NYU College of Dentistry has received an anonymous gift in the amount of $3.5 million to support the oral cancer research, treatment, and training initiatives of Dr. Brian L. Schmidt, the newly appointed Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research (see related story on p. 42). These initiatives center on early detection, pain control, and improved reconstruction in the treatment of oral cancer patients. They include:

- Developing an innovative oral cancer pain and neuroscience research program.
- Identifying genetic and proteomic markers at the time of diagnosis to predict the progression of an oral cancer and subsequently, to tailor treatment based upon that prediction.
- Investigating saliva as a cancer predictor, which might make it possible to follow a patient with a precancerous lesion simply by giving a saliva sample that would be analyzed in the laboratory for certain predictive markers.
- Establishing a yearlong postdoctoral research fellowship for investigators who wish to develop expertise in the area of cancer pain by focusing on relevant questions that must be addressed in the laboratory.
- Improving oral cancer survivors’ quality of life by expanding a program dedicated to facial construction following surgical resection.

Dr. Schmidt and his colleague Dr. John Dolan, winner of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation Collegiate Inventors Competition Graduate Award (see related story on p. 43), will research and develop a prototype for jaw replacement, fabricated in titanium, to be delivered at the time of oral cancer resection to replace the patient’s missing jaws and teeth. “We are thrilled by the generosity of this unrestricted gift, which will support Dr. Schmidt’s goal of enhancing the quality of life for oral cancer patients through his research initiatives, and will continue to expand the oral cancer treatment programs established at NYUCD by Dr. David Hirsch and department chair Dr. Robert Glickman,” said Dean Bertolami.

“Inasmuch as a cure for oral cancer does not exist,” continued Dean Bertolami, “and in recognition of the fact that a major problem for oral cancer patients is pain, this gift will be used to increase understanding of the molecular mechanisms that produce oral cancer pain and to find ways to achieve significant pain reduction in a cancer pain model. An important aim will be to translate findings into the practical clinical management of oral cancer patients.”
NYU College of Dentistry Professor Dr. Daniel Malamud is teaming up with the Malaria Institute at Macha, Zambia, to develop a rapid test for signs of malaria infection in saliva, thanks to a $100,000 Grand Challenge Award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne parasitic disease that kills as many as three million people a year. The Malaria Institute’s Scientific Director, Dr. Sungano Mharakurwa, will work with Dr. Malamud to transfer an existing laboratory test for malaria infection to a microfluidic lab-on-a-chip—a device that can detect the presence of the parasite’s DNA on a glass chip less than four centimeters wide.

“Saliva samples will be collected from the mouth with a swab—a less invasive alternative to drawing blood,” explained Dr. Malamud, a Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS research program at NYU.

The standard blood test for malaria requires samples to be sent to a laboratory for lengthy analysis. The portable lab-on-a-chip, by contrast, is designed to identify signs of malaria infection—even if there are no symptoms of the disease—in less than one hour. The adoption of this technology would enable public health officials to expand the number of people being tested for malaria infection in remote rural areas, and to begin treating those who are infected before they develop symptoms of the disease.

Drs. Malamud and Mharakurwa will use the lab-on-a-chip to test 270 rural villagers for malaria infection in an area of Zambia where large numbers of malaria cases have been reported. All subjects testing positive will be treated with medication. Additional testing involving a larger number of human subjects will be conducted in subsequent phases of the research.

Dr. Malamud’s coinvestigators include Dr. Eran Geva, a Junior Research Scientist in Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, and Dr. Cheryl Barber, an Associate Research Scientist in Epidemiology & Health Promotion, both at the College of Dentistry.

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The NYU College of Dentistry has received a one-year grant from the United Hospital Fund that will involve dental, dental hygiene, and nursing students and faculty in developing and assessing a collaborative oral health-care referral model whose goal is to provide community dwelling, underserved older adults in New York City with better access to dental care.

According to the grant’s principal investigator, Dr. Donna E. Shelley, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice, “Our project will fill large gaps in our knowledge about the oral health needs of community dwelling older adults by screening over 300 adults over the age of 60 who either seek services from senior centers or live in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) in Manhattan and Queens. Our ultimate goal is to create a seamless referral link between community settings serving older adults and dental healthcare settings in order to increase access to much needed dental care.”

Dental, dental hygiene, and nursing students will screen residents at each partnering site. The dental and dental hygiene students will conduct oral health assessments and the nursing students will take medical histories and interview the seniors to identify potential barriers to care, such as a lack of insurance and inadequate transportation to dental service delivery sites. As part of the project, NYUCD is collaborating with the New York State Dental Association to create a directory of dentists who will serve as a referral resource.

“Once we gather the data necessary to estimate the prevalence of oral health problems in this population and the amount of uncompensated care needed to meet the seniors’ basic oral health needs, we expect to find large numbers of older adults without dental insurance because Medicare does not cover dental treatment. But this is only one of the many barriers that older adults face in trying to access dental care,” said Dr. Shelley. “We also intend to use the data to develop a referral model that could be replicated in the future on a larger scale citywide and to advocate for government funding to fill gaps in uncompensated care for seniors.”

