For more than 50 years, the University of Manitoba College of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene have been sending graduates out into the professional world. As dean for the past 10 years, I sometimes feel like a gardener who strives for just the right combination of sunlight, irrigation, weed control and fertilizer to ensure a career-ready crop each spring.

When our graduates ripen into alumni, they carry the legacy of curriculum enhancements, technology upgrades, facility renovations, and all the other continuous improvements we strive for at the college. We can never rest on our laurels. Like gardeners poring over seed catalogues in the depths of winter, we have to envision what we’ll achieve next and plot how to get there.

Our alumni, whether practising or retired, are essential stakeholders in our evolution. I am repeatedly touched by the pride and interest that alumni take in the college, and by their generous support of enhancements like our new “Dr. Sni” Lab, with its state-of-the-art digital technology.

I was extremely pleased in September when dentistry and dental hygiene alumni who were celebrating milestone reunions were welcomed at the newly expanded Dean’s Homecoming Breakfast hosted by Brian Postl, dean of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Our alumni were tremendously engaged, both in revisiting their old stomping grounds and in discovering everything that is new about today’s college and campus. The word “homecoming” is particularly apt, I think, for a tight-knit college like ours, where students typically have a strong sense of belonging.

I often hear from alumni that they are keenly interested in our admission process. We currently have an external task force examining our admission criteria and process and considering what adjustments, if any, should be made. I look forward to hearing its recommendations.

One key way in which we serve and stay connected with alumni is through our continuing professional development (CPD) program. We know that dental health-care providers expect relevance, tight focus and high quality when they attend workshops or classes. Our CPD programming is learner-centred, responsive to practitioners’ needs, and taught by experts. We recently introduced, for instance, a two-day CPD master class in dental management of snoring and obstructive sleep apnea, given by two leading U.S. authorities.

Our college continues to recognize that oral health is inseparable from overall health. Our weekly dental clinics for sleep apnea and temporomandibular disorders are receiving an ever-growing stream of referrals. We are providing a needed public service, strengthening our interprofessional ties with the physician community, and giving our students experience in an emerging area of dentistry. The participation of doctors from the Misericordia Health Centre in the sleep clinic is an interprofessional first for the college.

Further to our clinical services, we are grateful to alumni and friends of the college for their support of the Donald B. Proctor Fund and the emergency fund established by the U of M Dental Alumni Association (UMDAA). These resources support treatment for patients who lack the means to pay for oral care. Your generosity in maintaining these funds is truly making a difference.

Many of our alumni know that the way in which patient care was traditionally managed in college clinics did not accurately reflect real-world practice. We focused on discipline-specific clinics, rather than treating each patient’s full spectrum of dental needs simultaneously.

We have made huge strides in implementing and expanding the General Practice Comprehensive Care Clinic model to treat the whole patient, not just one issue at a time. Each academic year, we are using clinic time more effectively, seeing more patients, and giving third- and fourth-year students more training that closely mirrors general practice.

Our mentorship program is also thriving. I am very proud that this partnership between the college and the Manitoba Dental Association allows every dentistry student to be paired with a practising dentist mentor throughout his or her four-year program. We couldn’t do it without U of M graduates and MDA members who give a hand up to the next generation.

Our alumni network is more than an asset. It’s part of the lifeblood that nourishes the college, keeping it current, responsive and forward-looking. As I write this in the snowy depths of mid-February, I thank you for helping to make this place a fertile garden for learning, research and community service.

I’m certain that spring will eventually arrive. Bring on the seed catalogues. Let’s keep dreaming of what we’ll plant next!
Welcome to the winter issue of the College of Dentistry Bulletin.

We are excited to share with you all of the latest news about our college and school of dental hygiene, achievements of alumni, students and faculty, and introduce you to some of our outreach activities.

It has been an exciting six months, with many of the internal projects we told you about last issue coming to fruition - thanks to the support of alumni, donors and partners.

The “Dr. Sni” lab is a perfect example of proud University of Manitoba alumni giving back – and making a difference to future generations of dentists. The new lab, which opened during 2016 Homecoming, is a testament to Taras Snihurowycz [DMD/62], a caring and celebrated faculty member who mentored generations of students. And now this new lab, which bears his name, will ensure dental students are educated with leading-edge technology that will lead to best practices in posture and vision ergonomics. Read more on page 4.

Another state-of-the-art lab opened last fall: the new radiology consultation room, also thanks in part to alumni support. The lab, equipped with a cone beam computed tomography machine (one of only two of its kind in Canada), gives students an unprecedented opportunity to learn about new technology for a variety of dental treatments and diagnoses. Read more on page 6.

As a faculty, the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences is committed to social accountability. The College of Dentistry demonstrates this tenet in many ways through its dental clinic, outreach programs and other community-based initiatives. In this issue, you will read about Open Wide (p. 10), where dental and dental hygiene faculty and students provided free dental care to refugees and other newcomers to Winnipeg. We are also pleased to share with you the story of one alumnus who has made it his life’s mission to help the underserved in developing countries. See more on page 7.

Lastly, we can’t say enough about the 2016 Alumni of Distinction award winners, Howard Cross [DMD/65] and Arna Shefrin [Dip. D. Hyg./70], and the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association gala. It was a fantastic night and a joy to fete the AOD winners and the dentistry and dental hygiene classes of 1966. Listening to the alumni’s memories of how their U of M education prepared them for practice anywhere in the world — and made them who they are today — was inspiring! Read more and check out some of the gala pictures starting on page 11.

We welcome your feedback and story ideas.
Human existence depends upon compassion and curiosity leading to knowledge, but curiosity and knowledge without compassion is inhuman and compassion without curiosity and knowledge is ineffectual.” — Victor Weisskopf, nuclear physicist

I promise this will be the last time I refer to a mid-20th century nuclear physicist in this space, but Dr. Weisskopf’s sentiments above capture the essence of a principle that I feel should be foundational in health and health-care teaching environments. They speak to a pervading theme being debated in business these days: that of social justice. How far should companies go in adopting socially conscious business models?

Likewise, dental and dental hygiene schools and related associations must reconcile their own social responsibilities to their surrounding communities. As leaders and experts in their fields, are they obliged to extend their reach beyond the walls of their institutions? We develop the only professionals in our community trained to provide dental and dental hygiene service, but unfortunately, the collective of private dental care practices and the fee-for-services system can leave some people behind. Whose responsibility is it to fill in the service gaps?

The University of Manitoba answered this question long ago, and the answer is embodied in the partnership between the Centre for Community Oral Health, the College of Dentistry and the School of Dental Hygiene. This partnership is a testament to the university’s commitment to providing oral health-care services to the underserved in our community. It is a reason to be proud as students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Another example of the university’s approach is the School of Dental Hygiene Smiles for Miles program, which raises and sponsors dental hygiene care for newcomers to Canada who otherwise would not receive it. The service is provided by senior dental hygiene students who in turn benefit from the experience. Most importantly, we expect this to reinforce the role we play as dental professionals and as an institution in the community, and the importance of giving back. These sessions have been informative and eye-opening for newcomers and for our students, who experience first-hand the impact that their efforts can have on others’ lives.

I am proud of the commitment made by the U of M to extending its reach, not just to our community locally, but to rural, remote and northern communities. Addressing the oral health-care needs of the underserved makes sense from an academic and governance perspective. The underserved often face some of the most challenging oral health issues and circumstances, to levels that might not otherwise be seen by students during their clinical education. Students are given an educational opportunity in a controlled, supervised environment, unmatched both in terms of complexity and personal fulfilment. The experience helps shape competent, ethical clinicians and hopefully, good citizens.

So while others wrestle with the scope of their obligations and what they should do to improve their moral standing, some look to the U of M as a leader in community oral health and as a good steward for those in need of an extended hand. How fortunate for our students to learn in this environment, growing not just their capacity for providing care, but for caring.
Most dentists know only too well that constantly hunching over and twisting to see into patients’ mouths can become a pain in the neck.

It can also lead to chronic problems in practitioners’ backs, shoulders and hips. But with the advent of digital tools, pain-inducing posture is giving way to advancements in “vision ergonomics.”

