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# Impressions: 2007 September

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*Boston University*

# impressions

SEPTEMBER 2007



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**INNOVATION IN RESEARCH**

# Impressions

You are no doubt aware of my decision to step down as Dean of the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. It has been one of the great experiences of my life, both personally and professionally, to have served as Dean for the past thirty years. I will continue to serve through July 1, 2008, or until a new Dean is named.



I want to thank each of you for enriching my experience as an educator, a researcher, and an administrator. For the past thirty years I have been motivated by and inspired by our energetic and engaged student community. I am confident that you will continue to be devoted to the school as involved and committed alumni.

At the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, we know that the future of dental medicine depends not only on world class education, but also on a commitment to a vibrant research program. This issue of Impressions highlights our dedication to this endeavor.

It is innovation that influences our research agenda, and the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research is using new tools to pinpoint oral health trends and provide dental care to the people and communities who need it most. Researchers in the Departments of Periodontology and Oral Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology, and Restorative Sciences and Biomaterials are discovering new pathways of disease, the interrelationship and effects of oral and systemic disease, and cutting-edge oral-based diagnostics and restorative materials that will allow you—the practitioner—to provide the best possible care to your patients.

I am confident that we will continue to innovate and help lead the nation in providing education to dental professionals throughout their careers, while also providing excellent health care services to those in the community with the greatest need. And, as we detail in this issue, we will continue our quest to shape the future through advanced, forward-thinking research.

I am deeply gratified to have served as your Dean and I thank you for all your efforts as loyal alumni now, and in the future.

With warm regards,

Spencer N. Frankl, DDS, MSD  
Professor and Dean

## in this issue

### impressions

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

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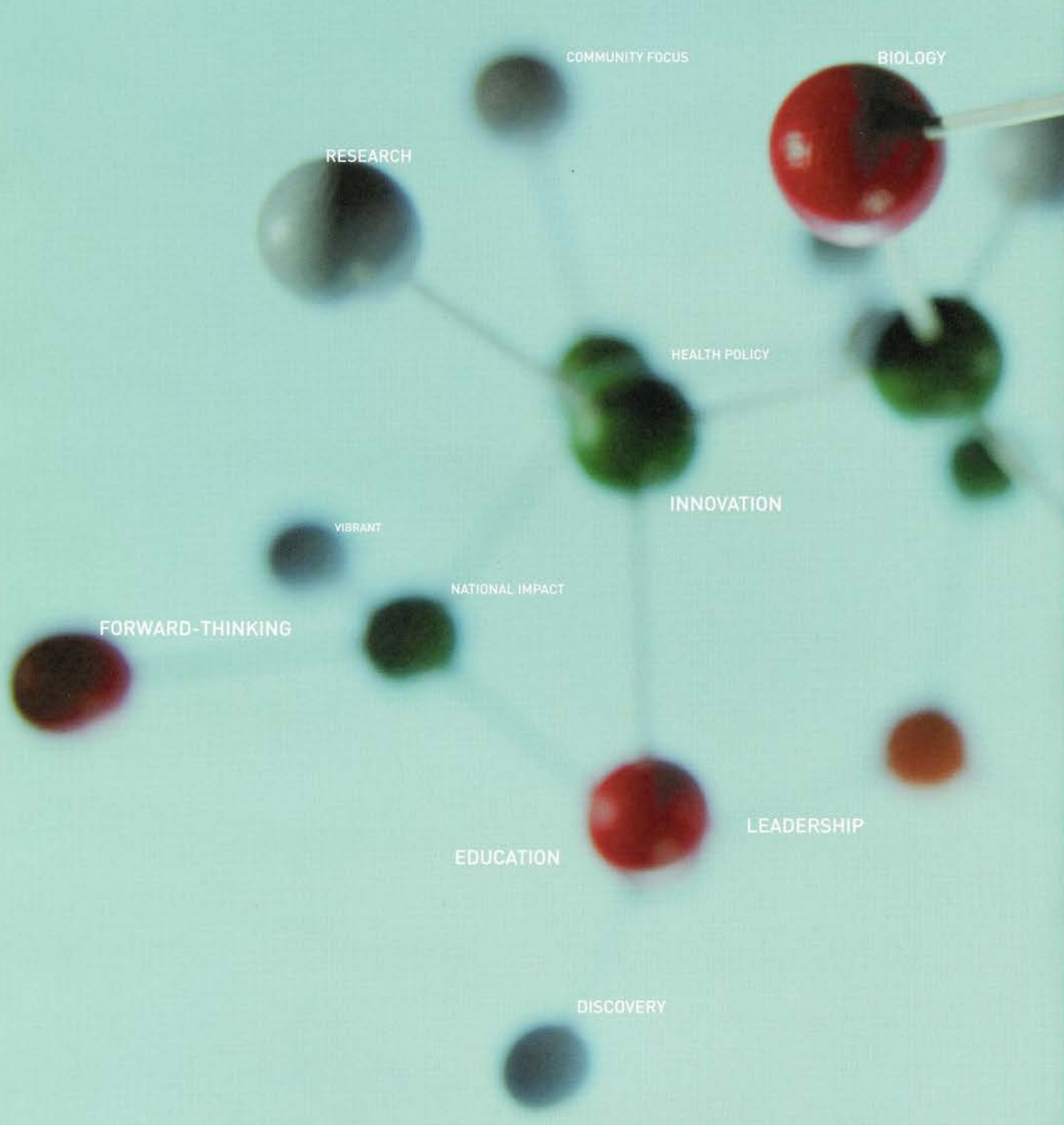
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COMMUNITY FOCUS

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RESEARCH

HEALTH POLICY

INNOVATION

VIBRANT


NATIONAL IMPACT

FORWARD-THINKING

LEADERSHIP

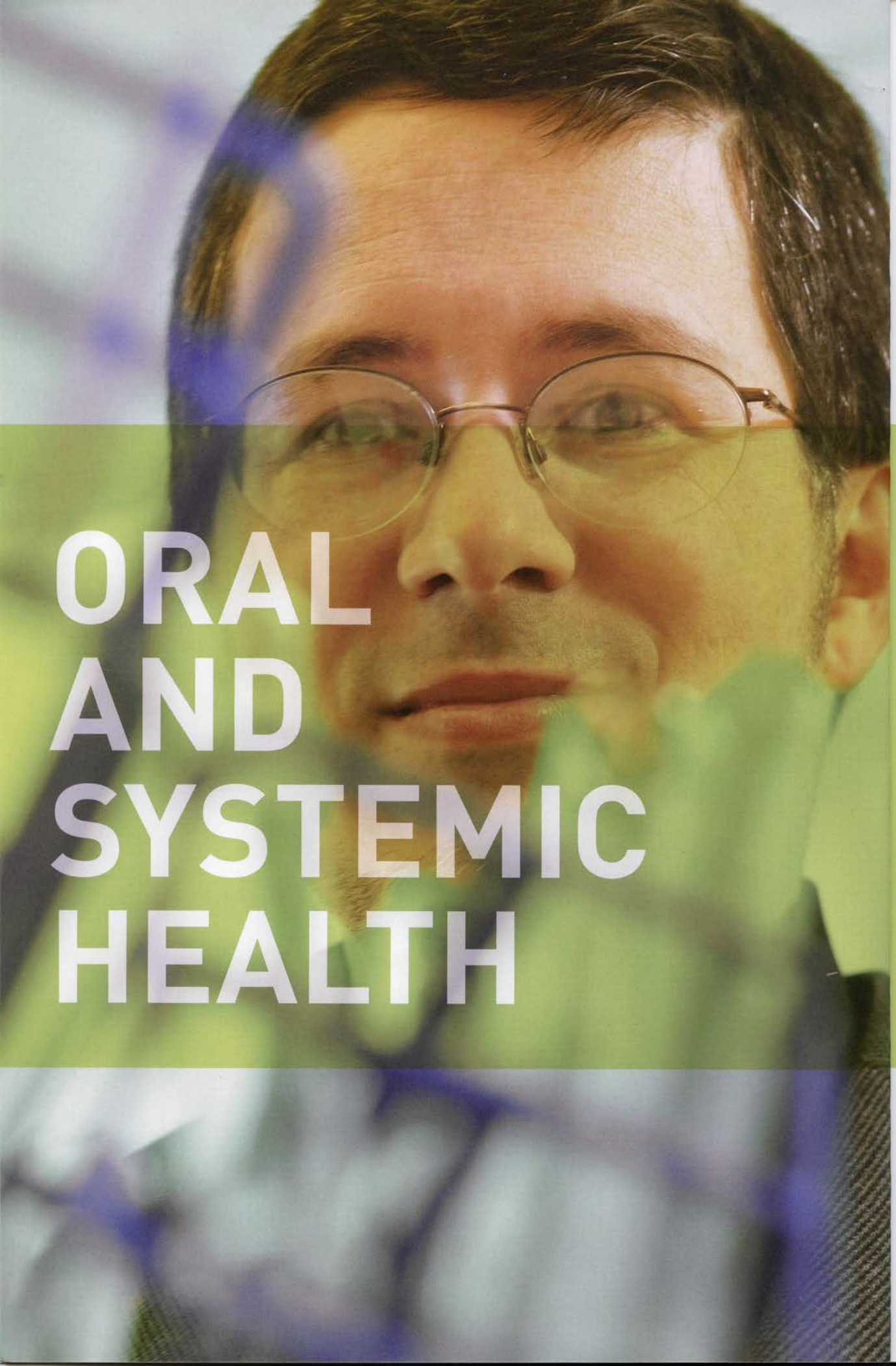
EDUCATION

DISCOVERY



#### **Innovation at BUSDM**

One word characterizes the vibrant research environment at Boston University School of Dental Medicine this year: innovation. The Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research is using new tools to pinpoint oral health trends and get dental care to the people and communities who need it most. Faculty in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology are discovering compounds that will make the medicines and treatment of tomorrow. They are developing techniques researchers nationwide are eager to learn and apply. In all areas of dental research, BUSDM is taking the lead. With these advances, don't be surprised if what you read about in the next few pages soon has your colleagues talking.



**ORAL  
AND  
SYSTEMIC  
HEALTH**

Miklos Sahin-Toth may be an Associate Professor at BUSDM, but you're not likely to find him studying teeth—or any part of the body near the mouth—in his Department of Molecular and Cell Biology lab. This second-generation scientist is enthralled by the pancreas, the organ that makes enzymes used in digestion.

**THERE ARE ABOUT 300,000 CASES OF PANCREATITIS IN THE U.S. DIAGNOSED EACH YEAR**

**+** something goes wrong and these enzymes start digesting inside the pancreas, the inflammatory disease known as pancreatitis results.

"There are about 300,000 cases of pancreatitis in the U.S. diagnosed each year," says Sahin-Toth, who holds an MD and PhD from Semmelweis University in his native Budapest. "It's not as rare as people think," he says.

"What is rare is pancreatitis caused by genetic mutations, which are what I study. The only form of human pancreatitis amenable to genetic and biochemical studies, hereditary pancreatitis serves as a model for all forms of human pancreatitis."

Sahin-Toth has received funding from the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study how these mutations may contribute to the development of pancreatitis in humans. "We've made a lot of progress in our understanding, but we are not at the level I could call satisfactory where I could really explain the mechanisms to design therapy or prevention," he says.

During a typical day, Sahin-Toth discusses the previous day's data with his postdoctoral and graduate students and participates in the experiments he finds most exciting. "I also spend my time writing manuscripts and grant proposals," he says. "But I always find time to do 'bench work' and I still do a large part of the cloning and mutagenesis [construction of mutations in a gene in vitro] experiments for the entire lab."

**I**  
**f**

Sahin-Toth was not always so intrigued by this type of work. During his childhood and teenage years he had an affinity for biology but not for chemistry, despite his father's job as a biochemistry professor. While studying for his MD, however, he became curious about the field. "If you want to be a scientist, medical school is a very good background," he says. "It gives you so much more insight into human physiology and pathology." When he learned about ongoing research of genetic mutations that cause pancreatitis, he was hooked. "Every time you start up a new scientific problem it becomes fascinating."