Dr. Shelley’s coinvestigators include Dr. Stefanie Russell, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion; Dr. Donna Clemmens, Assistant Professor of Nursing; and Dr. Theresa Montini, Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care.
MIGUEL COLMENARES, MANAGER OF THE HENRY SCHEIN DENTAL SUPPLY STORE AT NYUCD, HONORED BY NYUCD STUDENT COUNCIL

The NYU College of Dentistry Student Council presented the NYU College of Dentistry Student Council Appreciation Award 2009-2010 to Miguel Colmenares, Manager of the Henry Schein Dental Supply Store at NYUCD since 1991. This honor was one of 10 awards presented by the Student Council to members of the NYU faculty and administration who students feel have performed outstandingly in their support of and dedication to dental students.

Miguel Colmenares’ award is unique, as he is the first individual outside of the NYUCD faculty and administration ever to receive this honor.

“Henry Schein and NYU share a deep commitment to advancing excellent, comprehensive oral health care while supporting the training and development of future oral healthcare professionals who not only have an impact on their profession, but on society as a whole,” said Dean Bertolami.

From left: Justin Hastings, ’10; Miguel Colmenares; Dr. Ricardo Vanegas-Plata, faculty member, Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care at NYUCD (also a winner of the NYUCD Student Council Appreciation Award); and Dr. Jordan Bank, ’10.

NYUCD celebrated the opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing on June 2, 2010, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the new clinical facility. House on the second floor of the NYU College of Dentistry, the Henry Schein Cares Wing includes 56 dental chairs for the care of patients in the community. Henry Schein donated equipment, technology, and healthcare supplies valued at more than $2 million to support the NYU College of Dentistry through Henry Schein Cares, the company’s global social responsibility program.

“Henry Schein Cares is deeply privileged to contribute to the training and education of our nation’s future oral healthcare professionals and support their service to the oral healthcare needs of the public through the Henry Schein Cares Wing of the NYU College of Dentistry, and we are grateful for the generosity of our supplier partners who have joined us in this effort,” said Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Henry Schein. “Our strategic partnership with NYU underscores our commitment to supporting healthcare education, a key pillar of our global social responsibility program, Henry Schein Cares, and we look forward to working together to ‘help health happen’ for many years to come.”

The opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing builds on a two-decade-long strategic partnership between Henry Schein and the NYU College of Dentistry. In addition to the opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing, Henry Schein Cares and the NYU College of Dentistry recently announced a five-year sponsorship of the dental school’s international outreach program—the NYU College of Dentistry-Henry Schein Cares Global Dental Student Outreach Program. (See related stories on pp. 48 and 52.)

“Henry Schein and NYU share a deep commitment to advancing excellent, comprehensive oral health care while supporting the training and development of future oral healthcare professionals who not only have an impact on their profession, but on society as a whole,” said Dean Bertolami. “NYU’s partnership with Henry Schein furthers our ability to provide quality, affordable oral health care to members of our community while offering our students an extraordinary education.”

“Henry Schein and NYU share a deep commitment to advancing excellent, comprehensive oral health care while supporting the training and development of future oral healthcare professionals who not only have an impact on their profession, but on society as a whole,” said Dean Bertolami.

From left: Dr. Mark Wolff, Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Mr. Edward Riley (Henry Schein), Mr. Stanley Bergman, Dr. Cosmo DeSteno, Dean Bertolami, Mr. Steven Kess (Henry Schein), and Dr. Richard Vogel.

NYUCD celebrated the opening of the Henry Schein Cares Wing on June 2, 2010, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the new clinical facility.
Do frequent arguments between parents and an unstable home environment contribute to oral and systemic health problems, as well as to psychological stress? Researchers from the NYU College of Dentistry and Stony Brook University are examining this question with the help of a two-year, $1 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of NIH.

The study is being led jointly by Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education at the NYU College of Dentistry, and Drs. Richard Heyman and Amy Slep, both Research Professors of Psychology at Stony Brook University. The coinvestigators will evaluate 800 parents and caregivers and 400 children ages 4 to 11 who live in Suffolk County, New York. Drs. Heyman and Slep identified the subjects through a telephone survey conducted in conjunction with an earlier study that was limited to the psychological effects of family conflict in homes with frequent parental conflict and dysfunction.

In the new study, the NYU–Stony Brook research team will administer comprehensive oral, systemic, and psychological health examinations to evaluate the subjects for:

- Oral health status and quality of life, including number of dental caries
- Physical health status, including susceptibility to common ailments such as colds and the flu
- Blood levels of enzymes and proteins associated with diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome, and other stress-related, inflammatory conditions
- Mental health status, including symptoms of depression and anxiety

The investigators hypothesize that, of the subjects evaluated, children who are frequently exposed to family conflict will have higher-than-average levels of dental caries, common systemic illnesses, and psychological problems. If this proves to be the case, the study could lead to the development of specific recommendations on how to screen those at risk for a broad range of oral, systemic, and psychological health conditions.

“We hope that this study will make dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers more aware of the implications of family conflict,” said Dr. Wolff.

Dr. Ananda P. Dasanayake, Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion at the NYU College of Dentistry, is a coinvestigator on the study.
When Dr. Maurice Oringer, ‘28, returned to NYUCD in 1998 for a welcoming reception for former Dean Michael C. Alfano, he was already committed to NYUCD’s success in dental education, research, and patient care, having been a loyal and generous supporter of his alma mater for many years.

But on that day, Dr. Oringer became an even more avid supporter of the College and a leading advocate for the vision outlined by Dean Alfano—that NYUCD would become the dental education institution with the greatest impact globally on the health of society.

With his excitement and passion for the College at a new level, Dr. Oringer established a scholarship fund so that students would be able to apply themselves 100 percent to their dental studies, and he arranged to complete its funding by naming NYUCD as a beneficiary in his estate plans. In this way, Dr. Oringer’s values of scholarship and service would be perpetuated and would serve as a model for students and young professionals for generations to come.