“To enjoy longevity in the profession, it is critical for dentists to sit correctly, with minimal bending,” says Aaron Kim [B.Sc./82, DMD/87], associate dean of clinics at the College of Dentistry. “It’s important that we educate students in using the latest tools.”

The college is ensuring that students graduate with the knowledge and skills to use leading-edge technology. That was showcased at the unveiling of the new “Dr. Sni” Lab during Homecoming Weekend in the fall of 2016.

The new, compact lab on the second floor of the Dentistry Building was outfitted largely through alumni donations to a memorial fund in honour of Taras Snihurowycz [DMD/62]. He was a respected faculty member, fondly nicknamed “Dr. Sni,” who taught at the college for decades and was known for encouraging students in their lab work. He passed away in 2011.

The $120,000 “Dr. Sni” Lab is equipped with a camera connected to a 55-inch wall-mounted monitor. The camera focuses on the oral cavity of a simulated patient, providing a real-time, stereoscopic 3D video image with up to 16x magnification. Instructors and students wear 3D glasses, much like the ones handed out at movie theatres.

The MoraVision system is the first of its kind in Canada, Kim says. It is designed for the dentist to sit behind the patient’s head – no tilting or twisting needed – and work while watching the magnified 3D image on the monitor, rather than looking directly into the patient’s mouth. A foot pedal controls the zoom and focus.

The system is an ideal teaching tool because the projected image allows a group to observe intraoral details at the same time. It can also be used in 2D format. The camera can be pointed at a tray, so a student and instructor can examine a preparation together.

“This lab is particularly designed for one-to-one feedback between instructors and students,” Kim says. “The magnified and illuminated image heightens the detailed learning experience.”

Kim notes that for the first time this academic year, dental loupes, another magnifying tool that allows for more upright posture, are being used in all pre-clinical labs and clinics. “Students are welcoming these technical advances,” he says. “It’s really nice to see the big changes.”

In their future practices, the associate dean says, students will likely choose to use loupes, microscopes or the 3D camera setup. It’s vital for them to get enough practice to become confident users of these options. “If you aren’t trained in school, it’s harder to adapt later in practice,” he says.

The “Dr. Sni” Lab includes a CAD/CAM system that scans teeth intraorally, creating a virtual model that can be used to design crowns and other restorations. A 3D milling machine in the lab can fabricate a crown in about 20 minutes.

The CAD/CAM system can be used to scan students’ preparations and digitally compare them with a sample created by an instructor. “We want to expand the use of the CAD/CAM in pre-clinical courses so students can self-scan, compare and self-evaluate,” Kim says. “That’s our goal for the next academic year.”

Patricia Kmet [B.Sc. (Maj.)/83, DMD/87], a Winnipeg dentist and alumna, spearheaded the fundraising campaign to honour Snihurowycz’s legacy. “I believe this project struck a chord with alumni,” she says. “They donated very generously, surpassing the goal of $93,000. In addition to establishing the student clinician lab in his honour, a scholarship was established that will be given annually to a deserving third-year dental student.”

The lab was officially opened during Homecoming 2016 with a reception that paid tribute to Snihurowycz’s contributions and to the generous alumni who supported the project.

Kim, a classmate of Kmet, remembers Snihurowycz’s dedication to students. “Dr. Sni would spend his evenings with us in the lab,” he says. “I’m sure he would appreciate these technological advances. He would have been thrilled to use all these new gadgets and apply them to helping students.”
The smiles of an extended Winnipeg family couldn’t have been brighter as two siblings and a cousin donned inaugural white coats at the Fall 2016 opening assembly for the College of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

In an extraordinary display of high-achieving togetherness, Manisha Bansal, 21, her brother Ketan Bansal, 20, and their cousin Monty Bansal, 23, all earned coveted places in the Dentistry Class of 2020. Chosen from a field of more than 200 applicants, they landed as the first three students listed alphabetically in the 29-person class.

“I think it’s miraculous,” said Monty’s beaming mother, Renu Bansal, after the Sept. 8 assembly held on the Bannatyne campus. “They’re a team. They want to open their own clinic.”

Dr. Anthony Iacopino, dean of the College of Dentistry, said in his 35 years at dentistry schools, he has never before seen three members of the same family in the same class. Because a number of faculty members conduct individual interviews with applicants, he said, it was only after the class list was finalized that the faculty learned the Bansals were kin.

“This is a first. It is something novel for us,” said Iacopino. “The three students are very good people and I think we’re going to have a lot of fun with them over the next four years.”

The Bansal trio, who studied together for the Dental Aptitude Test, thought the odds of admission were against them.

“We were very surprised. I kind of thought maybe one of us would get in, but I didn’t think they would accept all three of us,” said Monty, who is very close to his cousins and lived under the same roof as a young child. Monty now lives in Whyte Ridge and graduated from Vincent Massey Collegiate, while Manisha and Ketan live in Tyndall Park and are Sisler High School grads.

The science-loving trio has taken some friendly ribbing from fellow students. “They call us ‘Dr. Bansal Number 1, 2 and 3,’” said Manisha. “In labs we’re always seated right next to each other, because the seating is alphabetical.” But having her brother and cousin around is a plus, she said. “They make it more chill and more fun, so it’s not as stressful.”

Far from being driven by rivalry to outdo each other, the three said they’re seeking success as a team. They plan to keep studying together every evening and go into joint practice after graduation. As Winnipeg-born children of immigrants from India, they said, they have been raised to look beyond the individual.

“We pretty much helped each other get here,” said Ketan, who is the youngest but has held the dentistry dream the longest, since about age 15. “Our culture is more family-oriented. You think about helping others first.”

“We want to work together and have all of us do well,” said Monty. “We don’t look at it as a competition.”

How did it feel to be welcomed into the dentistry fold and don the distinctive high-collared white coat? “It felt like the end of a long road and the beginning of a new one,” said Ketan. “We worked so hard to get here... Now we’ve got to work hard to become good dentists.”
The College of Dentistry’s new Radiology Consultation Room might seem an unlikely place to display two landscape paintings.

But Meredith Brownlee [DMD/04], assistant professor in the department of dental diagnostic and surgical sciences, says she installed the artworks partly to help students learn to describe 3D radiographic images of patients’ teeth, jaws and heads.

Both paintings are Manitoba winter scenes by the same artist. Both depict bare trees and snow on the same property. But there are subtle differences, such as the angle taken by the painter.

“You can compare and contrast these two images, much like you can radiographs,” says Brownlee. “You could say that the snow here appears more ‘globby’ in comparison to the snow in this other image. You can use different terminology.

“Likewise, when students are looking at radiographs, it’s a descriptive art. I want them to express themselves in a way that a practitioner on the receiving end of their report would understand what they’re describing. If I can get the students to perceive small differences, that will make them better diagnosticians.”

This is the first academic year in which third- and fourth-year dentistry students are learning to interpret radiographs in rotations led by Brownlee, Manitoba’s only oral and maxillofacial radiologist.

The Radiology Consultation Room opened in August 2016 in the College of Dentistry’s Ross McIntyre Digital Imaging Centre. The new teaching and consulting space – formerly a storage room – has been outfitted with audiovisual equipment to complement the college’s new cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) machine, which arrived a few months earlier.

The renovations and equipment were funded in part by donations from College of Dentistry alumni.

The advanced CBCT machine uses a cone-shaped X-ray beam to produce detailed 3D scans of a patient’s jaw and head. It’s one of only two J. Morita 3D Accuitomo 170 machines in Canada (the other is at McGill University). The machine offers high-resolution and high-fidelity settings, a range of field-of-view sizes and exceptional image quality, Brownlee says.

3D imaging is becoming a standard of care for dental implants, she notes. It is increasingly used by oral surgeons and by specialists in areas such as orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics and pediatric dentistry. Every dental student needs a basic knowledge of the technology, the professor says.

“Even if they’re going to become general dentists, I want them to understand when 3D imaging is more indicated than 2D imaging. Dentists have to know when it’s appropriate to refer a patient.”

Prior to the opening of the Radiology Consultation Room, students, faculty and dentists who referred patients to the centre lacked a space in which to view and discuss the images. Groups had to crowd around Brownlee and peer over her shoulder at a computer screen.

