

DR. SLAVKIN REFLECTS ON LIFE OF RESEARCH 23

SECRET LIVES: THE WINEMAKER 27

THE OFFICIAL ALUMNI PUBLICATION OF THE HERMAN OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY OF USC | SPRING 2014

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13-22

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Dear Trojan Dental Family,

Welcome to the Spring 2014 issue of the *TroDent*!

We've wrapped up yet another fantastic school year here at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. All of our students have worked tremendously hard this year, and a great group of dental professionals have gone out into the world as brand new Ostrow alumni.

This issue's cover story is about something very important to many Ostrow students and alumni—scholarships. For many students, the scholarship gifts they receive put their lifelong dreams within reach. And for the donors who make these scholarships possible, it's one of the most meaningful ways to “pay it forward” and help put the future of dentistry in good hands.

Providing as much scholarship support as possible for our students is a major priority for Ostrow and the University of Southern California as a whole. Read on to learn about a few of our amazing scholarship recipients and the awards our alumni and friends have made possible.

Also in this issue: Get to know our new associate dean of clinical affairs, Douglas Solow; read the career reflections of renowned researcher, former dean and soon-to-be Professor Emeritus Harold Slavkin '61, DDS '65; and enjoy more exciting news and features about Ostrow students, faculty and alumni.

Avishai Sadan

Fight On!

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

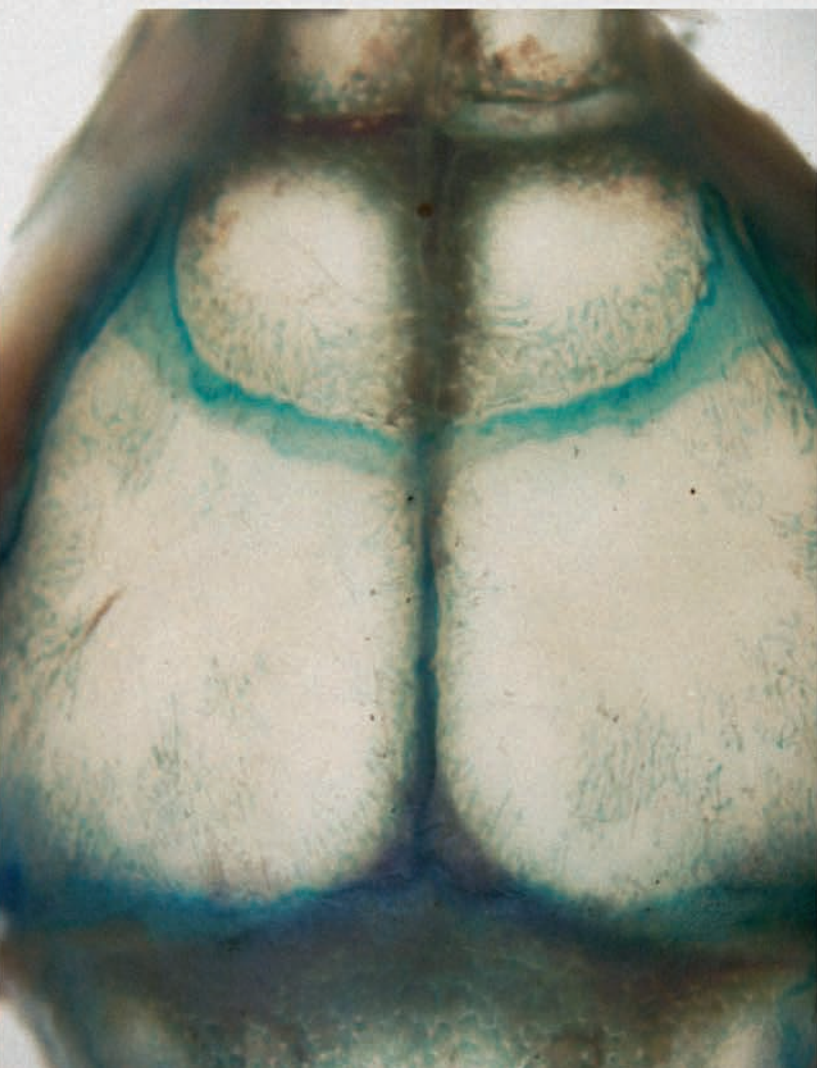
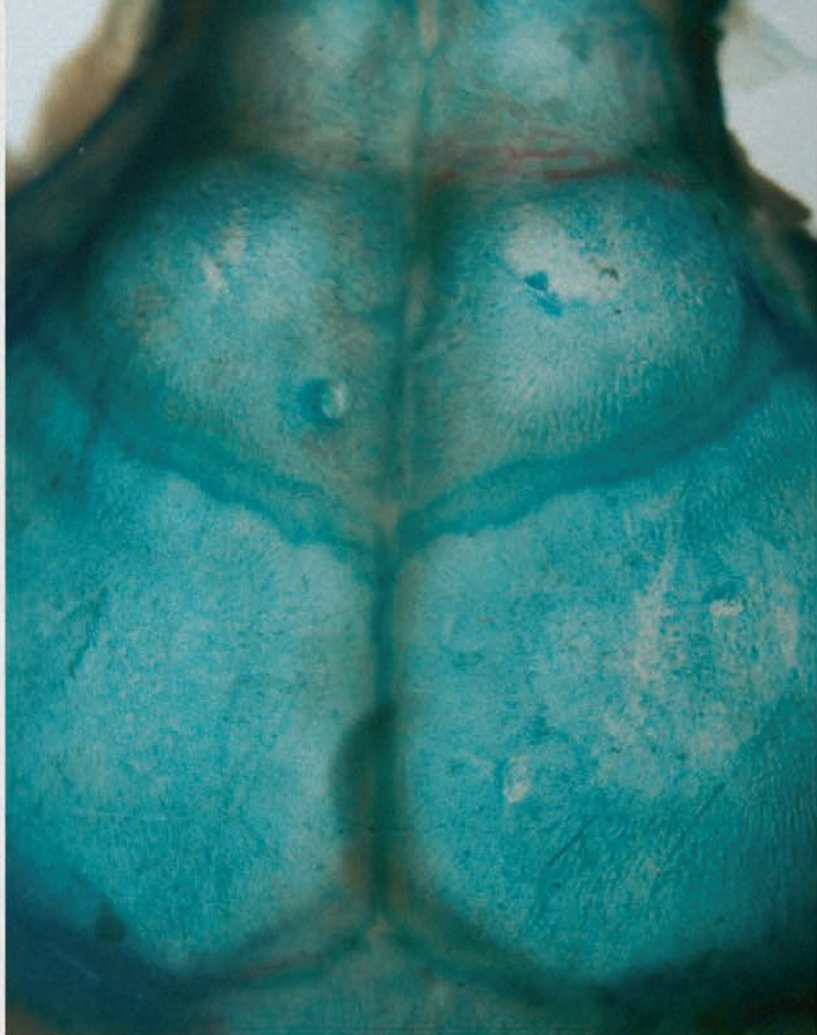
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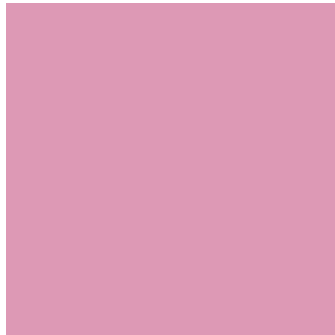


SCIENCE AS BEAUTIFUL AS ART

PHOTO BY HU ZHAO

Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology Research Associate Hu Zhao captured these striking images—reminiscent of a cathedral's stained glass windows—of mesenchymal stem cells in the skulls of mice. This collection of pictures, which illustrates how the stem cells are gradually restricted to the cranial sutures after birth, was named the December 2013 USC Stem Cell Image of the Month.