Dr. Oringer’s sense of public service was legendary in the dental profession. A pioneer in raising awareness of the importance of early detection of oral cancer, Dr. Oringer was one of the first proponents of routine oral cancer exams. The NYU College of Dentistry, in particular, has promoted the importance of routine oral cancer screening of dental patients. And now, the Fund established by Dr. Oringer ensures that his legacy of public service will live on, even though Dr. Oringer passed away in 2004.

Through a bequest, you, too, can make a meaningful gift to NYUCD. To learn more about how to create your own legacy, please contact Assistant Dean Rita Startup at 212.998.9920 or email her directly at rita.startup@nyu.edu.
NYU CD in the News

A SAMPLING OF RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

**ABC7 Eyewitness News** broadcast an interview with Dr. Shiea Strauss, Associate Professor of Nursing and Co-Director of the Statistics & Data Management Core for NYU’s College of Dentistry and Nursing, about her research which found that over 90 percent of people with gum disease are at risk for diabetes, and that at least half could be screened in dental offices. The story was broadcast during NYU CD’s annual free dental screening conducted in partnership with ABC7, which also promoted the screenings with public service announcements. The research results were also reported by the ADA News and by CBS TV network stations in Buffalo, Cincinnati, and Tucson, and online by National Public Radio, AARP, Reader’s Digest, and dozens of other Web sites and blogs worldwide.

**Doctor Radio**, a Sirius satellite radio channel sponsored by the NYLI Langone Medical Center, interviewed Dr. Daniel Malamud, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Program, for a Valentine’s Day special program on oral health and kissing; Dr. Robert Schoor, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry and Director of the postgraduate program in periodontics, about periodontal problems in diabetics and the “hoosier” generation; Dr. Amir Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, about children’s oral health; Dr. Robert Gluckman, Professor & Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, about TMJ disorders; Dr. Moty Gefen, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about current issues in dentistry; Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about caring for your teeth as you age; and Dr. Ron Craig, Professor of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, about the importance of dental care as it relates to heart disease.

**Chatterline**, a Canadian women’s magazine, featured an interview with Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on the impact of sports drinks on tooth erosion. The Boston Globe also reported on this study.

**NYC Radio Soundcheck** featured an interview with Dr. Wolff about the use of music in dental offices to calm patients.

**Business Week** quoted Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Programs & Development, in an article about dentaltourism. Dr. Hirsch was also quoted on the topic in SavingAdvice.com.

**Anthropology News** reported on the selection of Dr. Timothy Bromage, Professor of Biomaterials and Biomechanics and of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology, to receive the 2010 Max Planck Research Award. The story was also reported by Paleomology News, the Dental Tribune, Medical News Today, and hundreds of Web sites and blogs.

**Clinical Oncology Week** reported on an NYU/Penn State study to develop a new model for investigating the tobacco/oral cancer link.

**The New York Times** carried a story on the NYU Stern School’s annual Entrepreneur Social Venture competition, which awarded first prize in its “profit-for-good business” category to Mr. Chitag Sadina, Assistant Director of the Office of Informatics, and Mr. Alex Riano, Web Application Programmer/Analyst in the Office of Informatics, for their social venture entitled “America Smiles.”

**CNN** featured a study being conducted at NYUCD in collaboration with the NYU School of Medicine on the use of a psychostimulant to promote enhanced well-being for cancer patients.

**CenterWatch Weekly** interviewed Dr. Brian Schmidt, Director of the Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, for an article on the growth, development, and goals of the Bluestone Center.

**ADA News** interviewed Dr. Donna Shelley, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care and Director of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice, about the grant she received from the United Hospital Fund to develop and evaluate a community-clinic referral model that aims to increase prevention and treatment of oral disease among older adults. (See related story on p. 67.) GrantWatch blog also posted a story announcing the grant.

**ADA News** quoted Dean Bertolami and Dr. Amir Moursi, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, in articles about NYUCD’s commemoration of Give Kids A Smile Day, an annual nationwide event offering free oral health care and education to underserved children. (See related story on p. 93.)
The Dr. Oz Show interviewed Dr. Gerald Curatola, ’83, Clinical Associate Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on early detection of oral cancer.

The Dr. Oz Show also featured an interview with Dr. Jonathan Levine, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on the benefits of an aesthetic dentistry makeover. Dr. Levine was also interviewed on this topic by ABC News.

Science Daily reported on a study led by Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, which found a connection between drinking white wine and tooth staining.

Men’s Health Magazine interviewed Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education & Professor & Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on veneers.

Ladies’ Home Journal featured an interview with Dr. Mark Schlesinger, ’02, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, about a new laser treatment for periodontal disease. Dr. Schlesinger was also interviewed by HealthRadio.net about the laser treatment and FDA approval for the new technique.

Life and Beauty Weekly published an article authored by Dr. Nancy Dougherty, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Postgraduate Program in Pediatric Dentistry, featuring tips on proper tooth brushing by children.

Health & Medicine Week reported on a study led by Dr. Yu Zhang, Assistant Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, which described how to reformulate zirconia as a glass-ceramic composite to increase its fracture resistance.

Prevention magazine quoted Dr. Edgard Elchaat, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontology & Implant Dentistry, in an article describing unusual uses for health products, such as swabbing feet with mouthwash to prevent athlete’s foot.

Prevention magazine carried an interview with Ms. Judith Kreismann, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, about new and interesting ways to remember to floss.