The new space is equipped with a 42-inch high-definition monitor on which Brownlee can project the 3D radiographs. “Multiple people can see what I’m doing as I describe things,” she says. “The students can get a lot more exposure to this newer technology.”

The room also provides privacy for consultations with patients and dental professionals. “Now I have a dedicated space for interpreting cases confidentially,” says Brownlee. She adds that the new space has helped to raise awareness of her expertise and of the college’s radiographic imaging service, available to all Manitoba dentists.

In December 2016, Brownlee co-taught, with Dr. Ingvar Fife and Dr. Idris Elbakri, the first three-day certification course in cone beam radiology technique and interpretation as part of the college’s continuing professional development program. Manitoba dentists were quick to fill the 10 available spots in the course. It will be offered again April 7 to 9, 2017.

Brownlee’s appreciation for art led her to organize a recent combined “paint night” and informal lecture for the Women’s Dental Network, an organization of Manitoba women dentists that has been revived after a dormant period. Everyone tried their hand at a canvas and she discussed image interpretation.
In 1994, a University of Manitoba-trained dentist found himself travelling down a remote tributary in the Amazon River basin.

As the lone dentist with a volunteer group, Ken Stones [DMD/69], then in his 40s, had been asked to give two Brazilians a crash course in extractions.

“There were no roads,” recalls Stones, now 70 and retired in British Columbia. “I lived with them on their boats and we visited villages. I gave them dental lessons for three weeks.

“I got so much more out of it than I put in. It was the most incredible holiday I’d ever had. It really was life-changing. It gave me a focus of wanting to do more of that kind of work.”

“Seeing that joy and knowing that you’re helping people is an incredible reward. It’s pretty magical.”

Stones, who was born in Montreal and moved to Winnipeg as a teenager, had long felt a drive to explore the world. “Ken was always an adventuresome type,” recalls his U of M classmate Dan Green [DMD/69].

When most members of the Class of 1969 were establishing practices in Western Canada, Stones went to live and teach in New Zealand. He eventually settled into practice in White Rock, B.C.

After that first Brazilian adventure, he took every opportunity to participate in humanitarian dentistry.

He donated his services to alleviate suffering in countries such as Guatemala, China, Fiji and Morocco. His parents, he says, had done charitable work and instilled in him the value of volunteering.

In 2009, Stones founded a charity, Semiahmoo Dental Outreach (christened after the First Nations name for the peninsula where White Rock is located). He started to plan trips and partner with overseas organizations. Retired since 2014, he now leads two foreign clinics per year, each requiring a volunteer team of at least 20 dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and non-dental helpers.

Semiahmoo Dental Outreach focuses on treating children who lack access to basic oral care. Teams have travelled to the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Peru, typically treating 400 to 700 children per trip.

Team members pay for their own airfare, accommodation and food. Some use two weeks of their holidays from work to take part. Many describe it as one of the most humbling and fulfilling experiences of their lives.

“The camaraderie of the team and the communion with the community are very special,” says Stones, who has reached a personal total of about 25 trips in 23 years.

The working conditions are often challenging, but the satisfaction is enormous. “These little kids get out of the chair and hug you and thank you,” he says. “Seeing that joy and knowing that you’re helping people is an incredible reward. It’s pretty magical.”

In the developing world, Stones says, the availability of cheap, sugar-laden food, drinks and candy has caused a staggering increase in painful decay and infection, often within one generation. People die from dental infections at a rate that would shock most Canadians. “It’s heartbreaking,” Stones says. “Prevention is far more important, long-term, than what we can achieve by treatment.”

Semiahmoo Dental Outreach has made some headway. In the Philippines, Stones and his teams have held an annual clinic on the island of Siquijor, with a population of about 100,000, for the past seven years.

When the team first arrived, the island’s schools had canteens stocked only with high-sugar snacks. “It was not uncommon
Ken Stones’ outreach work has inspired creativity – and generosity – in a fellow member of the Class of 1969.

**Dan Green [DMD/69]** had a long career as a dentist in West Vancouver, while Stones practised in White Rock, B.C. The former classmates kept loosely in touch. Eight years ago, when Stones organized his charity’s first outreach trip to Vietnam, Green and his wife volunteered as members of the team.

In Vietnam, Green was particularly struck by how stoically the children endured dental work. “The courage they showed was very impressive,” he remembers.

The experience was a profound one for the Saskatchewan-bred Green, who had retired in 2003, studied creative writing and pursued a passion for crafting fiction. Now Green has independently published his second novel, a fast-paced historical thriller called *Teeth, Lies & Consequences* in which the main character and his son are dentists.

The novel is set during and after the Second World War, in locales ranging from Germany to Palestine to California. Green based scenes of humanitarian dentistry at a Middle Eastern orphanage on his Vietnam experience.

“Everything I wrote about the orphanage was inspired by the school clinic I worked at in Vietnam,” says Green, 72. “The setting is in Gaza, but the innocence of children in war-torn countries is the same.”

The author describes *Teeth, Lies & Consequences* as “the story of a dentist who takes an oath never to reveal a secret, but goes back on his word to save the life of his son.” Green dedicated the book to the U of M Dental Class of 1969, and to “all the dedicated and caring dentists, hygienists, assistants and reception coordinators” he has known throughout his career.

Members of the Class of 1969, he says, will recognize character names as nods to real people.

The thriller is available from Amazon and other online booksellers, in paperback or as an e-book. Green is donating 25 per cent of every sale to Stones’ Semiahmoo Dental Outreach. “I’d like to raise as much money as I can for Ken’s foundation,” Green says.

One of the novel’s themes is the importance of integrity and empathy in dentistry. “Those values go back to the education we received at the U of M,” the author says. “Our instructors instilled in us that dentistry is about helping others, and that every patient, no matter what their background or circumstance, deserves compassion and care.”

What does Stones think of Green’s support for his humanitarian efforts? “I’m thrilled,” Stones says. “He’s quite a wonderful guy.”

To learn more, visit [www.dangreen.ca](http://www.dangreen.ca).

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For 20 per cent of kids to be absent in any one month from toothache,” Stones says.

Then one school principal, inspired by preventative presentations by the outreach team, declared her school a “candy-free zone” and brought in healthy snacks. The number of decay-free students rose from virtually zero to more than 60 per cent in just three years. Now all the schools on the island have banished junk food and candy.

Stones is currently working as a consultant on a planned program in Tanzania. It will train community health workers to deliver preventive oral health education at a grassroots level. Although he says he’ll eventually leave the hands-on dentistry to others on his overseas trips, he has no plans to stay home.

“I’m still dreaming big,” he says. “I’m excited about the prevention thing.”

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Forty years after graduating, U of M classmates Dr. Dan Green (centre, left) and Dr. Ken Stones (centre, right) volunteer together in Vietnam, 2009.
Dr. Reynaldo Todescan is serious about sleep. In fact, when the associate professor of restorative dentistry became director of the College of Dentistry's dental sleep medicine clinic in 2014, he asked if he could experience an overnight sleep study at the Misericordia Health Centre.

That meant voluntarily hitting the pillow with electrodes stuck to his scalp, face, chest and legs, a tube invading his nose, and various other wires monitoring his system.

“I thought I should see what it’s like for patients,” says the affable Brazilian-born dentist, who practised and taught in Toronto for more than 30 years before joining the U of M faculty six years ago.

One of the key problems diagnosed by sleep studies is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). The breathing disorder is characterized by loud snoring, frequent waking with a choking sensation, and excessive daytime sleepiness. Left untreated, OSA can lead to serious health problems, such as cardiovascular disease.

“The role of the dentist is becoming quite important in identifying patients at risk for OSA,” says Todescan, head of the college’s division of temporomandibular disorders (TMD), orofacial pain and sleep apnea.

“The field of sleep apnea in dentistry is relatively new. It has picked up in the last 10 years or so. Now, most dentists who deal with orofacial pain deal with dental sleep medicine as well, because there is a correlation.