TRODENT



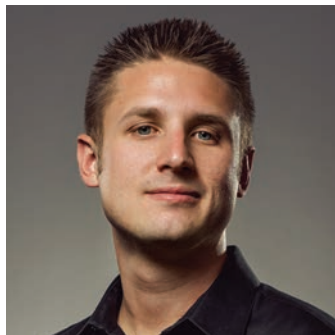
COVER STORY

THE GIFTED SET 13-22

BY STELLA CHUNG '16,
JOHN HOBBS MA '14
& MARA HYMAN '14

Every year, the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC is able to award more than \$1 million's worth of scholarships thanks to the generosity of alumni like you. Meet five recipients who not only have had their student debt load lightened but also have been inspired to pay forward the kindness.

PHOTOS BY
CHRISTINA GANDOLFO



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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

DR. DOUGLAS SOLOW

BY STELLA CHUNG '16

Getting to know the new associate dean of clinical affairs of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

1 Douglas Solow is a double threat, having earned both DDS and MBA degrees.

Solow has a DDS degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and had practiced for 12 years when he realized it was time for a change. "I just wanted to go in a different direction and do something that would be impactful to a greater number of people as opposed to helping people one by one," he says. Not knowing what was next, he sold his dental practice and pursued an MBA degree with a concentration in healthcare management from Duke University.

2 When it came to choosing a career, Solow considered both dentistry and medicine.

"I [chose] dentistry because it seemed like when the patient had a problem, you fixed it on the spot," he explains. "In medicine, you write a prescription, send them home, and they wait for the problem to resolve itself." Aside from the immediate impact of dentistry, he says he also enjoyed the interpersonal aspect of providing care. "I liked the idea of having direct relationships with the patients and also a repeating relationship."

3 He actually came about his career in academia by accident.

After graduate school, Solow was managing one of the largest dental practices in the country when, on a vacation to North Carolina, he stumbled across the job opening for the associate dean of clinical affairs at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry. Despite the conundrum presented for a Duke University Blue Devil to become a rival Tarheel, Solow put his athletic loyalties aside. He took the associate dean position and held it for 14 years.

4 Solow's stepping into a big role, but if there ever was a person to do it, it's him.

Solow oversees all clinical operations at Ostrow plus the Faculty Practice, which together provide dental care to more than 200,000 patients a year. It's a lot of responsibility, but Solow's got plenty of experience. He also touts the leadership skills he gained during business school. "I guess one of the important things I learned is the importance of people in the organization. It's not the bricks and mortar that make the school—it's the people," he says.

5 The longtime East Coaster is stoked to explore his new city.

Sure, traffic stinks, but it's hard to complain when the sun shines on the Ostrow School more than 300 days a year. Once he's completely settled—most of his precious free time is still being spent unpacking—Solow says he looks forward to exploring. "I live close to the mountains, and I am somehow going to get to the top of those peaks and look down," he says of the mountains looming over his Altadena home. "I don't know how to do it, but somehow I am going to get to the top."

FEATURES

CEREBRAL DOWNLOAD 23-24

BY HAROLD SLAVKIN '61, DDS '65

Noted researcher and former dean Harold "Hal" Slavkin pens our inaugural column dedicated to research. In it, he reflects on a life of research and what he hopes will come next for Ostrow's scientific discoverers.

UNSEATING DENTAL FEAR 25-26

BY JOSE POLIDO '98, PEDO '01

A trip to the dentist can be overwhelming and frightening for patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Ostrow faculty member Jose Polido, head of the Division of Dentistry at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, discusses his collaborative research on making the dental chair a friendlier place.



NEW SECTION

MOUTHPIECE 8

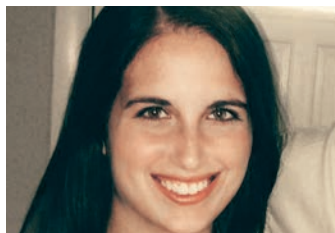
It's the newest section of *TroDent*. Three pages packed full of interesting alumni and future-alumni news features—bite-sized for today's dental professionals on the go.

CONTRIBUTORS



CHRISTINA GANDOLFO

This issue's featured photographer Christina Gandolfo believes the best aspects of a portrait are made before a camera is even introduced between two people. "It's difficult to access any substance if you don't share a little of your own," she says. A former magazine writer and editor, Gandolfo says she begins shooting only after a connection has been made with her subjects. "If there's nothing authentic between you and your subject, how can you expect anyone to believe the image?" she adds. A regular contributor to *Los Angeles Magazine*, Gandolfo's photographs have also recently appeared in *Elle*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Fast Company*.



MARA HYMAN '14

Boston-native Mara Hyman is an editorial intern with the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry for spring 2014. She is currently an undergraduate student at USC about to graduate in May with a bachelor of arts degree in communication from the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. At USC she is actively involved as an associate entertainment editor for Neon Tommy, a leading student-run digital news site. Mara enjoys writing and is passionate about marketing and social media.



JOSE POLIDO PEDO '98, MS '01

Jose Polido holds a joint faculty appointment at both the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He also manages to find the time to lead the Division of Dentistry at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. We gave the perpetually multi-tasking Ostrow alumnus one more obligation: to write an article on his interdisciplinary research on sensory-adapted dental environments to enhance oral care for children with autism, a study he co-investigated with Sharon Cermak, professor at the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Read about their work on pages 25 and 26.



HAROLD "HAL" SLAVKIN '61, DDS '65

Renowned researcher Harold Slavkin is an alumnus, faculty member and former dean of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. Among his many professional accomplishments, the soon-to-be Professor Emeritus Slavkin spearheaded the creation of Ostrow's Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology, led the National Institute of Dental Research as it transitioned into the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and was instrumental in the 2000 groundbreaking Surgeon General's Report on "Oral Health in America." He will be retiring from the Ostrow School in June 2014.

MOUTHPIECE

TASTE TESTING MINT-CHOCOLATE TOOTHPASTE NEW REX INGRAHAM BUST LOVE LETTERS FROM WAR DENTAL
HYGIENIST TURNED UNLIKELY ROCKSTAR CLINICAL PROFESSOR DAVID STEVENSON PUBLISHES MEMOIR DDS '36
GRADUATE CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE

Thanks to a generous donation from the dental technology company VITA, two small conference rooms (DEN 221 and 222) have been reimagined into the VITA CAD/CAM Learning Laboratory. The new glass-faced room—unveiled in early February—houses six milling machines (pictured here), which use data drawn from patients' digital dental images to cut and shape ceramics and resin composite into dental restorations and prostheses. The lab gives students greater access to cutting-edge dental technology. "We want to give our students every possible professional advantage," Dean Avishai Sadan says. "We are fortunate to have joined forces with VITA to create this laboratory for our future Trojan dental professionals."



VIDEO

BEYOND MINT

Crest recently expanded their toothpaste line to include three unusual flavors—lime spearmint zest, vanilla mint spark and yes, even mint chocolate trek. The new line, called Crest Be, aims to get more people brushing regularly. Ostrow students put the new flavors to the test on a recently aired CNBC clip. Perhaps not surprisingly, mint chocolate trek was the real standout.

Check out the clip here: tinyurl.com/ostrowcnbc.



BLOG LOVE, WAR AND DENTISTRY



Gilbert Steingart DDS '32 served as a Naval dentist during World War II. Every day, he would write a letter to his wife Eleanor about his experiences. The collection of 500 letters sat around for decades until Linda Frumkes, the couple's daughter, breathed new life into them with her blog "Dearest Eleanor: World War II Letters." Here are some excerpts from the blog:

JAN. 17, 1944

Just got through unpacking and hanging up my kit ... There are two men in the dental department who went to school with me [James McPherson DDS '31 & Paul Arnerich DDS '31] and the rest are so friendly that I should feel at home right quick. "

OCT. 18, 1944

"Honey, every day and every military action brings me close to home. ... Before you know it, my time out here will be up and I'll be on my way back."

