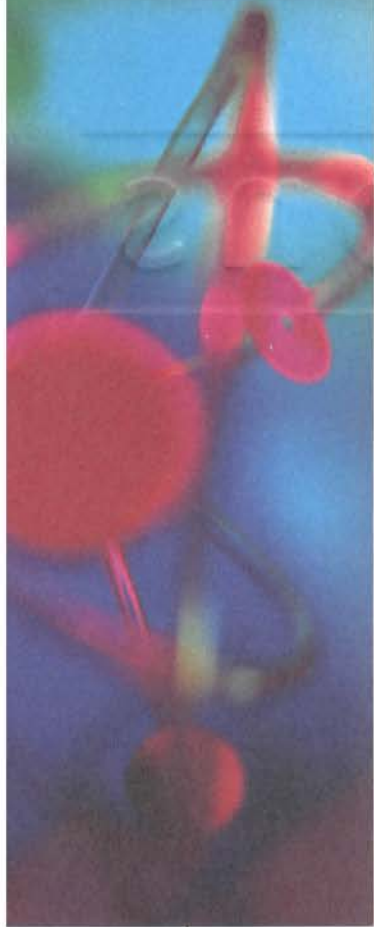
Boston University

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

impressions

SPRING 1999

focus on research



Basic scientific research is the foundation for all significant progress in biology and medicine. Today, the major challenge in oral health research is to decipher the genetic, molecular, and biochemical causes of oral health disorders. Our global economy and increasingly complex sociodemographics create fresh imperatives and opportunities for investigating these causes of disease and their possible interrelations with other systemic dysfunctions. Research allows us to find new tools to diagnose, prevent, and cure disease. To meet the challenge of discovery and to remain competitive as we enter the twenty-first century, BUSDM has expanded its research mission.

The school's Departments of Oral Biology and Periodontology, Molecular and Cell Biology, Restorative Sciences and Biomaterials, and Health Policy and Health Services Research—as well as our Clinical Research Center—have raised the caliber of science at BUSDM. By collaborating and cooperating with investigators from Boston Medical Center and Boston University, BUSDM's researchers have forged new links with a diverse pool of scientists, thus furthering our commitment to training a new generation of biomedical scientists.

During the past decade, we have successfully broadened our research mission. The amount of sponsored research has increased (see the charts on page 2), and last year the school ranked fourth among Boston University's 15 schools and colleges and fourteenth among the nation's 55 dental schools in receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health. We also ranked first among the dental schools that do not have separate departments of basic science instruction.

We've set some exciting goals for the next five years, including:

- * increasing the level of sponsored research to \$10 million;
- * ranking in the top five of the nation's dental schools for NIH-sponsored research grants awarded; and
- * improving our current position for awards within Boston University's schools, colleges, and institutes.

Our research initiatives support our mission of producing graduates who will provide excellent general and specialty dental care. Because biology will play a preeminent role in the nature of future medical and dental treatment, we must give our students a meaningful, applicable science education and a practical knowledge of general medicine. The changing demographics of our country require our graduates to have experience with a broader health care system. By giving our students an education that goes beyond the walls of the school, BUSDM is preparing the scientists of tomorrow for the research challenges of the future.

SPENCER N. FRANKL, DDS, MSD
Professor and Dean

in this issue

Impressions

A publication for the alumni and friends of Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine

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A representation of a molecule, the building block of all life.

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At BUSDM, imagination is abundant. From the the Center for Advanced Biomedical Research to 801 Albany Street, from 100 East Newton Street to the Robinson Building, researchers at the school strive to answer fundamental questions about biochemistry, molecular biology, and epidemiology that relate to oral health.

By definition, research seeks answers to the unknown. Only through answers can progress be made and new questions formed. Imaginative hypotheses—whether proven true or not—can lead a researcher down unexpected paths. Serendipitous discovery combined with methodical analysis results in exciting breakthroughs.

All science is intertwined. Staying abreast of others' work is crucial; fertile ground for discovery can be found only when communication channels are open. At BUSDM, where researchers work both independently and together, scientists share an environment ripe with cooperation.

BUSDM is at the forefront of a new trend: collaborative investigations. Progressive institutions believe this approach makes sense when the interests of researchers overlap. Scientific inquiry can only benefit when investigators work together on grants and projects.

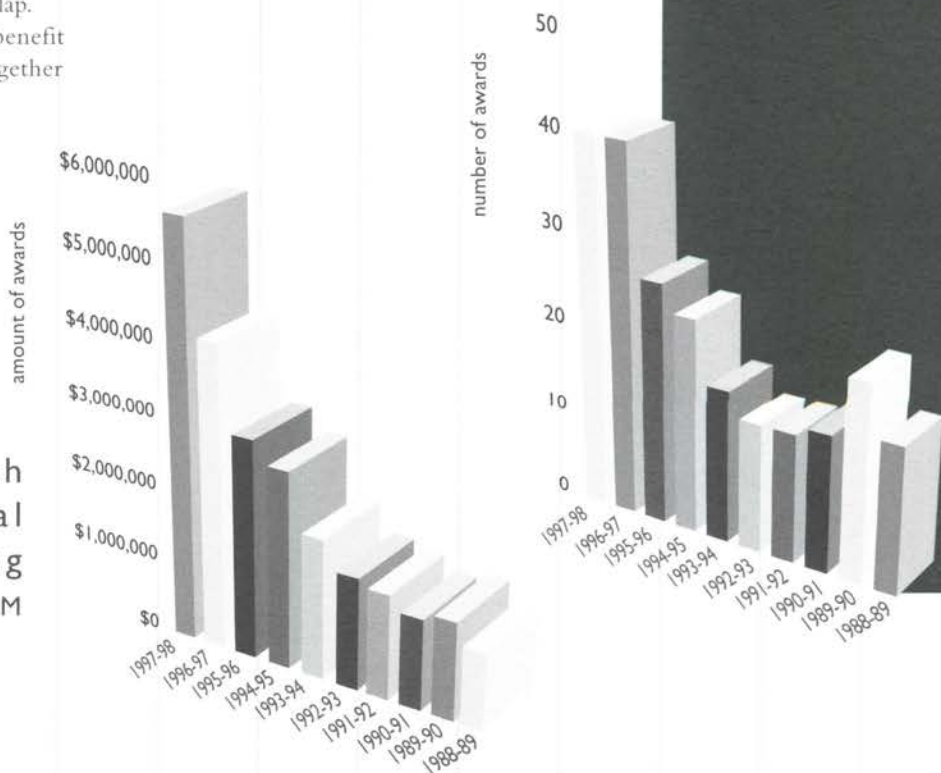
This collaboration extends to our educational community, where academics and achievers share their knowledge and common thirst for discovery in our classrooms. And in our neighborhoods, too, we educate people about health risks we discovered through research.

It is no longer a novelty for dental schools to have active research departments; it is a requirement. Only by finding the basic causes of oral health disorders can we offer our patients improved outcomes and oral health. With its strong and growing commitment to basic and applied research, BUSDM makes it possible for researchers to follow their ideas, wherever they may lead.

In this section we profile just some of the individuals who comprise the school's research community. Their contributions are many and varied. All these scientists offer their unique perspectives and imaginations in their quest for knowledge.



Growth in extramural research funding at BUSDM



1979 Department of Oral Biology formed

Every great

1981 Department of Biomaterials formed

advance in science

1988 Department of Periodontology & Oral Biology combined

has issued from a new

1996 Health Policy and Health Services Research formed

audacity of imagination.

1996 Clinical Research Center launched

— John Dewey

1997 Departments of Restorative Sciences and Biomaterials merged

1998 Department of Molecular and Cell Biology formed



Dr. Frank Oppenheim

Parsing nature's eloquent design

"I've always felt a great affinity for biochemistry, because biochemistry seems to explain the process of life," says Dr. Frank Oppenheim, chairperson of BUSDM's Department of Oral Biology and Periodontology. "When I was studying, I was fascinated with the new discoveries deciphering the structure of double-stranded DNA—they seemed to explain how protein expression is controlled at the gene level. From this idea, I gained a strong belief that diseases are not mysterious events but have a molecular basis."

Oppenheim says it is crucial to gain an understanding of the basic processes of disease. "I feel that to be a physician, the best way to help people is truly to understand how disease develops, to learn what the steps are that lead to disease," he says. "If we can find agents to interfere with these steps, we would truly be reversing the patient from a disease situation to a healthy situation."