Earthtimes.org quoted Dr. John Reci, Associate Professor of Biomaterials & Biomimetics, in an article about an implant whose surface has been precisely engineered for stability to speed healing and minimize bone loss.

Weekly Asahi, a popular Japanese news magazine, interviewed Dr. Mitchell Bloom, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics and Educational Coordinator, and Dr. Hasae Saito, Research Coordinator for the International Program in Implant Dentistry, on differences between American and Japanese approaches to implant dentistry education.

WebMD quoted the late Ms. Alla Wheeler, Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, in an article about the importance of flossing.

Aol.com featured an interview with Dr. Mark Wolff, Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, on options for affordable dental care. FoxBusiness.com also interviewed Dr. Wolff on this topic.

Aol.com Savings Experiment carried a story about affordable dental care at the NYU College of Dentistry. The program exploits cost-effective, sometimes lesser-known solutions to a variety of topics.

Cancer Weekly reported on a study by Dr. Douglas Morse, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, which found a correlation between smoking and depression in oral cancer patients.

Univision/Channel 41 interviewed Dr. Lucy Troncoso, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology & Comprehensive Care, and Ms. Keila E. Figueroa, Outreach Program Administrator in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, about the importance of maintaining good oral health during pregnancy.

WKRN-TV in Nashville, TN, interviewed Dr. Nancy Dougherty, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry, about the age at which children can start brushing their own teeth. The interview was also carried by NewsWest.Com, KVTV-7V (Bend, OR), WBTW (Charlotte, NC), and WWSB (Sarasota, FL).
NYU College of Dentistry’s Academy of Distinguished Educators Inducts Inaugural Members

NYU President John Sexton is Keynote Speaker

The NYU Academy of Distinguished Educators at the College of Dentistry inducted its inaugural members at a ceremony held at the College on May 3, 2010. Dean Bertolami, who provided the impetus for the creation of the Academy, explained that “The Academy is a collective of highly qualified NYUCD faculty who share a commitment to improving the overall level of teaching at NYUCD via educational research, pedagogical practice, development of learning materials, and educational mentorship. Although excellence in teaching is indisputably central to the mission of educating tomorrow’s healthcare providers across disciplines, it is often undervalued and under-supported. The Academy is designed to change that.”

A highlight of the event was the participation of NYU President John Sexton, who presented keynote remarks and formally inducted the inaugural members.

“Whenever I have to fill out a form identifying my profession,” said President Sexton, “I never write ‘university president.’ I always write ‘teacher.’ That’s what I was put on this earth to be and that’s why I am so enthusiastic about and inspired by Charles’s decision to create the College’s Academy of Distinguished Educators. As a youngster at Brooklyn Prep in 1955, I was privileged to encounter a teacher who enabled me to recognize my destiny, a mystical man who instilled in me an openness to “the other,” a yearning to understand and be curious about experiences I hadn’t yet had, to encounter the world and learn from it. The educators whom we induct into the Academy this afternoon exemplify that person’s understanding of teaching as the most thrilling and satisfying calling one can have. I am honored and privileged to officially induct them as the first members of the NYU College of Dentistry’s Academy of Distinguished Educators.”

Each inductee received a certificate of membership and a specially crafted pin. The conceptual foundation for the Academy was laid by Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who, working with a leadership committee of faculty members known for their insight, wisdom, expertise as teachers, and commitment to the College, provided the intellectual framework and bylaws needed to launch the Academy. Dr. Spielman noted that “With its focus on championing the central role of teachers in facilitating innovation in teaching, conducting research, and creating an environment that enhances the status of health professions educators, the Academy will function as a unique think tank, one that will redefine our understanding of health professions educators.”

THE NYUCD ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS INAUGURAL INDUCTEES:

- Eric Baker
  (Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology)
- Ananda Dasanayake
  (Epidemiology & Health Promotion)
- Mitchell Lipp
  (Orthodontics)
- Marjan Moghadam
  (Prosthodontics)
- Miriam Robbins
  (Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine)
- Anthony Vernillo
  (Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine)

From left: Dr. Vernillo, Dr. Robbins, Dr. Spielman, Dr. Moghadam, Dr. Lipp, Dr. Dasanayake, Mr. William Eidson, Director, Faculty/Staff Development Center, Mr. Eric Baker.
enabled it to take on a more central role in three days of outreach to Fort Yukon, a village that NYUCD and Arizona jointly visited in 2009.

"With more people on the ground, we operated our temporary clinic more efficiently," said Dr. Maureen Romer, an Associate Professor and Director of Special Care Dentistry at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, who led the Arizona contingent in both 2009 and 2010. Arizona plans to take the lead on the spring 2011 mission to Fort Yukon, enabling NYUCD to reduce its presence there and redeploy some students and faculty to other locations.

Arizona’s increased presence ties in with its focus on preparing students to provide oral health care in areas of need throughout the United States. The school confers a certificate in public health in conjunction with a DMD degree and requires students to perform community service at off-campus dental clinics.

"We like helping people regardless of where they live," remarked Arizona team member Dr. Cassandra Jones, ’10.

Although traveling to the Alaskan Arctic can be challenging, the team in NYUCD’s Office of International Affairs & Development was able to smooth over many hurdles.

"Actually," said Dr. Bonnie Nelson, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the Loma Linda School of Dentistry and a veteran of the school’s outreach missions to Honduras and Nicaragua, "this was the easiest outreach I ever participated in. NYUCD Program Coordinators Rachel Hill and Amanda Meissner made all the necessary arrangements, including helping me to obtain the temporary license I needed to practice dentistry in Alaska."