“General dentists should know what questions to ask about symptoms like snoring. They should be aware of apnea risk factors, such as obesity, large neck size and gastroesophageal reflux disease. Our curriculum is ensuring that students have that knowledge.”

Todescan recently assisted as the College of Dentistry’s continuing professional development program delivered the first master class in dental management of snoring and OSA for Manitoba dentists. Two U.S.-based experts, John Nadeau of Sleep Group Solutions and private practitioner Jeff Horowitz, gave the two-day course.

The U of M is an educational leader in the field. Todescan believes the College of Dentistry clinic, which opened in 2012, is the only one for sleep breathing disorders at a Canadian dental college. Trained in prosthetics himself, he went to California for a residency in dental sleep medicine when he replaced the original director of the clinic, Dr. Stephen Ahing, who retired in 2014.

Todescan supervises third- and fourth-year students as they rotate through the busy Wednesday-morning clinic. All the patients have been medically diagnosed with sleep apnea, most through the Misericordia’s Sleep Disorder Centre.

The gold standard for OSA treatment is a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine to keep the patient’s airway open during sleep. However, Todescan says, many people can’t tolerate the bedside machine because they find the mask and tubing too uncomfortable.

That’s where dentists come in. They can custom-fabricate a mandibular advancement device (MAD) – a kind of mouth guard to be worn at night. The College of Dentistry clinic treats patients using a specific type, an elastic mandibular advancement device.

“The idea is to bring the jaw slightly forward to open the airway,” Todescan says. “The device also makes sure the tongue stays forward. From the literature, it’s very effective for snoring, and for mild to moderate apnea. It’s not really indicated for severe apnea, but patients who are unable to use the CPAP can try it.”

Todescan has seen life-changing improvement in some patients who achieve blissful sleep with a MAD. Unfortunately, the appliances can be expensive and, unlike the CPAP, are currently not covered by Manitoba Health. Private benefit plans vary in their coverage.

For Todescan, the bottom line is that dentists need to do detective work when it comes to patients’ sleep. Nighttime bruxism (grinding), for example, needs more attention than the automatic fabrication of a night guard to protect teeth.

“We now call it ‘sleep bruxism,’ because we know it’s a sleep disorder,” he says. “Before you prescribe a night guard, you should look at the breathing aspect. You have to look carefully and see what’s going on.”
Putting patients at ease and helping them to feel safe is a familiar role for dental hygiene students.

But third-year students Natali Trpkoska and Autumn Buchanan were challenged to take those skills to a new level when they volunteered at Open Wide 2016. The day-long event, held on a Saturday in November at the College of Dentistry, provided free dental care to Winnipeg refugees and other newcomers.

Of about 200 new Canadians who were treated – many of them children – some had never seen a dentist before. Many spoke little or no English and had been through great upheaval and hardship, such as living in refugee camps. For the students, assisting at the clinic was very different from their usual clinical training.

“I think Open Wide should be strongly recommended for every student in hygiene,” Trpkoska said. “There’s just so much satisfaction in knowing that if it’s someone’s first time at the dentist, it’s a good experience, not a scary one.”

“They were very, very appreciative,” Buchanan added about the patients.

More than 100 dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and students donated their time to Open Wide, which is jointly organized every two or three years by the College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA). This was the first time the clinic reached out to refugees. Dental suppliers donated clinical materials and “goody bag” items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The volunteers were a diverse enough group that many were able to act as language interpreters. Still, there were moments when no translator was available. Trpkoska provided care to one little boy who was extremely frightened. Unable to speak his language, she used mime, a gentle voice and comforting touch to reassure him.

“It was just really cute,” she recalled. “The little relationship you build, from the beginning to the end, is incredible. You can understand each other without even speaking. He went from being super scared to being really calm, and he got a goody bag. The look on his little face – he was just so happy.”

Another boy Trpkoska saw was from Thailand. No one at the clinic knew the language. “I had to be resourceful, so I took my phone out and used Google Translate. It had to do with instructions for tooth-brushing. I translated it into their language and showed it to his mom on my phone.”

Buchanan was assigned to assist Mary Bertone [Dip. D.Hyg./05, B.Sc. D.Hyg./11, MPH/15], director of the School of Dental Hygiene, and enjoyed the chance to observe her masterful skills. For instance, Bertone was able to tell, from examining one patient’s teeth and gums, that he was accustomed to brushing with a miswak – a kind of twig that is used as a natural toothbrush, particularly in Muslim countries.

Carla Cohn [DMD/91], a dentist and then-president of the MDA who also volunteered at Open Wide, said it’s a valuable experience for students to have encounters with patients in need. “For both students and dentists, it teaches us empathy for others,” she said. “To be able to give of yourself is very important. I think it’s a hard thing to teach…. There are a lot of people in our own backyard who need help. You never know – this could be any of us that wind up in a bad situation.”

Cohn said some patients came in suffering from major infections or needed crowns, root canals, extractions and other procedures that would likely be prohibitive for them to pay for, given the minimal dental coverage provided to refugees by the federal government. Efforts were made to refer patients to the College of Dentistry clinic or elsewhere for follow-up.

“You go out of that kind of situation and you feel good for what you’ve provided, but it’s a two-sided coin,” Cohn said. “You’re happy for what you’ve been able to accomplish, but you’re also feeling a little sad for all those who didn’t get treatment, or still need more.”

The hygiene students said the experience of giving back was so rewarding and confidence-building, they would like to return to Open Wide as practising hygienists. “It will be fun doing it once we graduate,” Buchanan said.
A renowned children's dentist who led the University of Manitoba's hospital pediatric dentistry program for 35 years has vowed to retire soon.

"I am now in my 78th year and still working. I love what I do," Howard Cross [DMD/65], recipient of the 2016 Alumni of Distinction Award from the U of M Dental Alumni Association, told nearly 200 guests at a Homecoming Weekend gala at the Fort Garry Hotel.

"I would like to formally announce here, before all of you, that I will absolutely retire after one more year.

"Unless I change my mind."

Cross, a member of the Dentistry Class of 1965, continues to serve as a faculty member in pediatric dentistry in the department of preventive dental science, College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. After practising for more than half a century as a hospital dentist, he said he still finds treating children “far easier and more pleasant than treating adults.”
The distinguished educator and practitioner poked fun at his beginnings. “Admission to dental college in those days was by committee,” he said. “The committee was Dr. Neilson (dean of dentistry). My interview went like this: ‘Well, Cross, you’re in. But looking over your academic record, I don’t think you’re going to make it!”

Cross not only made it, but became particularly influential in serving patients with special health-care needs. In 1980, he was instrumental in the creation of the Manitoba Cleft Lip and Palate Program, now part of the Craniofacial Dysplasia Program. Cross has also been a leader in outreach work, supporting patients with limited access to dental care, including those in Northern Manitoba.

Cross noted with pride that he ran the Children’s Hospital dental internship program for more than 40 years. “Now my old program has become a graduate program and has turned out board-certified pediatric dentists under my friend Charles Lekic,” he said.

Frank Hechter [DMD/71, M.Sc./76, M.Ed./90, PhD/95] said in his introduction of Cross, “Throughout his career, Howard chose to avoid the limelight and notoriety for the quiet, intrinsic knowledge that he had made – and continues to make – a significant difference.”

Arna Shefrin [Dip. D. Hyg./70, BA/71], a member of the Dental Hygiene Class of 1970 who now lives in California, was honoured with the 2016 Alumni of Distinction Award by the U of M School of Dental Hygiene Alumni Association.

Faculty member Diane Girardin [Dip. D. Hyg./72] said of Shefrin, “Her education in dental hygiene became a springboard to achievement, not only as a practising hygienist, but as a noted educator, researcher, author, speaker and consultant.”

Shefrin became the first North American-trained dental hygienist to be licensed to practise in the United Kingdom. She told the audience how, after getting a job at one of the most prestigious practices in London, she found herself cleaning the teeth of dukes, earls, members of the House of Lords, former monarchs of Europe and Greek shipping magnates.

Learning to greet patients by their titles was stressful. “To avoid faux pas, all of us frequently consulted Debrett’s Peerage, the handbook of the British aristocracy,” she recalled.