FEB. 3, 1945

"[T]he war news is most encouraging on both fronts. It does look that there is a good chance of a sudden collapse in Germany. As far as Japan is concerned, I wouldn't be surprised to see her surrender once the Philippines have been completely retaken."

MARCH 7, 1945

"This has been another busy day. I saw seven patients in the morning. When I was through it was 11:45 a.m. The score was 18 fillings and three extractions."

MARCH 29, 1945

"It has been raining steadily all day. After dinner the wind died down some. However toothaches and such have no respect for the weather."

APRIL 22, 1945

"It was April 13 when we got the news of [Franklin D.] Roosevelt's passing. Don't worry dear, he was a great man but I'm sure that his untimely death will not slow the coming victory."

Read more of Steingart's letters to Eleanor at: steingart.blogspot.com.



A LASTING TRIBUTE

The Class of 1957 has commissioned a bronze bust to pay tribute to the "Father of Restorative Dentistry" Rex Ingraham DDS '41. The bust, pictured here in its initial clay form, will take up residence in the Rex Ingraham Clinic lobby on the second floor of the Norris Dental Science Center. During Ingraham's long career at USC, he chaired the operative and restorative dentistry departments, served as associate dean for clinical education and won numerous accolades, including being named a USC Distinguished Professor of Dentistry. Dr. Ingraham passed away on Sept. 21, 2013 at the age of 99.

ROY YANASE HONORED BY PACIFIC COAST SOCIETY FOR PROSTHODONTICS

BY BETH NEWCOMB MPH '13

Roy Yanase DDS '69, PROS '77 received the 2013 Fred Gulick Distinguished Life Member Award from the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics (PCSP).

The award, named for Fred Gulick, the first president of the PCSP, honors members who have served as leaders, innovators and educators in the field of prosthodontics.

The PCSP gave Yanase the award during its 78th annual gathering last summer in Anchorage, Alaska.

"The Gulick Award is a great honor as it represents the appreciation of the current members of the PCSP, many of whom I have mentored for over 30 years," Yanase said. "The significance of the award means that I have earned the respect of many students who have become my peers."

Following his graduation from the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry Doctor of Dental Surgery program, Yanase was a clinical instructor in operative dentistry at USC until 1975. He came back to USC for graduate training in prosthodontics, graduated in 1977 and continued on as an assistant clinical professor in prosthodontics and continuing education. Yanase continues to teach part time.

As an Ostrow alumnus, he is an active member of the Friends of Dentistry support group and is a life member of the Century Club.

"The most important benefit from my 40 years of teaching as an alumnus of USC is that the tradition of excellence and future networking begins with a mentor, and the most valuable reward is to be able to mentor others in the specialty and profession that you value," Yanase said.

Yanase has been a consultant to the California State Dental Board and has fellowships in the Academy of Osseointegration, Academy of Prosthodontics, American College of Prosthodontics and numerous other organizations. He has received several awards, including the Kenneth Wical Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics, a Commendation from Governor Grey Davis in 2002, a Recognition Award from the Japanese American Dental Society and the President's Award from the American College



of Prosthodontics. He has been active in the Odontic Seminar Study Club from 1977 and was director in 2009. Yanase became a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics in 1981 and was president of the American Board of Prosthodontics in 2008.

In addition to Yanase's career as an outstanding teacher of prosthodontics, he has been a very productive researcher and has authored more than 27 book chapters and scientific articles. He has lectured around the world on various topics in the field of prosthodontics, including dental implants and caries prevention.

As someone who's remained highly active in organized dentistry, Yanase strongly encourages new and future dentists to get involved for the good of not only their careers but also the profession as a whole.

"We need new leaders in dentistry to continue the advancement of our profession," he said. "To find the benefits and rewards of leadership, young dentists should seek out mentors and expand their horizons. Only they can protect the future of our profession."

NEWS BRIEFS

■ OSTROW ADDS ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY DIVISION

Dean Avishai Sadan announced the addition of a new Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The division will be housed at both the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center and the Norris Dental Science Center and will be chaired by Mark Urata '85, DDS '89, OMFS '93, MD '96, General Surgery '99, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery '02, Craniofacial Surgery '03. The unprecedented alliance between Ostrow and Keck's Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery offers students and faculty even greater opportunity for collaboration in research, education and clinical practice across disciplines.

—Mara Hyman '14

■ OSTROW'S CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTED IN JOURNAL OF DENTAL EDUCATION

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Life Mahvash Navazesh and Associate Professors Sandra Rich and Arnold Tiber co-wrote an article published in the February 2014 issue of the *Journal of Dental Education*. The article titled "The Rationale for an Implementation of Learner-Centered Education: Experiences at the Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California" highlighted Ostrow's DDS curriculum, which was reimaged and streamlined in 2010. The graduating DDS Class of 2014 was the first class to have their entire four-year programs in the new curriculum.

—Mara Hyman '14

■ OSTROW STUDENT RECEIVES SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP

Allison Davis DDS '17 has been awarded a 2014-2015 Los Angeles Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. The fellowship, granted to 250 graduate students by 13 regional chapters across the United States, pairs a student with a community-based organization to create a year-long service project. For her part, Davis plans to provide comprehensive oral health care information to Special Olympics athletes as part of the Special Smiles Program. Next summer, USC and UCLA will welcome 10,000 Special Olympic athletes for the 2015 World Games.

—John Hobbs MA '14



Not many singers get a single chance at fame—let alone two—but that is what’s happening for Linda Perhacs DH ’65, who just released her second album 44 years after debuting with *Parallelograms*. On a recent *Morning Edition*, the Ostrow alumna and folk singer talked to NPR’s David Greene about the challenges of releasing her first album, finding out all these years later that she had amassed something of a cult following and what it’s like to be back in the music game at 70 years old. Check out her album *The Soul of All Natural Things* on iTunes.



Listen to the full NPR Morning Edition piece here: tinyurl.com/lindaperhacs.

Q&A

DAVID STEVENSON

The longtime faculty member discusses his new book, *A Spirit Unbroken: Memoir of a Holocaust Survivor*.

David Stevenson has been a volunteer faculty member for nearly 50 years. The Czechoslovakian-born, UCLA-educated clinical professor recently put pen to paper to reflect on a life that includes surviving the Auschwitz concentration camp, serving in the U.S. armed forces during the Korean War and falling in love with wife of 57 years Sucky. You can buy his book on amazon.com.

Why was it important for you to write this book?
It was basically to tell my children under what conditions I lived during my very early years.