"Since we’ve been to this region before, we had a network of contacts in the state health department and in each of the villages we were scheduled to visit," said Ms. Hill. Added Ms. Meissner, "We knew who to call to make things happen."

Many participants cited an interest in experiencing the Alaska lifestyle firsthand as a motivation for taking the trip.

"Students are interested in doing these kinds of missions since they like to interact with people from different cultures," said Dr. Beatrice Gandara, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Educational Partnerships & Diversity at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. Dr. Travis Nelson, a third-year pediatric resident at the school, added, "The local children seemed absolutely fascinated with all of the strangers who converged on their village for two days. Many would hang around after their appointments just to watch or talk with the dentists."

In addition to Ms. Hill and Ms. Meissner, NYUCD’s participants in the outreach included Dr. Stuart Hirsch, Associate Dean for International Affairs & Development,
SMILING FACES, GOING PLACES DENTAL VAN VISITS SAY “THANK YOU” FOR NYC COUNCIL SUPPORT

Since the launch of NYU’s Smiling Faces, Going Places mobile dental care program a decade ago, the New York City Council has provided generous support to maintain the program. NYUCDS’s way of saying “Thank you” has been to visit Council districts during health fairs and other outreach activities.

This spring, the van visited Council Member Gale Brewer’s Westside Manhattan district (right) and Council Member Oliver Koppell’s Bronx district (below). Both Council Members have been extremely strong supporters of the van program.

Robert N. Eskow NYU Implant Dentistry Award Presented to Dr. George A. Zarb

The Robert N. Eskow NYU Implant Dentistry award was presented to Dr. George A. Zarb, a Toronto-based internationally accomplished prosthodontist who has played a pivotal role in introducing implant dentistry techniques to North America. The presentation was made at the annual NYU Implant Symposium in December. Dr. Zarb, a former professor at the University of Toronto School of Dentistry and the current editor of The International Journal of Prosthodontics, is a member of the Order of Canada, a distinction conferred by the Canadian government on Canadian citizens in recognition of “extraordinary achievements in various fields of endeavors.”

Named in honor of its principal benefactor, NYU Clinical Professor of Implant Dentistry Dr. Robert Eskow, the Eskow Award recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the science and clinical application of implant dentistry. The award carries a plaque and a cash stipend.

In addition to Dr. Eskow, the other benefactors responsible for the Eskow award include Astra Tech, Inc., BioLok™ International, Inc., Hu-Friedy Manufacturing Company, Inc., 3i Implant Innovations, Inc., Nobel Biocare USA, Straumann USA, and Zimmer Dental, Inc.
The Second Annual Dean’s Colloquium, hosted in April by Dean Bertolami, once again brought together major stakeholders in dental education, organized dentistry, and the corporate sector, along with selected NYU officials, to address the issue of what the NYU College of Dentistry can do that we are not already doing to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives, especially people in the developing world.

The colloquium began with a report by Dr. Mark Feldman, Executive Director of the New York State Dental Association and former President of the American Dental Association, on the progress to date of a collaborative model designed to increase access to oral care by recruiting practicing dentists who are members of the New York State Dental Association to join NYUCDC’s existing outreach infrastructure. The model had been proposed at the 2009 inaugural colloquium by Stanley Bergman, Chairman and CEO of Henry Schein, and was piloted in October 2009 in Hudson, New York, a severely medically underserved area in upstate New York with funding from Dentsply.

Dr. Feldman noted that participating dentists expressed a desire to pursue additional volunteer opportunities in the future, and that data from the Hudson outreach suggest that prevention programs, if they are designed for sustainability over the long term, can do much to dramatically decrease the incidence of caries in children in underserved communities.

The second portion of the program featured Dr. Phil Borges, who has documented indigenous and tribal cultures around the world for over 20 years. An orthodontist by training, Dr. Borges left practice after taking a photography course, which spurred his passion to use photography to create a heightened understanding of issues faced by people in the developing world. The result has been a series of award-winning exhibits, books, and multimedia projects, including “Bridges to Understanding,” an online program that connects youth worldwide through digital storytelling in order to enhance cross-cultural understanding and build a sense of global citizenship in youth.

Dr. Borges presented photos from his most recent project, “Stirring the Fire,” a global movement to empower women and girls. In addition to photographs, the project includes a book, *Women Empowered*, with a foreword by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. For more about Dr. Phil Borges’s vision and work, please go to http://www.philborges.com.
Nursing Professor Joyce K. Anastasi Merges East and West to Help Chronically Ill Patients Manage Symptoms

Joyce K. Anastasi, PhD, DrNP, was recently named the Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing and Founding Director of the Division of Special Studies in Symptom Management at the NYU College of Nursing. The Division’s aim is to provide a comprehensive site for multidisciplinary scientific inquiry, clinical research, and education in the area of symptom management. Dr. Anastasi is one of the country’s leading nurse scientists in the area of symptom management for individuals living with chronic conditions, including those suffering from HIV/AIDS and its sequelae. Dr. Anastasi brings extraordinary resources to the NYUCD/NYUCN alliance and specifically, to an area that complements the professional focus of Dr. Brian Schmidt, Nursing and Founding Professor, was recently named Foundation Professor of the Independence Foundation.