At BUSDM, Oppenheim found fertile ground for exploring his interests in the processes that lead to disease states. His research focuses on host defense, with particular reference to the oral cavity. "I'm very interested in the fact that the oral environment has many protective functions," says Oppenheim. "If salivary glands are not functioning anymore," he continues, "someone will have rampant caries, gingivitis, and periodontitis."

For several years Oppenheim has been studying the proteins that protect our teeth. Some of the proteins he is researching enable the calcium and phosphate in saliva to remain in solution. This ability is crucial in allowing tooth enamel to repair itself. Oppenheim is also investigating a group of proteins unique to saliva known as histatins. These proteins have antimicrobial effects, particularly against infections such as oral candidiasis that occur in patients with compromised immune systems (such as people with AIDS, infants, and the elderly). Oppenheim's work on salivary proteins has led to several patents and the formation of a biotechnology company.

By unraveling nature's intricate methods of protecting us from disease, Oppenheim hopes to find more ways to reverse the processes leading to illness. This, he says, will "allow us to exploit some of the defense mechanisms nature has engineered, which will result in effective treatments without negative side effects."

Dr. Carlos Hirschberg

"Academically, we're establishing new horizons."

In July 1998, BUSDM established the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology to address one of the major challenges of dentistry today: deciphering the molecular and genetic bases of oral health disorders. Dr. Carlos Hirschberg, who chairs the new department, was recruited to head up this new venture.

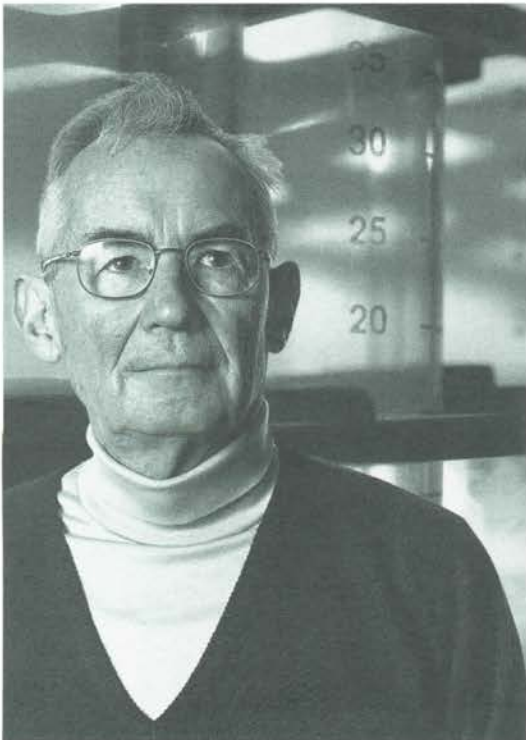
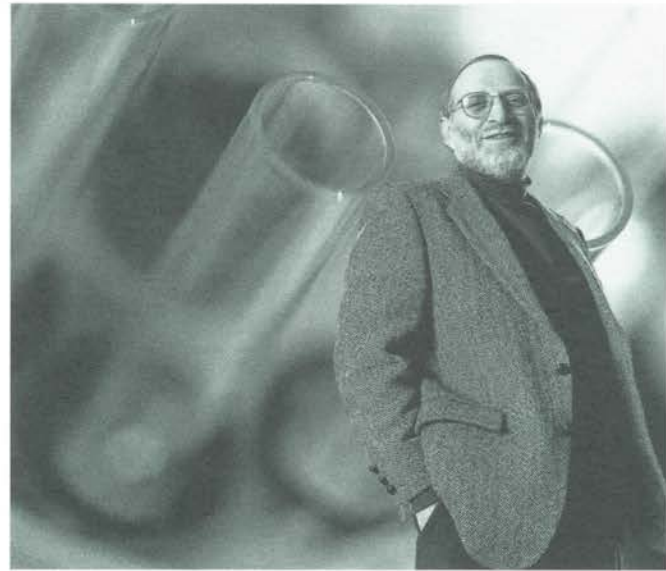
"We were offered an opportunity to start a brand new department. That's very exciting for scientists! Dean Frankl approached us about expanding what was already going on at BU in terms of oral biology. We saw an opportunity to interact and share by broadening into areas of research that have direct relevance to craniofacial development."

The Department of Molecular and Cell Biology has enhanced the school's ability to take advantage of rapid advances in biomedical sciences in order to help diagnose, prevent, and cure disease.

"Collaboration is key. Because science is so complex, it is very important to keep in touch with researchers from different departments of the medical school and at the main campus, such as bioengineering and chemistry. Traditional boundaries are disappearing, and yet one should never lose sight of what the focus is: Why are we here, and is what we're doing important to the mission of the dental school?"

For more than 20 years, Hirschberg has focused on understanding the biosynthesis of membrane and secreted proteins. "We're looking to determine the regulatory role of a novel group of transporters we discovered during development and the biogenesis of the cell surface and extracellular matrix in mammals and yeast."

Hirschberg is quick to note he's not comfortable having attention focused solely on him; he prefers to concentrate on the department as a whole. "We are only as strong as the sum of our parts, and my parts include some world-renowned researchers such as Phil and Maria [Phillips Robbins and Maria Kukurazinska, both profiled later] and promising ones like Claudia [Abeijon] and Charles [Specht]."



Dr. Phillips Robbins

Understanding basic biochemistry

Dr. Phillips Robbins, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, is interested in cell architecture. "We've been studying how cell surfaces are put together," he says. This process involves making proteins inside the cell, secreting them, and depositing and arranging them on the outside of the cell in a way that gives cells their shapes and functions. "A lot of the functions of a cell depend on proteins that are outside of the cell and that interact with signaling molecules," he notes. "For instance, if the organism senses that blood sugar is getting too low, it secretes insulin. But the insulin must be sensed by somatic cells by way of a cell-surface insulin receptor."

By understanding the basic biochemistry and molecular biology of cells, Robbins says, "you can analyze genetic problems and the way infectious agents get around normal host defense mechanisms."

Robbins has spent much of his career working on the glycosylation of proteins, that is, the mechanisms used to attach sugar to proteins. "If there's a deficiency in this process—which can be caused by genetic conditions—significant difficulties occur in the development of tissues."

Robbins is glad to be at BUSDM as a founding member of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. "When Dean Frankl decided to start this department, he began talking with me and Dr. Hirschberg. And of course Dr. Hirschberg and I have been collaborating for a number of years, so it made sense to combine our laboratories. Besides, we eliminated the 50-mile commute," he says (he was formerly at MIT in Cambridge and Hirschberg was at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester). "BU is great."



Dr. Elizabeth Krall

"It's never too late to stop."

Elizabeth Krall, associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research (established in 1996), is interested in bone loss. "I think it's still not widely recognized that there may be a connection between osteoporosis and tooth loss/alveolar bone loss," she says. "I've done several different studies in that area and they all seem to be pointing in the same direction—that there is a relationship. Perhaps one of the benefits of the newer drugs and treatments for osteoporosis will be that people will be more likely to keep their teeth."

She also has researched the effects of tobacco on tooth loss. "As far as smoking goes, no form of tobacco is harmless in regards to tooth loss and oral bone loss," she says. In her newest tobacco study, Krall examined how smoking cigars impacted tooth loss. "I found out that smoking cigars is just as bad as smoking cigarettes when it comes to tooth loss and bone loss around the teeth," she says. As her earlier studies showed, smoking cigarettes is associated with a two-fold increase in tooth loss. Stopping smoking can reduce the risk significantly—"It's never too late to stop," says Krall—although the risk does not return to the level observed among people who never smoked. According to Krall, this is just one more reason never to start smoking in the first place.

Dr. Thomas Van Dyke

Directing a dedicated clinical research center

Dr. Thomas Van Dyke has his hands full as a researcher, clinician, and administrator. Of the three, research is his passion. He is involved in both basic science and clinical research.

"For the past 15 to 20 years my focus has been on studying phagocyte cell function, working with neutrophils and macrophages and their roll in inflammation and destructive periodontal disease. I've done a lot of work with localized juvenile periodontitis, which is a genetically inherited disease characterized by neutrophil abnormalities. We've been studying both the modes of inheritance of the disease and the character of the white blood cell defects."

The clinical end of his research revolves around the Clinical Research Center, where he serves as director. The facility, just three years old, was designed specifically for clinical research. Van Dyke and his colleagues evaluate treatments and products and collect clinical samples from patients.