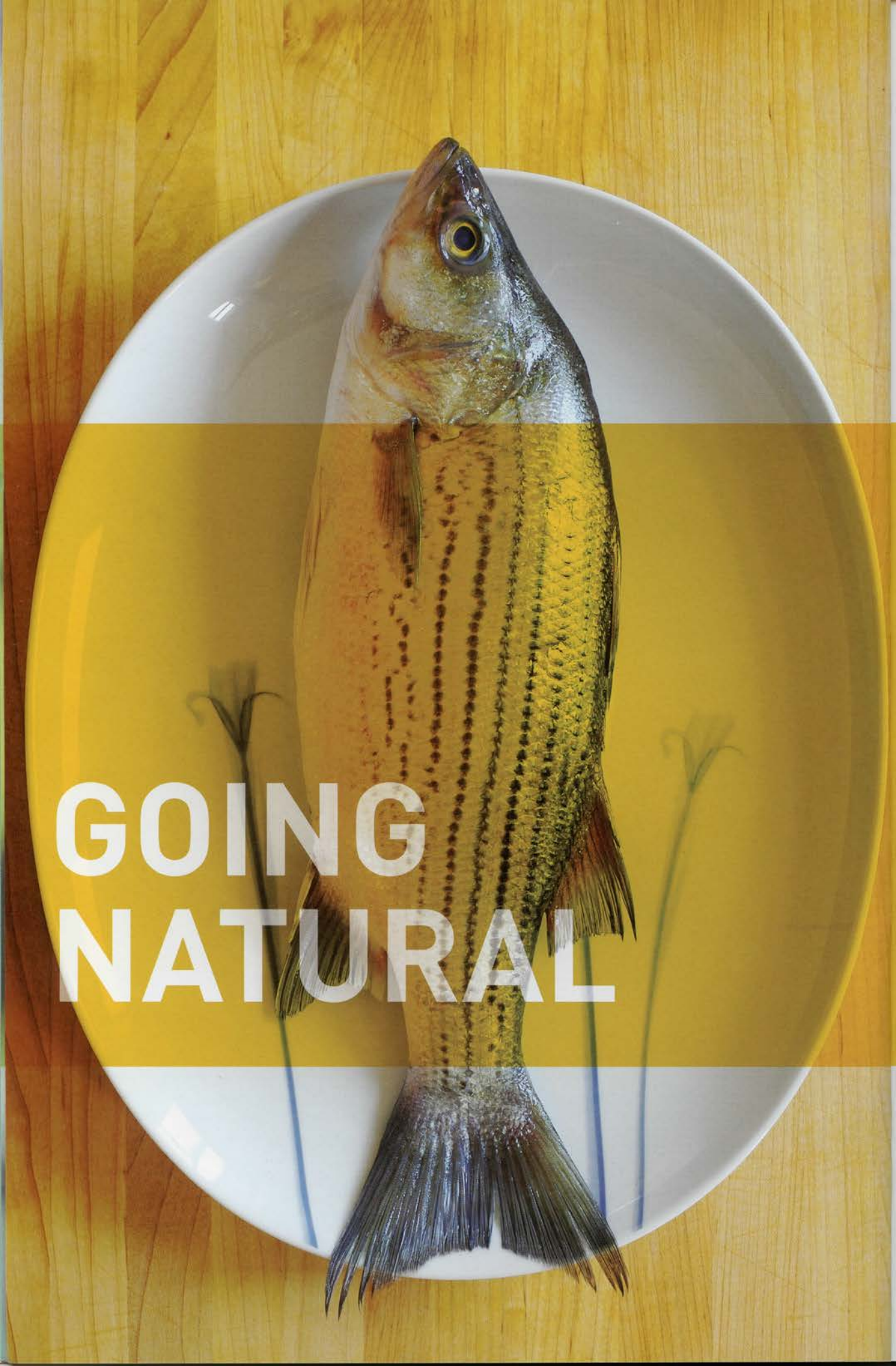
Sahin-Toth, who came to BUSDM in the summer of 2002, appreciates the school's continued support of his research. He recently received a second grant, this one from the NIH's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, to study the effects of alcohol on pancreatic diseases.

He is the course director of the molecular genetics class for first-year dental students and, since his arrival at the school, has given Grand Rounds twice in the Section of Gastroenterology of Boston University School of Medicine. He serves on the editorial board for the renowned *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and last year was nominated an honorary member of the Hungarian Society of Gastroenterology.

Sahin-Tóth feels settled, both at work at BUSDM and at home in Franklin, Massachusetts, where he lives with his wife Vera, a research technician at BUSDM, and two children, 13-year-old daughter Krisztina and 15-year-old son Miklos Jr. He hopes one day his children might follow his footsteps through the adventures of bio-chemical science.

So how does Sahin-Toth's work with the pancreas relate to oral health? "That's a very good question," he says, acknowledging the link between oral and systemic health. "Digestive health always translates to oral health," he says. "And oral health affects almost every aspect of human physiology."





**GOING  
NATURAL**

DR. CHARLES SERHAN



DR. THOMAS VAN DYKE



The discovery of resolvins supports a new way of looking at the mechanism behind periodontal disease, which occurs when bacteria accumulate on teeth, causing destruction of tooth-supporting oral tissue.

# Discovery

of endogenous compounds may offer new options for treatment and prevention of inflammatory diseases. People with inflammatory diseases such as periodontitis, arthritis, and heart disease have had good reason to pile their plates high with fish containing omega-3 fatty acids: the "good fat" has been shown to reduce inflammation throughout the body. Many fish fanatics may be surprised to learn, however, it is not the fish that produces the healthy side effect.

Dr. Thomas Van Dyke, Director of BUSDM's clinical research center, is working with Dr. Charles Serhan, Director of the Center for Experimental Therapeutics and Reperfusion Injury at Brigham & Women's Hospital, to analyze resolvins, which are anti-inflammatory molecules produced naturally by the body. Omega-3s encourage the formation of resolvins, named for their ability to resolve inflammation.

Through a 2004 grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to establish the Specialized Center for Oral Inflammation and Resolution at BUSDM, Van Dyke and Serhan are working on resolvins' application to disease processes. Van Dyke directs the project, "Novel Lipid Mediators in LAP and Resolution," as well as the Human Subjects and Translation Core for the center, working with BUSDM faculty including Drs. Robert Gyurko, Hatice Hasturk, and Alpdogan Kantarci.

"I've always been interested in the neutrophil, the cell that's responsible for initiating inflammation in inflammatory diseases like

periodontal disease," says Van Dyke. He believes resolvins may be the future of periodontal disease treatment and prevention, and through his project he plans to find out what makes them such strong inflammation fighters.

In 1999, Van Dyke began the first tests of resolving molecules as a topical treatment for periodontal disease. Using rabbits as a model for human gum infection, he has so far found the application of a resolvin solution to bacteria-covered teeth will prevent the disease, and treat existing disease, in rabbits.

The discovery of resolvins supports a new way of looking at the mechanism behind periodontal disease, which occurs when bacteria accumulate on teeth, causing destruction of tooth-supporting oral tissue. "This research suggests the control of inflammation is key to the control of periodontal disease," says Van Dyke. Previous data suggested the infection-causing bacteria perpetuated the disease. The center's research now shows it is the persistence of inflammation—perhaps mediated by the absence of anti-inflammatory compounds such as resolvins, which stop the inflammatory process—that allows the condition to persist, destroying tissue and bone.

Van Dyke says if resolvins could be developed into a treatment—even one applied topically—the resulting medicine would be much safer than current options. "Instead of giving a patient ibuprofen, [the patient will] use natural endogenous molecules, which work better because they're addressing a natural process." Resolvins might be used in medicines not only for periodontal disease but for all conditions involving chronic inflammation.

Until the center's work progresses to the point where resolvins are available for human use, keep eating fish!

+

THE DISCOVERY OF RESOLVINS SUPPORTS A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE MECHANISM BEHIND PERIODONTAL DISEASE

A photograph of a laboratory bench. In the foreground, a dark mouse is walking on a reflective surface. In the background, several pipettes are lined up on a rack. The pipettes have white bodies with green and blue accents. The text "A NEW PERSPECTIVE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**A NEW  
PERSPECTIVE**



DR. ROBERT GYURKO

Traditionally, scientists have used the technique known as intravital microscopy to look at cells as they travel within a living animal. The method required researchers to surgically expose in an anesthetized animal, usually a mouse, the tissue they would examine.

# Now

**+**  
A NEW  
TECHNIQUE OFFERS  
A LOOK INTO THE  
DIABETES/  
PERIODONTAL  
DISEASE LINK

BUSDM Assistant Professor Dr. Robert Gyrko and his staff in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology are improving on this invasive procedure. In November 2006 they introduced the world to intravital microscopy without the need to surgically expose the animal's tissue.

"We put an anesthetized mouse flat on a microscope and you can see the lower incisors, the gum tissue, and the blood vessels," says Gyrko, showing the detailed photos of fluorescent dye-stained white blood cells and the vessels through which they travel. By overlaying these images, Gyrko tracks the course of white blood cells through the gum tissue of both diabetic and healthy mice in his laboratory.

The research is part of the NIDCR-funded "In Vivo Study of Diabetic Hyperglycemia and Inflammation," which runs from 2005 to 2010. It is a combined effort of Gyrko, the principal investigator; Drs. Thomas Van Dyke, Alpdogan Kantarci, Camille Siqueira, and Li Gao; and Nathaniel Caldon DMD 07. The team is already making significant discoveries of the effect of diabetes on periodontal inflammation, which may mean better treatment options for people with periodontal disease.

The mice Gyrko studies carry a unique genetic mutation: they have extraordinarily high blood glucose, the primary characteristic of diabetes. But unlike humans or other animal models that may have high blood glucose in combination with obesity or other immunological problems, these mice have no such complications, making them an ideal research model.

"In healthy mice, white blood cells freely zoom by," Gyrko says. "In diabetic mice, the cells stop and attach to the vessel wall." Gyrko hypothesizes the high levels of blood glucose unnecessarily trigger this activation, making the cells falsely think they must do their job of fighting bacteria in the body. But when no bacteria are present, as is the case with Gyrko's diabetic mice, that means trouble.

"If you don't have bacteria and the white blood cells still get activated, they can damage your tissue because they're loaded with toxic chemicals and enzymes that are designed to destroy," Gyrko says. One such chemical is superoxide, one of the much talked about "free radicals" believed to cause premature aging, hardening of the arteries, and cancer, among other health concerns.

In the case of diabetic people with periodontal disease, the blood vessel-lining endothelial cells release additional superoxide. Gyrko theorizes the two sources of superoxide cause a free radical overload and damage tissue in the mouth.

"Moreover, white blood cells in the wrong place may mean there are not enough where they are really needed, such as to fight periodontal bacteria," Gyrko says.

As with much research, the answers he finds lead to more questions. Gyrko has started using intravital microscopy to follow white blood cells as they leave the vessels and enter tissue. So far, his evidence shows high blood glucose causes increased levels of chemoattractants, molecules responsible for directing white blood cells to sites of inflammation. Just how high blood glucose makes this happen will require further investigation.

"These are steps we have not fully explored and we definitely intend to," Gyrko says. And having already received requests from researchers who want to learn his intravital microscopy technique, Gyrko may find others following his lead.



# A DIFFERENT KIND OF RESEARCH



For some, research evokes images of lab coats and test tubes. For faculty in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research, it means finding and following oral health trends in the community. "What we do is a different kind of research," says Dr. Raul Garcia, Chair of the department.

## Here are just a few examples of the population-based research being conducted at BUSDM.

### IMPROVING CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH, COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY



WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO TARGET INTERVENTIONS TO THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE THE GREATEST NEED.

Right now, there's no way to tell whether children in, say, Boston are better off than children from, for example, Worcester when it comes to their oral health. While statewide data do exist, nobody has collected regional data, making it difficult to target prevention programs to the areas most in need.

BUSDM is closing this gap by conducting the first-ever regional oral health survey of Massachusetts children and their caregivers in partnership with the New England Research Institute (NERI). The school was selected by the Delta Dental of Massachusetts Knowledge Institute last fall to conduct this research, which will entail collecting oral health data on the approximately 12,000 Massachusetts children in kindergarten, third grade, and sixth grade.

"We're looking for basic oral health status indicators such as whether the children have untreated cavities, a history of cavities, and sealants, because sealants give us a sense of access to preventive services," says Dr. Michelle Henshaw, Assistant Dean for Community Partnerships and Extramural Affairs. "We are then going to be able to target interventions to those communities that have the greatest need."

For its part, NERI is conducting telephone surveys with the parents of the children BUSDM screens to gain a comprehensive understanding of the families' oral health beliefs and practices. Questions will cover access to care, the children's oral health, and the impact of oral health on the family. "NERI has the expertise in doing surveys and we have the experience of doing population-based data collection and surveillance in schools, so it is a good match," Henshaw says.

The age groups BUSDM is studying represent critical points in children's oral health. "We're looking at third graders because that is when children get sealants and sixth graders because that's when children get their permanent molars," Henshaw says. "We're looking at children in kindergarten because there is not much statewide data on the oral health of younger children. Kindergarten is the first time you have a mass of them together."

Armed with data from this research, Henshaw and others at the school will help policymakers decide how to allocate resources to ensure that all children in the state can access oral health care.

### BONE DENSITY AND TOOTH LOSS: FINDING AN ORAL-SYSTEMIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Dr. Elizabeth Krall-Kaye, Director of the Epidemiology Division in BUSDM's Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research, can thank a curious coworker at her last job for sparking her interest in the relationship between osteoporosis and periodontal disease. Kaye was examining how calcium and vitamin D supplements may prevent bone loss and osteoporotic fracture when another researcher decided to count the number of teeth of the women in the study.



“All health care providers, including dentists, could play a role in getting the message out.”

# SOLUTIONS

Seeing the data prompted Kaye to look at whether bone density correlated with the number of teeth remaining and also with the number of teeth lost during a set time period.

What she found wasn't surprising. “Women with lower bone density who were more at risk for osteoporosis were the women who were losing teeth,” she says. “And the women with good bone density were the women who were keeping their teeth.”

As a next step, Kaye wondered if osteoporosis treatments such as calcium supplements would strengthen periodontal bone. As Co-principal Investigator of the VA Longitudinal Osteoporosis Study, funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Kaye is hoping to answer this question by analyzing data on the health of older men. The VA study collected data from 760 men over two years.

She plans to find out if increased calcium intake would affect the men, allowing them to keep their teeth longer and avoid periodontal bone loss, the same way studies show hormone therapy benefits women's oral health.

“It has been consistently shown that post-menopausal women who use hormones tend

to keep their teeth more than women who don't use them,” explains Kaye. “Some smaller studies show that women who use hormones don't lose bone in the mouth as fast as women who don't.”

An ultimate goal of Kaye's population-based research is prevention. “If increased calcium intake helps protect against periodontal bone loss and tooth loss—along with good preventive oral care, not smoking, etc.—it would mean we'd have to do a better job advising people how to get the recommended amount of calcium in their diets,” she says.

Kaye notes that many people of all ages fail to meet minimum calcium intake requirements. “All health care providers, including dentists, could play a role in getting the message out.”

## **Oral Health-Related Quality of Life: A New Way to Measure Teen Perception**

By their seventeenth birthdays, approximately 78% of teenagers have some form of dental decay, according to *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*—a higher percentage than any other age group of children. No method exists, however, to measure the impact this rampant disease has on their daily lives.



By their seventeenth birthdays, approximately 78% of teenagers have some form of dental decay



“It has been consistently shown that postmenopausal women who use hormones tend to keep their teeth more than women who don’t use them.”

“It’s a big omission,” says Dr. Wanda Wright, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research. The lack of much-needed research led Wright three years ago to begin the NIDCR-funded study, “The Development of the Teen Oral Health-Related Quality of Life Instrument (TOQOL).” “It is difficult to develop [an instrument] for children and teenagers because they’re changing so quickly developmentally,” she says of the reason no tool exists for measuring teen perception.

