Dean’s Message

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” (variously credited to Confucius or Lao Tzu)

Volume 1, Issue 1 of the WesternU College of Dental Medicine Bridge is a first step on a journey to provide periodic updates on the happenings within the College of Dental Medicine. I hope that the friends and family of the College will enjoy learning about where we are going and in some sense share our journey.

Although we bid farewell to our Founding Dean, Dr. James J. Koelbl, he left us an enduring vision. We continue to aspire to become a premier center for integrative educational innovation, high quality patient centered interprofessional health care, and basic and translational research. Thank you Dean Koelbl.

Though we are a young College and have just begun our journey, many of our early steps lead us toward becoming a premier dental education program. As you view the Bridge you will notice that we are bringing patient-centered care to the community through our active service learning and community based education network. We are pleased to report that support of our efforts represent over $2 million in gifts, grants, and contracts as well as a wide array of partnerships.

Our integrative approaches to both the biomedical sciences and the dental sciences curriculum continue to develop in a direction that hold great promise for the future of dental education. The human systems courses use an active learning model and an integrated approach that links the scientific foundation dentists need to the patient care they provide. The biomedical science changes will allow us to further refine and develop our integrated approach to the pre-clinical and clinical education of students.

Our faculty, staff, and students have helped us blaze a trail of professionalism, humanity, and educational excellence. I invite you to join us on this journey. Take a little time to view the sights along the way and I’m sure you will agree, WesternU College of Dental Medicine has a bright future.

Steven W. Friedrichsen, DDS
Dean, College of Dental Medicine
Thank You

Thank you, two little words. Words which seem woefully inadequate to describe our gratitude for Dr. James J. Koelbl. As the Founding Dean of the College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Koelbl possessed the integrity, experience and drive required to establish a new dental school. Dr. Koelbl’s 35 years of experience in dental education and organized dentistry made him an excellent choice for the Founding Dean. His vision was to create a College of Dental Medicine that is a premier center for integrative education innovation; basic and translational research; and high quality, patient-centered, interprofessional health care, all conducted in a setting that utilizes advanced technology and promotes individual dignity and potential for personal and professional growth. Dr. Koelbl instilled the College’s philosophy of treating students as members of the dental profession from their first day in the program.

John F. Kennedy once said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” As the College continues to mature, we will all work to fulfill Dr. Koelbl’s original vision and mission. For now, we simply say thank you.

CDM Staff Profile

Suzanne Adolphson joined the College of Dental Medicine in October 2010 as the Director of Patient Care Services for the Western University Dental Center. She attended the University of Southern California (USC), where she attained a Bachelor’s degree in History and a Master’s in Health Administration. Suzanne also earned a Master’s of Arts in Social Work at USC and is a member of the Phi Kappa Honor Society. Her extensive knowledge of dentistry started with her experience as a Registered Dental Assistant. Since that time, she has served in many capacities, including working as the Director of Clinical Finance at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC.

Suzanne envisions the WesternU Dental Center as a place that expands the access of dental care to the community. As Director, her foremost goal is, “for the students to obtain an exceptional clinical education preparing them for patient care in the future.” Success is defined by working together and making sure patients are receiving the utmost care. By this, Suzanne believes teamwork is essential to making a dental school practice run smoothly for the students, faculty, and staff.

Outside of the Director’s role, Suzanne enjoys swimming, spending time with friends, camping, and reading.
The College hosted its first annual Honors Day Program on Friday, April 29, 2011.

The program was a celebration of the accomplishments of the students and College. During the program, students were honored for their academic achievements and displays of leadership, community service and humanism. In addition, faculty and staff were recognized for their positive impact on the College. Presentation of the Monehen Award of Academic Excellence and the Glen and Virginia Henson Outstanding Student Award were especially meaningful. The awards represent extraordinary faculty commitments that honor significant parental influence.

One week later, the College celebrated the end of the academic term with the second annual CDM End of the Year Banquet, which was held at the Coco Palm Restaurant in Pomona, CA. Students celebrated a major milestone in their academic careers as they prepare for their promotion to second and third-year dental students.

Currently, the CDM Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services are preparing for Welcome Week and Orientation for the Class of 2015, who will arrive on campus the first week of August. This will be the CDM’s third entering class and all individuals are extremely excited about their arrival and the continued growth of the College.
With 80% of dental students across the nation as members, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) is the largest dental student group in the country. The mission of ASDA includes protecting and advancing the rights of dental students while introducing them to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry through information, education, representation, and advocacy for all dental students, not just members.

Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine started an ASDA chapter, ASDA at WesternU, in the fall of 2009. In the process of designing the chapter, ASDA at WesternU quickly realized they wanted a different kind of chapter that provided essential outreach opportunities and supported the professional development of its members.

ASDA at WesternU has been well received on the national stage as well, continuing to work closely with the national organization to better understand the benefits for its members as well as continuing to education and inform its members of the issues facing students and dentists.

ASDA at WesternU had an article published in The ASDA News last year and sent multiple members to the ASDA Annual Session this year. ASDA at WesternU is continuing to develop its structure and vision with a new team of highly qualified and dedicated student leaders, having filled all the suggested chapter positions and has written and distributed 2 issues of their chapter newsletter, On The Cusp.

ASDA at WesternU’s presence in state and national leadership has also been solidified by the election of Ian Murray DMD ’13 to the position of District 11 Trustees, and his appointments to the Council on Licensure and Professional issues as well as ASDA representative to the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE). Along with the elected positions, Ian has been instrumental in bringing the 2011 District 11 retreat to Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine this October. This will be an amazing opportunity for dental students from each of the California schools to come together at Western U to share ideas and develop their leadership abilities.

Ian Murray DMD ’13

Southern Californian Timothy S. Martinez, DMD, graduated from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1986. Martinez, a widely respected community health specialist, returned to his home state after 25 years, transitioning from his position in Boston as the State Medicaid Dental Director to Associate Dean for Community Partnerships and Access to Care at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Dental Medicine, developing externship sites for the third and fourth year students. Martinez exposes students to diverse populations, from the homeless, medically indigent, and HIV positive to the elderly, special needs patients, and children.

Jenny Sun Tjahjono, DMD, grew up in Southern California, like her mentor Dr. Martinez, she is also passionate about community health. A 1998 graduate of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Tjahjono joined Dr. Martinez at WesternU College of Dental Medicine in April 2009. She assumed her position as Managing Partner and Assistant Professor working to help create curriculum and provide assistance with the implementation of the student clinic. In addition, she offers guidance in integrating WesternU College of Dental Medicine’s curriculum with community based partners.

Crimson Faculty
The College of Dental Medicine has a strong commitment to service learning and community-based education. Curriculum integrates service learning from the very first term—involving first-year DMD students in oral health education through WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) of Pomona, ASES (After School Education and Safety) Pomona, and the Pomona Science Fair.

Over the next twelve months, the Community Based Partnership Program plans to partner with 50 sites, which will encompass a diverse group of clinical experiences with culturally and ethnically diverse populations. Treatment of traditionally underserved populations will incorporate an interdisciplinary approach focusing on children, geriatric, special needs, HIV patients, and preventative programs benefiting the community.

On February 4, 2011, WesternU dental students and faculty traveled to the high desert near Death Valley—providing dental services at Trona Elementary School (partnered with Victor Valley Community Dental). They also provided preventative services at Gidley Elementary School in El Monte.

Summer term will provide more service learning opportunities. Dental service learning events include the Special Olympics, inter-professional events in the Pomona area, and opportunities in community clinics throughout Southern California.

Dr. Timothy Martinez, Associate Dean for Community Partnerships and Access to Care and staff are busy organizing clinical faculty (preceptors) and community clinics for the culmination of the clinical service learning experience—in-depth externships for each student providing opportunities to serve this diverse patient population.

Community Health and Service Learning grants:

- The Ahmanson Foundation – $150,000
- Colgate-Palmolive Company – $175,000
- Dental Health Foundation – $1,500
- First 5 LA – $1,497,745
- HRSA – $179,809
- Supervisor Gloria Molina, County of Los Angeles, First District – $25,000
- San Bernardino County – $9,000
Dental Center

Clinical Services

The WesternU Dental Center is the primary clinical training facility for CDM dental students. It is an innovative blend of dental education and patient care that prepares students for the practice of dentistry as competent, caring, and ethical professionals. Every patient receives oral health care provided by dental students, supervised by experienced faculty with the assistance of highly trained staff in our state-of-the-art facility.

Since the opening of WesternU’s Dental Center in September 2010, faculty and staff have been working diligently building the patient base for the students. Patient care will expand significantly as third year students assume larger clinical roles this summer. Each student is assigned to one of the four Faculty Managing Partners who supervise and evaluate the student’s progress and assess patient care. The students are trained by hands-on experience in all facets of dentistry. Students, staff members, and Managing Partners work together to fully understand patient’s needs to deliver exceptional comprehensive oral health care.

The Dental Center has 68 chairs including eight surgical suites fully equipped for advanced oral surgery, periodontal surgery, and endodontic cases as well as the placement of dental implants. Eight of the Dental Center’s chairs are dedicated to the CARES Clinic, generously supported by The Ahmanson Foundation, which allows the students and faculty members to provide oral health screening, diagnostic and urgent care services for young children, teens, adults and the elderly.

For more information, log on to: www.westernupcc.com

Oral Maxillofacial Imaging Services

Oral Maxillofacial Imaging Services are one of the highlights of the WesternU Dental Center. The goal of WesternU OMF Imaging Services is to provide the practicing dental community and Dental Center patients with exceptional quality with cost-effective and state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging services. Services provided include ultra-high resolution cone beam tomography (CBCT), digital radiography in all formats — panoramic, intraoral and cephalometric, 3D modeling and photography. Patients in need of 3D/2D imaging of craniofacial structures can benefit from the highest imaging quality and lowest radiation dose available today.

Dr. Bruno Azevedo, Assistant Professor and Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology guides the OMF Imaging Services team. Dr. Azevedo provides supportive imaging protocols for implants, TMJ evaluation and is a leader in use of CBCT for endodontic interpretation. WesternU students have the opportunity to learn the value of providing comprehensive image interpretation and reporting by reviewing Dr. Azevedo’s comprehensive reports to practitioners and for the Dental Center patients. WesternU OMF Imaging Services also offers educational training courses for practicing dentists, specialists and staff who want to become familiar with the latest of imaging services.

For more information or referral, log on to: www.westernupcc.com or call 909-706-3910
Lasers, Dye, And A Future For Periodontal Disease Treatment

After less than 5 seconds of exposure to a laser, with very low amounts of the dye, greater than 99.9% of periodontal bacteria are killed while bacteria not associated with periodontal disease survive, according to the latest research by Dr. Tobias Boehm, Assistant Professor at Western University of Health Sciences and Dr. Sebastian Ciancio, Professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Drs. Boehm and Ciano explored a new application of a dental diode laser commonly used for soft tissue surgery by combining it with the phototoxic drug, indocyanine green. Indocyanine green is mostly used in cardiology imaging, but is also used in treatment of certain cancers. As a photosensitizer, the dye produces free radicals when exposed to infrared light that then damage surrounding biologic material such as cancer cells, or bacteria. In their in vitro study, the researchers exposed periodontal bacteria to indocyanine green. Survival of bacteria was then measured after exposing the bacteria to the dental diode laser, which produces a narrow beam of infrared light.

The researchers noted a correlation with periodontal disease causing bacteria taking up much more dye than bacteria that do not cause periodontal disease. Also, human cells do not appear to take up this dye, which selectively stain tartar buildups, but not teeth or restorations. The researchers believe that indocyanine green and the dental diode laser may be useful for future periodontal disease treatment—appearing to selectively kill periodontal disease causing bacteria, while not affecting human tissues. This research was published in the current issue of the journal of the International Academy of Periodontology.

WesternU Starts AAWD Chapter

Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine is the first dental school in California to launch an American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) chapter. Judith Belitz, DDS, AAWD President, offered kind words of encouragement by saying, “It is an organization filled with women I can turn to for advice, mentoring, and knowledge.” An inaugural luncheon was held on campus May 10, 2011, that included an informative presentation of the association’s 90-year history and notable women leaders in organized dentistry.

Inspiring women students and faculty to assume leadership roles in their everyday lives and communities is the chapter’s goal. Members aim to begin immediately by building partnerships with local social service agencies such as Project Sister, Crossroads, and Safe House. Planning is also underway to host the annual AAWD Smiles for Success program for women who are transitioning from welfare to productive careers by restoring their smiles and oral health in our WesternU Dental Care Center. Networking activities will also be planned and open to all Southern California AAWD members.

For more information, please contact Dr. Sandra Farah-Franco at (909) 706-3846.

Photo caption: Chapter officers and faculty advisors, pictured from left, Luisa Snyder, DMD ’13, Esther Rhein, DMD ’13, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Rachel Park, DMD ’13, Krystle Rapisura, DMD ’13, Dr. Sandra Farah-Franco.
Dean’s Circle to Fund Excellence

The College of Dental Medicine has launched an exciting new initiative to help support excellence in our dynamic growth – the Dean’s Circle.

Dean’s Circle members are Parents, Friends, Corporations, Foundations, Faculty and Staff who contribute annual gifts of $1,000 or more to the College of Dental Medicine. These vital discretionary resources allow the Dean to take advantage of special opportunities to enhance the curriculum and facilities to benefit students, scientific research, and patient care.

Activities made possible through the Dean’s Circle may include:

- Funding for student outreach to high need communities
- Recruitment of outstanding faculty
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for specialized research and clinical teaching practices

Founding members of the Dean’s Circle will be recognized for their generosity at the College’s special events, in the College of Dental Medicine Bridge newsletter and other print and electronic media, and in the University’s Honor Roll of Donors.

The greatest recognition will come from the knowledge that your gift has helped expand the solid base of excellence for the continued realization of our innovative vision of contemporary dental education.

“I am heartened daily by the spirit and accomplishments of our College community and look forward to welcoming additional investors in our promising mission,” said Steven W. Friedrichsen, DDS, Dean, in announcing the creation of the Dean’s Circle.

For more information about the Dean’s Circle or other ways your gift can help make a difference at the College of Dental Medicine, please contact Desiree Colly at dcolly@westernu.edu or (909) 706-3456.