"Right now we are testing manticobials for the treatment and prevention of periodontitis and gingivitis, and we're evaluating toothpastes for their efficacy against decay. We're also testing different surgical treatment devices for regeneration of the bone around the tooth.

"This dedicated Clinical Research Center has definitely made us more competitive. In fact, most companies approach us now for their research. And it's all thanks to Dean Frankl, who realizes that commitment to excellence and, specifically, excellence in research is going to keep us on the edge," he notes. "The concept of a dedicated research center is very important because it's virtually impossible to do the kinds of studies we do in a graduate clinic or an undergraduate clinic, where you don't have the control of patients and records that you need for FDA studies. So you are left with a situation where you're not competitive for this kind of trial.

"Having a research center that focuses exclusively on clinical investigations allows the school to compete for trials it otherwise would not be able to get. This aspect of the Clinical Research Center enhances BUSDM as a center for research excellence."



Drs. Salomon Amar and Dana Graves

Trendsetters in collaborative research

Drs. Salomon Amar and Dana Graves epitomize the trend toward collaborative research—they each work independently, but because their interests significantly overlap, they also cooperate. For some of their projects, they combine forces to receive NIH support. “When you collaborate, the resulting whole is stronger than the individual,” says Graves, Professor in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology.

Amar, Associate Professor in the Department of Oral Biology and Periodontology, concurs with Graves, saying, “We have collaborated extensively. Because we have common interests, it only makes sense to do grant applications together.”

Amar and Graves are interested in the aspects of the host that control the body’s response to bacterial infection. “We apply molecular techniques to animal studies to investigate the role of specific molecules,” says Graves.

Adds Amar, “We use animal models to mimic phenomena such as bacterial challenges that lead to inflammation in the mouth.”

The work of Graves, Amar, and their colleagues was highlighted in a recent NIDCR newsletter. These studies focused on the discovery that two cytokines—interleukin 1 and TNF—are important in generating the inflammatory response that leads to periodontal disease. “We think these cytokines are one of the first signals to be produced in response to the bacterial plaque that forms on the teeth,” says Graves.

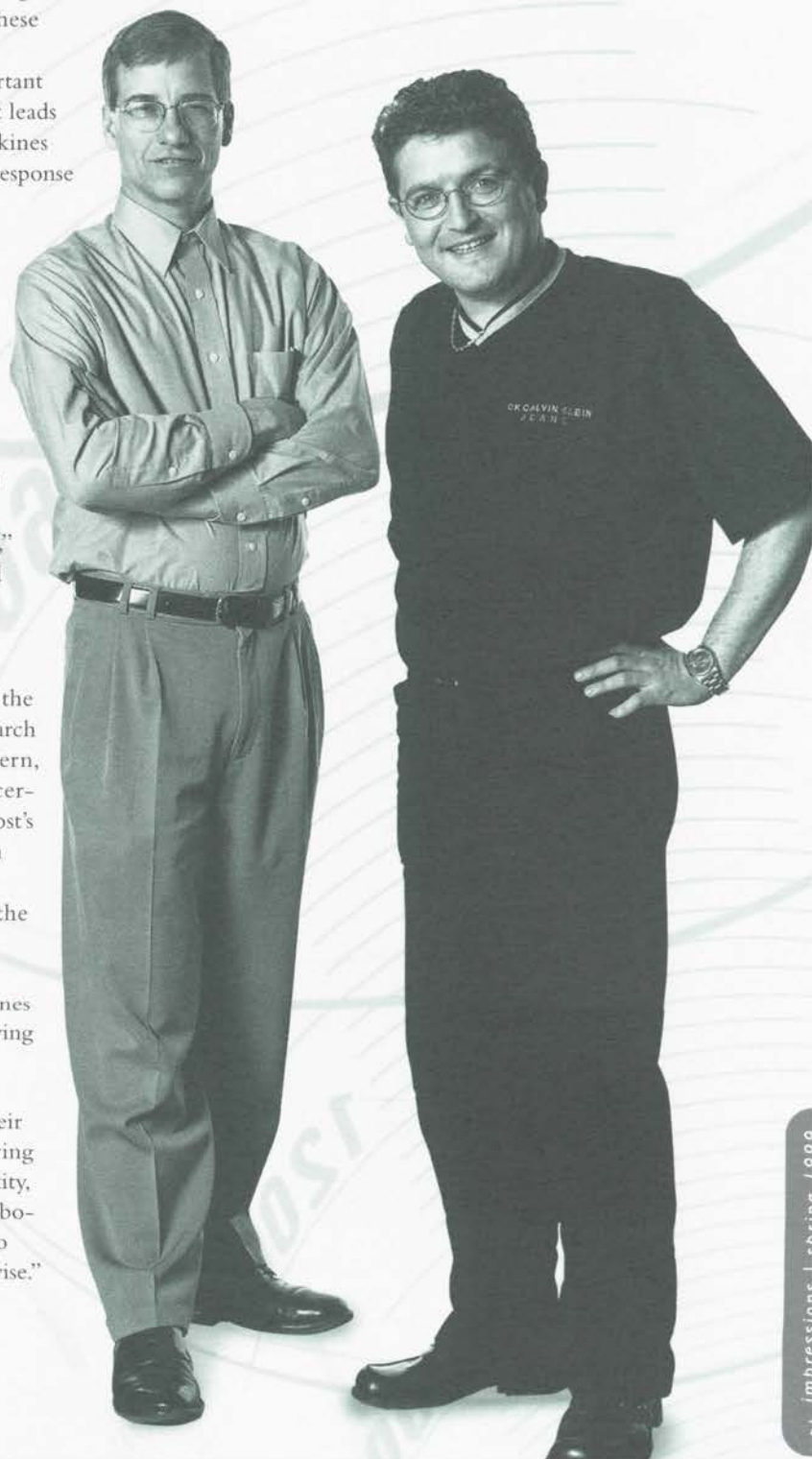
Adds Amar, “We’re also looking at periodontal repair and regeneration. Our new proposal has the premise that if we can modulate the inflammatory process—not eliminate it, just reduce its deleterious effects—wounds will heal in a quicker and more effective way.”

“Rather than having wounds heal through tissue regeneration, our hypothesis is that inflammation acts as a brake on regeneration,” says Graves. “If inflammation can be reduced both over time and in amount, perhaps periodontists would obtain better and more predictable tissue regeneration.”

Graves works independently as director of the Joan and Herbert Schilder Endodontic Research Center. Here, he investigates a different pattern, where lesions of endodontic origin are exacerbated when something interferes with the host’s ability to react to bacteria. “Clearly, a much different paradigm is involved,” says Graves.

Amar’s own work deals with controlling the harmful effects of TNF-alpha at the genetic level. “Many cell compounds are capable of turning on and/or off the transcription of genes such as TNF-alpha; we are interested in identifying these compounds in an attempt to regulate TNF-alpha expression in genes,” says Amar.

Both Amar and Graves are pleased with their many collaborations. “Dental research is moving toward larger projects because of the complexity, cost, and labor involved,” says Graves. “Collaboration is often extremely useful, and leads to synergies that might not have occurred otherwise.”



Dr. Philip Trackman

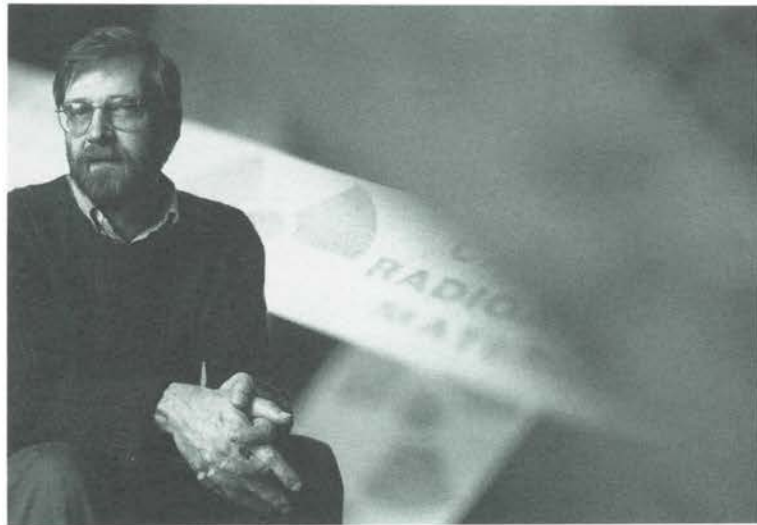
Looking for answers

"I was always interested in how things work," says Dr. Philip Trackman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology. His research focuses on the extracellular matrix. That is, he looks at factors controlling the accumulation of the matter that surrounds cells. "All tissues are composed of cells and the material surrounding cells. The extracellular matrix provides structural integrity to different tissues," explains Trackman.