Wright developed a questionnaire to measure items of importance to teens in several quality-of-life domains: symptoms; physical, psychological, and social functioning; and perceptions. An initial group of 100 teens answered questions such as, “In the past three months, because of your teeth or mouth, how often did you not want to speak/read aloud in class?” Initial data suggest teens think improved oral health would improve their quality of life.

Wright will confirm the questionnaire’s effectiveness by administering it to a new group of 500 teens this year. This time, she will look at the teens’ demographics in more detail. “We’re going to look at differences in socioeconomic

background, race, and gender, and compare [quality-of-life data from] the younger teens versus the older teens,” she says.

Once she confirms validity and reliability, Wright will use the questionnaire for longitudinal studies, needs assessment, to prioritize care, to describe differences in quality of life between groups, to identify at-risk groups, to explore disparities in oral health, and to impact legislation.

Wright has learned when you’re interested in learning about teens’ oral health it pays to go right to the source. Discrepancies between parents’ responses about their children’s oral health and teens’ responses show “parents are not good reporters on their kids,” she says. “The information they give us is important, but they don’t all the time capture the reality of what the teen is thinking or feeling.”

Wright’s research, which she will combine with clinical information, shows how clinical and epidemiological data meet to form the big picture. “Together, you get a comprehensive assessment of a person’s overall health,” Wright says.

# QUALITY OF LIFE



# IMPROVING A SCHOOL, HONORING A LEGEND

In 1967, when the Boston University School of Dental Medicine (then BU's School of Graduate Dentistry) was just three years old and not yet settled into its 100 East Newton Street home, a visionary leader joined the school's Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Just ten years later, Dean Spencer N. Frankl would assume the role of former Dean and school namesake Henry M. Goldman, and launch a seemingly unending list of initiatives to improve the school's research activities, community programs, patient care, and education.

Acknowledging these achievements was the goal when BUSDM launched the Spencer N. Frankl (SNF) Chair in Dental Medicine in 2002. The \$2 million endowment was established to celebrate the school's 40th anniversary and Frankl's 25th anniversary as Dean. The endowment was fulfilled this July.

The fulfillment of the Chair is an important step toward fulfilling Dean Frankl's vision for BUSDM. The school's largest endowment to date, the Chair will provide funds to recruit preeminent faculty who will maintain the school as a leader in both dental education and research, areas Dean Frankl has worked hard to improve.

"The Dean is a visionary," says Director of Alumni Relations Stacey McNamee, who helped raise funds for the chair. "He always looks ahead to find better ways to do things."

Among these improvements is the growth of the school's predoctoral program leading to a doctor of dental medicine degree. Initiated just five years before Dean Frankl took the position, the program gained a reputation as one of the top in the nation under Dean Frankl's leadership.

As dentistry evolved, Dean Frankl introduced new departments to offer students the most modern dental education. The oral biology, bio-materials, diagnostic sciences and patient services, implantology, health policy and health services research, molecular and cell biology, and general dentistry departments all flourished.

The school remains at the top of the list of research dollars awarded to dental schools by the National Institutes of Health. The Clinical Research Center and Simulation Learning Center, both opened during Dean Frankl's time, allow students and faculty to make more discoveries and contribute to the future of dental medicine.

"The Dean is a visionary...  
He always looks ahead to find  
better ways to do things."



“He’s been a mentor to thousands of students, residents, and faculty and is one of the most respected Deans of dental schools in the country.”

# passion

BUSDM became a “school without walls,” through programs such as the Chelsea School Partnership, which provides free oral health services to children in Chelsea public schools, and Special Olympics Health Athletes® Special Smiles®, which brings dental screenings to hundreds of athletes at the Special Olympics Massachusetts games each year and many more athletes at 143 additional games worldwide.

Students found better clinical space in a new predoctoral patient treatment center on the school’s sixth floor, and a formal mentoring and advising program gives students the support and guidance to succeed. The school implemented the externship, Applied Professional Experience (APEX), and Experiential Center for Excellence in Learning (EXCEL) program to enhance predoctoral students’ education.

Consider any or all of the above achievements, which improve the dental school experience, and it is clear why the SNF Chair in Dental Medicine is such a strong alumni-driven campaign. More than 65 percent of all donations to the chair are from alumni.

Aside from the good feeling of giving back to the school that gave so much to them, these alumni benefit in other ways from their donations, McNamee explains. “You want keep your faculty great and your students great, which gives the school a better name and gives the diploma a better value. So it’s a chain reaction.”

As of July 2007, Dean Frankl is both Boston University’s longest serving Dean and the longest serving Dean of any dental school nationwide. Those who have worked with him attest to his extraordinary vision and dedication to Boston University and the School of Dental Medicine.

“I had the pleasure and the privilege to work closely with Dean Frankl for many years,” says former Boston University President Aram Chobanian. “His legacy will shape the future of dental education, research, and service to the community at the Goldman School of Dental Medicine.”

“He’s been a mentor to thousands of students, residents, and faculty and is one of the most respected Deans of dental schools in the country,” says Center of Implantology Director and leader of the SNF Chair fundraising campaign Dr. Zhimon Jacobson. “All of the programs he set into place 10 to 20 years ago, other universities are trying to imitate. He is always ahead of the curve.”

In keeping with Dean Frankl’s legacy, McNamee says BUSDM is thinking big about future of the school.

“There is always another project around the corner,” she says.

“I had the pleasure and the privilege to work closely with Dean Frankl for many years.”

# legacy

# Q

# &

With your Alumni Board Officers

# A

The room was hushed as Ms. Catherine Sarkis, Executive Director of Admissions and Student Services, launched into her presentation. She was about to talk to the school's Alumni Board about BUSDM's current student population: its diversity, its intelligence, its energy.

Alumni Board members are hungry for the information, its officers most of all. Two of the three Board officers serve on the school's faculty (Joe and Tina); all are extraordinarily passionate about their alma mater. What motivates these busy individuals to give their time and money is their devotion to the school that enabled their professional success.

The officers all agree that today's students are particularly driven, diverse, and digitally savvy. Read on to learn more about how the officers perceive the school today and the role of alumni in the life of Boston University School of Dental Medicine.

A photograph of three dental professionals standing in a wood-paneled room. On the left is a man in a dark suit and glasses. In the center is a man in a tan blazer. On the right is a woman in a dark, vertically striped dress. The background is a wall of dark wood paneling with vertical lines.

# dedication

JOE CALABRESE

DMD 91 AEGD 92 (president)

# vision

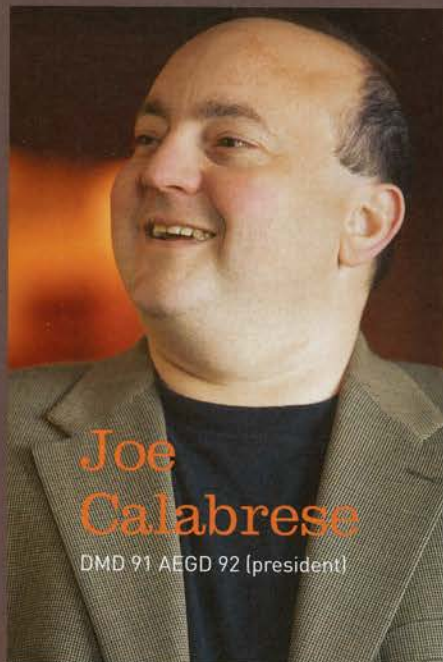
SHADI DAHER

DMD 90 OMFS 04 (president elect)

# impact

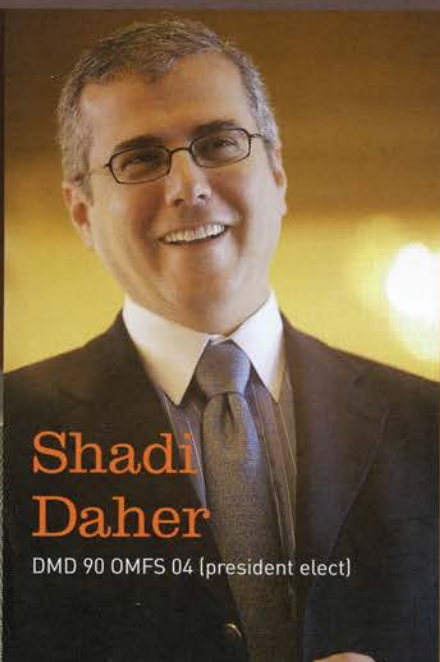
TINA VALADES

DMD 84 (secretary)



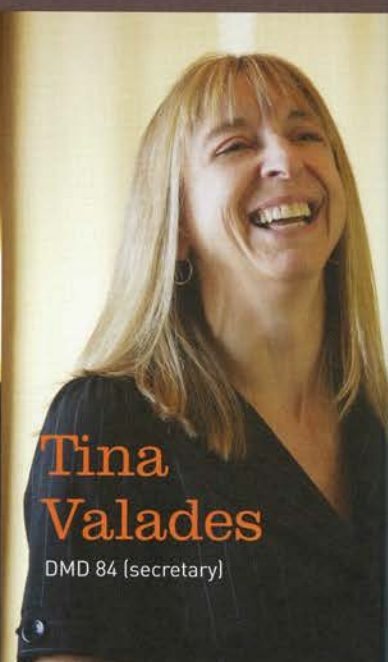
**Joe Calabrese**

DMD 91 AEGD 92 (president)



**Shadi Daher**

DMD 90 OMFS 04 (president elect)



**Tina Valades**

DMD 84 (secretary)

#### Why should alumni support the school now?

**Joe Calabrese** It is the continued investment in the value of our degree. With the support of alumni, the school improves in numerous ways thus increasing the value of the BU Dental degree.

**Shadi Daher** There will be as many reasons as there are alumni. I support the school because I am grateful for the education I received. Over the years the school continues to improve in stature, reputation, and respect worldwide, and that reflects positively on my credentials and career. I support the school morally by always championing its reputation, personally by working on the Alumni Board and participating in events, and financially with annual contributions.

**Tina Valades** The school is creating the future of dentistry. Each alum can decide for themselves how they would like to support the school. It can be giving of themselves, their offices, or it can be monetary support.

#### How has the school changed since when you were a student?

**Joe Calabrese** What hasn't changed? The school's physical plant has changed the most, going from approximately 90,000 square feet to over 170,000 square feet. We are not just in one building anymore but nine.

**Shadi Daher** It's cutting edge in teaching, research and outreach. While BU was never short of innovators, over the past 15 years or so we institutionalized the mentality of innovation, creativity, and "thinking outside the box."

**Tina Valades** The school has changed tremendously since I was a student. It now resides at many health centers, laboratories, nearby buildings, and dental offices.

#### Favorite professors?

**Joe Calabrese** Dr. Armstrong. He was always consistent, stern, and fair.

**Shadi Daher** Dr. Kilgore. He was and still is a mentor, model, and friend.

**Tina Valades** Drs. Emerling and McManama. They taught well-organized courses and were extremely effective teachers.

#### School's greatest strength?

**Joe Calabrese** There are several. Among them is the great job done by the Office of Admissions (this year they will handle over 5,000 applications), the always-expanding community programs, the faculty, and of course Dean Frankl.

**Shadi Daher** The students: Their caliber is a direct result of the school's outstanding faculty and reputation. Their loyalty and goodwill are the future of our school.

**Tina Valades** Dean Frankl. He has had an unbelievable vision for the school and has led the faculty, staff, and students on an incredible journey to get to where we are today.

**The Alumni Board: Why did you become involved? Why do you like being on it?**

**Joe Calabrese** Alumni are the backbone of the school. Over the past several years the board has focused on involving students in alumni-supported events from the time they begin their tenure here. This year, for example, we sponsored travel for two DMD 4 students who went to Mexico to provide care to underserved populations through an organization called Project Stretch.

**Shadi Daher** I like the interaction with the school, faculty, alumni, and students. But I especially enjoy meeting and working with the rest of the board members.

**Tina Valades** I became involved to give back to the school and fellow alumni. It has allowed me to see the big picture, and has helped me become involved with projects for both the alumni and the students in the school now.

**What are the characteristics of a BUSDM alumnus/a?**

**Joe Calabrese** An individual with a strong clinical foundation in dentistry. I hope also an individual with strong ties to BU Dental.

**Shadi Daher** We are all proud of the education we received. Beyond that we are the most diverse group you'll meet both from a career or life outlook standpoint. It is clear that among my former classmates a significant number have made bold and unconventional career choices in dentistry and beyond. "Thinking outside the box" is a trait that must either have drawn us to BUSDM or been instilled in us there.

**Tina Valades** I don't think there is a "typical" alumnus. I do see many alumni are family and community oriented. They like to explore new technologies, and many have come back to the school to teach.

**What do you like to do when not working?**

**Joe Calabrese** First and foremost is spending time with my wife and children. I also enjoy sporting events (I've been a BU hockey season ticket holder for 14 years) and working in my woodshop.

**Shadi Daher** Play with my kids, read, listen to music.

**Tina Valades** Sleep in, enjoy a good meal with family and friends, and work out.

**And the rest of your time?**

**Joe Calabrese** I spend half the week at school and half the week as the director of dental medicine at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center. I also work every other Saturday with two fellow alumnae (Steve Roberts DMD 79 and Bing Liu DMD 03) in a private practice in Brockton.

**Shadi Daher** I am a consultant in oral surgery. I am involved in education both nationally and internationally, mainly in the field of dental implants and reconstruction.

**Tina Valades** Outside of teaching at the school I practice in and manage a dental office funded by a Taft-Hartley Trust Fund that provides health and welfare benefits to Teamsters Union members, their families, and retirees.



## Sealing the Deal

BUSDM'S SCHOOL-BASED SEALANT PROGRAMS BRING BIG SOLUTIONS TO SMALL MOUTHS

The Surgeon General's 2000 report *Oral Health in America* names tooth decay as the most common chronic childhood disease—five times more common than asthma—causing children to miss more than 51 million hours of school annually. Despite the statistics that would suggest otherwise, this disease—unlike many others affecting children—is avoidable with preventive dental care. So why do so many school children still suffer from dental-related disease?

### SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS



DR. MICHELLE HENSHAW

In Boston, children fare far worse than in these suburbs; 2003 data show 43% of third grade students in Boston were at school with untreated dental decay while during the same period the statewide average was 26%. Statistics such as these prompted the Massachusetts Coalition for Oral Health to introduce Smart Smiles, the sealant program currently in 59 Boston Public Schools.

As the Smart Smiles Sealant Coordination Center, BUSDM provides the infrastructure to develop and evaluate the program, which includes collaborators Harvard and Tufts Schools of Dental Medicine. Last year, Smart Smiles visited more than 1,300 children in their schools and placed approximately 4,500 sealants.

"The success of BUSDM's school-based dental programs proves we can make important steps toward improving children's oral health," says Dee Devlin, Project Coordinator, Metro West School-Based Dental Programs. After the introduction of school-based programs, children's dental status improved significantly. In Chelsea, where BUSDM provides not only preventive care to second and third graders but also dental education to children in kindergarten through sixth grade, rates of untreated dental decay have declined from a recent high of 44% to the current 34%.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010 initiative sets the goal of 50% of third graders having at least one dental sealant by the year 2010. With the success of BUSDM's school-based sealant programs, underserved communities in Massachusetts are sure to exceed this goal.

One answer is limited access to dental care. The 2003 Massachusetts Oral Health Survey explains 14% of the state's children rarely, if ever, visit a dentist and 13% have no dental insurance of any kind. "Even for those with Medicaid's dental coverage, access to care is difficult because of the low numbers of participating local dentists," says Corinna Culler, Program Coordinator, BU/Chelsea Dental Program. "Transportation and limited office hours are other barriers."

Enter BUSDM's school-based sealant programs, which aim to improve the oral health of children in Massachusetts by providing free preventive care, including dental screening, sealant placement, and fluoride varnish treatment; oral health education; and dental referrals. The school provides these services to second and third graders right in their schools—no travel, time commitments, or even insurance required.

For the past five years, BUSDM has managed citywide sealant programs in Framingham, Natick, and Chelsea, providing free, preventive dental care to children in all public elementary schools in these communities. In addition, BUSDM staff provides dental services to second and third grade children in Lawrence's Arlington School and Cold Spring School in Plymouth.

A teacher in a purple shirt is leaning over a desk, holding a yellow stuffed animal and a yellow pencil. She is looking down at the desk.

B

A classroom full of children. A boy in the foreground is looking towards the camera with his hands clasped. Other children are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera and others looking away.

I

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, is sitting at a desk and smiling. She is looking towards the camera.

G

SOLUTIONS  
FOR SMALL MOUTHS



## Life is too short. You need to do what you want to do and make a difference where you can.

As the middle child born to a small family in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, Adrienne Archidiacono DMD 09 got noticed for her curiosity and "nothing can stop me" attitude. As a student completing her second year towards her DMD degree at BUSDM, not much has changed for Archidiacono. "When I was younger I would jump off a 20-foot diving board. Maybe I wouldn't do that now, but as far as being nervous to start my career or being in clinic it's the same thing," she says. "I just go for it."

It was Archidiacono's willingness to try something new that first introduced her to special needs dentistry just one year ago as she completed her Applied Professional Experience (APEX) I rotation from May through June 2006. Kathy Held, assistant director of extramural programs, matched her with mentor Dr. Steve Perlman PEDO 76 MSD 76. "Interest and location are only a few of the variables of a great match. Personality and disposition are key," says Held.

Perlman, a pediatric dentist who trained at BUSDM with Dean Spencer N. Frankl, specializes in dental care for patients (both children and adults) with disabilities. He and the school worked with Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver to start Special Olympics Special Smiles®, a program to provide on-site dental screenings to athletes at the Special Olympics Massachusetts games, in 1993. Special Smiles later became part of Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®, a larger initiative to improve athletes' overall health and fitness.

While working in Perlman's Lynn office, Archidiacono received a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Special Olympics Student

Grant to volunteer at the first Special Olympics USA National Games. She provided dental screenings to athletes through the Special Smiles program; attended the national research symposium, where U.S. Surgeon General Admiral Richard H. Carmona and field experts spoke about research relevant to people with disabilities; met Special Olympics International Board Chair Dr. Timothy Shriver, who received the Surgeon General's Medallion for his public health efforts; and attended a Senate Appropriations Committee field hearing to address the health needs of people with disabilities.

There, she heard a statistic echoed by many speakers: approximately 80% of dental schools in the United States have no mandatory programs to teach students about dental care for patients with special needs. At BUSDM, however, Dr. Perlman presents two lectures on this topic to third-year students in the Pediatric Dentistry course. Second-year and Advanced Standing I students hear a lecture on special needs from Dr. Paul Farsai during the Behavioral Sciences course. "If you don't have that exposure, why would you feel comfortable [treating patients with special needs]?" Archidiacono wondered.

Archidiacono loves that Special Olympics athletes push themselves to do the unexpected—just like she's not scared to challenge herself. "Their level of physical ability may be different but competitiveness and drive to win—they have all that."



# appreciation

it's  
good  
to give  
back

Mahadeep "Bobby" Virk  
and Helena Skountrianos



## It's good to give back

Laughter comes easily to Mahadeep "Bobby" Virk ORTHO 06 MSD 06, a buoyant entrepreneur who built a successful business of ten (and counting) offices in the Pacific Northwest focusing on general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and orthodontics. Impressions staffers met the newest member of the school's Board of Visitors at the W Hotel in Seattle, where he touched on his experiences at Boston University, his commitment to maintaining programs of excellence at BUSDM, and, certainly not least, becoming a father.

Bobby's relaxed outlook on life doesn't betray his military upbringing: His father, who now lives in Washington state along with his mother and brother, was a colonel in the Indian army. Bobby's drive to succeed is matched only by his generosity to his family, friends, community, and Boston University.

True to form, Bobby is unassuming about his philanthropy. "I personally feel this is nothing. A lot more needs to be done. Everything that can be done has to be done for the school to be sustained. And it's good to give back."

As a Board of Visitors member and alumnus, Bobby is committed to connecting fellow graduates with their alma mater. But, he says, "It has to be built up from students' first day of school. It's a cycle: students, school, and alumni, and we have to make it stronger."

Before coming to BU, Bobby was already a successful general dentist, having opened nine offices (which, not incidentally, now employ five BUSDM alumni). He had always been intrigued by orthodontics, though, and decided to head back to school. The decision to attend Boston University was easy.

"I met with Dean [Spencer] Frankl and was blown away by his demeanor. Dean Frankl thinks outside the box, and the ortho program is one of the strongest in the country."

Bobby learned a lot at BU. "BU has changed me not only professionally but personally as well. Interacting with Drs. [Michael] Blau, [Ken] Drizen, Dr. G [Anthony Gianelly] was just amazing. When I went to BU I'd gone as a businessperson who thought he knew everything, and it gave me a totally new perspective on things."

Coming to BU gave Bobby something else important: he met his wife, Helena Skountrianos, at the school. "She was all ready to go back to [her native] Greece," laughs Bobby. "I loved the single life but I had to make a last-minute decision, the best decision of my life!" The two are ready for their next challenge: they welcomed their first child, Karan, in May.

Helena, who has her own orthodontics practice, is taking some time off to be with the new baby. Meanwhile, the couple are working to renovate their home while seeing patients in all corners of the state.

Bobby proves that with the joy that comes from humble generosity, we might all find a reason to smile.

### Focus on Philanthropy

John West is a man of boundless energy. A humble gentleman who jokes easily with visitors and staff alike, he amiably greets Impressions staffers while betraying little of the deadline pressure he is under (the stress of having to complete a book chapter that evening).

We met him at his office, situated on a quiet corner across from a Boy Scout office in Tacoma, Washington. Built in 2001, the building is an innovative hybrid: a technologically advanced endodontic practice, a modern continuing education center, and certainly not least, a relaxing environment for patients.

What distinguishes the new office, designed by John, his wife Chris, and son Jason (ENDO 01), who has practiced with his dad since graduating from BUSDM, is its thoroughly professional, friendly, and patient-centered environment. "We do not treat endodontic teeth, we treat people who have endodontic disease," says John. In planning his new space, John asked himself, "What is my experience going to be all day? What will the patient's experience be coming in the door?" The answers informed everything about the practice, from the design of the operatories with in-ceiling cable television/intraoral camera views for patients, to the giant, soothing fish tank in the reception area.

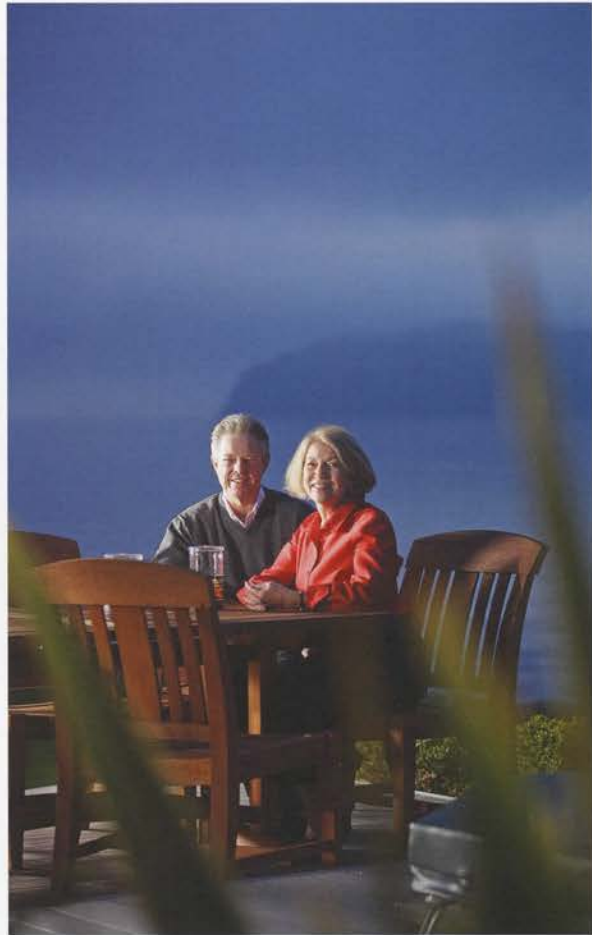
When patients come in for treatment, West and his staff discuss their options with them not in the dental chair, where patients may feel vulnerable, but in a separate consultation area. It is this attention to patient needs that sets John's office apart, not to mention his state-of-the-art continuing education center where he offers classes in the Schilder Technique to dentists from around the world.

He credits BUSDM, especially Dr. Herbert Schilder, former chair of the Department of Endodontics, with the professional success that led him and Chris to be so generous to the school. "Herb was my teacher, mentor, and friend," says John. "He taught all of us not just the technical aspects of endodontics but that we could do it time after time. And, he always talked about giving back."

This focus on philanthropy carries over into his and Chris's philosophy of donating to BUSDM. Says John, "The school is only as good as the teachers, administration and graduates. And if the grads stop giving then you don't have much future in the school. BUSDM has always been a leader, and to keep it going requires money."

John has many other fine memories of faculty at BUSDM, especially Harold Levin and Seymour Melnick. "Harold is one of the finest people I've ever met. He is so down to earth." Of Melnick, he notes, "He cares so much about the job and the school."

The same could be said of John West himself.



John and Chris West

We do not treat  
endodontic teeth,  
we treat people who  
have endodontic  
disease.



# appreciation

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# appreciation

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*This list reflects gifts received March 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. We thank you for calling Stacey McNamee, Director of Alumni Relations, at 617/638-4778 with any corrections.*

# progress report

## FACULTY PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

**Dr. Serge Dibart promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Periodontology and Oral Biology.**

Dibart joined BUSDM in 1989 as a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Periodontology until 1990. He came back to the school as Clinical Instructor from 1994 to 1996, when he became Assistant Professor. He became associate professor in 1999 and Clinical Director of Postdoctoral Periodontology, a position he currently holds, in 2000. Dibart received his DMD from BUSDM.



Dr. Paul Farsai

**Dr. Paul Farsai promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of General Dentistry.**

Farsai joined BUSDM in 1995 as an Instructor in Predoctoral courses. He was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences and co-course Director of Integrated Problems in Practice Management II in 1997. He later served as course Director of Integrated Problems in Practice Management I, III, and IV; Behavioral Sciences; and Evidence-based Practice Seminars. He became Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research in 1999 and Assistant Professor in the Department of General Dentistry in 2000. He received his DMD, CAGS, and MPH from Boston University.



Dr. John Guarente

**Dr. John Guarente promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor of General Dentistry.**

Guarente joined BUSDM as Clinical Instructor in 1989 and later held the positions of Clinic Coordinator, Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and Patient Services, and Assistant Dean for patient services, a title he currently holds.



Dr. Jeffrey Hutter

**Dr. Jeffrey Hutter promoted from Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to Senior Associate Dean.**

Hutter, who is also a Professor and Chair of the Department of Endodontics, worked at Naval Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland, from 1990-1996. He joined BUSDM in 1997 as Associate Professor of Endodontics and Director of the Postdoctoral Program.



Dr. Thomas Kilgore

**Dr. Thomas Kilgore promoted from Associate Dean for Advanced Education to Associate Dean for Advanced Education and International Programs.**

In his new role, Dr. Kilgore will continue to develop the school's relationships with global partners and will direct, oversee, and coordinate all international programs within the school.

# PROMO



Dr. Cataldo Leone

Dr. Cataldo Leone promoted from Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Leone worked as Assistant Professor at the University of Florida in Gainesville and Associate Professor at Tufts University before joining BUSDM as Associate Professor of Periodontology and Oral Biology in 1999. He was promoted to Professor in 2006.



Dr. Pushkar Mehra

Dr. Pushkar Mehra promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Mehra joined the school in 2000 as Assistant Professor and later served as Clinical Director in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is also Director of the Maxillofacial Trauma Service at BUMC and Director of the Departments of Dentistry and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at BMC. Mehra earned his DMD and CAGS from BUSDM.