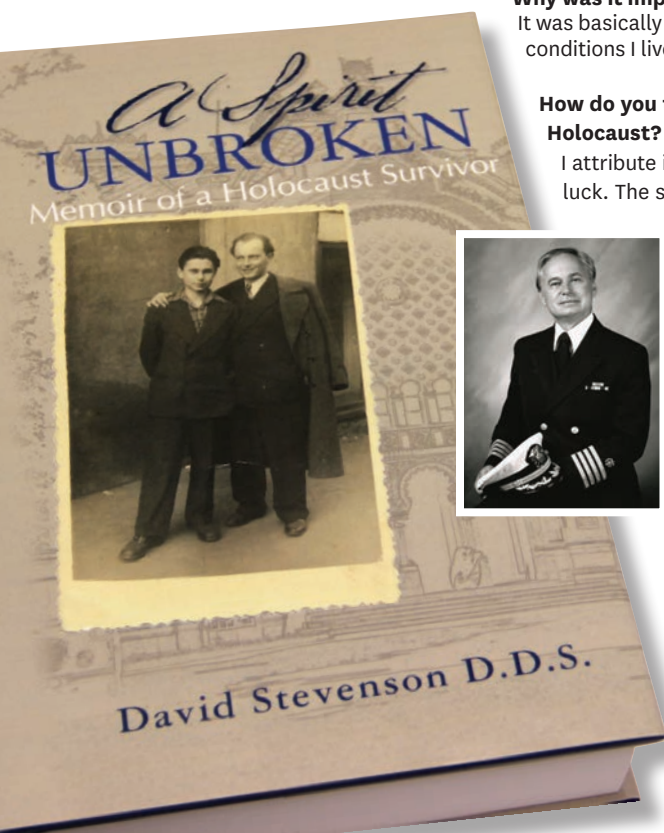
How do you think you managed to survive the Holocaust?

I attribute it to three factors. Number one was luck. The second one, which I think was probably the most important, was health. During the entire time that I was there, I was never sick. The third thing was having a sense of purpose. There was never any question in my mind that I’m not going to survive.

How has working at USC all these years impacted you?

I value my association with USC because it has been really instrumental in my being a successful dentist.

Read the entire interview at: tinyurl.com/stevensonmemoir.



A HUNDRED AND COUNTING

On his birthday in December 2013, Jake Main DDS ’36 celebrated the big 1-0-0. The USC dental alumnus practiced dentistry for 55 years in downtown Los Angeles, where he would often provide either pro bono or for-trade care to those who couldn’t afford it. His secret to such a long life? “He ate at a delicatessen every day of his life. Pastrami. Corned beef. You name it. He never exercised much. He did all the things you’re not supposed to do,” muses his son Dr. Gerald Main, 69, a radiologist in Cambria, Calif. The centenarian has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Main has seen a lot in his century of walking the planet. Here are 10 facts of life from the year he was born:

LIFE IN 1913

- 1 Woodrow Wilson was sworn in as the 28th President of the United States.
- 2 Civil war veterans and their families commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.
- 3 The average car would set you back \$600.
- 4 That might seem cheap, but the average household only earned \$800 a year.
- 5 A first-class U.S. postage stamp cost just two cents.
- 6 U.S.-born infants—like Dr. Main—could expect to live to 50 to 55 years old.
- 7 The U.S. population was 97 million compared to 313 million today.
- 8 USC’s dental school was only 16 years old.
- 9 The *Journal of the American Dental Association* published its first issue in November.
- 10 The first school of dental hygiene was opened by Dr. Alfred Fones in Connecticut.



PHOTO BY GUS RUELAS

2-year-old Joseph Pacheco plays with his new toothbrush as his mother, Claudia Castellano, gets advice from Ostrow Assistant Professor of Clinical Dentistry Vanessa Beer.

\$3 MILLION GIFT EXPANDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN DENTAL, SOCIAL CARE

By Beth Newcomb MPH '13 & Maya Meinert MA '07

The Hutto-Patterson Charitable Foundation will give \$3 million to USC to establish the Hutto-Patterson Institute for Community Health at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry and the USC School of Social Work.

Ostrow and the School of Social Work have been working together to provide underprivileged children with oral health care since 2012 when a grant from First 5 LA enabled the schools to start the Children's Health and Maintenance Program (CHAMP).

Ostrow faculty, students and staff screen children through the age of 5 for dental problems, administer preventive fluoride treatments and provide families with oral health education at Head Start and WIC centers throughout South Los Angeles. In addition, to help families find a trusted "dental home" where children can receive regular dental care, the CHAMP team provides referrals to the Ostrow's Pediatric Dental Clinic and multiple partnering community dental clinics.

The Hutto-Patterson Charitable Foundation funds will be used to purchase a mobile dental clinic trailer and provide for endowed faculty funds and student scholarships focused on those working in the schools' outreach programs.

Catherine Hutto Gordon MSW '97, president of the Hutto-Patterson Charitable Foundation, knows first-hand the value of collaboration between social workers and health care profes-

sionals. The foundation, which was established with an inheritance from her dentist grandfather, has a history of giving to dental education.

"When I first started social work school at USC in 1993, I had a professor who held positions in both the dental school and social work school, and I was fascinated by that because of my dental connection [through the foundation]," Gordon said. "I could see how important it is for dental students to have social work training and awareness."

Professor Roseann Mulligan, CHAMP principal investigator and chair of Ostrow's Division of Dental Public Health & Pediatric Dentistry, said the scope of the oral health need in Los Angeles children is profound.

"Seventy percent of underprivileged children in Los Angeles have active caries [the disease that causes dental decay] or are at risk for it," Mulligan said. "There's a lot of disease that can be prevented."

Assistant Professor of Clinical Dentistry Vanessa Beer, one of the examiners who travels to CHAMP sites throughout L.A. to provide dental screenings, said only about 60 percent of the children she's seen have visited a dentist; of those, many were unable to receive adequate care due to their very young age, extensive needs and inability to cooperate with treatment.

"When CHAMP shows a child they have nothing to be afraid of and can actually have fun taking good care of their teeth, this helps the child on their way to growing up healthy," Beer said.

NEWS BRIEFS

RIEDER HONORED AT FRIENDS OF DENTISTRY GALA

The Friends of Dentistry honored Carl Rieder DDS '59 with the Excellence in Education Award at its annual gala in early April. The award is given to a member of the Trojan Dental Family who brings outstanding oral health education to students and the community. Rieder is the founder of the Newport Harbor Academy of Dentistry, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Proceeds from the evening went to the Carl Rieder Endowed Scholarship. Rieder is the second recipient of the award. Last year, Sakae (Keith) Tanaka DDS '55 was honored by the support group.

—John Hobbs MA '14

OSTROW: NIDCR'S TOP-FUNDED PRIVATE DENTAL SCHOOL FOR SECOND YEAR

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research provided more than \$5.2 million to Ostrow researchers during the 2013 fiscal year, making Ostrow the top-funded private dental school in the nation. The School also jumped one spot from last year to land at No. 7 in overall in research grants provided to dental institutions. Federal research dollars have become scarce in recent years as budgets have been hard hit by sequestration. In 2013, NIDCR research dollars given to dental institutions were down nearly 10 percent from 2003 levels.

—John Hobbs MA '14

MULLIGAN NAMED 2014 SAUL KAMEN AWARD WINNER

Roseann Mulligan, Charles M. Goldstein Professor of Community Dentistry, was named the 2014 winner of the Saul Kamen Award, the highest honor given by the Special Care Dentistry Association, at the group's annual meeting in April. The award is given to those who have shown extraordinary leadership in advancing special care dentistry and oral health for those with special needs. Mulligan is associate dean of Community Health Programs and Hospital Affairs and chair of the Division of Dental Public Health & Pediatric Dentistry.

—Beth Newcomb MPH '13

Continued on page 28

THE GIFTED SET

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTINA GANDOLFO

Every year, the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC offers more than \$1 million in scholarships to its students. Not only can these future dental professionals worry less about tuition and more on getting the most out of dental school, but also some have become energized to find ways to pay forward the generosity. As part of its \$115-million fundraising initiative, Ostrow aims to increase its scholarship endowment to make sure it continues attracting the world's best and brightest dental students. Meet some of these scholarship recipients—and learn a little more about their awards—in the following feature:



NAZLI HAMED MAJD

BY STELLA CHUNG '16

Despite coming from a family of physicians, Nazli Hamed Majd DDS '15 didn't realize she wanted a career in medicine, at least not at first.

She actually began her professional life as an engineer, having earned bachelor's and master's degrees in natural resource engineering from the Islamic Azad University in Tehran, Iran.

"After working as an engineer for a few years, I realized I loved interacting with people and helping them," explains Majd, who also holds a master's degree from USC in marine environmental biology.

It was a couple of trips to her cousin's dental practice, though, that really sealed Majd's fate. She figured out that dentistry was a field for which she had a real passion.

"The challenge of being able to become a great artist, scientist, manager, businesswoman, engineer and, more importantly, a health care provider, all at the same time, is very enjoyable," Majd says.

Now entering her third year of dental school, she says her studies have really been enriched by some of Ostrow's excellent faculty members.

"Dentistry is extremely comprehensive and detail oriented," she says. "So each and every one of my faculty

members has inspired my attitude toward my work and my dentistry."

The real stand-out for Majd has been Associate Professor Pascal Magne, who joined the USC faculty roster in 2004 and serves as the director for Ostrow's Dental Morphology, Function and Esthetics courses. Majd served as a teacher's assistant last year for Magne.

"In my opinion, he is a passionate artist and scientist, and I really appreciated learning from him and looking at dentistry through his genius eyes," she says.

Majd is able to hit the books a little harder and stress out less about finances thanks to being named the Class of 1964 Endowed Scholarship recipient.

"I couldn't believe it at first," she says of her award. "Nothing feels better than being recognized and rewarded for your dedication and success."

While the scholarship helps her pay tuition, it's also been a big motivation in her studies.

"This scholarship motivates me to work even harder to become a remarkable dentist and make my sponsors proud of me," Majd adds.

Once Majd graduates, she says she'd like to become an Ostrow faculty member to help others become excellent practitioners in the field of dentistry—just as her instructors have done for her.

A portrait of a young woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling and looking off-camera to the right. She is wearing a white, sleeveless top with a draped neckline and a star-shaped earring. The background is a solid, light gray.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

This award, courtesy of the Class of 1964, goes to dental students at the end of their third trimester. To earn this scholarship, a student must demonstrate financial need, academic success, professionalism and potential for service.



WILMA E. MOTLEY ENDOWED DENTAL HYGIENE SCHOLARSHIP

JESSICA LOPEZ

BY JOHN HOBBS MA '14

It was the end of Jessica Lopez's first trimester at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC.

The bubbly dental hygiene student with a bachelor's degree in natural science was wrapping up a particularly heavy classload and looking forward to spending some time with her family when she received some heartbreaking news.

Her 62-year-old father Ramiro Lopez had lost his year-long battle with stage-4 liver cancer. Though he had surpassed doctors' initial prognosis—given in terms of months—the news hit Lopez hard.

"At times, I felt guilty because I was going to school rather than spending time with him," Lopez DH '14 remembers of her father's last few months. "But he encouraged me to keep going to school and not to give up because I had worked so hard up to that point."

Not only had her father's illness and eventual death taken an emotional toll on the Lopez family, it also set them back an estimated \$40,000 in medical bills and funeral costs.

It was this bleak fiscal reality that actually helped propel Lopez forward.

"I knew that if I did not continue the program, I would delay starting my career and wouldn't be able to contribute and financially support my family," she explains.

She returned to school two weeks later, ready to finish her degree so she could finally launch a career and help her mother pay the bills.

In January, Lopez got some help herself to pay her dental school bills. The graduating dental hygiene student and community outreach advocate was awarded the Wilma E. Motley Endowed Dental Hygiene Scholarship for her professionalism, strong work ethic and ability to communicate well with others.

She'd like to continue Motley's legacy.

"I hope to establish a scholarship like Mrs. Motley," she says. "I think it is essential to give students the opportunity to continue their education without experiencing the financial burdens that come along."

There's another legacy she wants to keep alive, too: her father's.

Jessica says every year he'd take her family to Guatemala, bringing with them clothing and candy for family, friends and less-fortunate children in local villages.

"My father would love to see the smiles the children had when we distributed the candy," she says. "I hope to continue this tradition and bring oral hygiene kits and provide oral health education to the less fortunate in Guatemala and the rest of the world."

Additional reporting provided by Mara Hyman '14.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Wilma E. Motley DH '33 was on the Ostrow faculty from 1959 to 1974 and was honored by the American Dental Association and the American Academy of the History of Dentistry for lifetime contributions to the profession. This scholarship is awarded to USC dental hygiene students.



G. DONALD MONTGOMERY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP & NORMAN R. PAGE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

MITCHELL THOMPSON

BY JOHN HOBBS MA '14

In early May—during the two-week break between the spring and summer trimesters—Mitchell Thompson DDS '15 was one of more than 40 students on an AYUDA trip to Cusco, Peru.

For four full days, the Ostrow students worked tirelessly, alongside USC faculty members and Peruvian dental students, to treat almost 400 patients in the South American city nearly 4,500 miles away from the University Park Campus.

It was the third such trip for Thompson, who has become something of a world traveler. In December 2012, he went on a Dental Humanitarian Outreach Program trip to Nairobi, Kenya and the following year to Kingston, Jamaica.

These service trips have not only given the Fresno, Calif.-native a chance to travel the world. They've also helped him cultivate a desire to give back to the community.

"I think USC has instilled in me a desire to continue to provide community service because I have seen the great demand there is for it," Thompson says.

He first chose to pursue a career in dentistry because of the opportunities it offered him to improve the quality of peoples' lives. "The personal relationships we form with patients and their families over decades is a unique aspect of this profession," he explains.

The son of an urban planner father and a

second-grade school teacher mother knew that his career choice would be quite costly. Student debt can be burdensome to many dental school graduates who might find themselves beginning their professional lives with hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt.

Thompson won't have such a hefty bill, thanks to two awards: the G. Donald Montgomery Endowed Scholarship and the Norman R. Page Endowed Scholarship.

"These scholarships have had a huge impact on keeping my level of debt under control," he says. "With this in mind, I can focus more on providing quality and affordable care to my patients and less on how I am going to service my student loans."

When Thompson finishes his dental education next year, he plans to head back to Central California where he'd like to become an associate in a private practice and save money to start his own practice focused on community-oriented family dentistry.

He also hopes to continue the legacy of G. Donald Montgomery and Norman R. Page by becoming a volunteer faculty member, a way to keep tuition down when the cost of nearly everything else is on the rise.

"I would like to volunteer time during the course of my career to teach classes, assist in clinical instruction and mentor young students," Thompson says. "Hopefully this will contribute in a very small way to keep the price of tuition down for these new students."

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The G. Donald Montgomery Endowed Scholarship was named for Montgomery DDS '25, one of L.A.'s top restorative dentists for more than 50 years. His legacy endures with a mobile clinic vehicle and endowed gifts funding Ostrow's deanship as well as a handful of scholarships for the economically disadvantaged.

The Norman R. Page Endowed Scholarship was established by the Page family to honor Norman R. Page DDS '42. Page was a faculty member at the USC dental school before entering the Navy in 1943. Afterward, he practiced in Leimert Park, Calif., before moving to Fullerton, Calif.





ALBERT & GRACE COLBY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

EDWARD DAVIS JR.

BY STELLA CHUNG '16

Edward Davis Jr. DDS '15 always dreamed of a career in medicine.

The San Diego native knew it was only achievable if he excelled in school—a fact ingrained in him by an extended family full of teachers, administrators, principals and college professors.

“I was raised to believe that academics are the key to achieving your dreams,” he says. “As a result, I knew that I would have to work and study to reach my end goal of becoming a healthcare professional.”

Davis began his collegiate studies at Fisk University, a historically black university in Nashville, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 2006.

Afterward, he earned a master’s degree in public health from Meharry Medical College. His master’s program afforded him the opportunity to work closely with dental faculty and ask them questions about the profession. It also gave him an opportunity to shadow several dentists during surgical operations while doing an externship at Erlanger Health Systems, a hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“This was definitely a turning point in my transition to a pre-dental student,” he says. “I was exposed to parts of the profession that I had never known existed.”

Now a fourth-year dental student, Davis has begun looking ahead to life post-Ostrow. He says he plans on attending a one-year general practice residency program then going into an associateship in private practice.

His long days in dental school have afforded him more than just a stellar clinical education, he says. It’s also given him a chance to develop his leadership skills.

Since his first year of dental school, Davis has served in leadership roles in several student organizations, including the American Student Dental Association.

“I believe that early leadership training is one of the most important aspects of a future dental professional because confident leaders make good business people.”

Looking back on his educational path, Davis credits much of his success to having strong mentors and positive role models to help guide him along the way.

He’s also received some unexpected help from individuals he never even had the opportunity to meet—Albert and Grace Colby—in the form of a full-term scholarship.

“I am immensely thankful to the scholarship selection committee for choosing me to receive this honor,” Davis says. “This scholarship and USC overall have truly made the task of pursuing my dreams much more attainable.”

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Established from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. Colby, this scholarship is one of the school’s oldest. Dr. Albert Colby was an oral surgeon who is considered a pioneer of several oral surgery techniques. His wife Grace was a teacher before marriage. The Colby scholarship is a full-term award for outstanding DDS, advanced specialty and dental hygiene students.





YOSHIO YAMAGUCHI/ACADEMY FOR EXCELLENCE IN DENTISTRY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

SHOKO SATO

BY MARA HYMAN '14

It almost seemed inevitable that Shoko Sato PERIO '14 would aspire to a life behind dental loupes.

The daughter of two dentists—both of whom have more than 30 years experience in the field—says she spent her childhood playing with impression material and on the dental chairs at her parents' practice. As a young girl, she'd see the transformation in her parents' patients and be fascinated.

It was in high school that Sato made the decision to go into the family business.

In 2006, she graduated from Tokyo's Showa University School of Dentistry before completing a year-long residency in general dentistry at Kameda General Hospital in Chiba, Japan. From there, she joined her parents' practice, taking continuing education courses from USC and contemplating grad school.

"USC enjoys an international reputation of excellence in post-graduate programs," Sato says. "I thought it would be an honor for me to be admitted to the program."

In 2012, she earned that honor, starting her first trimester at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC.

In the two years since, Sato has not only increased her chairside confidence—"Being in the clinic and seeing patients makes me happy and

gives me unlimited energy," she says—she's also gained valuable experience doing research.

At this year's Research Day, Sato presented her project titled "Retrospective Evaluation of the Outcomes of Various Modalities for the Treatment of Gingival Recession Defects" in which she compared the efficacy of Vestibular Incision Subperiosteal Tunnel Access to traditional surgical methods to correct gingival recession.

She's also sharpened her worldview thanks to the international diversity of USC's student body.

"[Ostrow] is like the United Nations," Sato says. "Students come from all over the world. I've learned so much about other cultures, religions and customs."

These experiences might not have been possible were it not for the Yoshio Yamaguchi/Excellence in Dentistry Endowed Scholarship.

"It's amazing that someone would be kind enough to offer a scholarship to someone they've never even met," Sato says about the scholarship she received.

The gift has her considering how she can repay the school and its students in the future—whether it be a check to endow a scholarship or simply her ambassadorship.

"I feel the scholarship connects me to the Ostrow School in a much closer and stronger way," Sato says. "The 'Fight On!' spirit is in my body and soul."

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Yoshio Yamaguchi DDS '60 was a marine biologist based in Hawaii before switching careers. Yamaguchi established the Academy for Excellence in Dentistry, a study club for general dentists interested in the specialties. This scholarship goes to both DDS and specialty students, with special consideration given to older professionals switching careers.





CEREBRAL DOWNLOAD **RESEARCH REFLECTIONS**

Noted researcher Dr. Harold Slavkin kicks off the first installment of Cerebral Download, TroDent's new research-based column.

BY HAROLD SLAVKIN '61, DDS '65

Editor's note: As professor and former dean Harold Slavkin prepares to retire in June 2014, he reflects on his remarkable career and his hopes for the future of the field. The following column has been abridged for TroDent; visit dentistry.usc.edu/research-reflections to read the full article.



In September 1961, as a USC freshman dental student, I never imagined I would pursue a career other than becoming a general dentist. I never considered becoming a biomedical research scientist.

Now, having been a department chair, director of a research center (1972-1988), sixth director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) (1995-2000) and 11th dean of the USC School of Dentistry (2000-2008), I think about what the future holds for dental research.

MY JOURNEY TO RESEARCH

After I graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, I volunteered to enter the U.S. Army and train as a dental technician. After 16 weeks

of basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Ord, California, I completed 16 intense weeks of basic and advanced dental technology at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. I was then stationed at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., where I fabricated prostheses for severe facial burn patients. It was then that I decided that I wanted to work in the field of "broken faces" or craniofacial biology.

After three years in the military and a year-equivalent of undergraduate courses, I received a scholarship to attend USC as an undergraduate. Thereafter, I was accepted to the USC dental school and began my journey to become a dentist.

During my first year, I took biochemistry and nutrition from Professor Lucien Bavetta. As we learned about metabolic diseases, Bavetta inspired

me as he described the value of biomarkers such as the assay for PKU (phenylketonuria). At the time, my wife was pregnant with our first child, and I insisted that our newborn son be assessed for PKU (which was not required at that time). That was November 11, 1961. Thankfully, he tested negative for the inborn error of metabolism, but I became further enamored with the future prospects of biomarkers to assess risk, diagnosis and progression of diseases and disorders. I imagined that someday biochemistry or molecular biology scientific research would result in discoveries that would be transferred to hospitals and outpatient clinics and used to identify risk, diagnosis and prognosis. I wanted to be part of that agenda.

In 1964, I met Professor Richard Greulich, who was an authority on autoradiography, a technique that enabled tracing of isotopically labeled amino acids into proteins during enamel and dentine formation. Together, we published several papers, and I was invited to make an oral presentation at a major congress. This experience further fueled my desire to pursue a career in science.

That was also the year that I met Ed Cooper, a developmental immunologist. Ed was studying the evolution of the immune system. He showed me the wonders of experimental embryology and developmental biology and introduced me to people in the field.

I desired to apply experimental embryology and developmental biology approaches to the study of tooth morphogenesis and tooth regeneration. During my senior year of dental school I was able to complete all of my clinical requirements for graduation from USC while working at UCLA with Greulich and Cooper, continuing to do crown and bridge dental lab work for dentists and being a husband and a father.

I was motivated and inspired but also ambivalent. Could I practice dentistry and pursue postdoctoral studies in developmental biology and biochemistry? Could I provide financially for my family of four? Eventually, the answer would become clear. I studied with Greulich at UCLA for a year before he left for the National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR) and then two years with Lucien Bavetta at USC.

Greulich and Bavetta loved nurturing a precocious dentist who wanted to be a developmental biologist, and it seemed to work. On July 1, 1968, I accepted the invitation of Dean John Ingle to join the faculty of the USC School of Dentistry as a full-time, tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition. I worked as a general dentist on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and all day Saturdays.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

The most significant highlights of my career continue to be the people in science: students, staff, faculty and administrators. Animated, motivated, bright and inspiring people populated my experiences in the lab, at research conferences and in the classroom.

Every day was thrilling. We made many important observations, published a number of highly cited papers and invited chapters and were able to gain significant NIH research funding for our work. Additional people joined our research groups, and productivity and complexity increased. We quickly evolved into a multimillion-dollar research laboratory. We worked to define the puzzle of, and rules for, tooth development: When, where and how are teeth formed?

We demonstrated that isolated cells recognize self and non-self and re-assemble into a tooth organ and that different cell types make unique contacts and communicate through a number of intricate pathways. We were able to isolate and clone the major enamel matrix gene called amelogenin and map this gene to the human X and Y chromosomes. We received a patent for a process to design and fabricate artificial enamel as a restorative dental material. We contributed towards understanding facial clefting and a number of craniofacial syndromes.

From 1995 through 2000, I served as director of the NIDR in Bethesda, Md., and led its transition into the NIDCR. I worked as an advocate for biomedical research and advanced programs to enable underserved populations to receive comprehensive health care. I also provided leadership for the first-ever Surgeon General's Report

on "Oral Health in America," released by David Satcher in May 2000.

During my tenure at the NIH, I was also invited to attend the June 26, 2000 ceremony in the White House when President Clinton announced the 95 percent completion of the Human Genome Project. As I stood within that distinguished group of science administrators, I reflected on Bavetta's teaching about PKU in 1961. Now, we are on the verge of being able to assess a patient's complete genome for just \$1,000.

THE FUTURE OF DENTAL RESEARCH

"The mouth is connected to the rest of the body." Research will increasingly indicate oral-systemic disease connections including premature and low birth weight infants, type 2 diabetes, craniofacial syndromes, pulmonary diseases and disorders, autoimmune and immunodeficiency disorders and cerebral and cardiovascular diseases.

I envision a number of dental schools in North America integrating closely with their counterparts in primary health care including medicine, nursing, dental hygiene, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and social services. I believe that inter-professional education and health care practices will revolutionize clinical health care in the 21st century, especially incentives for performance and quality outcomes rather than volume and procedure-based compensation.

In the near future, genomics will become an integral part of primary health care, and all health professionals will gain the competencies to extract the genotype of our patients as related to diseases and disorders. In tandem, regenerative medicine and dentistry will enable the design and fabrication of cells, tissues and organs including teeth and salivary glands. Innovations will enable "rescues" of abnormal phenotypes from patients with Mendelian single-gene defects such as sickle cell anemia. Writing prescriptions will require a thorough knowledge of the patient's genotype and gender. Health care practices in North America will become faster, smarter and cheaper. The future looks very bright!

UNSEATING DENTAL FEAR

How a unique partnership between occupational therapy and dentistry aims to ease dental-chair anxiety for children with autism.

BY JOSE POLIDO PEDO '98, MS '01

In March 2014, new statistics from the Centers for Disease Control estimate that 1 in 68 children in the United States are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

These alarming statistics may be of great consequence for dental professionals; access to dental care is one of the greatest unmet health-care needs for children with ASD.

Having been at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) in various capacities for more than 15 years, I am very familiar with the challenges that patients and families with ASD face. The pediatric dentists of the CHLA Division of Dentistry and of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC are an integral part of a dedicated interdisciplinary team of professionals that have been working diligently to better understand, evaluate and treat children with ASD. The Division of Dentistry sees more than 300 patients diagnosed with ASD each year, more than most other medical divisions of CHLA, and this number has been growing.

With the great support from our anesthesiologist colleagues, we provide much needed, high quality dental care in a safe, comforting environment. Still, the challenges remained for continuing care and the ability to provide even the most routine preventive dental services for this population to minimize the number of costly and risky sedation and general anesthesia events over a lifetime.

When I had the privilege to meet Dr. Sharon Cermak as she joined the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, I knew that a wonderful collaborative work was about to begin.

We shared common interests in improving the oral health status and quality of life for children, particularly those with ASD and other special health care needs.

As an occupational therapist, Cermak has

great expertise in child behavior and research to systematically evaluate non-pharmacologic behavioral strategies and environmental adaptations to improve the acceptance of oral health care delivery by children with ASD. CHLA has the patients, the pediatric oral health expertise and the infrastructure to support the clinical research and delivery of dental care.

Of course, caring for children with disabilities and interdisciplinary collaborations at CHLA is nothing new, and the Division of Dentistry has a long history of active participation. The CHLA-USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), for example, is a multi-faceted program offering interdisciplinary training, education and technical assistance to service providers and consumers, including interdisciplinary developmental assessments and developmental-behavioral care management. Founded in 1966, UCEDD has evolved as a recognized leader in the field of developmental disabilities within the Western United States and across the nation.

CHLA is a leader in services for ASD. Around the time I met Cermak, CHLA had been chosen by Autism Speaks to join the Autism Treatment Network as the only ATN Center of Clinical Excellence in California. More recently, the creation of the Boone Fetter Clinic at CHLA—offering comprehensive services for children thought to have ASD, neurodevelopmental or behavioral disorders—was another response to the need to address access-to-care issues in our community. The Boone Fetter Clinic has evaluated about 400 new children in 2013 alone for developmental screenings, of which about 120 had a confirmed autism diagnosis.

Under Cermak's leadership in the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, and in collaboration with investigators at Beit Issie Shapiro Center in Israel and the CHLA Dental Clinic, a research team was developed to study how we can improve oral

health care for children with autism, modifying the sights, sounds and the overall environment of the dental office so that it is more sensory-friendly. A feasibility study of this "Sensory Adapted Dental Environment" (SADE) has been funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to evaluate how adaptations to the dental office can create a more manageable experience for all anxious children.

The team also includes Dr. Marian Williams, a clinical psychologist at UCEDD and Dr. Michael Dawson, a professor in the department of psychology of the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and renowned expert in physiological stress and anxiety.

The research first confirmed that parents report their children with ASD having a much harder time in the dental office compared to children with non-ASD disabilities and typically developing children. It also found that difficulties and negative experiences at the dentist reported by the parent (such as trouble during dental cleanings, uncooperative behaviors and needing to use restraints) are related to children's sensory challenges.

Evaluating several parameters to objectively measure behaviors and stress, we found that not only do children with ASD exhibit significantly more uncooperative behaviors during routine dental cleanings compared to typically developing children, but that they exhibit significantly greater physiological stress too.

We also monitored several measures of oral health, since we expected that better experience in the dental office would lead to better maintenance of oral health at home. So far, however, we have found that children with ASD do not exhibit significantly poorer oral health, as measured by Oral Hygiene Index, Gingival Index, Plaque Index and DMFT (decayed, missing and filled teeth) scores compared to typically developing children. Caries incidence is so great in

the community served by our clinic that some of these findings are not unexpected. With increased research we can better understand the caries process and protective factors in all children. Overall, our study shows promise that the adaptations improve the quality of the experience not only for children with ASD. Research is planned to examine whether certain subgroups of typical children such as those with dental anxiety and sensory sensitivity benefit most from the intervention.

The collaboration also proved to be a great instrument to further the education of occupational therapy and pediatric dentistry post-graduate students—not only on the clinical care of autism but in true interdisciplinary collaborations. Dr. Leah Stein was the lead clinical researcher in the collaborative team during her Ph.D. program and is now a postdoc working with Cermak at USC. She is the lead author of several publications stemming from our research. We hope that other graduates of our programs will follow her footsteps and join our faculty team after completing their training.

Knowing that there are no magic solutions to the delivery of oral health care for children with ASD, we continue to seek funding to further support our research. Our goal is to increase the number of children evaluated by the program and to further evaluate how to customize the experience to each individual patient and family for best results, while being aware that the sustainability of any program has to fit within the context of the financial constraints of current medical and dental coverage. We expect that when long-term effects are considered, including the caries prevention and minimizing the need for more costly sedation and anesthesia services, the program will be financially feasible to be fully implemented in routine dental practices.