He concentrates on the extracellular matrix to answer some fundamental questions, such as how bone forms. "Very little is known about the regulation of the enzymes involved in collagen accumulation in bone," says Trackman. In addition to examining how bone is constructed under normal conditions, he investigates how diseases such as diabetes affect bone formation. "This is a brand new area for us," he adds.

For the past few years he has also been researching soft connective tissue. "Why do some people get drug-induced gingival overgrowth?" he asks. "We realize now that it's primarily a response of connective tissue cells to an altered release of factors from inflammatory cells."

One new area of research involves the tumor-suppressor activity of extracellular enzymes. "The mechanisms are unknown," he says. "This is an area we're just starting to develop." Looking into the unknown is an activity Trackman loves—and one in which he excels.



Maria Kukuruzinska

Investigating cell growth and development

Maria Kukuruzinska, Associate Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, spends her days investigating the molecular mechanisms that underlie growth and development. "We're looking primarily at how the protein N-glycosylation is involved in cell proliferation and growth arrest," she says, "and how deregulation of this function may lead to the onset of various pathologies, including oral cancer."

Her research focuses on how N-glycosylation affects signaling events in development that lead to cytoskeletal changes and to the establishment of adhesive interactions. "Understanding how cell cycle and differentiation during development are regulated allows us to understand cancer, since cancer cells don't know when to stop dividing," she says. "Because the N-glycosylation genes are involved in cell proliferation and differentiation, we hope that ultimately our research will have diagnostic and therapeutic applications."

Kukuruzinska uses many different biological systems in her research, from yeast to zebrafish to mammals. "I think it's critical to use diverse models, because each lends itself to different technological and mechanistic approaches. And in order to get answers, you need to approach problems from different angles."



Raul Garcia

"Floss or die"

Around the school these days, Raul Garcia, chairperson of BUSDM's Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research (which was established in 1996), is perhaps best known for his tongue-in-cheek ultimatum: "floss or die." With these words he refers not to the wrath dentists may visit on patients who neglect flossing. Rather, he speaks of the newfound connection between periodontal disease and heart disease. Through his research in the Dental Longitudinal Study (conducted on men at the Boston VA Outpatient Clinic), Garcia and colleagues discovered that men whose gums were in poor condition had twice the death rate—especially from heart disease—of men with healthy gums.

The exact link between gum disease and mortality from heart disease is unknown. It is hypothesized that a common factor—an "underlying inflammatory response trait"—predisposes people to both gum and heart diseases. Further, gum disease may produce compounds that exacerbate arterial clogging. In other words, certain bacteria from the mouth of someone affected with gum disease may, after entering the bloodstream, lead to or worsen heart disease.

It's research like this—where the relationship between oral health and the entire body is paramount—that drives Garcia. "We're focusing not on how medical problems affect the mouth, but vice versa—how oral health problems may have important consequences for general health and wellbeing."

As for the research environment at BUSDM, Garcia says, "I'm in heaven. It's a really great place to work because there's an appreciation for intellectual activity—and there's a genuine effort to build links among different departments at the school, the clinics, and the research folks."

Russell Giordano

In search of better biomaterials

"Right now we're looking at developing new restorative dental materials using a combination of ceramic and a resin," says Russell Giordano, assistant professor in BUSDM's Department of Restorative Sciences/Biomaterials. "It's a new interpenetrating phase material that combines many properties of different materials to make a superior final material."

Says Giordano, "We're trying to get away from the negative effects of the brittle nature of ceramics. Ceramics can be very strong, beautiful, and aesthetic, but they can also be very brittle. And they fail catastrophically: one minute they're okay, the next minute they receive stress and they crack. We're trying to decrease that brittleness by combining them with resin material in a specific way so the two materials are interconnected."

Giordano credits the BUSDM administration, particularly Dean Spencer N. Frankl and Dr. Dan Nathanson, chairperson of the department, with nurturing BUSDM's biomaterials research. "The school has been very supportive, giving us excellent research space, providing start-up money for equipment, and realizing that investment in faculty is crucial. There is a definite commitment to providing support for research, shown by the fact that commitments made by the administration are followed through on."





interview

Dr. Tao Xu is a senior technical associate in the technology center at Colgate Palmolive. During one of his trips to Boston, he and Impressions editor Christine McDonald met to discuss his work and life since leaving BUSDM in 1996.

IMPRESSIONS: You were at BUSDM for more than ten years. How has the corporate research world affected you after you spent so much time in academia?

XU: I think the only real difference is that in the corporate world the pace is a bit faster. But from a research perspective, the goals are the same, and the importance of collaboration is just as pronounced.

IMPRESSIONS: When you emigrated from China in 1984, you knew barely any English and one or two people. What was it like to take that kind of leap from the comforts of your homeland to a strange new country?

XU: It may have been a strange new country, but it was full of excitement and promise for me. I simply had to come. I was the first privately sponsored Chinese student from mainland China at BUSDM. I really wanted to learn something I could not learn in China—like dental research—and BUSDM was one of only a few schools that offered the doctorate degree in oral biology.

IMPRESSIONS: How did your experiences at BUSDM affect you?

XU: If China is my birthplace and where my professional career started [Tao received his DDS from Beijing Medical University, School of Stomatology in 1984] BUSDM was like a cradle for the growth

of my professional career. I spent more than ten years at BUSDM, from being a student to being on faculty. When I came I knew nothing about how to do research—I grew to handle NIH grants as a junior investigator. BUSDM research and clinical faculty helped me a lot through my career development. It was the training at BUSDM that made it possible for me to work for one of the leading oral care product companies today.

IMPRESSIONS: What was your area of research while at BUSDM?

XU: I worked very closely with Dr. Oppenheim on salivary research. He was and still is a huge influence on me; he was a true mentor. Together we contributed a lot of new information to the salivary research field. Our work is





scientifically sound and has been used to develop new oral care products. And the knowledge and experience I had in salivary research at BUSDM are helping me to conduct clinical studies and innovative technological developments today.

IMPRESSIONS: What research strengths or tools do you feel you honed while studying at BUSDM?

XU: I learned how to do scientific research and how to be a scientist. I learned the importance of practicing your craft—that is the challenge part of science. A good scientist needs to be able not only to conduct hands-on research, but also (and probably more important) to create new scientific ideas. Scientific development is based on the generation of new ideas,

innovative practice, and proof of concept. There is no easy way to be a scientist and no easy way to do scientific research.

IMPRESSIONS: What is the nature of your work at Colgate Palmolive?

XU: The training I obtained at BUSDM allows me to handle both clinical and new technology development at the company. I am responsible for the pilot clinical research program. The major role of pilot clinical studies is to determine if a new technology can be developed into a formal product. This is a very important step in the whole process of product development. I also head up a research team that focuses on certain new technologies. My team and I are also actively involved in business support. For instance, we provided support to the U.S. launch of Colgate Total,[®] the only FDA-approved dentifrice with multiple benefits, i.e., cavity prevention, antigingivitis, antiplaque, antitartar, and fresh-breath protection. Working with my research team, we developed short-term clinical models to document the clinical efficacy of Colgate Total.[®] The knowledge I used in this specific project is directly related to my previous experience in salivary research. The results are scientifically sound and corroborated via long-term clinical studies. The results were used to support ADA seal of approval and were presented to scientific societies.

IMPRESSIONS: Colgate is such a well-known company and Total[®] has been a very successful product. What was it like to work on this project?

XU: Well, Total[®] technology has been in development for almost ten years and Total[®] as a product has been launched in more than 100 countries in many areas around the world. Many researchers at Colgate contributed significantly to the success of Total;[®] I only provided some support. But it was still very exciting to see all the efforts, for example, laboratory, clinical, packaging, and marketing, come together to make the success of the Total[®] launch. With all the time and money spent on developing this product, the company was able to maintain its leadership role in the U.S. oral care and global oral care markets.

IMPRESSIONS: What would you tell today's students who are contemplating careers in research?

XU: I would tell them to go to BU and talk with Dean Frankl. He was always supportive and understanding, and he had the vision to make BUSDM a true academic institution with the three key elements: teaching, clinical training, and advanced research. I am a better clinician because of my research work at BUSDM. I am able to move from academia to industry because of my training at BUSDM. A good dentist must have training in research, especially in this high-tech-driven country. The school produces very well-rounded practitioners. It is a leader because it supports the three keys elements equally. Dean Frankl encouraged us to grow in all ways, not just as dental professionals but as scientific researchers, because knowledge of research is equally important to the future of modern dental science.



Ah the States Sunshine

Warm gulf waters, freshly ripe oranges, white sandy beaches, long summer-like days. What better place to spend a week in January while Boston gets hit with its first major snowstorm?

From the glamorous shores of West Palm Beach to the Gulf Coast to Orlando, home of the Magic Kingdom, we traveled the main streets and back roads of Florida to check in with some of our South Atlantic alumni.

We found them all to be happy, healthy, and, of course, tan. A few thrive in private practice, one is challenged in academia, and another started his own international company. All have interesting stories to tell.



Florida
Profiles



Richard Lazzara is the kind of person who, if he doesn't like something, simply changes it. And that is exactly what he did. After leaving BUSDM in 1976 and practicing for about ten years, he became frustrated with the limited selection of implant materials. So he and a friend, who happened to be an engineer, designed a new one.

"3I [his company] came about from the need for additional implant components. The implants I was using at the time needed changes, for aesthetical, functional, and prosthetic purposes. The implant company was unwilling to make any changes to the design; after being turned down by them several times, I got together with an engineer friend and came up with something new that met my needs."

Richard and his partner began to create components that helped the restorative aspect of implant dentistry be more cosmetic and aesthetic. From there they began making implant parts for all the major implant companies; they soon expanded into their own line of implants. Eleven years later, 3I is one of the leading dental implant distributors in the world, with offices in Germany, Switzerland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Israel, Mexico, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

"I could never have done it without my partner," says Richard. "Not only him, but all the people who helped us in the beginning. I have no specific flair for business. I just wanted 3I to treat our clients as I expected to be treated if I were an implant customer buying dental supplies. Companies often forget there's a person on the other end of the phone, a personal relationship that needs nurturing and service. This relationship should be their primary concern, not just, 'here's my product, give me a dollar for it and see you later.'"

Richard's enthusiasm for his company and its mission has in no way dampened his enthusiasm for practicing dentistry; he maintains a full private practice in addition to running 3I.

His love of patient care blossomed during his time at BUSDM. "Studying at BU was one of those life-changing experiences that took me from being an average practitioner to having some semblance of excellence. BU has been a real force in my life."

Today, Richard serves as a member of the school's Board of Visitors. "Being a member of the Board of Visitors keeps me up to date on the status of new programs and what's happening. This past meeting I went to a presentation on the use of computer simulation training that was just incredible. Because of my schedule I don't always get to all of the meetings, but the last couple I've been to have been fun. And all kinds of interesting people from different professions are there, not just a bunch of dentists. I salute Dean Frankl for that diversity. I think Dean Frankl has been very innovative and it shows in the growth of the school and the success of the students and alumni. He has been smart about taking risks to make BUSDM more competitive and definitely a cut above the rest."





“We had such a great group—all female and very close-knit. And the faculty and staff were just amazing—here we were, a bunch of young girls just moved to Boston, scared and excited; some of us didn’t even have a place to live. But they fixed all that for us. They really looked out for us.” After graduating with her MSD, Peggy headed south to Miami to teach for a year. She returned to Boston to teach at Forsyth Dental Center, then made the biggest decision of her life.

“I felt burnt out from teaching and knew there was more inside me, so I applied to dental school at BU. And it was tremendous. The personalized instruction, hands-on help, and one-on-one atmosphere made us all outstanding practitioners.”

Peggy left BUSDM and entered private practice in Boston for a few years, only to get the learning bug again. She researched opportunities to do a hospital residency and once more found herself in Florida, at Mount Sinai/Jackson Memorial Hospital.

“I spent that time learning much about trauma and medically compromised patients, which has benefited me a great deal with some of my older patients who have multiple health problems,” she says.

Nowadays Peggy lets the sunshine and warm weather occupy her spare time. When not at work, she enjoys just about all there is to do in or on the water, including sailing, windsurfing, and scuba diving. Tennis, golf, and bike-riding are also favorite pastimes.

“It’s so beautiful here, I always want to be outside. And even though it’s a small island, I continue to discover new and wonderful things about it.”

Just the way paradise should be.

For Peggy Mason, paradise is an island two miles wide by three miles long called Venice Island. This tiny community, located between Sarasota and Fort Myers, is a retirement mecca with an appealing ratio of people to golf courses.

“I have everything I could want right here, and most of it right in my back yard,” says Peggy. The only full-time solo female dentist on the island, Peggy has been thriving since she purchased her practice just five years ago.

Before buying her practice, Peggy took nine months off from work—at the time she was part of a large group practice near Miami—and traveled all over Florida. “I visited and stayed in many communities, but this island kept calling me back. I made the decision that I wanted to call Venice my home for a long time to come.” And when a well-known Venice practice—one of the original dental offices on the island—came up for sale, things fell into place.

“It was definitely a bit risky. I was the only woman dentist in a predominately senior community, setting up shop to treat people who are used to being treated by men. But I’ve found that has been a small challenge at the most. My patients are wonderfully open and accepting,” she explains.

Risk is not something Peggy has ever avoided. A dental hygienist born and raised in Iowa, Peggy left her native state right after graduation and headed to Boston to begin her MSD at BUSDM with the late Tony Jong.



Jeff Janoff was all smiles when he met with us.

"Did you hear Boston got socked with snow last night? Now you know why you're interviewing me down here and not up there!"

Jeff certainly had his share of nasty Northeast winters. From college in Buffalo ("they used to have ropes along the campus walkways for us to hang onto because the wind was so strong!") to dental school and postdoc training in Boston, he has just about had it with snow. Don't misunderstand—he still holds Boston very dear to his heart.

"I love Boston. I met my wife in Boston, and we got married while I was still in dental school. In fact, this is where my passion for pediatric dentistry developed. After I graduated from dental school (Tufts '73) I went to work for a dentist in East Boston who had recent graduates from BUSDM working for him. I discovered my niche.

"I heard a lot about BU and saw the great work the students were doing in the office, so I applied. I didn't know if I would get in or not, but I interviewed with Dr. Frankl and we had a really good talk. Thank God I got in! Undergraduate dental school was not fun, but pedo school was great."

Jeff credits his experiences at BUSDM with his love of practicing dental medicine.

"I learned more dentistry in two years in pedo than I ever learned in dental school. Dick Allard was a huge influence on my work; he was also a dear friend. Dr. Allard taught us the restorative aspects and Dr. Frankl taught us diagnosis and, most important, how to deal with children and parents."

The decision to leave Boston was a tough one, but the market in southwestern Florida was ripe for a young pediatric dentist.

"I had a friend down here who invited me to see the area. He said very few pedodontists practiced; in fact, the only one was 15 miles away in Sarasota. After spending four years in Buffalo and about eight or nine years in Boston, I was ready to get out of the cold. My wife and I realized it would be nice to raise a family in a small town, and Venice is beautiful; it's a family-oriented place and great for a pedo practice. So I decided to come down and give it a shot.

"When I arrived there were five or six dentists in the area. Three of them said, 'You can have every one of the kids I have because I don't want to deal with them.' The rest said, 'You're going to have a hard time here but if you're good and stick it out, eventually you'll succeed.' Back in the 70s you could still hang out a shingle and do fairly well; it's more difficult nowadays."

Jeff remains the only pedodontist in the Venice area. Although timing and luck may have had a little bit to do with his good fortune, he credits the lessons he learned at BU

with keeping him focused and driven.

"I learned to say, 'Hey, I just won't touch this patient or that one, because I can't treat him as well as an endodontist or an orthodontist could.' And being able to recognize when to refer patients makes you a better dentist; it makes you that much more trustworthy. And when you're dealing with kids, trust is paramount."

Spoken like a true pedo practitioner.





Marianne In Chin, PhD, PEDO 93, MSD 94, DSC 97



Florida Profiles

On first meeting Marianne, she looks young enough to be barely out of college, never mind an accomplished academic with an impressive curriculum vitae and a slew of research projects under her belt. Born and raised in the Philippines, Marianne is of Chinese descent. She headed to the United States after graduating from dental school in Manila.