Dr. Albert Price

Dr. Albert Price promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor. After working as a Research Associate at BUSDM in the early 1970s, Price spent the next two decades at Jordan Hospital in Plymouth and in private practice. He rejoined the school in 1996 as adjunct Clinical Instructor of Periodontology and was promoted in 1999 to Clinical Assistant Professor.



Dr. Ramzi Sarkis

Dr. Ramzi Sarkis promoted to Assistant Professor of Endodontics. Sarkis has worked as a staff dentist in the divisions of advanced education in general dentistry and graduate operative dentistry at BUSDM since 1997. He received his DMD, CAGS, and MSD from BUSDM.

#### **BUSDM Receives \$35,000 Grant for Oral Health Promotion**

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has subcontracted to BUSDM a \$35,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation for promoting oral health in the city's Healthy Baby/Healthy Child (HB/HC) program.

The school's Division of Community Health Programs, which has a longstanding partnership with BPHC, will use the funds to prevent early childhood caries by targeting high risk pre and postnatal women and children who participate in the HB/HC's home visit program.

The goal of the partnership is to train HB/HC nurses to conduct basic oral health assessments, provide oral health education to their clients, and facilitate referrals for dental care. Knowledge gained this program will serve as an evidence base for other home visit models.

ONS

# progress report



Dr. Anita Gohel: The new Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology for the School of Dental Medicine.

## **Dr. Anita Gohel Appointed Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology**

The Department of General Dentistry is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Anita Gohel as Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology for the School of Dental Medicine. Gohel is Assistant Professor of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology in the Department of General Dentistry.

Gohel received her BDS in 1991 from Calcutta University in India, a PhD in oral biology, and a certificate in oral and maxillofacial radiology from the University of Connecticut in 1998. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology.

A course director for the predoctoral radiology courses at BUSDM since 1999, Gohel has been involved in predoctoral and postdoctoral lectures and clinical training. Under her leadership and guidance, BUSDM has initiated the conversion from film-based to digital radiology.

## **Residency Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Accredited**

BUSDM's residency program in oral and maxillofacial pathology received accreditation in August from the American Dental Association's (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation after a site visit and review by the commission in April 2006. "I regard this as one other piece in the overall favorable evaluation of the school by the ADA," says Dr. George Gallagher, director of the postdoctoral oral pathology program.

BUSDM impressed the commission in several areas, including the large number (more than 6,500) of diagnostic cases each year that provide experience to trainees and the availability of training in general pathology made possible through the school's relationship with Boston Medical Center. "That was considered a strong point because the Medical Center is highly regarded," Gallagher says.

"Another area that came up for commendation was the support received from Dean Frankl and the school," he adds. "[The commission was] impressed we received consistent support."

## **FACULTY AWARDS | March-May 2006**

### **Dr. Ramzi Sarkis**

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, 3/2006

### **Dr. Hastice Hasturk**

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, 3/2006

### **Dr. Alpdogen Kantarci**

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, 3/2006

### **Dr. Vicki Noonan**

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, 3/2006

### **Dr. Xiaoren Tang**

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, 3/2006

### **Dr. Walter Siqueira**

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, 3/2006

### **Dr. Shiro Kamachi**

Proctor and Gamble Outstanding Faculty Award, 5/2006

### **Dr. Zhimon Jacobson**

Award for leadership of the International Implantology Symposium over 5 years, 5/2006

### **Dr. Mark Ferriero Receives Academy of General Dentistry Mastership Degree**

Dr. Mark Ferriero, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of General Dentistry, received a mastership degree (MAGD) August 5 at the Academy of General Dentistry's (AGD) annual meeting in Denver.

The mastership degree represents Ferriero's commitment to lifelong learning, a mission important to both the AGD and BUSDM.

"My charge as a master is to share the importance to our profession and patients of lifelong dental education and the commitment to providing superior, state-of-the-art, dental care to all," Ferriero says.

To earn his degree, Ferriero completed 600 continuing education credits beyond the requirements of the fellowship degree, which asks a dentist to be an AGD member for three consecutive years, earn 500 continuing education credits, and pass a 400-question test.

Ferriero, who joined the AGD 21 years ago, received a fellowship degree from the organization at the 2000 annual meeting in Toronto.

Ferriero came to BUSDM eight years ago as Clinical Assistant Professor and became Clinical Associate Professor in November 2005. He has taught at Georgetown University, where he graduated dental school in 1986, and Cape Cod Community College. He is a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Dental Society and Delta Sigma Delta Professional Dental Fraternity.



Dr. Mark Ferriero

# IN-DEPTH RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



### **New Intensive Research Program to Allow for In-Depth Research Opportunities**

Second-year BUSDM students interested in gaining in-depth research experience through APEX can now apply for the school's new Intensive Research Program in the fall. The program allows students to spend the majority of time during the APEX II rotation doing research.

The Predoctoral Research Program and the Offices of Academic Affairs and Extramural Affairs created the program "to expose dental students to the excitement and rigor of scientific discovery through an in-depth research training," says Afaf Hourani, Manager of Science Information.

"Because of the tremendous progress in the biomedical sciences and technology, it has become imperative for dental students to develop critical thinking skills and to learn how new knowledge impacts the practice of dental medicine," she says.

The school will select two students to participate in the program each year. Students who participated in research during the APEX I rotation, demonstrated professionalism, and are in good academic standing are eligible.

# progress report

## Advanced Ortho Training Gains New Director

Dr. Victor S. Dietz has been appointed Director of the Advanced Education in Orthodontics program as of September 1.

"Victor has contributed significantly to the department's educational and clinical mission since joining the faculty in 1971," says Dean Frankl. "His dedication to the students of our school has remained steadfast throughout the past 35 years."

Dr. Donald Ferguson, Chair of the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, says Dietz's appointment is an important component of the department's next phase of growth.

"We view Dr. Dietz's appointment an important component of the department's commitment to academic excellence," says Ferguson.

Dietz is a diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and a member of the Mathieu H. Crier Honor Society and the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society. He also is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the Northeast Society of orthodontists, and the Massachusetts Association of Orthodontists.



His contributions to the dental literature include publications in the American Journal of Orthodontics, the Journal of Clinical Orthodontics, and the Journal of Oral Surgery.

Dietz, who holds the rank of Associate Professor, received his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and his MSD and CAGS in orthodontics from BUSDM.

## Dr. Jeffrey Hutter Elected Vice Chair of Commission on Dental Accreditation

Dr. Jeffrey Hutter is serving as Vice Chair of the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation during the 2006-2007 term.

Commission members elected Hutter at the group's July 28, 2006 meeting at the ADA's Chicago headquarters.

Hutter plans to have a positive impact on the quality of pre- and postdoctoral dental education through his new role. "I hope to work with the chair of the commission in addressing such issues as international accreditation, curriculum reform, review and revision of the standards for dental education, and the relationship between the standards for

predoctoral dental education and competency-based education," he said.

As Vice Chair, Hutter serves on ad hoc committees and task forces as assigned by the commission's chair and assume the chair's responsibilities in his absence.

The commission works to ensure quality dental education and reflect the evolving practice of dentistry through accreditation. The group creates evaluation standards, sets guidelines for conducting accreditation, and appoints site visitors.



## Dr. Zhimon Jacobson Receives Honorary Degree

Dr. Zhimon Jacobson, Director of the school's Center for Implantology, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Bucharest in Romania last month. The university chose to honor him because of his significant contributions to the field of implantology.

"The way of teaching implantology, training residents, and treating patients was developed here at Boston University," says Jacobson. "It is known around the world as the 'BU Model.'"

# A NEW APPROACH TO TREATING INFLAMMATORY DISORDERS

## Researchers Create Mouse to Fight Inflammatory Diseases

Dr. Salomon Amar, Associate Dean for Research, led a team that created a mouse lacking a key inflammation gene, offering a new approach to treating inflammatory disorders such as arthritis and Crohn's disease.

The mouse, which is missing the gene to specify the LITAF protein, showed reduced inflammation compared with other mice. The findings appear in a paper, "Macrophage-specific LITAF-deficient mice express reduced LPS-induced cytokine profiling: further evidence for LITAF-dependent LPS signaling pathways," published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)* in September 2006.

Drugs currently used to treat inflammatory diseases control inflammation through a different pathway than the pathway discovered by Amar in 2003. "The generation of these animals opens new opportunities for assessing the role of LITAF in inflammation in hopes of designing anti-LITAF drugs for major inflammatory diseases," says Amar.

## New CT Scanner to Mean Added Convenience for Patients

When doctors needed a three-dimensional image of a patient's mouth, they would send patients to a third-party provider. That's about to change with the school's acquisition of a new CT scanner.

To be located on the first floor of 100 East Newton as part of the soon-to-be-renovated implantology surgical suite on the second floor, the CT—or "computed-Axial tomography"—scanner will be a convenience for doctors and patients alike.

"It's good to have the CT scanner at the school because it will be easier for patients, who won't need to go to another site," says Dr. Zhimon Jacobson, Director of the Center for Implantology. "We can often get the results the same day."

The Center for Implantology has used CT scanners for the past 15 years to obtain more accurate images than the two-dimensional traditional radiograph. The scanner will be available for use by all the school's departments.

## FACULTY AWARDS | May–August 2006

### Dr. Paula Friedman

Elected to board of American Society of Geriatric Dentistry, 5/2006

### Dr. Dorothy ("Deedee") Gurin

Highlighted in Massachusetts Dental Society Standing Committee on the New Dentist and the Journal of the MDS "Ten Under Ten" feature, 5/2006

### Dr. John Ictech Cassis

Spencer N. Frankl Award for Teaching Excellence, 5/2006

### Dr. Thomas Kilgore

Dean's Award (at Spring Gala), 5/2006

### Dr. Frederick Hains

SDM Community Award for Excellence, 6/2006

### Dr. Mehmet Ilhan Uzel

Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, 6/2006

### Dr. Mark Ferriero

Mastership degree from the Academy of General Dentistry, 8/2006

### Dr. Jeffrey Hutter

Vice chair of the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, 8/2006



# progress report



Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska selected as the new Chairperson of ODCS.

## Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska Appointed to Review Board Position

Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, was selected in September 2006 to serve as Chairperson of the Center for Scientific Review's Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences (ODCS) study section. She holds the position for a one-year term.

The section reviews applications involving basic, applied, and clinical aspects of the development, biology, pathology, and repair of oral, dental and craniofacial tissues.

Kukuruzinska previously served on CSR's Oral Biology and Medicine study section 1 from 2000 to 2002.

## Graves Named JDR Associate Editor and NIDCR Committee Chair

American and International Association of Dental Research (AADR/IADR) boards appointed Dr. Dana Graves, BUSDM Professor of Periodontology and Oral Biology, Associate Editor of the Journal of Dental Research (JDR) in September 2006. In this role, he is responsible for the Journal's Critical Reviews in Oral Biology & Medicine (CROBM) section.

"My goals for CROBM are to maintain the high standards achieved in previous years and widen the readership," says Graves. "One approach will be to present articles that are linked so the first presents an overview of general biomedical interest while a companion article focuses on an aspect that is particularly important for oral biology and dentistry."

Graves was chosen from an international group of potential candidates to take over for former CROBM editor Olav Alvares. "We warmly welcome Dana Graves as his successor to continue and further evolve this section of the Journal," says JDR Editor Anthony J. Smith.

Graves has previously served on the CROBM editorial advisory board and JDR editorial board.

Graves will serve as Chair of the Special Grants Review Committee of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). The appointment is a four-year term that ends in 2011.

The committee reviews applications to the NIDCR Small Grant Program as well as fellowship, career development, and training program support. Graves will lead the 20-member committee in meetings several times each year.

# WELCOME



## FACULTY AWARDS | September–December 2006

### Dr. Zhimon Jacobson

Honorary doctorate from the University of Bucharest in Romania, 9/2006

### Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska

Chairperson of the Center for Scientific Review's Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences study section, 9/2006

### Dr. Dana Graves

Appointed Associate Editor of the Journal of Dental Research, 9/2006

### Carolyn Wehler

Dental Hygienist of the Year award from Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association, 9/2006

### Dr. Donald Booth

Inducted into Royal College of Surgeons, 9/2006

### Dr. Spencer Kemp

Diplomate of American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, 10/2006

### Dr. Shaza Mardini

Diplomate of American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, 12/2006

### Dr. Frank Oppenheim

Appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Dental Research, 12/2006

### **Carolyn Wehler Named Hygienist of the Year**

Carolyn Wehler, Assistant Professor, Project Manager, and Clinical Examiner, received the Dental Hygienist of the Year award from Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association (MDHA) at the organization's annual meeting September 9, 2006, in Natick.

"It was a great honor to receive this award from my peers," Wehler says. "I've worked with so many wonderful hygienists through the years that it is truly humbling to be honored by the group that represents this dynamic and exciting profession."

The award recipient must have practiced dental hygiene and have been a member of MDHA for at least ten years, have five years experience as an officer or committee member on the state level, have contributed significantly to the dental hygiene profession, and have served as a role model for the organization's newer members.

Wehler serves as MDHA's Chair of the Council on Education and Research and was previously the Editor of publications. She is on the American Dental Hygienists' Association's (ADHA) Council on Regulation and Practice and Council on Public Health.

She joined BUSDM approximately ten years ago as part of the then newly created Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research.

### **Donald Booth Elected to the Royal College of Surgeons of England**

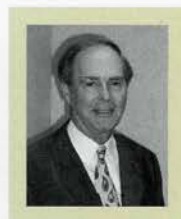
The Royal College of Surgeons of England inducted Dr. Donald Booth, Professor and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, as a fellow of dental surgery at a formal diplomate ceremony at the College's London headquarters November 3. The College has elected just four American oral and maxillofacial surgeons in its history.

"It is a special honor for me to be elected to The Royal College of Surgeons of England, an organization whose origins date back to the reign of Henry VIII in 1540," says Booth. "The College is the premier organization responsible for the establishment and maintenance of standards of care for surgery in the United Kingdom."

Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery Brian Avery announced Booth's unanimous election, citing his "enormous contributions to the profession" as support for his admission to the College. As an elected fellow, Booth will have full voting privileges in the College. "I look forward to meeting and interacting with my many friends in the Faculty of Dental Surgery," Booth says.

Booth served as BUSDM Department Chair from 1970 to 2001, during which time he saw the initiation and growth of the resident training program in oral and maxillofacial surgery; the growth of the faculty from one to six full-time Board-certified surgeons; and the inclusion of Boston City Hospital, Boston Veterans Administration Hospital, and Franciscan Children's Hospital into residents' education.

Booth is a past President of both the Massachusetts Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), and the current Treasurer of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (IAOMS).



Dr. Donald Booth elected to The Royal College of Surgeons of England.

# progress report

# RESEARCH

## Researchers Find Link between Dental Health and Stroke Risk

In a study published in the October issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*, BUSDM researchers found people ages 60 and older who have periodontal disease are at an increased risk of having a stroke.

"We found that patients 60 years and older who were edentulous, partially edentulous and/or had significant clinical attachment loss were more likely to have a history of stroke compared to dentate adults without significant clinical attachment loss," says Dr. Martha Nunn, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research.

Dr. Hyo-Jung Lee of the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research; Dr. Raul Garcia, Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research; Dr. Sok-Ja Janket, Assistant Research Professor in the Department of General Dentistry; Dr. Judith Jones, Chair of the Department of General Dentistry; Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas, Associate Professor and Director of the Division of Dental Public Health; Thayer Scott, Instructor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research; and Nunn looked at data collected in the "Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey" (NHANES III) to conduct their research.

"Based on the results of this study, it is unclear whether periodontal disease is an independent risk factor for stroke or simply a risk marker that reflects negative effects of risk factors common to both periodontal disease and stroke," Nunn says.

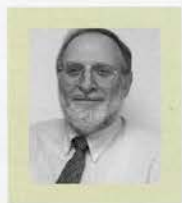
## Drs. Carolina Caffaro and Carlos Hirschberg Publish Research on Multisubstrate Transporter

In a paper published in the early edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* October 23, Dr. Carolina Caffaro, postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, identifies a new multisubstrate transporter in *C. elegans*, an organism commonly used as a model system for research.

Dr. Carlos Hirschberg, Chair of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, and Dr. Patricia Berninsone are additional authors of the paper, "Independent and Simultaneous Translocation of Two Substrates by a Nucleotide Sugar Transporter."

"We found a novel mechanism by which multiple nucleotide sugars are transported simultaneously and independently," says Caffaro. "We're not aware of another transporter with this mechanism in any biological system." Studying this mechanism will help the researchers understand diseases caused by the mutation of transporters.

Hirschberg previously described the first multisubstrate transporter of *C. elegans* in a collaborative study, which *PNAS* published in 2001, with Dr. H.R. Horvitz of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Dr. Carlos Hirschberg

### Oppenheim Laboratory Receives \$8.5M Grant

People with lung diseases will someday have a new diagnostic and monitoring tool, thanks to research by Dr. Frank Oppenheim's team. The grant supporting the work was recently increased by the NIDCR after competitive renewal, to \$8.5 million over five years.

"In the context of reduced budgets at NIH, it's wonderful to get an increase," says Oppenheim, Chair of the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology.

His research, which is a collaboration with principal investigator David Walt at Tufts University, BMC's Pulmonary Center, Children's Hospital in Boston, UPenn, Ahura Corporation, and BU's School of Public Health, aims to develop a point-of-care device that people with asthma, cystic fibrosis, and emphysema can use to monitor the severity of their disease. This is an improvement over existing systems, which cannot detect impending problems but react only when symptoms are present.

Says Dr. Walter Siqueira, postdoctoral research fellow, "One advantage to using saliva to diagnose systemic diseases is that a venal puncture isn't necessary, making testing much easier for people with chronic diseases, the elderly, and children."

Right now, the analytical devices used for salivary analysis are laboratory based. The challenge is to miniaturize such equipment, resulting in an inexpensive tool that patients can use in their own homes.

The device must be developed by June 30, 2011, under the terms of the U01 grant. Oppenheim was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Dental Research* (JDR) in December.



Dr. Frank Oppenheim's research team receives support for the development of a new lung disease monitoring tool.

### Dr. Thomas Kilgore Offers Oral Health Expertise in Boston Globe

In a Boston Globe article (*Is it dangerous to get your tongue pierced?*, January 15) probing the perils of tongue piercing, Dr. Thomas Kilgore, Associate Dean for Advanced Education and International Programs, comments on the risk of infection associated with the trend.

"Our mouths are quite resistant to our own organisms," Kilgore says. "Most bacteria in the mouth are our own bacteria, so there is a certain degree of immunity."

While the risk of infection is low, columnist Judy Foreman concludes other possible consequences such as chipped teeth and inhaled metal studs make tongue-piercing an ill-advised practice.

### FACULTY AWARDS | January–May 2007

#### Dr. Jacob Pourati

Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, 1/2007

#### Dr. Paula Friedman

Fellow of Pierre Fauchard Academy, 2/2007

#### Dr. John Guarente

Joining American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute, 3/2007

#### Dr. Thomas Van Dyke

Charter member of the Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences (OCDS) study section at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Center for Scientific Review, 3/2007

#### Dr. Judith Jones

International Association of Dental Research's Distinguished Scientist Award, 3/2007

#### Dr. Ramzi Sarkis

AAE/Dentsply Award at the annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), 5/2007

# progress report

## Wall Street Journal Seeks Opinion of Dr. Salomon Amar

Dr. Salomon Amar, Associate Dean for Research, discusses his research on the link between oral and overall health in the Wall Street Journal article *Poor Oral Health Is Linked to Deadly Pancreatic Cancer* January 23.

Amar's study, to be completed in 2009, suggests treating gum disease may decrease inflammation throughout the body and improve heart health.

All kinds of answers are going to come out of this," Amar says in the article. "I think historically the mouth was never considered an important part of the body."

## ADEA Grant to Fund Smoking Cessation Curriculum Development at BUSDM

BUSDM students may soon be pioneers in the fight against tobacco addiction. A new BUSDM study, supported by an \$8,000 grant from the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Council of Sections Project Pool, will assess smoking cessation education in the school's curricula.

"[In a 2005 JADA survey] more than half of the general dentists viewed smoking cessation activities as peripheral to dentistry—a view likely barring them from performing such activities," says Brenda Heaton, Instructor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research and the study's principal investigator. Heaton believes ensuring BUSDM students receive formal smoking cessation education will help them feel comfortable advising their future patients on the oral health risks of smoking and how to quit.

The school will administer an annual survey, adapted from BUSDM's Prevention and Cessation Education (PACE) program, to DMD students to assess students' general knowledge of smoking cessation treatment and level of comfort talking to patients about their options, among other areas. Staff will research faculty and administrators' attitudes and behaviors related to smoking cessation education.

"The overarching goal of this project is to provide a model for smoking cessation training in dental schools nationwide by drawing upon an already validated program (PACE)," Heaton says. "[BUSDM will] establish a precedent for the integration of tobacco cessation education into the formal training of dental health professionals."

**Ensuring BUSDM students receive formal smoking cessation education will help them feel comfortable advising their future patients on the oral health risks of smoking and how to quit.**



Brenda Heaton, Instructor in the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research

## FACULTY AWARDS | May–July 2007

### Dr. John Guarente

Spencer N. Frankl Award for Excellence in Teaching, 5/2007

### Dr. Thomas Armstrong

Special Dean's Award, 5/2007

### Dr. Dara Cunnion

Elected 2007–2008 President of the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, 6/2007

### Dr. Stephen Colchamiro

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' 2007 Founder's Award, 6/2007

### Dr. Dana Graves

Appointed National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Special Grants Review Committee Chair, 7/2007

### Dr. Friedman Named Pierre Fauchard Fellow

The Pierre Fauchard Academy named Dr. Paula Friedman, Associate Dean for Administration, a Fellow of the organization for "contributing to the [dental] profession above and beyond the ordinary" in February.

Fellow BUSDM members include Dean Spencer Frankl and Dr. Steven Perlman.

"Any effort that has brought this distinction has been the result of working with a wonderful group of professional colleagues," says Friedman of her nomination. "I appreciate the opportunities that the school, and specifically Dean Frankl, have afforded me over the past 30 years that led to this recognition."

Friedman is past President of the American Dental Education Association and was a leading member of BUSDM's accreditation committee.



Dr. Paula Friedman



### Dr. Eva Helmerhorst to Study Oral Fungal Infections through First NIH Grant

Dr. Eva Helmerhorst, Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology, has received \$162,500 in National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) funding for her study "Oral Yeast Carriage and Salivary Antifungal Activity."

The two-year grant marks the first award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for Helmerhorst, who is well-known in the field of oral biology for her biochemical and microbiological studies of oral fungal infections.

Helmerhorst will look at how the oral pathogen *Candida albicans* causes infections. She will study the role of naturally-occurring antifungal proteins with the goal of developing new treatment options.

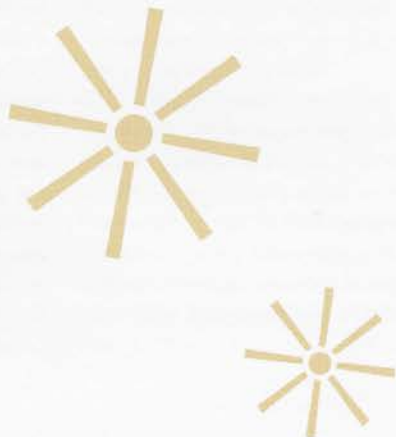
### BUSDM Sweeps 2007 Yankee Dental Congress Student Table Clinics

Congratulations to Jean-David Sebaoun ORTHO 07, who won first place for his presentation "Modeling of Trabecular Bone & Lamina Dura Following Selective Alveolar Decortication," and Khiem Pham-Nguyen ORTHO 08, who placed second for his presentation "Micro-CT Analysis of Osteopenia Following Alveolar Decortication and Tooth Movement." Both table clinics were related to a new rapid orthodontic treatment technique. Sebaoun has won several awards for his research, including second place in national competition; Pham-Nguyen recently won first place in a northeast regional research competition.



Jean-David Sebaoun  
[ORTHO 07]

Khiem Pham-Nguyen  
[ORTHO 08]



# progress report

## Dental Career Network Chosen as "David" Among Goliaths

BUSDM's Dental Career Network (DCN), New England's largest dental career website, is the winner of a 2006 silver Davey Award in the category of Websites/Online Marketing. The International Academy of Visual Arts gives the Davey to small companies it calls the "Davids of creativity" for media campaigns driven by big ideas, not big budgets. The academy received more than 3,500 entries worldwide.

"We are honored to receive the Davey Award, which highlights the Dental Career Network's professional and cutting edge design among competitive search engines," says BUSDM Director of Extramural Programs Madalyn Mann. "Obtaining support from the Massachusetts Dental Society, Rhode Island Dental Association, and now the Maine Dental Association has further advanced the growth of the Dental Career Network into the New England area."

Bit Group, the Massachusetts-based technology consulting firm that helped create the DCN website, was named as a co-winner.

The DCN offers easy-to-use job searches and resume advice for job seekers, as well as job posting tools for employers.

## BU Trustees Grant Armstrong Distinguished Promotion

Dr. Thomas Armstrong joined an elite group of former BUSDM faculty members earlier this month when Boston University's Board of Trustees promoted Armstrong to the position of Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus.

"The Trustees, in taking this action, have recognized your outstanding contributions to the academic programs of the Department of General Dentistry, to your profession, and especially to your students as a superb and dedicated teacher," President Robert Brown wrote to Armstrong in a letter.

"Your dedication to the school and its educational mission has been outstanding and it is clear to me that you have earned the respect and admiration of your colleagues and students," Dean Spencer Frankl added.

**"Your dedication to the school and its educational mission has been outstanding and it is clear to me that you have earned the respect and admiration of your colleagues and students."**

Armstrong came to BUSDM more than three decades ago and retired at a well-attended farewell reception last November.

"We are delighted he will continue to serve as a teacher and role model for the entire BU community," says Chair of the Department of General Dentistry Judith Jones. "Students and alumni will always remember his consummate professionalism and his unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care."

Other BUSDM faculty who received emeritus status include the late Drs. Henry Goldman, Morris Ruben, and Herbert Schilder.

## Dr. Dana Graves Adds Two NIH Grants to Roster

At a time when national research funding has slowed, Dr. Dana Graves, Professor in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology, is helping to build BUSDM's body of research.

Graves will receive National Institutes of Health funding for two new Research Project (R01) grants: "Diabetes-enhanced Experimental Periodontitis" and "Recognition of Commensal and Pathogenic Bacteria by Oral Epithelium."

Graves manages an additional grant, "Bone-Derived Cells Produce a Chemotactic Factor."

**Dr. John Guarente Joins ADEA Leadership Institute Class of 2008**

Dr. John Guarente, Assistant Dean for Patient Services, joined the eighth class of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute. The yearlong program invites 21 dental school faculty to build skills for leadership in dental higher education.

The four-phase program, which runs from the 2007 AEDA Annual Session and Exhibition in New Orleans March 19 to the 2008 session in Dallas, includes workshops on self-assessment, legislation, administrative and faculty development, and a final project relevant to BUSDM. Class members meet five times during the year, for several days at a time.

"I'm thankful for the people who have supported me in the application process," says Guarente, whom Dr. Jeffrey Hutter, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, nominated to the Institute. Guarente expects to further develop his leadership skills and make connections with colleagues who will serve as a resource for advice in the future.

Other BUSDM faculty who have attended the ADEA Leadership Institute include Drs. Paul Farsai and Ana Karina Mascarenhas.

**Dr. Thomas Van Dyke Named Charter Member of NIH Study Section**

Dr. Thomas Van Dyke, Director of BUSDM's Clinical Research Center, is now a charter member of the Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences (OCDS) study section at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Center for Scientific Review.

The section is the Center's peer review board for grant applications to study oral, dental and craniofacial tissues. Members are experts in their fields and principal investigators of dental-related studies, among other qualifications. Van Dyke will hold the position four years, attending three meetings each year.

Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska, Professor of molecular and cell biology, became chair of the OCDS study section last fall.

**Dr. Anita Gohel Named Director of Radiology and Oral Diagnosis**

Dr. Anita Gohel became Director of the Oral Diagnosis Clinic and Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology at BUSDM in early 2007.

In this position, Gohel oversees the oral diagnosis patient treatment center, oral diagnosis rotations, patient triage, and the school's radiology services.

"I have extreme confidence in Dr. Gohel's abilities," says Dr. Judith Jones, Chair of the Department of General Dentistry. "I am pleased to see her transition to this position."

Gohel continues to direct the predoctoral radiology courses, as she has since 1999, and is involved in predoctoral and postdoctoral lectures and clinical training.

**Dr. Judith Jones Named Distinguished Scientist by IADR**



Dr. Judith Jones, Professor and Chair of the Department of General Dentistry, received the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist Award in the category of geriatric oral research at the opening session of the organization's annual meeting in New Orleans March 21.

The IADR gives the award annually to scientists who contribute outstanding dental research.

"I am honored and humbled by receipt of this award," says Jones. "Being recognized by one's peers is the validation of our research in oral-specific health-related quality of life."

"To conduct such work requires a team approach," adds Jones. "I want to recognize the efforts of an incredible research team; my mentors Howard Chauncey, Raul Garcia, and Donald Miller; and my colleagues Nancy Kressin, Avron Spiro III, Carolyn Wehler, and Sharron Rich. It doesn't get any better than this."

Jones has researched and published extensively in the field of geriatric dentistry, and studies oral health-related quality of life at the Northeast Center to Evaluate and Eliminate Dental Disparities (CREEDD). She is a member and past president of IADR's Geriatric Oral Research Group.



# progress report

## **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Accredited**

After one year of preparation, BUSDM's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery earned full reaccreditation from the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) this month.

The announcement comes after two CODA representatives visited the department in October. The department received no recommendations for change and one commendation, for the "exceptional scope, variety, and experience in major oral and maxillofacial surgery cases."

Department Chair Dr. David Cottrell says accreditation is an ongoing process, and the department is "committed to making continued changes and improvements to the program, to stay ahead of the curve and produce the highest quality training experience and patient care possible."

"I am proud to continue the excellence established by Chair Emeritus Dr. Donald Booth," adds Cottrell, who also thanks Dr. Pushkar Mehra, department Director, for his dedicated work with residents.

The department's next accreditation will take place in 2011.

## **Dr. Salomon Amar Referenced in Los Angeles Times**

An April 16 Los Angeles Times article on the relationship between gum disease and overall health seeks the opinion of Dr. Salomon Amar, Associate Dean for Research, on the treatment and symptoms of gum disease.

"For years the mouth was never considered a part of the body," says Amar. "Gum disease was not considered something that could have any impact."

Amar is currently analyzing the effect of aggressive gum disease treatment on heart problems in people with gum disease and heart disease as part of the study Systemic Endothelial Consequences of Periodontal Disease.

## **Dr. Ramzi Sarkis Wins AAE/Dentsply Award at Annual Meeting**

Dr. Ramzi Sarkis, Assistant Professor of Endodontics, won the AAE/Dentsply award at the annual meeting of the American Association of Endodontists in Philadelphia in May.

His poster, "Antibacterial Activity of Leachable Components from Aged Endodontic Materials," describes the antibacterial activity of three aged endodontic materials using the bacterial survival test. The abstract appears in the March 2007 issue of the Journal of Endodontics.

## **Dr. John Guarente Receives Spencer N. Frankl Award**

BUSDM recognized Dr. John Guarente, Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Patient Services, for his superior teaching with the presentation of the Spencer N. Frankl Award for Excellence in Teaching at commencement May 20.

One faculty member receives this award, in honor of Dean Frankl, at the school's graduation ceremony each year.

Senior Associate Dean Dr. Jeffrey Hutter presented the award, thanking Dr. Guarente for his dedication to supporting the BUSDM mission and the school's educational excellence.

EXCELLENCE

### Hasturk and Team Find Potential New Preventive Treatment for Periodontal Disease

Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology Dr. Hatice Hasturk has discovered after a six-week study that a compound known as 1-tetradecanol complex (1-TDC) may offer a new option in the prevention of periodontal disease.

Hasturk's findings, which appeared in May in *The Journal of Periodontology*, represent the first study of this compound. The makers of 1-TDC, Imagenetix, Inc., say the compound stops bacteria in the mouth that may lead to inflammation.

Hasturk's team, which included BUSDM Assistant Professor and co-investigator Alpdogan Kantarci, former BUSDM Research Technician Victor L. Jones, and BUSM Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Chris Andry, induced periodontitis



## 1-TETRADECANOL COMPLEX (1-TDC) OFFERS NEW POSSIBILITIES

Dr. Hatice Hasturk Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology

in rabbits and applied 1-TDC topically to the animals' teeth. Research took place in the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Van Dyke, professor of periodontology and oral biology.

"1-TDC given at 10 mg/ml offered the most significant improvement compared to placebo," says Hasturk. "The opportunity for 1-TDC to reduce the likelihood for an individual to develop periodontal disease is exciting as there are limited options for treating periodontitis."

### Dr. Dara Cunnion to Lead State's Pediatric Dentistry Organization

Dr. Dara Cunnion, BUSDM's Director of Predoctoral Pediatric Dentistry, will serve as President of the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (MAPD) for the 2007 to 2008 year.

Cunnion was elected at the MAPD's May 14 board meeting at the Sheraton Needham. She was appointed president-elect last year.

Cunnion received her DMD degree from BUSDM in 1999 and a CAGS in pediatric dentistry in 2001.

The MAPD promotes the oral health of the state's infants, children, teenagers, and people with special needs.

### Blackstone School Makes Seventh Annual Trip to BUSDM

"What's better for you: soda or water?" asked the Division of Community Health Programs' (CHP) Sheree Norquist of 84 third-grade students visiting BUSDM June 12. "Water!" they shouted.

Nine-year-olds from Blackstone School in the South End became "dental students for a day" as they joined the annual Blackstone School Field Trip, planned by Oral Health Promotion Coordinator Kathy Lituri.

Students learned about oral health care interactively; one activity asked them to dress as teeth, using five-foot-long string to demonstrate flossing. They heard presentations on proper nutrition, tooth structure, and the dental profession from CHP staff and student volunteers.

In the Simulation Learning Center, students witnessed the importance of sealants by doing experiments at their workstations. They covered two walnuts, one painted with a dental sealant and one bare, with a mixture similar to the bacteria found in junk food and saw more food stuck to the unsealed "tooth".



# progress report



Dr. Phillips Robbins

## Robbins' Grant Renewed for 45th Year

Dr. Phillips Robbins, Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, has received renewed funding for "Glycosylation and Glycosidases - Cell and Molecular Biology," making this the 45th year the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institutes of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) has supported the research.

Robbins, who has studied protein glycosylation and processing for many years, manages the grant in collaboration with Co-Principal Investigator Dr. John Samuelson, Professor of molecular and cell biology. The grant, which NIH/NIGMS will fund through 2011, is part of a small group of grants with continuous funding for this length of time.

Robbins, a founding member of his department in 1998, was previously the American Cancer Society professor of biochemistry in Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Biology for 36 years. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine and an NIH/NIGMS merit.

## Dr. Salomon Amar and Team Shed Light on Key Step in Periodontal Disease Onset

In a paper published in the June issue of the *Journal of Proteome Research*, Boston University School of Dental Medicine Associate Dean for Research Dr. Salomon Amar and researchers show white blood cells known as monocytes interact differently with *P. gingivalis*, the tissue-damaging oral bacterium that causes periodontal disease, and two inflammation-causing proteins attached to the bacterium: Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and Fimbriae (FimA).

Amar worked on the paper, "Proteomic Mapping of Stimulus-Specific Signaling Pathways Involved in THP-1 Cells Exposed to *Porphyromonas gingivalis* or Its Purified Components," with fellow researchers Julian A. Saba, Mark E. McComb, Donna L. Potts, and Catherine E. Costello.

The team used expressions proteomics, which tracks changes in the cells' protein outputs, to explain how monocytes interact differently with the whole bacterium and its parts. The monocytes showed 12 differential expressions, or modifications, after exposure to *P. gingivalis*, 11 differential expressions from LPS, and nine from FimA. The ability to map what is triggering the monocytes' response will lead to better treatment options for periodontal disease in the future, according to Amar.

Robbins' department will honor him at a symposium this fall.



Dr. Salomon Amar

# BRINGING DENTAL HEALTH TO THE UAE

## **BU School of Dental Medicine to Develop Post-Doctoral Dental Institute in Dubai**

Boston University President Robert A. Brown and Dean Spencer N. Frankl of BU's School of Dental Medicine (SDM) recently signed a Heads of Agreement with Dr. Muhadditha Al-Hashimi, the Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), a member of Tatweer, for the establishment of the Boston University Institute for Dental Research and Education Dubai and the Boston University Dental Health Center Dubai at DHCC.

The Institute will focus on furthering dental research in the region and on training graduate dentists in the dental specialties. The training programs will be developed and overseen by faculty of the Boston University School of Dental Medicine. The Dental Health Center will provide comprehensive and prevention-oriented dental services to residents of the region as well as to the many visitors to Dubai. The Institute is in the process of submitting an application for accreditation from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Dubai Healthcare City is a medical free zone within the Emirate of Dubai in the UAE. Dubai Healthcare City has been developed with the goal of becoming a world-class academic medical community which will be developed around the Harvard Medical School Dubai Center, Boston University Institute for Dental Research and

Education, and a major university hospital. The campus will also contain a wellness center offering integrative medicine, private clinics and branches of several international medical and pharmaceutical corporations that will be available in the medical community.



**"The Institute will focus on furthering dental research in the region and on training graduate dentists in the dental specialties."**

# alumni news

## SPECIAL EVENTS

On August 5-6, 2006 BUSDM alumni on the Molar Roller Team completed the Pan Mass Challenge in memory of Richard Forcucci DMD 87.



Molar Roller Team from left to right: Michael Moynihan DMD '96 ORTHO 00, Daniel Moynihan, Bob Moreau DMD 92, Jim Cinamon, Kevin Toomey and Steven Noxon.

[Not pictured Len Broverman and Victor Dietz ORTHO 71, 72]

On April 5th, 2007, the faculty, residents and alumni of the AEGD program came together for a continuing education dinner and lecture. The event was held at the Trustee Ballroom located in the School of Management at Boston University. Dr. Kenneth Malament PROS 77 was the guest lecturer for the evening where more than fifty alumni gathered to hear him speak on "The Integration of Esthetic Dentistry in Simple and Complex Prosthodontics."



Dr. Kenneth Malament

On April 19, 2007, the Boston University Medical Campus Alumni came together at the Silver Leaf Tavern in NYC. Alumni at the event included:



From left to right: Joe Chikvashvili DMD 05, Senior Associate Dean Jeffrey Hutter, Zografia Tsoucaris, Dean Karen Antman, Mitch Sabbagh DMD 87, Maddy Apfel DMD 80, Stuart Chassen DMD 78, Ana Maria Munoz ORTHO 92, Pedro Vincenty DMD 93, Scott Kissel DMD 89, Anita Agarwal DMD 01, Nancy Ekleman PERIO 91, Amy Benusis DMD 97.



AEGD Alumni enjoyed a barbecue at Dr. Joe Calabrese's house in Mansfield on June 17, 2007.



From left to right:  
 Row 1: Summer Khatib AEGD 07, Mercedes Mata AEGD 07, John Cassis PROS 86 DMD 88, Joseph Calabrese DMD 91 AEGD 92, Ghassan Khoury DMD 96 AEGD 97.

Row 2: Marly Gomes DMD 06 AEGD 07, Jennifer Kim AEGD 07, Carolyn Massa DMD 06 AEGD 07, Frank Schiano DMD 06 AEGD 07.

Row 3: Rawia Alkhunaizi AEGD 07, Afsheen Lakhani DMD 06 AEGD 07, Christina Banzon DMD 06 AEGD 07, Ryota Kikuchi AEGD 07.

Row 4: Rishi Saxena DMD 06 AEGD 07, Paul Farsai DMD 94 AEGD 95, Henry Chang AEGD 07.

Yawen Peng DMD 04, Benjamin Solomowitz DMD 83 and Roderick Lucente DMD 2005 posed together at the Department of Dentistry, Interfaith Medical Center's Resident's Graduation Dinner.



From left to right: Yawwn Peng, Benjamin Solmowitz, Roderick Lucente.

ALL  
 TOGETHER  
 NOW

Thank you Dr. Craig Allen DMD 95 and Dr. Nicole Paquette-Allen DMD 95 for sponsoring the annual DMD Ice Cream Social during orientation on July 30, 2007.



From left to right: Joe Calabrese DMD 91, Craig Allen DMD 95, David Allen, Nicole Paquette-Allen DMD 95, David Paquette DMD 98, Senior Associate Dean Jeffrey Hutter.

# alumni news

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

### **Richard Short DMD 82** **service to the school**

Dr. Short came to Boston University as an undergraduate student in the College of Liberal Arts in 1972. He went on to work as a research assistant at Boston University School of Medicine before graduating BUSDM in 1982. Since 1984, Dr. Short has worked in private practice with his wife, BUSDM Clinical Associate Professor and Alumni Association Past President Ronni Schnell. His Medford office has hosted 20 BUSDM students during their Applied Professional Experience (APEX) rotations. Dr. Short is a master of the Academy of General Dentistry.



L-R: Richard Short DMD 82, James Rochefort DMD 08, Madalyn Mann MDP 76.



L-R: Maria Forcucci Que, Johnathan Que, Mitch Sabbagh DMM 87.

### **Richard Forcucci DMD 87** (presented posthumously; accepted by Dr. Forcucci's sister, Maria Que)

#### **service to the profession**

After receiving his DMD degree, Dr. Forcucci entered private practice in Milton, where he remained for nearly 20 years. An active member of the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS), he served as a representative to the Young Dentists Committee and Council on Membership and Human Resources, of which he was later chair. He served as chair of the MDS Membership Survey Task Force and the Subcommittee on Recruitment, and as a delegate to the MDS House of Delegates. He served as presiding chair of Yankee Dental Congress 24, 26, and 27.

### **Raymond Kuthy DHP 79** **service to the community**

Following graduation from BUSDM, Dr. Kuthy worked as Chief of the Division of Dental Health in the Illinois Department of Public Health. He is the former Director and President of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Dr. Kuthy currently serves as Professor and Head of the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.



L-R: Raymond Kuthy DPH 79, Michelle Henshaw MPH 96, DPH 07.



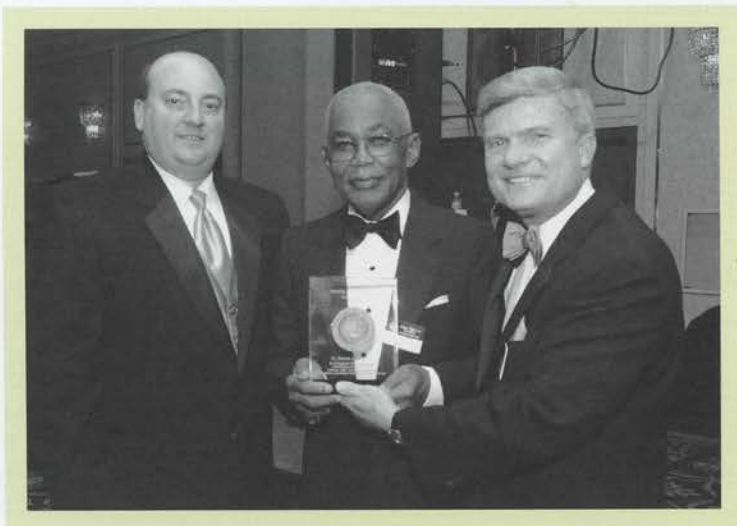
## SPECIAL DEAN'S AWARD

On behalf of Dean Spencer N. Frankl

### Dr. Thomas Armstrong

Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus

Dr. Armstrong began his long affiliation with BUSDM in 1973, when the school was known as Boston University Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry. Dr. Armstrong joined the Department of Operative Dentistry as a Clinical Instructor and was later appointed Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Associate Professor. He is the 2001 recipient of the Spencer N. Frankl Award for Excellence in Teaching, presented annually at BUSDM commencement. In 2007, Dr. Armstrong received the title of Associate Clinical Professor Emeritus, an honor previously given to distinguished faculty including the late Drs. Henry Goldman and Morris Ruben.



L-R: Joe Calabrese DMD 91, AEGD 92, Dr. Thomas Armstrong, Senior Associate Dean Hutter.



WELL  
DONE



# alumni news

## UP TO DATE

Shane, Maxwell Gunner,  
Kerri-Anne and Leif Hanson



Shane Hanson DMD 01 and Kerri-Anne Hanson DMD 01 welcomed their baby boy, Maxwell Gunner, on September 22, 2005 in Biloxi, MS. Maxwell joins older brother Leif. Since leaving Boston, Shane graduated with a certificate in endodontics from Wilford Hall Medical Center in June 2006. He is now the Chief of Endodontics at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Shayanne Neekan Oskoui



Malekshah Oskoui DMD 98, ENDO 01 and his wife Mehrnoosh welcome a second son, Shayanne Neekan, to their family on March 3, 2007. He weighed 7 lbs .06 ozs.

Karan Virk



Mahadeep Virk ORTHO 06 and his wife Helena welcomed new baby boy Karan to their family on May 31, 2007.

# GREAT NEWS!

### Bruce H. Seidberg as the New ACLM President

Bruce H. Seidberg ENDO 67 was recently elected as the 48th President of the American College of Legal Medicine in Orlando, Florida.

He is the first dentist to ever be elected to that position in the organization. Founded in 1960, ACLM is a professional community of physicians, dentists, lawyers, healthcare providers and administrators and legal professionals whose diverse education, training and experience enables the organization to focus on the important issues where law, medicine and dentistry converge.

Dr. Seidberg is currently Chief of Dentistry at Crouse Hospital and Senior Attending in Dentistry at St. Joseph's Hospital, both in Syracuse, NY. Dr. Seidberg, is in private practice in Syracuse (Liverpool), NY, specializing in endodontics.

### Hamid Shafie PROS 95, Publishes Manual

Hamid Shafie published the Clinical & Laboratory Manual of Implant Overdentures in December 2006. In addition, Dr. Shafie is the author of a book on Implant Supported Overdentures released by Blackwell Publishing in 2005.

He is the founder of the Center for Oral Implantology at Johns Hopkins University where he has trained many dentists in different aspects of implant dentistry. Dr. Shafie currently is the President of the American Institute of Esthetic and Implant Dentistry in Washington DC. He is a faculty member of Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Washington Hospital Center, where he teaches postgraduate implantology courses. He is a visiting lecturer at The Boston University center for implantology, as well as the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco.

He lectures nationally and internationally about innovative aspects of implant dentistry and is renowned for his unique way of making implant dentistry fun to learn for both specialists and general dentists.





### Prosthodontic Asian Alumni Club in Singapore

The first meeting of the BUSDM Prosthodontic Asian Alumni Club occurred January 27-28, 2007 in Singapore at the National University of Singapore. Fifteen Asian alumni attended the event along with several BUSDM Faculty members.

L-R: Dr. Keson Tan (DEAN, FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE), Dr. Jennifer Neo (CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY, FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE), Winston Sy PROS 97, Chanavut Asvanund PROS 97, Pattapon Asvanund (PRESIDENT, BOSTON UNIVERSITY ASIAN ALUMNI CLUB) PROS 94, Dan Nathanson (CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE SCIENCES AND BIOMATERIALS, BUSDM) PROS 90, Dr. Edwin Heng PERIO & ORAL BIO 04, Wook Dong Kim PROS 95, Ya Yi Chen PROS 01, Dr. Steven Morgano (DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF POSTDOCTORAL PROSTHODONTICS, BUSDM), So Young Rim ORAL BIO 99, Young-Ku Hoe PROS 97, Dr. Tae-Dek Kim, Rohana Ahmad PROS 99, Dr. Jude Yang, Hideo Yamamoto PROS 90 DMD 92, Dr. Kyung-Hwa Lyu, Dr. Willy Chang, and Dr. Yuan-Yi Huang PERIO 02 ORAL BIO 03.



## Upcoming Events

### 2007-2008

#### NY Study Club September 19

Cornell Club—Sadru Kabani DMD NYC, NY

#### Alumni Reception during ADA September 28

Four Seasons San Francisco, CA

#### ENDO Student Welcome Reception October 12

BU Castle Boston, MA

#### ENDO Alumni Assoc. Fall Meeting October 17-21

Boca Raton Resort Boca Raton, FL

#### NY Study Club October 24

Cornell Club—Shadi Daher DMD 90, OMFS 94 NYC, NY

#### Perio Alumni Reception during AAP October 29

Renaissance Hotel Washington, DC

#### NY Study Club January 23

Cornell Club NYC, NY

#### Alumni Board Meeting February 1

TBD Boston, MA

#### Alumni Reception during YDC February 1

TBD Boston, MA

#### NY Study Club March 19

Cornell Club—Sandra Morin DMD 89, PERIO 91 NYC, NY

#### ENDO Alumni Reception during AAE April 10

TBD Vancouver, BC

#### NY Study Club May 7

Cornell Club NYC, NY

#### Orthodontic Alumni Reception during AAO May 17

TBD Denver, CO

#### ENDO Student Graduation Party May 16

Skywalk Boston, MA

#### Spring Gala May 17

Seaport Hotel Boston, MA

#### PEDO Alumni Reception during AAPD May 24

TBD Washington, DC

#### PERIO and Oral Bio Grad Party June TBD

BU Castle Boston, MA

#### AEGD Graduation Party June TBD

10 Buick Street Boston, MA

#### AEGD Annual Alumni Barbeque June TBD

Dr. Calabrese's house Mansfield, MA

#### ORTHO Student Graduation Party June TBD

BU Castle Boston, MA

IN MEMORIAM  
Beloved Faculty

Dr. Morris Ruben

1919-2006



Dr. Morris Ruben, longtime Professor and former Chair of the Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology at Boston University School of Dental Medicine, passed away Tuesday, October 17, 2006 after a long illness. He was 87.

Dr. Ruben had been a member of the Boston University School of Dental Medicine family from the very beginning, when, after receiving his certificate in periodontology, he worked with our school's founder, Dr. Henry Goldman, to start the periodontology program at the new school of graduate dentistry. He had known Dr. Goldman from their work together at both the BU medical school and the Beth Israel Hospital, and it can truly be said that Morris was one of the patriarchs of our school.

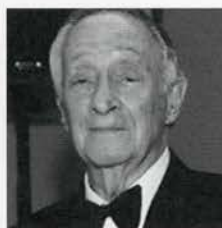
Over the past 40-plus years he made countless contributions to the school. The lives of so many of our students were touched by his exceptional knowledge of dental medicine and, equally important, his high degree of ethics and scholarship. His unselfish devotion to learning and scholarship were deeply respected by his students, and his classmates agree, having established an annual scholarship in his name—and to date more than seven students have benefited from their generosity in honor of Morris.

Morris devoted himself not only to his students but also to his research. He was one of the preeminent scholars in the discipline of periodontology, publishing more than 150 professional publications, no doubt helped by his undergraduate training as a journalist. Not only was Morris a key individual in the establishment of the school, he was instrumental in developing sound and nationally recognized programs of education in periodontology and oral medicine.

Dr. Ruben is survived by his wife Eleanor, of Brookline, son Lawrence, of Sharon, and his grandchildren.

Dr. David Baraban

1920-2007



Dr. David Baraban, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Restorative Sciences/Biomaterials and founding faculty member of Boston University School of Dental Medicine, passed away March 17, 2007 after a long illness. He was 87.

Dr. Baraban joined the faculty of BUSDM 1963. More than a teacher, he was a mentor and role model whom students and junior faculty sought to emulate. His warm personality, sense of humor, and supportive nature were further cause for the fond feelings friends had of him. His devotion to the school was acknowledged in 2004, when he received a Special Dean's Award for his outstanding service to BUSDM.

Regarded as a "giant" in his field, he was the first prosthodontist in Boston to pass the specialty exam to become a board-certified diplomate. He continued to have a positive impact on both the school and his profession until his passing. His commitment to excellence is well known and is honored yearly when the best-performing prosthodontics student at our school receives the "David J. Baraban Award for Excellence"

In addition to his passion for teaching, Dr. Baraban had a love for music, and could have had a full-time career as a professional jazz pianist. He played with many famous musicians, including Ella Fitzgerald, and several of his compositions were recorded.

Dr. Baraban treasured his family and is survived by his wife of 60 years Margie; three daughters, Barry, Jody, and Marcy; and three grandchildren, Ethan, Josh, and Brooke.

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Henry Lee, PhD  
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Implants



Connie Podesta  
Practice Management



Anthony Sclar, DMD  
Implants



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Nikole O'Bryan DMD 05

# IT WAS TIME TO MAKE A DONATION.

## ABOUT NIKOLE

Practices in Seattle's "U District," near the University of Washington

Bikes to work

Is married and has two dogs (full boxer and boxer mix)

## RECENTLY NIKOLE HAS

Purchased a practice

Praised BU to friends interested in dental school

Donated money to BUSDM

## IN HER OWN WORDS

"When I start talking about my experience at BUSDM it makes me remember how much I got from BUSDM, and it makes me feel it was time to donate some money. I had so many positive experiences—a new clinic, the APEX program, the expanded externship program—and I know a lot of money went into these things. There are some things a private school does that a public school cannot do, and that makes you think to support that with a donation."

## EVERY GIFT COUNTS

The Annual Fund at BUSDM provides the resources necessary to maintain a school of excellence. Scholarships and facilities are just a couple of the ways your donation to the Annual Fund can make a difference.



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The mission of 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.

# the last word

An integral part of BUSDM's mission is to shape the future of dental medicine and dental education through research. As Associate Dean for Research, I am proud of how BUSDM students, staff, and faculty have worked to meet this goal in the 2006-2007 academic year.

At the 26th annual Board of Visitors meeting in September 2006, Dean Spencer Frankl presented an ambitious strategic plan for BUSDM; major short- and long-term goals involve enhancing interdisciplinary research. Just this spring, BUSDM students joined their fellow BU students on the graduate and postgraduate levels to present their research at BU's Science and Engineering Research Symposium.

Our postgraduate students were honored for their outstanding research many times this year. Orthodontics residents Jean-David Sebaoun and Khiem Pham-Nguyen swept away the competition at the Yankee Dental Congress Student Table Clinics, winning first and second place, respectively. Others competed locally, regionally, and internationally to win awards from the American College of Prosthodontists and Northeastern and Middle Atlantic Societies of Orthodontists, and present research at the International Association for Dental Research annual session.

BUSDM's undergraduate students are eager to catch up to these role models. The new Intensive Research Program allows DMD II students to spend the majority of their APEX II rotation, which takes place from January to March each year, doing research.

At a time when research support has decreased nationwide, BUSDM received a record 59 awards and \$12,658,511 in grants in 2006. NIH funding helped increase laboratory space, including a new laboratory in the Evans Biomedical Research Center, where BUSDM staff and I study infection and immunity, inflammation, wound healing, and the formation of new blood vessels.

Additional school funds purchased a mass spectrometer, which is available specifically to our dental scientists. With the addition of this facility, I am confident that BUSDM faculty will make discoveries faster than ever before.

Biomedical research remains very challenging but its future is full of reassuring promises for the discovery of new diagnostics and therapeutic approaches in oral medicine. BUSDM is well positioned to contribute to these discoveries.



Sincerely,  
Dr. Salomon Amar  
Professor and Associate Dean for Research







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