Shefrin accomplished another “first” when she was the first dental hygienist to publish an article in the Journal of Dental Education. She also wrote the first-ever published article in the dental field dealing with anorexia nervosa.

In the 1980s she transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry, working on innovative research projects. In the 1990s she established a consulting firm with a clientele that included large pharmaceutical firms. During this time, her work focused on the ethical dimensions of clinical trials, and she lectured and published on this topic.

At the University of Manitoba, Shefrin said, “Our exceptional clinical instructors stressed two key concepts: firstly, that we must provide a full measure of the best care possible to our patients; and secondly, that we must be worthy of the trust placed in us. We have tried to live by these ideals ever since…

“The program here gave me a strong foundation not only on which to build an incredible career; it also shaped the ethical underpinning to my life…. For that foundation and for what I learned here, I am profoundly grateful.”

The sold-out awards evening, held in the elegant Provencher Room, raised funds for the Dr. John M. Grahame Scholarship. Grahame was a trailblazing teacher and mentor, instrumental in establishing the Faculty of Dentistry in 1957. The scholarship in his name goes to a second-year student who combines scholastic achievement, general character and participation in extracurricular activities.


“We joke that our class was the best ever,” MacFarlane said. “Our class became a family over the four years in dental school. It started in first year with a cooperative, helping approach – it was not competitive. This is reflected in the excitement and enthusiasm we share for our reunions every five years.”

Jamieson noted, “It’s a pleasure to reconnect with classmates, see old friends and reminisce about the great education we received at the University of Manitoba.”

Many of the Class of 1966 50th-anniversary celebrants took a walk down memory lane the next morning, attending the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences’ Dean’s Homecoming Breakfast and College of Dentistry tour on the Bannatyne campus.
1. Dr. Anthony Iacopino, Dean of Dentistry, congratulates AOD winners, Classes of 1966 honourees.

2. Class of 1966 dentistry alumni gathered for a memorable 50th anniversary reunion during U of M Homecoming.


4. Arnold Cohn, Carla Cohn [DMD/91], Angela Thomas [DMD/01] and Ross McIntyre, former executive director of the MDA.

5. College of Dentistry students enjoy the festivities of AOD gala dinner.

6. Gene Solmundson [DMD/66], Ross McIntyre, former executive director of the MDA, and Rafi Mohammed, current executive director of the MDA.


View 2016 UMDAA Alumni of Distinction Gala photo gallery on Flickr: Rady Faculty of Health Sciences AOD Dinner
The first time Kristin Cuthbert went to audition for Winnipeg’s All-Dentist Musical, she was so nervous, she tried to back out at the last minute.

Tough love was required. “My husband (a fellow dentist) said ‘Get out of the car.’ I got out and he locked the door! He wouldn’t let me back in. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t have made it that day,” says the Gimli practitioner.

Cuthbert [B.Sc./00, DMD/04], who had some experience with choral singing but had never acted or performed any musical theatre, not only made it through the 2011 audition, but ended up having a blast donating her budding talent to Little Shop of Horrors, the inaugural all-dentist production.

She was hooked. Now she’s a dental diva – the only cast member to have sung and danced in all four biennial musical comedies to date, including Guys and Dolls in 2013, Young Frankenstein in 2015 and now Lucky Stiff, which runs May 4-7, 2017 at the University of Winnipeg’s Asper Centre for Theatre and Film.

In total, more than 50 local dentists have performed in the shows. Cuthbert says one of the joys of getting onstage is that it gives dentists, who tend to be driven, highly disciplined people, a chance to be playful and adopt other personas. “This allows us to explore different aspects of our personality. You get to be all these things you don’t get to be in real life,” she says.

The musicals, presented by the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA), benefit worthy causes. The 2015 show raised about $21,000, says three-time cast member Frank Hechter [DMD/71], a retired College of Dentistry professor of orthodontics in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Proceeds from Lucky Stiff will support the Never Alone Foundation and a student bursary in the U of W theatre and film department.

Lucky Stiff is a zany off-Broadway musical farce from 1988. It concerns a shy shoe salesman named Harry who stands to inherit $6 million if he takes his uncle’s embalmed corpse on a vacation to Monte Carlo. If he fails to fulfil his uncle’s wishes, the millions will go to a charity for dogs, represented by a prim young woman named Annabel.

Simon Miron, the paid professional who directs the 13-dentist cast, describes Lucky Stiff as quirky and well-crafted, in a similar vein to Mel Brooks comedies like Young Frankenstein. “It’s a gem of a show that just never made a Broadway splash,” he says.

The sweet-faced Cuthbert plays Annabel opposite Ken Hamin [DMD/88, B.Sc./90] as Harry in two of the four performances. The other two performances also star U of M dentistry alumni: Ilana Shapera [B.Sc./10, DMD/14] as Annabel and Jonathan Archer [B.Sc.(Maj)/01, M.Sc./04, DMD/08] as Harry.

Hechter, who says he counts himself in the “Don’t give up your day job” category of performer, plays a flashy Italian schemer named Luigi Gaudi. The musicals, he says, demonstrate to the community that dentists are well-rounded, fun-loving people. “Like everyone else, we have other interests beyond our practice lives,” he says.

The All-Dentist Musical was originally spearheaded by dentist/performer Tricia Magsino-Barnabé [B.Sc. (Maj.)/96, DMD/03], perhaps inspired by the annual Lawyers’ Play at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

But after being the musicals’ driving force in 2011, 2013 and 2015, Magsino-Barnabé decided to sit out this year. Hechter is chairing a committee that is working under the guidance of Jeffrey Kohut of White Rabbit Productions to clarify producing roles and responsibilities. The goal is to sustain the shows into the future.

In Lucky Stiff’s wacky plot whirl of gambling, murder, dogs, disguises and missing jewels, is there anything related to dentistry?

“There is an optometrist,” Miron says. “We had a great conversation about whether we could switch it to a dentist, but it’s a specific plot point.”

For more information and to order tickets, visit www.alldentistmusical.com.
The College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences has made significant improvements to the curriculum during the last five years. The following topics represent some key examples of change in four major areas:

1. POLICY/PROCEDURE CHANGES

Attendance Policy – The college has implemented a formal attendance policy. It allows students to miss up to five per cent of any given academic course without penalty, and defines increased academic consequences for increased absenteeism, to a 15 per cent maximum. Students who miss more than 15 per cent of any course risk disbarment from that course.

Three-week Mini-Term – In an effort to reduce academic load and maximize student performance, the college has implemented a three-week mini-term, mainly in the month of August. Two entire courses for each year of dentistry are now taught in the mini-term.

Interprofessional Education – As of September 2016, first-year students are assigned to small interprofessional cohorts that combine students from across the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences for the two-year Interprofessional Collaborative Care Curriculum.

Expanded Academic Year – Technological advances and higher professional expectations have expanded the number of topics that must be taught in dental school. The college has addressed this by lengthening the academic year. The current academic year saw third- and fourth-year students start on Aug. 8, while first- and second-year students started on Aug. 15. Final exams and completion of clinic cases extend into mid-May.

2. TEACHING METHODS

Going Digital – All our courses are now incorporated into the U of M’s online learning management system, UM Learn. Combined with our use of an electronic textbook system, this allows students to securely access all their learning resources and more than 65 textbooks from any location with Internet access. A small but growing number of courses have their final exams online. The college has expanded its IT infrastructure, including both extensive wireless capability and wired internet and power connections at each classroom seat. Computers are also installed at all preclinical lab stations.

Simulation – The college has expanded the effective use of simulation. For example, preclinical labs are now treated as “simulated clinic,” with students required to meet clinical infection control protocols; “perio dentoforms” with supra and subgingival calculus are now used pre-clinically in periodontics; and students learn to measure blood pressure using simulators.

3. TRACKING/ENHANCING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Academic Standing System – The college has implemented a new system to identify students with academic difficulties at an earlier date, allowing for more effective remediation and support. All students start the year in “good standing,” but can be moved to “at-risk” or “academic probation” standing if their performance does not meet predetermined standards. Students with at-risk or probationary standing are provided with timely remediation and other academic supports to maximize their chances for success.