"I realized during dental school how much I enjoy treating children, so the decision to pursue pedo was easy. I cannot imagine doing dentistry on adult patients on a daily basis. I really love what I do."

Marianne has her hands full in her role as a mom for ten-month-old son Ethan. She is also a clinical assistant professor at the University of Florida, where she teaches pediatric dentistry part-time. "Working two half-days a week allows me to spend most of my time with Ethan. I think I was drawn to teaching because of experiences I had in dental school. I remember how interacting with the faculty was more strenuous than learning dentistry. I realized how important the faculty's demeanor and teaching methods are in a student's ability to learn effectively. There had to be a better way to teach dentistry.

"Moving to Boston was one of the best decisions I ever made. Boston is a great place to immerse oneself in study. The pedo program at BU gave me a better appreciation for dentistry. It gave me a better appreciation for life. The training was well-rounded and the faculty was very supportive. I especially cherish the influence Dr. Allard, Dr. Kapala, and Dr. Hughes have had on my education. Dr. Hughes made learning science and doing research enjoyable. His passion for his work was contagious. He was a real mentor to me."

Marianne misses the challenge of research and patient care but prefers for the moment to focus on bringing up Ethan. She and her husband, Herman, a prosthodontist who is also on faculty at the University of Florida, are raising Ethan to be trilingual. Besides English, they hope he will be conversant in Chinese and the Filipino language Tagalog.

"Eventually I'd like to be able to return to research and patient care, and still continue to teach. Boston would be a nice place to go back to," she says.

Joe Calderone departed swinging Boston (he was known for his love of partying) after graduation to set up practice in sunny Sumter County, Florida.

Where, exactly, is Sumter County, Florida?

"It's not quite the end of the earth, but you can see it from there!" says Joe. He fondly reminisces about his time serving the Public Health Service in central Florida. Residents of Sumter County in those days had limited access to health care.

"I was the dentist of last resort. If I didn't do it, it didn't get done. But honestly, I learned so much practicing there. I saw every type of case you can imagine. I remember an interesting one—there was a prisoner who needed an oral-antral fistula closure, and I had never done one. We didn't see that on a live patient in dental school! So I called up Dr. Kilgore and I took out my oral surgery book and he walked me through the procedure, and then I went out and did it. And it was successful!"

That procedure was just the beginning of a flourishing career. After fulfilling his commitment to the Public Health Service, Joe bought a practice in downtown Orlando. His practice grew quickly—so quickly, in fact, that he lost his lease for monopolizing all the parking spots. He found himself working for other practitioners. Then he made another bold move.

"I decided to go back to school for my MBA. I knew I'd eventually want to return to owning my own practice, and felt I had absolutely no background in business. I realized when I graduated college that I didn't know the difference between a debit or a credit! Here I was going to be running a small business—I felt I needed to get back and learn something. To tell you the truth, it was a lot easier than dental school!"

Joe finished the executive MBA program at Crummer School of Business at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, in 1986. Thirteen years later, he has a thriving practice in a building he designed and built.

"My practice is limited to general dentistry and prosthodontics. I believe in running my company with integrity, character, honesty, and trustworthiness, and that's drilled into my employees and my patients. They know when they come in I'm not going to try to sell them something. I think in dentistry today we have people who sell services that maybe patients don't really fully understand and don't necessarily need. They're sold as a health and disease issue, but you don't need veneers to lead a happy life. It's a degree-of-wellness issue and that's how I make the distinction to patients."

This philosophy has worked well for Joe. He recently received his fellowship from the Academy of General Dentistry, and this past year was named the 1998 Small Businessperson of the Year for Seminole County. His

practice was also chosen as one of the top 100 companies to work for in Central Florida.

What advice would Joe offer BUSDM students today?

"My advice for the first ten years of practice is to learn your craft. You may have some frustrating experiences, but I think if you make it through them and you understand what dentistry is all about, if you look at not only the science but the art of it, and if you enjoy your patients, it's a fine profession. I may not have said that ten years ago, but I do now. I think everybody goes through ups and downs in careers—but it always comes down to what you make of your opportunities and circumstances."

Solid advice indeed.



Joe Calderone DMD 81



In February 19, 1999, BUSDM received official notification from the Commission in Dental Accreditation that its programs were granted full approval status for the next seven years. In its report, the commission praised many aspects of the school's operation, including its fiscal stability, research activities, information technology initiatives, and curriculum management program. The report also highlighted Provost Aram V. Chobanian's and Dean Spencer N. Frank's vision in integrating BUSDM into the Boston University community. "With its research partnerships and dental health centers, the School of Dental Medicine has proven itself a vital member of the Boston University community," says Provost Chobanian. "This positive accreditation report demonstrates the continued strength of the school in all aspects of its mission."

What is accreditation?

The Commission on Dental Accreditation, an autonomous commission of the American Dental Association, periodically reviews schools to ensure the quality of dental education. As part of this accreditation process, the institution must develop a self-study document. In the self-study, a school examines itself according to standards set forth by the commission. After the self-study has been completed and forwarded to the commission, consultants from the commission visit the school. During this visit they evaluate the accuracy of the self-study via interviews and observations.

The commission's standards have the following purposes: 1) to protect the public welfare; 2) to help institutions develop academic programs; 3) to provide a way for the visiting consultants to judge the quality of the program; and 4) to assure students the program is meeting its stated objectives.

In order to determine accreditation status, the commission rigorously evaluates a school's programs and physical and administrative infrastructure. Specifically, the commission evaluates the following six areas: 1) institutional effectiveness; 2) the educational program; 3) faculty and staff; 4) educational support services; 5) patient care services; and 6) the research program.

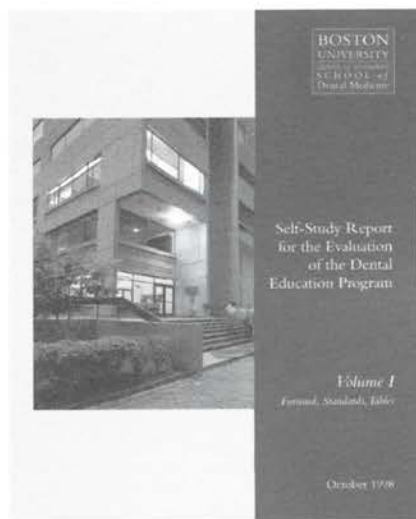
The self-study process

BUSDM began its self-study in February 1996, when Dean Frankl appointed faculty and staff to the school's Core Accreditation Committee. The committee was charged with developing the self-studies for the predoctoral and advanced education programs.

In order to respond to the commission's six standards for the predoctoral program, six subcommittees were established. Subcommittees were composed of faculty, staff, and members of the core committee. Each subcommittee was responsible for evaluating the school according to the commission standards assigned to it.

In January 1997, the core committee set a timetable for the self-study process. Subcommittees then began to review the standards, collect data, and write reports in response to the questions put forth in the commission's self-study guide.

The core committee reviewed the school's competency statements, that is, statements of what BUSDM believes DMD students need to know before they graduate. Also evaluated by the committee were: 1) revisions



to the school's bylaws; 2) an audit of the curriculum that had been conducted in 1996; 3) a planned reorganization of administration of the clinics; and 4) the Commission on Dental Accreditation's site visit orientation.

In September 1997, the subcommittees developed a draft self-study report. Meanwhile, more people became involved in the self-study process; additional faculty reviewed the draft and Dean Frankl appointed students to the subcommittees. The school's mission and goals were reviewed by the Executive Committee, a revised draft of the competency statements was prepared, and a new committee was appointed to draft and implement a revised quality assurance program.

A faculty-staff-student symposium was held in November 1997. This symposium, organized under the school's learning organization model, examined drafts of the school's mission statement, the goals and objectives of the DMD program, and the DMD competency statements. The Executive Committee, using input from the symposium, approved and adopted the revised mission, goals, objectives, and competency statements.

In March 1998, following a series of program development meetings, clinical and preclinical program directors attended a symposium on competency-based evaluation, where they completed development of a mechanism for evaluating how successfully the school implemented the new competency statements.

After the self-study was completed, the school forwarded copies to the commission for its review.

the last accreditation visit in 1991. The accreditation consultants then met with all levels of faculty, students from each class, and staff members to question them about the self-study.

Early, unofficial results of the site visit were overwhelmingly positive. The school's initiatives in competency-based education, its increased focus on patient care and satisfaction, the curriculum plans, the APEX program, and its "school without walls" philosophy all received commendations from the commission consultants.

The official results

In a letter dated February 17, 1999, the Commission on Dental Accreditation officially granted "approval" status to BUSDM's predoctoral and advanced education programs. Many commendations were included in its report, which the school received on March 1, 1999.

The commission praised the school for being a vital member of the Boston University campus and of the Boston community. It also commended BUSDM's institutional research, its integrated approaches to teaching and learning, and its use of information technology.

The Core Accreditation Committee played a major role in BUSDM's accreditation efforts. Dr. Neal Bellanti, chairperson of the committee, was supported by Dr. Stephen DuLong, Ms. Kathi Ferland, Dr. Deborah Fournier, Dr. Paula Freidman, Dr. Dana Graves, Dr. Thomas Kilgore, Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska, Dr. Bruce Robinson,



Ms. Carol Russell, Dr. Sydell Shaw, and Dr. Robert Troxler.

In accordance with ADA regulations, we reprint below the official paragraph announcing BUSDM's accreditation approval:

Programs in dental education, dental public health, endodontics, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, and general dentistry are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and have been granted the accreditation status of "approval." The commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312/440-2719 or 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

The dedication and leadership of BUSDM's Core Accreditation Committee, with the outstanding leadership of Dr. Bellanti, cannot be overestimated; neither can the guidance of the department chairs and advanced program directors, who were instrumental in guiding the postdoctoral accreditation process. Says Dean Frankl, "The outstanding results could not have been possible without the help of each and every member of the BUSDM community."

"The school's initiatives in competency-based education, its increased focus on patient care and satisfaction, the curriculum plans, the APEX program, and its 'school without walls' philosophy all received commendations from the commission consultants."

The site visit

On October 6-8, 1998, 16 consultants from the Commission on Dental Accreditation arrived at BUSDM to interview faculty, staff, and students and observe the school in action. Dean Frankl greeted them with a presentation about the school's mission, its integration within the Boston University community, and its growth and achievements since

appreciation

*“As the purse
is emptied the
heart is filled.”*

Victor Hugo

Charitable contributions play a vital role in helping the school preserve and expand its standard of excellence in research, education, patient care, and the community. They allow us to provide the finest education and services to our students, patients, and community.

To the alumni, faculty, staff, friends, corporations, foundations, and organizations, we offer a heartfelt “thank you.”

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Vivian and Jeffrey Yu

Dean's Conference Room

At the 1997 annual Board of Visitors meeting, Mr. Marshall Sloane, university trustee and chairperson of BUSDM's Board of Visitors, announced an initiative to dedicate a conference room in honor of Dean Spencer N. Frankl on his twentieth anniversary as dean. The following generous donors contributed to this dean's conference room fund.

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Altshuler
Dr. Gerald Berube
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Dr. Tom Van Dyke
Dr. William Walker
Mr. Barry White

*These lists are current as of
January 21, 1999. Every effort
has been made to ensure their
accuracy. We thank you for
calling us at 617/638-4735
with any corrections.*

What did Loan and Scholarship Funds at BUSDM do in fiscal year 1998?

They supplied \$1,155,280 in tuition grants and loans during the 1997-1998 academic year.

The intent of our scholarship and loan funds is to secure, hold, and disperse funds to be loaned or given to BUSDM students. From these funds, we make loans and grants directly to students to help them with educational and emergency expenses. Many donors were themselves recipients of assistance or had close friends who were. This chain of alumni and friends helping BUSDM students can remain unbroken only with your continuing support.

If you are interested in contributing to any of the following funds to assist our students, please contact your Development Officer, Ivy Nagahiro, at the External Affairs Office, 617/638-4735 or inagahir@bu.edu.

Altshuler Family Student Financial Assistance Fund
Dean's Scholarship Fund
Spencer N. Frankl Student Revolving Loan Fund
Endodontic Alumni Scholarship Fund
Henry M. Goldman Scholarship Fund
Dr. Richard Allard Fellowship Fund
Steven R. Gordon Memorial Fund
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Charles Paraskis Scholarship Fund
Joseph P. Speranza Memorial Fund
Morris Ruben Scholarship Fund in Periodontology
Greater New York Alumni Club Student Revolving
Loan Fund
Jong Symposium Student Sponsorship Fund

alumni news

To share news of your accomplishments or to reach out to classmates you have not heard from in a while, send in the postcard in this issue of Impressions. You can also send your news to the alumni office on-line in the alumni section of the school's website, at <http://dentalschool.bu.edu>.

1972

David Federick **PROS 72** was inducted as a fellow into the International College of Dentists in San Francisco in 1998. He also presented two days of courses at the 1998 American Dental Association annual session in San Francisco.

1976

Roy Eskow **PERIO 76** was recently named one of the Washington, DC area's "Top Periodontists" by *Washingtonian Magazine*. Roy maintains a private practice of periodontics and implant dentistry in both Bethesda, Maryland, and downtown Washington, DC.

1978

Ellen Pesserillo **MS 78 (Community Health)** graduated in 1992 from the Texas Southern University Law School. She has a private practice in the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas.

1981

Charlotte Connick **DPH 81** was appointed coordinator of alumni affairs at the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry (LSUSD). An assistant professor at LSUSD, she is also assistant



Charlotte Connick

to the director of the Department of Dental Health Resources. Charlotte has received the American Dental Hygiene Association Foundation Master's Scholarship and from 1988 to 1992, served on the National Advisory Council on Health Professions Education of Health Resources and Services Administration.

1985

Tom Kalili **DMD 85** has designed a Microsoft-driven dental and medical office management system called Dr. Tom's Office 98. Tom maintains a private practice in Beverly Hills, California.

1987

Anthony Amato **DMD 87** has two children, two-year-old Michael Anthony and seven-year-old Grace Elizabeth. He is a resident of Simsbury, Connecticut. He would love to hear from classmates Lon Polverarz and Marc Meiselman and adds that "Mitch Sabbagh is the best."

1990

William Steve Emery **ENDO 90** married the former Jennifer Simpkins on August 16, 1998. They are living in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Eric Gott DMD 90

recently moved to Merrick, Long Island, with his wife Robin, daughter Rachel, and "new addition" Jared. His private practice is in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. His classmates can reach him via email at ETGDMD@aol.com.

1993

Damon Tomeo **DMD 93** and his wife, Liz, had a baby boy named Hunter William in April, 1998. A resident of Dedham, Massachusetts, Damon opened his private practice in September 1997.

1995

Harry Bobotis **DMD 95** lives in Anderson, South Carolina, with his wife, Natalie Matta-Bobotis, who is a registered dental hygienist. Harry is practicing general dentistry in a newly renovated private practice that will lead to a partnership. He was recently voted into the Anderson-area Rotarians as a representative from the dental profession.

1996

Laurent Bluche **PROS 96** has opened a practice in Carcassonne, France. He also is an assistant professor at the Montpelier Dental School.

1997

Nicole Hoang **DMD 97** recently joined a growing practice in the San Francisco Bay area. She's "loving life, but missing Boston."

In Memory

Pamela J. Graham **DENTAL ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE 79**



PROS Alumni Gather for Chicago Reception


Dr. Dan Nathanson, Assistant Dean for External Affairs and Continuing Education, welcomed more than 30 of the school's prosthodontic alumni to a reception held during February's annual Chicago Midwinter Dental Meeting. As chairperson of the Department of Restorative Sciences/Biomaterials, Nathanson is working with Dr. David Baraban, Professor Emeritus of Restorative Sciences, to reach out to prosthodontic alumni of BUSDM. Because of the enthusiastic response they received in Chicago, the school is planning more events for this group. Watch for more news and information!



Eric Hazan PROS 87 and Dan Nathanson, chairperson of the Department of Restorative Sciences/Biomaterials, at the Chicago reception



Fuad Hitti PROS 82, Nadim Baba PROS 99, and Mazen Natour PROS 01 at BUSDM's reception for pros alumni in Chicago this February



MAY 21-22, 1999

ALUMNI WEEKEND '99


SPRING GALA
Saturday, May 22, 1999
6 pm
John F. Kennedy Library

Friday, May 21, 1999
Reunion dinner cruise for classes
with years ending in -4 and -9

OTHER WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

- Continuing education programs
- Presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Awards

Watch your mail for registration information!



For more information, contact the Office of External Affairs by phone at 617/638-4891 or via email to cjbriggs@bu.edu.



alumni news

Alumni Events Through May 31, 1999

Below is our listing of alumni events through May 31, 1999. Unless otherwise noted, contact your alumni officer for more information at 617/638-4732 or via email at cjbriggs@bu.edu. You can also register for alumni events online or check updated event listings on the school's web page at <http://dentalschool.bu.edu>.