The Division of Dentistry at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, in its long standing part-

nerships with the Ostrow School and the Keck School of Medicine of USC, will continue to develop and evaluate clinical programs—such as occupational therapists and dental professional working together side by side to improve the way oral health services are delivered—and to disseminate best practices to all dental, medical and allied health care professionals in our community at large.

Considering the increasing prevalence of

ASD, this unique collaboration between dental professionals and occupational therapists has the potential to transform the delivery of oral health care for children with special needs, improving the long-term quality of life for children, their families and providers alike. With compassion and understanding, our team of autism specialists works closely with one another to inform, support and empower the families, clarifying concerns and strengthening each child's future.





PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE PRESTON



JACK PRESTON DDS '57

Dr. Preston served on the USC dental faculty for 25 years before retiring to the winemaking life.

BY YASMINE PEZESHKPOUR MCM '17

When Jack Preston DDS '57 and his wife Charlotte began planning their golden years, they knew they wanted to retire to something rather than simply from their day-to-day lives.

After all, both were used to incredibly active schedules. Dr. Preston's 25-year career at USC kept him plenty busy. Not only was he the Harrington Professor of Esthetic Dentistry, director of advanced prosthodontics and chair of the department of oral and maxillofacial imaging, he also lectured nationally and internationally and edited the *International Journal of Prosthodontics*. Charlotte kept long hours too, working as a biomedical photographer.

The couple had little interest in resting on their laurels throughout retirement. In 1999, they decided to embark on their next endeavor together and become winemakers.

Vino had always been a passion of the Prestons. During their travels, the longtime wine-loving couple would always make time to visit acclaimed vineyards and chateaus in whatever countries they landed.

After many wine-tasting excursions to Paso Robles, Calif., Preston and his wife decided it was

time to look for a property to drive some stakes into the ground and plant their own grape vines.

"We bought a six-acre property in Templeton, [Calif.], a delightfully rural community," Preston says. "It had a ranch-style home and a horse barn that we later converted into a winemaking facility."

They named their new property Prestons' Vineyard.

Given their palate preference, the Prestons decided to plant Bordeaux varietals on their new property.

"We have been fortunate to tour France and to do tastings at many of the country's best chateaus," he says. "We prefer the bold fruit flavors, the beautiful nose and the depth of color that Bordeaux varietals offer. They appeal to us more than the Burgundian or Rhone wines."

To help them begin their vineyard, they enlisted soil scientist and the chairman of viticulture at Cal Poly to plan the vineyard and select the root stock and clones to match their soil. They planted five varietals across three acres including cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, malbec and petit verdot.

"The challenge with having five varietals is that they mature at different times, often resulting in five harvests," Preston says. "We are fortunate to have the help of our friends and family during those times."

With several harvest periods throughout the

year, the Prestons have a large circle of friends and family that gather at the property to assist in grape picking and fruit sorting.

"Charlotte rewards their efforts with a harvest party, where we serve food and give everyone their own wines to take home as a thank you," he says.

To add to the care and maintenance it takes to run Prestons' Vineyard, Preston and his wife took courses in viticulture at Cuesta College and Cal Poly to ensure excellence in every sip of their wines.

The Prestons never had the desire to sell their wines commercially. Instead, they prefer to enter home winemaking competitions.

"We have been fortunate in winning many gold and silver medals in winemaking competitions since 2001," he says modestly.

Prestons' Vineyard wine even won best of show for red wines at the Orange County Fair in 2009 on its first submission.

Preston says that one side effect of his retirement endeavor has been that he and his wife have developed a "house palate" in that they prefer to drink their own wine.

"We definitely achieved our goal of retiring 'to' something with our vineyard," he says. "That, along with Charlotte's garden that includes many varieties of heirloom tomatoes, vegetables, fruit trees and numerous flowers, keep us busy and continue to bring us pleasure."

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are gifts made in
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who have
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ensure the accuracy of these
tributes, errors or omissions may
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tions at (213) 740-0428 with any
corrections.*

Continued from page 12

\$3 MILLION GIFT EXPANDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN DENTAL, SOCIAL CARE

In the CHAMP program, School of Social Work students provide follow-up assistance to families, helping them understand and access dental care benefits, as well as make it easier for parents to access other resources that can provide for basic needs ranging from food and clothing to much more serious situations such as domestic violence victim assistance.

Ostrow Assistant Professor Lisa Pedersen is a licensed clinical social worker who oversees the MSW interns working with CHAMP dental personnel.

“The dentists I’m meeting in community oral health are social workers in disguise,” she said. “They choose it out of wanting to make a difference, to save lives. They’re on the front line, sitting on small stools in preschools with kids on their laps. This new gift will support more students to do this kind of important work.”



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GANDOLFO

*Editor's note:
Last summer,
Carolina Maradiaga
became a medical
assistant in the
Special Patients
Clinic at the Herman
Ostrow School of
Dentistry of USC.
She is currently
working on an
associate's degree
at another institu-
tion with hopes of
transferring to USC
for bachelor's and
master's degrees.
We asked what
inspires her in
work and life.*

It's the patients here at Ostrow that inspire me in my work every day.

In the Special Patients Clinic, we serve a population that is medically compromised. These patients have severe medical conditions. They might have intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities or HIV/AIDS.

Not to say our department is the best, but we truly are. To work here, you need a lot of compassion, heart, patience and dedication.

I am so proud to be a member of this team. I have been blessed to work with an amazing staff that allows me to fulfill my duties to their fullest potential.

Prior to working at the dental school, I worked for a nonprofit in downtown Los Angeles that served the homeless and underserved communities.

I guess my heart has always pushed me to work with those who need help the most. I am the oldest of three children. My younger brother and sister are among my biggest motivations. I want them to see it is never too late to chase your dreams and that, with hard work and dedication, you can accomplish anything you want.

When I'm not caring for patients at Ostrow, I am an East Los Angeles College student. Going to school at night has not been an easy journey. I have been

attending East L.A. College for several years. Today, I am finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I only have a handful of classes left.

Once done, I'd like to apply to the health promotion and disease prevention program at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. I plan on being the first person in my family to graduate from college. Eventually I'd like to go into the master of physician assistant studies program at USC.

I cannot say that there haven't been times that I felt like giving up on my dreams because I think we all have our weak moments, but I have learned that everything worth having does not come easy. For me the only path I have to follow is the one I am making for myself.

The reason I chose to go into health care is because it is my passion. I enjoy serving others. I feel it is my duty to accommodate patients the best I can while they come for their visit at our clinic. There's no job I don't enjoy doing—whether it's greeting the patients with a smile or bringing a pillow to their dental chair.

I have learned that sometimes the smallest gestures can make the biggest difference and that I should not judge a book by its cover.

And it's the patients who I have gotten to know that push me to be the best me I can be.

Help Ostrow make a difference

Every single dollar counts when it comes to helping the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC maintain its work in the community, its groundbreaking research and its longstanding eminence among dental schools. Here are some ways you can help:

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In-Kind Gifts: Donate goods or services that fulfill programmatic needs.

For more information, contact:

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and infinite
possibility...**



From the ever-increasing use of technology in dental care to groundbreaking advances in restorative dentistry to pioneering biomedical research, the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC is at the forefront of dental schools.

Under Dean Avishai Sadan's leadership, we are working to take our school to an even higher level of eminence. You, our alumni and friends, can help us achieve this. There has never been a better time to make a planned gift to the Ostrow School of Dentistry.

With the help of the gift planning experts in **USC's Office of Gift Planning**, our staff is ready to assist with:

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