Peer Tutor Program – This program identifies students who achieved a grade of A or A+ in each dentistry course in the previous year. The college pays these students an hourly rate to complete the U of M’s tutor-training program, and then to tutor junior students who are experiencing academic difficulty in specific courses.

4. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Teaching Evaluation – The college obtains student feedback on teaching at both the course level and the instructor level. Every course is evaluated every year by three students nominated to represent their class. Individual instructors are evaluated a minimum of once every three years using anonymous SEEQ (Student’s Evaluation of Educational Quality) forms. Instructors experiencing teaching challenges are provided with opportunities for training and support.

Voice of the Customer – Students have many opportunities to voice their academic concerns and ideas, and for these to be heard and acted upon. Concerns can be raised through several channels: our student/faculty advisory committee; twice-yearly meetings between all deans and the entire class for each year in the program; and annual individual meetings for each student with Dean Iacopino. Another important mechanism is the open-door policy of the associate deans for clinics and academics. Finally, the college obtains student feedback from a summary report of findings from the licensing interviews of new graduates conducted by the executive director of the Manitoba Dental Association.
Three summers ago, dentistry student Chris Ward embarked on a research project to see whether magnetic nanoparticles could be used to carry drugs to the inside of teeth.

“I was pretty skeptical. I went into it thinking they probably wouldn’t penetrate the teeth,” said Ward about the project suggested by his advisor, Dr. Rodrigo França, assistant professor of restorative dentistry in the College of Dentistry.

But Ward was excited to discover that the cutting-edge concept is viable. Working in the college’s dental biomaterials lab, he showed that superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles (SPIONs) can fully penetrate human molars when subjected to an external magnetic field.

This means the tiny particles could be used for targeted drug delivery in the oral cavity. For instance, they could transport antibiotics into teeth to treat diseases such as periodontitis.

“This is new, and our initial results are promising,” said Ward.

Only one previous study has been published on SPIONs in dentistry, he said. It dealt with placing liposomes into the root chambers of teeth that had received root canals, and using a magnetic field to draw them into the tooth structure.

Ward’s project won the poster competition at the College of Dentistry’s 2017 Research Day. The event was held at the RBC Convention Centre in January in conjunction with the Manitoba Dental Association’s 2017 convention.

Dr. Raj Bhullar, associate dean (research) at the College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, said the dentists in attendance were impressed with the quality of the student projects. “Research is an integral part of being an allied health professional, and for lifelong learning,” Bhullar said. “Research Day allows our future dental professionals to assess developments in their field as they go on to practice.”

Ward’s work has also won a Student Research Award from the Canadian Association for Dental Research and the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research. His project placed third in Canada in the bachelor’s degree category. He received a travel award to present his findings at an international meeting in San Francisco in March.

Ward, 27, who will graduate as a dentist this spring, conducted the research as part of the requirements for his Bachelor of Science in Dentistry degree. The degree program provides students with a stipend to conduct research in the summers while they’re studying to become dentists during the regular academic year.

“It’s a really interesting way to have a summer job and do some research. The bonus is you get a second degree,” said Ward.

Natasha Holder won the Research Day award for best oral presentation by a Bachelor of Science (Dentistry) student. Her project looked at the characteristics of about 200 patients who were referred to the College of Dentistry’s dental sleep medicine clinic for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

The study, supervised by Dr. Charlene Solomon, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, was conducted by analyzing patients’ charts and referral forms. “We wanted to contribute some Manitoba data to the national data that exists, and to raise awareness of obstructive sleep apnea in the dental community,” said Holder, 26.

The study looked at factors such as what sleep studies had been performed for OSA diagnosis, the presence of OSA-associated comorbidities, and whether patients accepted and continued with mandibular advancement device (MAD) therapy.

Holder, a third-year dentistry student, found that giving a 30-minute presentation to an audience made her more aware of her study’s significance and relevance to dentists. “Talking about it has made me more passionate about it,” she said.

Appalaraju Jaggupilli, a PhD student in oral biology, won the award for best oral presentation by a graduate student. His study looked at the role of bitter taste receptors in cystic fibrosis.

Dr. Elliott Scott (faculty member/judge), student Natasha Holder, student Appalaraju Jaggupilli and Dr. Raj Bhullar (faculty member/judge) at Research Day.
Spring at a Glance
Continuing Professional Development Calendar for Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

SPRING 2017

April 28-30
Local Anesthetic Techniques for Dental Hygienists
Diane Girardin and other members of the School of Dental Hygiene (Lecture & hands-on)

May 27
Digital Diagnosis and Smile Design: Hands-On Digital Planning
Dr. Anastasia Cholakis and Dr. Jose Viquez (Lecture & hands-on)

May 29-June 16
Restorative Techniques for Dental Hygienists
Diane Girardin, Dr. Asmaa Halmur and other staff (Lecture & hands-on)

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THURSDAY
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8:00 PM – $40

GALA PERFORMANCE
FRIDAY
MAY 5TH
8:00 PM – $75

THIRD PERFORMANCE
SATURDAY
MAY 6TH
8:00 PM – $50

CLOSING PERFORMANCE
SUNDAY
MAY 7TH
2:00 PM – $50

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GRAD STUDENT AIDS TO TURN BACTERIA INTO ‘ZOMBIES’

For the past five years, Anjali Bhagirath has toiled in a microbiology lab in the basement of the College of Dentistry. The PhD student in oral biology, formerly a practising dentist in India, is studying bacterial biofilms that cause dangerous infections in the lungs of people with cystic fibrosis.

It sounds highly technical. But when Bhagirath described Pseudomonas aeruginosa bacteria as wily little creatures who adapt to human environments by using antennae-like signalling systems, she clinched second place in the U of M’s 2016 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

“If these antennae are blocked in any way, the bacteria behave like zombies and can be moved away,” Bhagirath told the audience in her highly engaging three-minute summary of her doctoral thesis. Her presentation further explained that the bacteria resist antibiotics, so outsmarting them by jamming their signal transmitters may hold the greatest hope for defeating them.

Bhagirath finished second out of 36 competitors, chosen from an initial field of 135 applicants, in the research communication contest. It challenges grad students to present their work concisely to a general audience, aided by just one PowerPoint slide.

Q: You grew up in India and practised dentistry there. Tell us your story – what brought you to Manitoba?
In India, my grandfather was an Ayurvedic practitioner with a deep sense of service. I learned a lot about medicine from him. I wanted to become a neurosurgeon, but for various reasons, I ended up in dentistry. After I completed dental school in Mumbai in 2008, I was practising, teaching and running a diagnostic centre. But I didn’t feel satisfied. In dental practice, you’re told to do things a certain way. I said to my mentor, “I’m not too comfortable with just accepting things as they are in the books.”

I applied across the world to PhD programs. The U of M College of Dentistry was the only one where I could study bacterial biofilms. I arrived here in 2012 and joined Dr. Kangmin Duan’s lab. I’m looking at the molecular level of bacteria sensing.

Q: As a first author, you recently published papers related to your thesis in the journals BMC Pulmonary Medicine and ACS Infectious Diseases. How does your research apply to dentistry?
I’m very interested in studying dental biofilms, particularly endodontic and periodontal biofilms. Root canals often get re-infected because of biofilms, and they are also a big cause of dental implant failure. Oral bacteria are very tenacious and hard to study. They learn the ability to stick around.

Q: You’re an instructor of dental anatomy in the College of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene, and you have almost completed your doctorate. Do you want to qualify as a dentist in Canada?
I do want to go to dental school, 100 per cent. Right now I’m trying to decide between the IDDP (International Dentist Degree Program, a U of M program that prepares internationally trained dentists for accreditation in Canada), a residency and a post-doctoral program. My goal is to be a clinician scientist, to teach and to do research. I want to stay in academia.

Q: In your Three Minute Thesis presentation, you explained your research in a highly accessible way. Did that come easily to you?
No, it was immensely difficult! I had no confidence. It took me days and nights to come up with a decent story. My advisor, Dr. Duan, and my mentors, Dr. Prashen Chelikani and Dr. James Gilchrist (College of Dentistry oral biology faculty members), walked me through the process. Dr. Gilchrist kept asking me, “So what? How is this research going to affect someone’s life?”