April 21

Greater Washington DC Alumni Club. "Case Presentations: The Oral Health Concerns of an Aging Population" by Dr. Joseph Calabrese. Embassy Suites Hotel, Washington, DC. 6:30 pm.

Greater New York Alumni Club. "Fixed Cases: Why Don't They Last Forever?" Dr. Stephen DuLong. Penn Club, New York, New York. 7 pm.

April 27

Volunteer Dental Screening. Garfield Elementary School in Brighton, Massachusetts. For more details, contact Brenda Hughes, Division of Community Health Programs, at 617/414-1145.

May 21-22

Alumni Weekend, featuring:

- Reunion dinner cruise for classes ending in -4 or -9.
- Continuing education program
- Spring Gala, John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, MA.

May 28

Alumni Reception, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session. Sheraton Centre, Toronto. 4:30 pm



ELISSE ARROYO AND ADRIAN VIZCARRA



**Thoughts from
Your Alumni Association President
Ronni Schnell DMD 81**

As your Alumni Association president, I am lucky to have the opportunity to meet alumni from all over the world. Time and again I am reminded that the alumni of Boston University School of Dental Medicine are a vibrant, exciting group of people who are making a strong impact on the field of dentistry and the world as a whole. Whatever our experiences were at the school, one fact remains the same: the school forever left its mark on us by helping make us the dental professionals we are today. Judging by the alumni I have met, the school has done an excellent job in educating and supporting its students to be the best they can be in their chosen career paths.

Each year the Alumni Association has the important task of choosing Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. These alumni are honored for their outstanding service to the profession, community, or school. I hope you will join us at the annual Spring Gala on May 22, 1999, when this year's awards will be presented. The Spring Gala is also a wonderful opportunity for you to reunite with old friends and former mentors. If you attend the gala, I urge you to introduce yourself to me, so that I can hear about the experiences you have had along the path that the Boston University School of Dental Medicine set you upon.

**Dean Frankl Welcomes Alumni at
San Francisco ADA Annual Session**

Dean Spencer N. Frankl hosted more than 100 alumni and friends of the school at a cocktail reception during the October 1998 American Dental Association's annual session in San Francisco. Many guests are already enthusiastically planning to attend the school's reception at the next ADA annual session. No wonder: This cocktail reception will take place in Honolulu on October 10, 1999.



Alumni Board president Ronni Schnell DMD 81 catches up with Tanja Braecher DMD 96 and Sabina Jethwani DMD 96 AEGD 97



Dora Jarquin DMD 97 and Farhad Foroughi DMD 97 talk with Dr. Thomas Van Dyke, director of the postdoctoral periodontology program



Debbie Eisen DMD 88 and Steven Eisen DMD 84 chat with alumni board member Richard Forcucci DMD 87

check-up



Dr. Saeed Al-Zahrani DPH 00 examines a student at the Blackwell Elementary School in Boston's South End. BUSDM last fall participated in the screening as part of Colgate's Bright Smiles Bright Futures program.

New transcription factor discovered

Dr. Salomon Amar, Associate Professor of Periodontology and Oral Biology, and his laboratory associates and students have discovered a new transcription factor that is probably involved in regulating the events that occur during inflammation. Says Amar, "This transcription factor is interesting because we can potentially use it to curb or even curtail inflammation associated with infections." The study will be published in April in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Participate in community screenings!

The Division of Community Health Programs invites alumni to participate in community health screenings this spring. Providing screenings to people who otherwise might not get dental examinations is a rewarding way to help make a difference in someone's life. Screenings will be held on April 16 and April 27 at the Garfield Elementary School in Brighton, Massachusetts. For more details, contact Brenda Hughes, Division of Community Health Programs, at 617/414-1145.

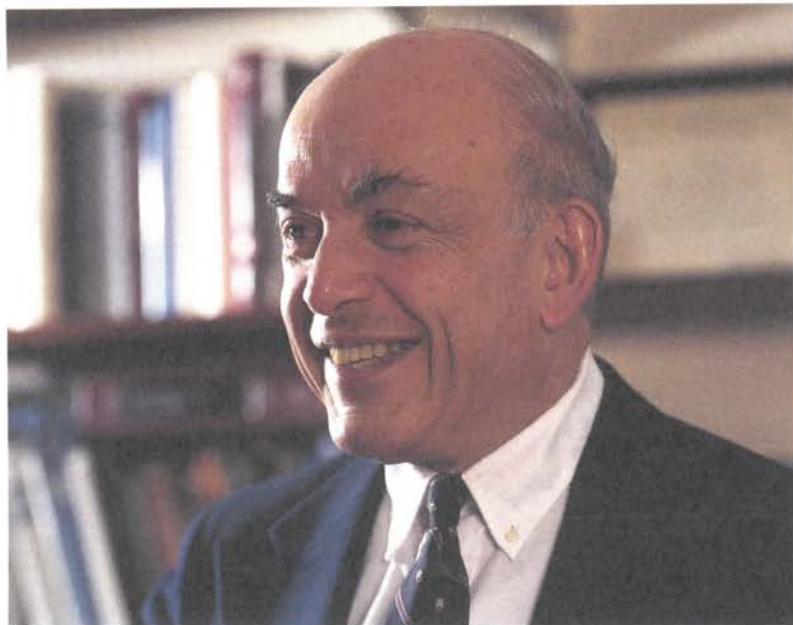
Applications soar at BUSDM

For the class that entered in 1997, BUSDM received the most applications of any dental school in the country. According to Dr. Sydell Shaw, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services, these statistics from the latest AADS Applicant Analysis Survey show the continued strength of the school and its ability to attract highly qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds.

"Applicants from all around the world have been touched by the school's mission," says Shaw. She notes that an educational institution is only as good as the people who comprise it. "We all believe staff and faculty should be a strong support system for students. This way, we can help our students fulfill their potential to become the best practitioners they can be."

With its strong applicant pool, BUSDM maintains its reputation as a top-notch dental school where educational innovations (such as the APEX program) draw prospective students from around the globe.

the last word



Since its establishment 36 years ago, the Goldman School of Dental Medicine has been an important member of the Boston University Medical Campus community. The school has emphasized the importance of oral health and the relevance of oral diseases to other medical conditions. Many programs have been integrated between the Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine, and Public Health, and faculty have been shared among the schools. Of particular significance has been the collaboration among these institutions in research.

Founding Dean Henry M. Goldman recognized during the early days of the BUSDM the importance of research for the school's long-term success. He rapidly recruited research faculty from the School of Medicine who were working in areas relevant to dentistry such as connective tissue and bone metabolism. From those seemingly meager beginnings has developed a mature research program that has flourished during Dean Frankl's tenure. As a member of the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Science, BUSDM has trained a large number of graduate students in dental research, and many of these have received Ph.D. degrees for work performed in laboratories of scientists working at the medical school and at the dental school.

BUSDM is entering an exciting new era marked by major growth in its research programs. Outstanding scientists with international reputations have been recruited to the school and more will follow. New laboratory facilities with state-of-the-art equipment are being built and new programs in Molecular and Cell Biology and in Health Policy and Health Services Research have been created. Already ranked in the top 10 percent of dental schools with respect to the level of funded research, the school is well positioned to become one of the top research dental schools in the United States. In addition, the outstanding research performed at the school enriches the scientific programs of both the Schools of Medicine and Public Health as well as Boston University as a whole. The forward-thinking vision of Dean Frankl and the excellence of the faculty are bringing the school to a preeminent position both in basic and clinical research and in dental education and clinical care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aram N. Chobanian".

DR. ARAM N. CHOBANIAN, Provost, Boston University Medical Campus,
and Dean, Boston University School of Medicine



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Boston University
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The mission of the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine is to provide excellent education to dental professionals throughout their careers; to shape the future of dental medicine and dental education through research; to offer excellent health care services to the community; to participate in community activities; and to foster a respectful and supportive environment.

annual recognition clubs

President's Club
gifts of \$25,000 or more

William Fairfield Warren Society
gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

Isaac Rich Society
gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

Dean's Club
gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999

1839 Club
gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499

Scarlet Society
gifts of \$500 to \$999

Century Club
gifts of \$100 to \$499

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Have you joined a practice, had a baby, sailed a sea?

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