Joyce K. Anastasi, an NYU alumna, joined the College of Nursing faculty in 2009. She came to NYU from Columbia University, where she was a faculty member for 17 years, teaching thousands of nurses, serving on numerous committees and boards, and directing the Center for AIDS Research.

Fighting the Stigma and the Symptoms of AIDS

During the 1980s, as the AIDS crisis grew, Dr. Anastasi worked as a clinical nurse specialist at Bellevue Hospital Center, which had one of the city’s first AIDS units. Paramount among the nurses’ duties was to work with a multidisciplinary team to ensure that patients who went home after suffering serious opportunistic infections like pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) continued to receive the care they needed—whether it was housing, homecare, or even help talking to their landlords as they began receiving large shipments of medication.

“There was so much stigma—we sometimes lose sight of this now,” she says.

From Bellevue, Dr. Anastasi was recruited to St. Luke’s Roosevelt Medical Center to help design a designated AIDS center—one of the first under the auspices of the AIDS Institute of the New York City Department of Health. In 1992, with her first doctoral degree completed, she was recruited by Columbia to develop a graduate nursing specialty program in HIV—one of the first in the country.

Although HIV care was improving rapidly, many hospitals around the country did not have the financial or human resources to handle their growing cases. With a grant from the Pfizer Foundation, Dr. Anastasi developed an award-winning interactive video that was used widely to educate healthcare professionals and destigmatize the illness. Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop was quoted saying, “I’ve never seen a better educational tool in my life.”

In thinking about the direction of her research, Dr. Anastasi looked at her patients—not only those with AIDS, but with other chronic illnesses—and saw that many were seeking non-invasive ways to manage chronic symptoms and medication side effects. Her first National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded work was a study that used a combined dietary and behavioral intervention to manage chronic diarrhea in patients with HIV. The results of that study have led to care protocols that are used in hospitals today.

Caring for hundreds of people with AIDS, Dr. Anastasi increasingly heard reports that acupuncture had worked for them. “At first I told them: As long as it’s working, you’re going to someone licensed, and it doesn’t interfere with your medication, who am I to say no?” But a turning point in her interest in alternative therapies came in 1994 when a friend who is a nutritionist and is Chinese took her to a Chinese medicine practitioner. She was so intrigued by the treatment methods used by the practitioner and about the possibilities that traditional Chinese medicine could offer to her patients that Dr. Anastasi immediately enrolled in a three-year course in acupuncture at the New York College of Health Professions, while carrying a full teaching load and conducting research.

Throughout the course, Dr. Anastasi continually sought out research on acupuncture, but few gold-standard studies had been conducted, at least in the United States. At one point, she hired a...
"Designing acupuncture research studies can be challenging because specific treatment protocols, in terms of acupuncture point selection or number of treatment sessions, may not be the best approach for all patients. In my current studies, my team and I have tried to use a real-world approach while maintaining the rigor of a randomized clinical trial,” Dr. Anastasi says. “For example, the decision of which acupuncture points or which herbal formula to use for HIV or for diarrhea is complicated and requires integrating a patient’s whole profile to develop the optimal treatment plan.”

Integrating Eastern and Western health care in teaching is also challenging, yet increasingly important as the line separating these very different approaches grows thinner. On a recent trip to Hong Kong, Dr. Anastasi noticed that nurses there are more likely to integrate the two worlds at the bedside. And even in the United States, the nursing profession is moving toward a greater openness to studying Eastern ideas. State nursing exams now include questions about supplements, and thousands of people are taking supplements such as ginkgo biloba, glucosamine chondroitin, echinacea, or milk thistle.

“It’s important for nurses today to understand the impact of the substances their patients are already taking—to help patients understand why they’re taking them, the risks, the side effects, and potential benefits. For example, nurses need to be aware of supplements that can affect bleeding time in terms of coagulation, especially for patients undergoing surgical procedures,” Dr. Anastasi says. “We teach students to search for the evidence, and the availability or lack of availability of evidence is great fodder for classroom discussion.”

Dr. Anastasi maintains a private practice in women’s health, and many patients see her for treatment for infertility. She is decidedly unique on the NYU faculty, having two doctoral degrees (a PhD and DrNP) and licensure in traditional Chinese medicine. Smiling, she says, “That’s the yin and yang of my career.”

~BARBARA KANCELBAUM

NYUCD Students Lead Fifth Annual NYC Oral Cancer Walk

The annual New York City Oral Cancer Walk, now in its fifth year, was once again led by NYUCD students, who initiated the walk in 2006 to raise awareness of a disease that kills over 7,000 American men and women each year. From its inception, the students have been mentored by Dr. Ross Kerr, Associate Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Oral Medicine, and have benefited from the guidance and organizational support of Brian Hill, Founder and Director of the Oral Cancer Foundation. As in past years, the walk route went through Harlem to call attention to the fact that oral cancer disproportionately affects African-American men, who have the highest rates of oral cancer in the country.

In addition to students from the NYU chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), organizers and participants included students from other SNDA chapters, and NYU dental hygiene and nursing students, in partnership with the Harlem Hospital Center, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, NYU College of Dentistry, Columbia University, and Renaissance Healthcare Network.

A highlight of the event was the participation of As the World Turns star Colleen Zenk Pinter, who has survived two bouts of oral cancer and who challenged students to become oral cancer activists.

“As the future front-line specialists in screening for and detecting oral cancer at its earliest, most curable stages,” said Ms. Pinter, “you have the ability to save lives. I hope that you will claim that responsibility and make it your passion.”

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Regional Conference Gives Undergraduate Advisors Inside Look at Dental School Admissions Process

Who should apply to dental school? According to NYUCD’s Director of Admissions, Dr. Eugenia E. Mejia, that question is as important as “How does one get into dental school?”

Often, says Dr. Mejia, advisors don’t know about the skills and interests common to people with an aptitude for dentistry, such as a preference for working autonomously, an interest in science, an ability to excel in artistic, esthetic, and creative endeavors, and a penchant for fixing things.

To address these issues, Dr. Mejia and Ms. Madina J. Bhatti, NYUCD Student Affairs Administrator, brought 25 undergraduate advisors from 25 northeast colleges and universities to NYUCD on April 23, 2010, to meet with admissions directors from seven of the region’s dental schools.

“The admissions directors described the qualities they seek in applicants and offered insight into the admissions process,” Dr. Mejia said.

“All too often, ” she added, “college counselors assume that students who express an interest in helping others are automatically cut out for a career in medicine. We wanted to alert them to characteristics that suggest an ability to succeed in dentistry, and the significance that dental school admissions directors place on seeking applicants with those qualities.”

Two speakers representing the American Dental Education Association—Dr. David Brunson, Director of Program Services for the Center for Equity & Diversity, and Dr. Anne Wells, Executive Associate Director of the Division of Educational Pathways—emphasized the importance of encouraging minority students to pursue careers in dentistry. Speakers from NYUCD included Dean Bertolami; Dr. Richard I. Vogel, Executive Vice Dean; Dr. Andrew I. Spielman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Anthony Palatta, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs & Admissions.

“The conference was a great opportunity to talk about our programs, our challenges, and our aspirations,” Dr. Elaine Davis and Dr. David Brown, Co-Directors of Admissions for the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, wrote in a post-conference thank-you letter to Dr. Mejia and Ms. Bhatti.

The other dental schools represented at the conference were Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Dental School, and University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.
NYUCD and ABC7 Celebrate 25 Years of Free Oral Health Screenings

From March 30 through April 1, 2010, NYUCD and ABC7 celebrated 25 years of bringing free oral health screenings to New Yorkers of all ages. Over the course of the three days, more than 2,000 adults and children received free dental screenings (and oral cancer screenings for adults), vouchers for free comprehensive examinations and polishings, free dental sealants and custom-made mouth guards (for children and adolescents), free diabetes and blood pressure screenings, and free toothbrushes and other personal oral hygiene products. In addition, children ages 6 months to 10 years received a “healthy smiles” teddy bear commemorating their visit.

As in previous years, ABC7 promoted the screenings vigorously on the air, including broadcasting a story about screening for diabetes in dental offices—the story featured NYU College of Dentistry and College of Nursing faculty. Once again, ABC7 meteorologist Lee Goldberg served as the station’s spokesperson for the event.

“A 25th anniversary is always a major event,” said Dean Bertolami, “and this anniversary celebrating the extraordinary partnership between NYUCD and ABC7 is cause for special celebration. This year the free screenings drew nearly twice as many New Yorkers as last year, underscoring the immense need of our community for essential health services. NYUCD looks forward to the next 25 years of partnering with ABC7 to offer as much care as possible to our fellow New Yorkers.”

“Neighborhood Children, ADA Officers, Industry Sponsors Welcomed at Annual Give Kids A Smile® Day

For the eighth consecutive year, NYUCD opened its pediatric dentistry resources to hundreds of neighborhood children, plus American Dental Association (ADA) officials and industry sponsors of the annual Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) celebration.

GKAS was created to highlight the ongoing challenges that underserved children face in accessing oral health care, and to build support among policymakers for public and private solutions that provide regular access.

At NYUCD, children arrived throughout the day for dental treatment, screenings, and education, including career information about what it’s like to be a dentist. The 2010 event at NYU also brought a special treat for the visiting children, all of whom received a “healthy smiles” teddy bear. Nationwide, over 50,000 dentists and other volunteers participated in providing free dental care for over 30,000 youngsters.

In addition to ADA officials, including ADA President Ron Tankersley, guests included representatives of Henry Schein Dental, the founding exclusive professional product sponsor of GKAS, along with representatives from cosponsors DEXIS Digital X-ray, the Colgate-Palmolive Company, and regional consultant societies.

Dean Bertolami congratulated the GKAS sponsors and volunteers and added, “Wonderful as GKAS is, what today really should be about goes beyond giving care on this day only. It should be about focusing a very bright spotlight on healthcare disparities in our country. That is a goal we can all rally around.”
NYUCD Students Lobby Legislators to Advance Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program Objectives

Since 2007, the NYU College of Dentistry has been the home of the Manhattan Tobacco Cessation Program (MTCP), one of nineteen cessation centers funded by the New York State Tobacco Control Program. MTCP partners with Manhattan-based hospitals, healthcare organizations, and community clinics to provide training and technical assistance to healthcare providers in tobacco-related policies; implements documentation system changes for the screening and treatment of patients; and encourages healthcare professionals to utilize tobacco cessation tools like the New York State Quitline.

By working closely with Group Practice Directors (GPDs) at NYUCD, MTCP staff have established strong relationships with dental students, whom they have guided in writing letters to newspaper editors, communicating with New York State representatives, and visiting legislators in person to educate them about New York’s tobacco control efforts.

During the spring of 2010, third-year dental student Chintan Patel accompanied MTCP Program Coordinator Diana Zraik on a visit to New York Senator Tom Duane’s district office to inform the senator about the impact that budget cuts would have on smoking cessation resources available to New Yorkers. With assistance from local lobbying branches of the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association, the NYUCD/MTCP representatives were also able to illustrate how state tobacco control initiatives have played a vital role in the communities where they have been implemented.

Another student outreach initiative came in the form of a letter written by Dr. Corey Corpodian, Class of 2010, to New York State Senator Liz Krueger about MTCP’s role in training dental students on patient tobacco use and dependence. Dr. Corpodian wrote: “MTCP has been a great resource for dental students at New York University College of Dentistry. It has helped us by providing the training and education needed to treat patients interested in smoking cessation.” He added that “With the help of MTCP, our patients can now lead healthier lives. I believe it is important to support this program, which has the potential to help many more patients.”

Dr. Morey Gendler, Clinical Assistant Professor of Cariology and Comprehensive Care and a GPD, has been particularly supportive of the efforts of MTCP and NYUCD students to send the message that healthcare providers are integral to efforts to help patients quit smoking. When asked what the partnership with MTCP has brought to the NYUCD educational experience, Dr. Gendler said that it is now “inextricably integrated into the student’s education. Moreover, the value of these student-led legislative outreaches will have long-lasting effects on the community, as students leverage the skills they learn to educate their future patients about tobacco use.”

NYUCD Hosts Oral Health America’s Smiles Across America

Oral Health America’s (OHA’s) Smiles Across America® partnership with NYUCD supports in-school oral health services, community outreach training for dental and nursing students, and a dental home at NYUCD for follow-up visits and restorative care.

Tony Stefanou, DMD, OHA’s Assistant Director of External Relations, recently visited P.S. 15 in Manhattan to see the program firsthand. The elementary school students were treated in two mobile dental stations by second-year dental students under the supervision of NYUCD’s Dr. Josh C. Treisch.

“I was very impressed with how well the program operated,” said Dr. Stefanou. “This is a positive situation for everyone as the children get their dental needs taken care of, and the dental school students gain valuable clinical ‘real-world’ experience in treating children.”

OHA provides financial support, technical assistance, and donated dental products to the program. Professor Jill Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Pediatric Dentistry Outreach Programs at NYUCD, oversees the program, and validates its success.

“For many of these children this may be their first visit to a dentist,” she said. “Setting up portable dental equipment within the school proves to be a ‘win-win’ for both teacher and child with minimal time out of the classroom and a non-threatening environment for the child to receive care.”

From left, Ms Diana Zraik, MTCP Program Coordinator; Dr. Morey Gendler; Dr. Corey Corpodian, ‘10; Mr. Chintan Patel, ‘11.

From left, Mr. Stefanou, Dr. Treisch, Edward Chu and Premjeet Brar, both Class of 2011.
For the past several years, as a result of the alliance between the NYU College of Dentistry and the NYU College of Nursing, students enrolled in the College of Nursing’s Advanced Practice Nursing Program in pediatrics, which prepares registered nurses to become pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs), have studied pediatric oral health as a formal part of their curriculum. The fruits of this collaboration were in evidence recently at the Second Annual Collaborative Case Presentation by pediatric dentistry and pediatric nurse practitioner students. The presentation was moderated by Dr. Neal G. Herman, Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, and co-moderated by Dr. Donna Hallas, Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing and coordinator of the PNP program. Dr. Lily Lim, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Advanced Program in Pediatric Dentistry for International Dentists, was the presentation coordinator, and Ms. Jill B. Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Pediatric Dentistry Outreach Program, served as co-coordinator for the presentation, which drew more than 50 attendees from the pediatric dentistry program and the PNP program.

Two students in the Advanced Program in Pediatric Dentistry for International Dentists identified medically compromised pediatric dentistry patients with multiple caries, whose treatment plans were presented and discussed. Dr. Shereen Riad identified a patient with ventricular septal defect—a defect in the heart valves—and presented the case with Ms. Katie Shaw and Ms. Tashea Gallimore, both PNP students.

The second case—autism spectrum disorder—was identified by Dr. Nathalia Escossia and copresented with PNP program students Ms. Karyn Cherwinski and Ms. Erin Leech.

“For these children,” said Professor Fernandez, “the medications they take to control their medical conditions can have important consequences for their oral health, which, until now, have not been a focus of the PNP curriculum.

“With the new focus on oral health in the training of PNPs,” added Professor Fernandez, “we are optimistic that there will be more opportunities for children’s oral health to be integrated into their overall diagnoses and treatment plans.”

NYUCD will expand services to people with developmental disabilities, complex medical problems, and other significant physical limitations with the opening in September 2010 of a new, seven-chair Special Patient Needs pilot program under the direction of Dr. Miriam R. Robbins, Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology & Medicine.

The new program represents a significant expansion of the space dedicated to special-needs patients, who were previously treated in a two-chair facility.

“With the opening of this new facility,” Dr. Robbins said, “we will have 70 weekly appointment slots available for special-needs patients, who traditionally have very limited access to dental care, as well as additional appointment times for other patients requiring oral mucosal disease and orofacial pain treatment.”

The program is mandatory for all fourth-year students, who must also complete a series of didactic courses designed to provide them with the skills needed to treat special needs patients and to counsel these patients on overcoming barriers to maintaining good oral health. “Because special needs patients have difficulty with routine oral hygiene,” Dr. Robbins explained, “they are at a high risk for gingivitis, periodontitis, and dental caries.”

Dr. Robbins is partnering with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability and with United Cerebral Palsy and other nonprofit organizations to identify patients who qualify for the new program’s services.