I drew my own PowerPoint slide. It was just a cartoon. I was like, “My slide sucks!” At the finals, I was a nervous wreck. For me, it was a big deal to be able to stand up and talk.

Q: What did you gain from facing your fear of public speaking?
It was a boost to my self-esteem, for sure. I learned to appreciate the people around me more, and also to respect myself for who I am and what I do.
The University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association (UMDAA) is kicking off its annual membership drive for 2017. We have recently launched our website, which has made membership renewals easier than ever! Visit www.umdaa.ca and click on membership renewal. The website also allows donations to our various philanthropic endeavours. We thank all members who have supported us in the past and thank you in advance for your future support. We also strongly encourage those alumni who have yet to sign up for membership to do so.

Our signature event each year is the Alumni of Distinction (AOD) gala dinner held in the fall. This past September, at the sold-out event, we honoured Howard Cross [DMD/65] for his many decades of dedication to our profession. His address to the audience was both heartfelt and comedic. The event also honoured the dentistry and dental hygiene classes of 1966 (celebrating their 50-year anniversaries). We were delighted that 17 members of the dentistry class of 1966 were able to attend. Information about the 2017 AOD award, including nomination forms, can be found on our website.

UMDAA sponsors and organizes the alumni vs student hockey games, thanks to the efforts and many volunteer hours by Chris Cottick [DMD/90]. I have taken my appointment as president very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that I have started playing hockey this past fall just so that I may participate in these games, if only to keep the bench warm and offer encouragement to our team!

We also host the alumni reception at the Manitoba Dental Association Convention each January and sponsor both the alumni reception at the Pacific Dental Convention and the Dr. John Grahame Scholarship that is awarded to a second-year dental student each year. Past recipients of this award can be found on our website.

Our Emergency Care fund has also been in place for just over a year. The fund covers those patients who present to the College of Dentistry and require emergency treatment, but cannot afford it. We continue to refine the terms of reference so that the funds can be used efficiently and help as many patients as possible. The All-Dentist Musical is another of our sponsored events, which I hope you will all attend. The musical comedy Lucky Stiff will be performed from May 4-7, 2017 at the University of Winnipeg Asper Centre for Theatre and Film.

Perhaps most significantly, your membership gives us a larger voice to effect change at the College of Dentistry, where members of our board sit on various committees. One such committee is the College of Dentistry Council, which approves policies and oversees many of the activities at the College.

Again, membership can be purchased on our website. Fees are $50 for dentists residing in Manitoba and $35 for an associate membership (aimed at out-of-town dentists). Alternatively, you can mail a cheque to our office: UMDAA, 202-1735 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3N 0K4.

A Message from
UMDAA President

JEFF BERGEN [DMD/09]
President, University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association

The University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association executive committee is very excited about our upcoming Wine and Cheese event taking place from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 at Canad Inns, Polo Park. The evening offers the dental hygiene community an opportunity to network and connect with faculty, students and alumni of the School of Dental Hygiene in the College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. We encourage soon-to-be graduates to drop in and meet colleagues and potential mentors in a casual and relaxed atmosphere.

We also extend an invitation to all University of Manitoba dental hygiene faculty, students and alumni to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the College of Dentistry, Bannatyne Campus. The evening will update members on the UMSDHAA’s activities over the past year and feature a research presentation by Gayle Halas [PhD/16], research associate in the department of family medicine, Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr. Halas recently completed her PhD in Individual Interdisciplinary Studies (Nursing) and will speak on the dissonance underlying patients' cognitive engagement with educational health information. As well, we will feature a final presentation of Deanna Mackay’s master’s thesis in Community Health Sciences. Entrance is free to this event to UMSDHAA members, but RSVP required to UMSDHAA@outlook.com. We encourage you to join our association at this time. Membership fees for active, affiliate and supporting members are $30 and $10 for students.

We are also looking forward to an upcoming UMSDHAA Paint Nite in June — another fun event where you can meet and get to know your fellow oral health professionals. For further information about these events, please contact us by emailing UMSDHAA@outlook.com or cindy.isaak-ploegman@umanitoba.ca or visit our Facebook page.

A special thank you to all those who supported our Alumni of Distinction gala at the Fort Garry Hotel celebrating Arna Shefrin, our AOD from the School of Dental Hygiene Class of 1970. Your participation made the evening a success. Congratulations again to Arna!

Do you know of a graduate from the School of Dental Hygiene who has made a considerable contribution to the dental hygiene community, community at large or distinguished him or herself in a meaningful way? Consider nominating this dental hygienist for the 2017 Alumni of Distinction Award by emailing the UMSDHAA@outlook.com for a nomination form. Please mark your calendars for next year’s Alumni of Distinction gala scheduled for September 27, 2017.

The University of Manitoba School of Dental Hygiene Alumni Association

FLORNA ATIENZA [DIP. D.HYG./15]
CINDY ISAAK-PLOEGMAN [DIP. D.HYG./89, BA/90, M.ED/03]
Co-Presidents, University of Manitoba School of Dental Hygiene Alumni Association

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The University of Manitoba School of Dental Hygiene Alumni Association executive committee is very excited about our upcoming Wine and Cheese event taking place from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 at Canad Inns, Polo Park. The evening offers the dental hygiene community an opportunity to network and connect with faculty, students and alumni of the School of Dental Hygiene in the College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. We encourage soon-to-be graduates to drop in and meet colleagues and potential mentors in a casual and relaxed atmosphere.

We also extend an invitation to all University of Manitoba dental hygiene faculty, students and alumni to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the College of Dentistry, Bannatyne Campus. The evening will update members on the UMSDHAA’s activities over the past year and feature a research presentation by Gayle Halas [PhD/16], research associate in the department of family medicine, Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr. Halas recently completed her PhD in Individual Interdisciplinary Studies (Nursing) and will speak on the dissonance underlying patients' cognitive engagement with educational health information. As well, we will feature a final presentation of Deanna Mackay’s master’s thesis in Community Health Sciences. Entrance is free to this event to UMSDHAA members, but RSVP required to UMSDHAA@outlook.com. We encourage you to join our association at this time. Membership fees for active, affiliate and supporting members are $30 and $10 for students.

We are also looking forward to an upcoming UMSDHAA Paint Nite in June — another fun event where you can meet and get to know your fellow oral health professionals.

For further information about these events, please contact us by emailing UMSDHAA@outlook.com or cindy.isaak-ploegman@umanitoba.ca or visit our Facebook page.

A special thank you to all those who supported our Alumni of Distinction gala at the Fort Garry Hotel celebrating Arna Shefrin, our AOD from the School of Dental Hygiene Class of 1970. Your participation made the evening a success. Congratulations again to Arna!

Do you know of a graduate from the School of Dental Hygiene who has made a considerable contribution to the dental hygiene community, community at large or distinguished him or herself in a meaningful way? Consider nominating this dental hygienist for the 2017 Alumni of Distinction Award by emailing the UMSDHAA@outlook.com for a nomination form. Please mark your calendars for next year’s Alumni of Distinction gala scheduled for September 27, 2017.
Nancy Auyeung [B.Sc.(Dent)/92, DMD/92], a past president of the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA), chairs the MDA Continuing Competency Committee, and serves as treasurer of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation.

Noriko Boorberg [DMD/00, M.Ed./12] has been appointed chief examiner of the National Dental Examination Board’s Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge exam. She is also extensively involved in other NDEB roles and leads an annual dental mission to Peru. At the College of Dentistry, Boorberg is associate professor of restorative dentistry and division head of operative dentistry.

Catherine Dale [DMD/92, Dip. O & M Sur./97] is the newly elected president of the MDA. She practises in Winnipeg and is assistant professor of dental diagnostic and surgical sciences at the College of Dentistry.

Tony Hayward [B.Sc./72, DMD/76] plans to stay in Brandon after retiring from the practice of dentistry.

Aaron Kim [B.Sc./82, DMD/87] has been appointed associate dean of clinics at the College of Dentistry. He received a 2016 grant from the William J. Spence ICD Memorial Foundation for a humanitarian dental mission to Zimbabwe. Alumni volunteers will travel there under the guidance of Huma Rohan [DMD/14].

Victor Le [B.Sc.(Dent.)/14, DMD/14], resident in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the College of Dentistry, has been awarded a $10,000 research grant by the Foundation for Continuing Education and Research, Canadian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Le will undertake the project “Treatment of Temporo-Myofascial Disorder of Muscular Origin using Botulinum toxin: A prospective study.”

Marc Mollot [B.Sc./95, DMD/97] is one of 11 members appointed to the University of Manitoba Board of Governors in 2017. Mollot, a bilingual dentist in Winnipeg, is a part-time instructor at the College of Dentistry and president of the Western Canada Dental Society. Rafi Mohammed, executive director of the MDA, was also appointed to the Board of Governors.

Marshall Peikoff [DMD/73] is retiring from dental practice. He has been granted a Life Fellowship in the International College of Dentists.

Simona Pesun [B.Sc.(Dent.)/97, DMD/97] was installed as president of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE) at its recent convention in Winnipeg. Pesun practises with a group of endodontists that includes Howie Fogel [DMD/80], past president of the CAE. Pesun is a part-time instructor in endodontics at the College of Dentistry.

Amarjit Rihal [DMD/95] received a fellowship in the American College of Dentists in 2016. He has also joined the executive of the National Dental Examination Board and chairs the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. He sits on the executive of the International Society of Dental Regulators.

Carmine Scarpino [DMD/81] became president of the Winnipeg Dental Society in the spring of 2016. He also chairs both the MDA Scope of Practice Committee and Oral Health Advisory Committee.

Kurt Scherle [DMD/09, M.Dent./14] spoke at the 2017 Manitoba Dental Association Convention on “Managing thrombolytics by the dental team.” His lecture addressed the need for dentists and hygienists to be knowledgeable about blood thinners. Scherle instructs part-time in the oral and maxillofacial surgery clinic at the College of Dentistry.

Gene Solmundson [DMD/66] is retiring from full-time practice but will stay on as an associate of Assiniboine Dental Group.

Kardy Solmundson [DMD/79] is retiring from the practice of dentistry and plans to move to British Columbia but spend the summers at Falcon Lake.

Lorne Golub [DMD/63, M.Sc./65], SUNY distinguished professor of oral biology and pathology at Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, New York, has been named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. “I feel greatly honoured,” the U of M Dentistry alumnus said. “Receiving recognition from this very prestigious organization, which has a number of world-class scientists – including several Nobel laureates – as fellows, was a tremendous surprise.”

Golub’s innovations and patents largely relate to his development of medications as inhibitors of tissue-destructive enzymes called matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs). These medications have been effective against diseases including periodontitis, dermatitis, arthritis, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular and lung diseases. A faculty member in the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine since 1973, Golub holds 55 U.S. patents and 104 international patents. The drugs Periostat and Oraacea resulted from his work.

“I’ve always felt that the basic science, oral biology and clinical education I received at the University of Manitoba dental school was second to none,” Golub said. “This became very evident to me during my clinical specialty training in periodontics at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and in my training at the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. My Manitoba education was more than up to the task.”

Golub has published more than 300 scientific articles. His numerous honours include the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Manitoba in 2002.
The Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) has endorsed an award-winning University of Manitoba curriculum that teaches non-dental health-care providers how to screen for, recognize and co-manage diseases and conditions of the mouth.

The innovative Oral-Systemic Health Education for Non-Dental Healthcare Providers curriculum consists of an array of courses, as well as resources such as screening tools, clinical posters and patient handouts. It was developed by the International Centre for Oral-Systemic Health (ICOSH) in the College of Dentistry. The free curriculum, designed for nurses, physicians, pharmacists, dieticians, therapists and other non-dental health professionals, is available in a multimedia, interactive format at an e-learning centre, www.oralhealthed.com.

“These courses are an important educational resource for community health nurses,” said Morag Granger, president of the CHNC.

The Ontario-based CHNC will promote the curriculum to its members nationally through its website, newsletter and social media platforms.

Casey Hein, assistant clinical professor of periodontics, director of education of the ICOSH, and director of continuing professional development at the U of M College of Dentistry, welcomed the CHNC endorsement.

“There is growing evidence that demonstrates clear links between oral and overall health,” said Hein, who was recently recognized for the 12th consecutive year by Dentistry Today as a Leader in Continuing Education.

“We are delighted to see this high-calibre curriculum reaching more healthcare providers, giving them the tools they need to recognize and co-manage conditions of the oral cavity.”

In 2015, the curriculum project earned the prestigious William J. Gies Award for outstanding innovation by an academic dental institution.
We extend our condolences to all family and friends of our University of Manitoba College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences alumni and colleagues who have recently passed away.

ARCHIBALD (ARCHIE) MCNICOL

The university community was saddened by the sudden passing of Dr. Archibald (Archie) McNicol, associate dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and professor in the College of Pharmacy, on Dec. 8, 2016, at the age of 55.

McNicol held cross appointments in the departments of dental diagnostics and surgical sciences, and in pharmacology and therapeutics. He taught in the College of Dentistry, School of Dental Hygiene, College of Pharmacy and College of Rehabilitation Sciences, all within the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

McNicol earned a B.Sc. (Hons.) and a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Glasgow and had been with the University of Manitoba since 1993, when he joined the department of oral biology in what was then the Faculty of Dentistry.

He completed postgraduate work at the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology under Dr. Jon Gerrard, studying intracellular signaling mechanisms in platelets in patients with bleeding tendencies.

McNicol's research on bleeding disorders had been continuously funded by local and national agencies for 20 years. He served on local and national grant review committees and was an associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology.

He was involved with the Three-Minute Thesis competition and was an enthusiastic supporter of graduate student research. His own globally recognized research focused on blood-clotting mechanisms and the function and dysfunction of human platelets.

Nationally, McNicol had been involved in dental education as a member of both the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry Faculty Chairs Committee and the Canadian Dental Association Council on Education.

McNicol made significant contributions to service within the College of Dentistry, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the university at large. He served two terms on Senate, one term on the Senate Executive, and had been on the Senate Planning and Priorities Committee, the President's Budget Advisory Committee and the Senate Appeals Committee. He was chair of the review of graduate programs at the U of M.

His teaching was recognized with several awards, most notably the W.W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Education. In 2007 McNicol was presented with the Dean's Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching to Dental Hygiene Students.

He leaves behind two children, Ian and Fiona, and his wife Shelly.

BIRUTA ANNA OSINS
April 15, 1939—Nov. 4, 2016

Biruta Osins [DMD/62], the first woman to graduate in dentistry from the University of Manitoba, passed away in Toronto on Nov. 4, 2016, after many years of successful dental practice there.

Osins was the lone female in the U of M's inaugural dental class, which enrolled in 1958 and graduated in 1962. She topped the class, earning the University Gold Medal for the highest standing upon graduation and the John W. Clay Medal as the best overall student in the four-year program.

Born in Latvia in 1939, Osins immigrated to Winnipeg from Germany in 1948 with her mother and sister. She graduated from Gordon Bell High School with outstanding marks.

At an alumni event in 2011, she was asked how she managed to gain acceptance to the overwhelmingly male dentistry program. “I told them that in Latvia almost all the dentists were women,” she said. “That pretty much put a stop to any talk after that.”

Osins completed a graduate program at the State University of New York at Buffalo and specialized in endodontics. During her years of practice in Toronto, her accomplishments included being president of the Ontario Society of Endodontists. She was a retired member of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics.

Osins donated an annual scholarship that bears her name in the U of M College of Dentistry, recognizing the second-year student with the highest standing in endodontology. She also established an annual award and medal to support students who demonstrate excellence in endodontics.

She is survived by her husband, Aldis Dargevics, and extended family.
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017 • 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Oceanview Suite 1-3 • Pan Pacific Hotel • Vancouver, BC

The University of Manitoba College of Dentistry and the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association invite you to the annual U of M Alumni Reception at the Pacific Dental Conference.

The College of Dentistry would like to acknowledge the gracious and generous support of our partnering organizations: