



Harvard Dental

bulletin

Fall 2018

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Harvard School of Dental Medicine

New DMD Students
Begin Their Journey

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Cover photo:

The Class of 2022 strikes a pose on the steps of 188 Longwood Avenue after the White Coat Ceremony. Photo by Steve Gilbert.



Student Highlight

HSDM's first annual Big/Little Sibling Field Day was held in August. Around 60 DMD students showed their competitive strengths in games of tug of war, capture the flag, musical chairs and more. The Big/Little Sibling mentorship program pairs incoming DMD students with a "big sibling" from each class by academic society. Siblings serve as mentors who ease the transition from year to year and share advice about student life.

The *Harvard Dental Bulletin* is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Harvard School of Dental Medicine. We look forward to receiving your feedback and news.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

One of my favorite days each year comes in August when we welcome a new class of DMD students to Harvard School of Dental Medicine. The 36 students who joined us this year are an impressive group, not only for their academic achievements and test scores, but also for the passion they will bring to studying dentistry and medicine and shaping the future of the profession.

During Orientation Week, I address the new HSDM students along with their HMS classmates. I speak to them about our mission and core values that emphasize dentistry is a branch of medicine, dental disease is part of medical disease, and care of human disease demands an understanding, knowledge, and appreciation of the whole patient. This message resonates with future dentists and physicians alike.

The key to finding the best students to engage with our mission is attracting applicants from a wide array of backgrounds. Encouraging students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is very important to us. In this issue, you will learn more about our diversity and inclusion efforts and the recent recognition our Pathways into Dentistry Pipeline program has received.

We also believe that a fundamental part of a dental student's education is learning about, and experiencing, research firsthand. Our students learn that advances in molecular biology, technology, materials science, and public health and policy have many applications in dentistry. The longest-running research grant at the School, the discoveries it has generated, and the far-reaching impact it has had on students, trainees, and faculty is covered in this issue.

In addition to the Class of 2022, you will see other new faces at HSDM. You will meet Dr. Jennifer Gibbs, our new Endodontics program director, and you'll learn about a new fellowship in Prosthodontics made possible through the generosity of a donor to our successful campaign.

Our new DMD students are entering a place that has an extraordinary record of achievement for our profession. I encourage them to explore, search out, and question, because the possibilities here are endless. They can see examples of this in our alumni who are proof of how far their education will take them. I hope you will join me in welcoming them to the HSDM community, and I thank you for your ongoing support of our students and mission.



Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73



Photo credit: The Harvard Crimson

Pathways into Dentistry Pipeline Program Recognized with National STEM Award



DMD students work with Revere Public School students in HSDM's preclinical learning center.

Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) was recently honored for its diversity and inclusion efforts, receiving a 2018 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. The Award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

HSDM was chosen for developing a Pathways into Dentistry pipeline program which invites middle school, high school, and college students to envision a career in dentistry.

"We're honored to receive national recognition for our program," Dr. Josephine Kim, director of Diversity and Inclusion said. "Our DMD students, particularly the Diversity and Inclusion fellows, are great advocates and mentors for young students who may otherwise lack opportunities to learn about the field of dentistry. It is truly a team effort with students, faculty, and staff from all areas of the School contributing to the program."

"This award is particularly important to us because it allows us to inspire youth and expose them to career opportunities they may not have previously considered," said Ty Adeseye (DMD 2019) senior Diversity and

Inclusion fellow. "It is important to have a diverse community of healthcare professionals that is representative of the people they serve, and it starts with educating young students."

HSDM's offices of Diversity and Inclusion and Admissions partner with organizations such as the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, MEDscience (HMS), MGH/Revere Cares, Reactions in Action (HMS), National Student Leadership Conference, Seeds of Hope (HMS), and Indian Island School, to bring young students who would not likely be exposed to career opportunities in dentistry to HSDM to introduce them to the field. Students who express an interest in dentistry can participate in further pipeline programming with job shadowing opportunities with local dentists.

"While we have the students with us, we also teach them about oral health and oral hygiene practices so we can contribute to the prevention of oral disease," Kim said. "Students leave with knowledge about the field, information on the admissions process, and are equipped with oral hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss)," she added.

"If we can convince one middle school student that they can do it, and give them guidance on what it might take to get there, then we create a ripple effect. We've now helped one more person get there, and this person will become another advocate for countless others," said Mindy Truong (DMD 2019), senior Diversity and Inclusion fellow.

HSDM also piloted a new recruitment initiative in March of 2018 as part of Pathways into Dentistry pipeline programs when Jeffrey Taylor (DMD 2020), a Diversity and Inclusion fellow, presented on dentistry and HSDM's admissions process at Spelman College and Oakwood University, both historically black institutions. A similar presentation was given at a historically black high school in Atlanta.

HSDM is featured, along with 77 other Inspiring Programs in STEM Award recipients, in the September 2018 issue of [INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine](#).

New DMD Students Begin Their Journey with Gratitude and Enthusiasm

Thirty-six new DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) students arrived on campus in early August eager to begin their dental careers at Harvard. The enrollees hail from 16 states and join HSDM from more than 27 different colleges and universities. They were selected from a group of over 1,000 prospective students, representing just under 5% of the applicant pool.

The morning of August 6, the DMD students joined their HMS classmates for welcome remarks by the deans of the respective schools. The dental and medical students will spend the first year of their education together in the Pathways curriculum.

“As Dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, it is a pleasure to welcome the class of 2022 here as you begin the adventure of professional education and training,” Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73 said.

“As physicians and dentists, you must earn and sustain your patients’ and society’s trust. In this age of information glut, your education for lifelong learning and helping people begins today,” he told the new students. “I look forward to following your growth and achievements with great pride.”

The week’s orientation activities included introductions within the Harvard community and beyond. Students were introduced to their academic societies, where they got to know the classmates and faculty they will rely on throughout their educational journey. They also stepped outside of Longwood to tour community health centers in Boston’s underserved communities, from Chelsea to Roxbury. Meeting with local community leaders, they learned firsthand about the social



determinants of health. They also attended their first patient clinic at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where they heard directly from patients about their personal battles with illness.

The week concluded with the White Coat Ceremony on Friday, August 10, held on the Quad. Students donned their white coats and stepped on stage one by one to introduce themselves. Many expressed gratitude to their family, friends, and mentors who helped get them to this point in their careers.

“Today is the culmination of many, many years of hard work...it is the beginning of your evolution both personal and professional from being a student to becoming a doctor,” HMS Dean George Q. Daley, MD91 said.

“You have the opportunity to realize your dreams for what you will do and for who you will become. You will have an opportunity to use your extraordinary talents to serve others and to make the world a better place,” he said.

The ceremony concluded with the Class of 2022 taking an oath they composed themselves. They expressed gratitude and pledged to use empathy and respect as future caregivers.

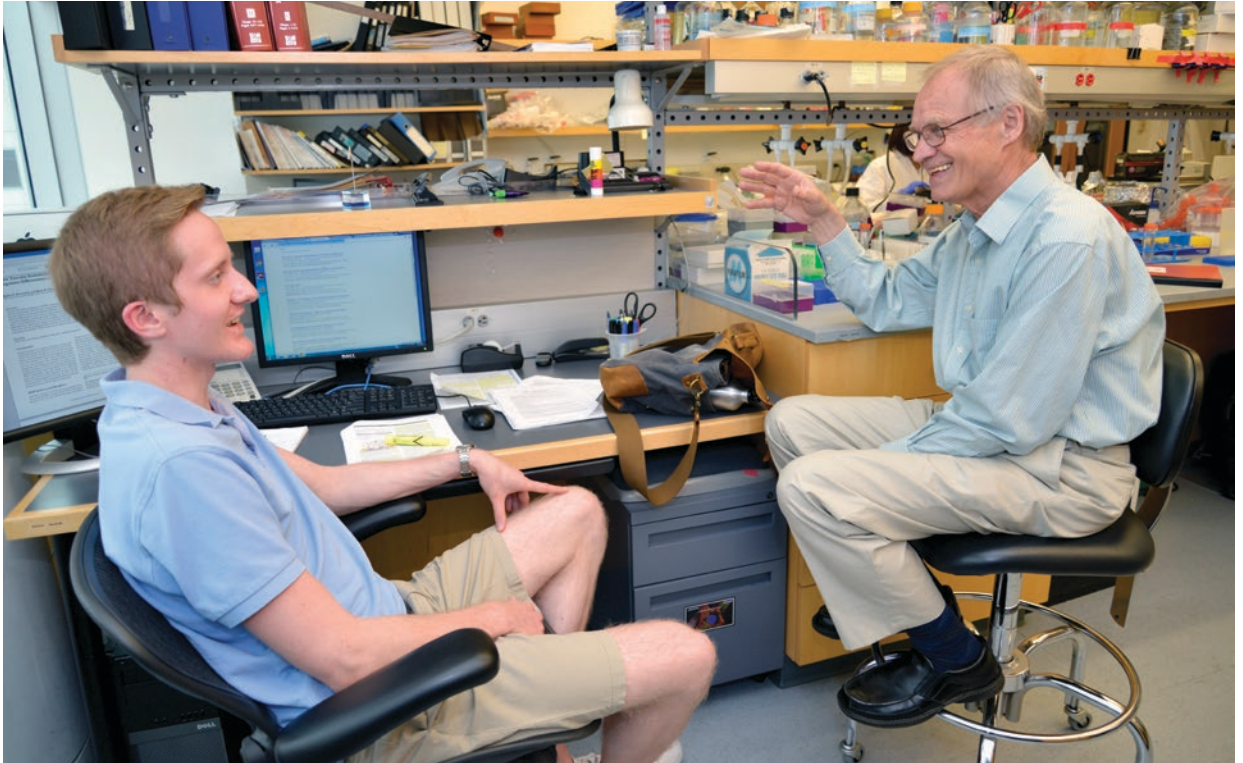
“We pledge to listen to, learn from, celebrate, and partner with our communities to build a more equitable world and ensure that all people can realize the human right to health...we pledge to stay true to our deepest values.”

The DMD students get to try on their white coats for the first time and meet members of their academic societies.

Students walk through the halls of Brigham and Women’s Hospital on the way to their first patient clinic.

Long-Running Grant Produces over 30 Years of Discoveries

Seth Bradbury, DMD18, with Professor Bjorn Olsen. Bradbury worked in the Olsen Lab on a project understanding how VEGF stimulates intramembranous bone formation during craniofacial skeletal development.



When Dr. Bjorn R. Olsen, professor of Developmental Biology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Hersey Professor of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School received funding for his NIH R01 grant, “Biogenesis of Extracellular Matrix” in 1985, his expectations were high that it might yield new discoveries related to collagen-like proteins. Much to his delight, the grant,



now extended for years 33 and 34, has been one of the most prolific in the history of the School, leading to a remarkable number of discoveries and touching the careers of nearly 100 faculty and postdocs who have collaborated with the Olsen Lab over the years—many of whom have gone on to become leaders in academia and medical research themselves.

“The early expectation for the grant was that it would lead to insights into the structure and function of several collagen-like proteins in the extracellular matrix of connective tissues, cartilage and bone, but how quickly these discoveries resulted in projects identifying mutations in several genetic skeletal disorders was unexpected, exciting, and satisfying.”

—Dr. Bjorn R. Olsen

“Biogenesis of Extracellular Matrix” has led to more than 153 published papers and six patents from 1987 to 2017. The grant stands out as one of the longest-running grants at both Harvard medical and dental schools, with only one grant achieving more longevity (topping 44 years).

By simultaneously addressing questions related to genetic skeletal disorders and vascular disease, Olsen has been able to characterize complex developmental and disease mechanisms at the intersection between skeletal and vascular biology. This has led to the discovery of novel gene families that are critical in bone formation, and furthered the understanding of limb malformation syndromes and disorders characterized by lack of bone formation.

Olsen's work has also uncovered mechanisms in many collagen-based genetic diseases such as dwarfism and early-onset osteoarthritis. Discovery of the gene for Osteoporosis pseudoglioma syndrome established the basis for understanding the critical role of Wnt signaling in bone formation. Studies of the craniofacial bone disorder Cherubism led to mapping the gene for excessive bone formation in Craniometaphyseal dysplasia, leading new insights into its role in regulation of bone mass.

Additionally, his work has uncovered receptor mutations that cause venous malformations and infantile hemangioma, the most common tumor of infancy. Olsen discovered collagen mutations in corneal dystrophy and the reasons for ocular defects in Knobloch syndrome.

More recently, his work has led to new insights into the role of vascular endothelial growth factor in differentiation of stem cells to osteoblasts, and mechanisms responsible for human GAPO syndrome, characterized by severe premature aging, pseudoanodontia, and other craniofacial, skeletal, and connective tissue anomalies.

"Dr. Olsen's groundbreaking discoveries have allowed scientists to view the extracellular matrix as a vital part of the biological information required for normal embryonic development," Vicki Rosen, professor of Developmental Biology and chair of the Department said. "This has provided fundamental insights into how changing this information results in disease."

—by Dawn DeCosta

Research Impact



More than 100 faculty and trainees worldwide have collaborated on, "Biogenesis of Extracellular Matrix" throughout the past 32 years. Many of these individuals have become leaders in academia including: **Dr. Reinhard Fässler**, professor and director of the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry; **Dr. Rudolf Jaenisch**, professor of Biology at MIT and a founding member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research; **Dr. John Mulliken**, director of the Craniofacial Center, Children's Hospital Boston and Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; **Dr. Ichiro Nishimura**, DMSc86, PD86, DMD93, professor of Reconstructive Biotechnology, UCLA School of Dentistry; **Dr. Matthew Warman**, director of Orthopaedic Surgery Research, Children's Hospital Boston and professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Genetics, Harvard Medical School; and **Dr. Elazar Zelzer**, professor of Molecular Genetics, Weizmann Institute of Science.

Prosthodontics Fellowship Opens Doors for DMD Alumna



Laura Rushford, DMD17, MMSc 2020 is the first recipient of the Pelletier Family Fellowship in Prosthodontics.

When Laura Rushford, DMD17, MMSc 2020 began her predoctoral program at HSDM she knew she wanted to craft beautiful smiles. A desire to help patients regain their smiles has been a driving force for Rushford ever since. Throughout her DMD training she volunteered with programs like Operation Mouthguard, Project Bridge Clinic, and ACTION Clinic, where she worked with patients who may not otherwise have access to dental care. In the Harvard Dental Center's Teaching Practices she refined her skills and became curious about how she could further help patients by learning more advanced techniques.

"During my clinical experiences, I became intrigued with the complexity of treatment planning and learning about new dental materials, techniques, and technologies," Rushford said. "At the end of my 3rd year, I knew that I wanted to continue my education so I could learn

more about the rehabilitation and maintenance of my patients' comfort, function, and esthetics."

A new fellowship in prosthodontics enabled Rushford to take her career to the next step. After graduating with her DMD degree in 2017, she was accepted into HSDM's three-year residency program leading to an MMSc degree in oral biology with a certificate in prosthodontics. Financial aid from the Pelletier Family Fellowship in Prosthodontics is giving her the chance to pursue her dream without the burden of significant debt.

"I am grateful that this Fellowship has provided me with the opportunity to continue my studies at HSDM with some financial relief. I have been able to focus on my patient-doctor relationships, dedicate time for research, and teach predoctoral students."

—Dr. Laura Rushford



Dr. Rushford provides assistance and advice to a DMD student working with a patient in the Teaching Practices.

The Pelletier Family Fellowship in Prosthodontics was established with a \$1 million gift by Lionel Pelletier, MMSc87, PD87, DMD90 shortly before his death in 2015. Rushford is the very first recipient of the Fellowship. Like Rushford, Pelletier was also a DMD graduate of Harvard, and enjoyed teaching students. As former director of HSDM's Advanced Graduate Prosthodontics program, Dr. Pelletier was known for his warm personality and caring nature.

"Lionel had a passion for prosthodontics, and wanted to make it possible for students to get into the program without the burden of debt," said Vice Dean John Da Silva, DMD87, MPH87, SM92, PD89, PD91. "He wanted to build a legacy for the program and have students continue to build it, that's why Laura, who received her DMD from HSDM, is a perfect fit for the fellowship."

The Fellowship covers \$45,000 of annual expenses for a postdoctoral student conducting work in the Advanced Graduate Education (AGE) specialty of prosthodontics. The Fellowship's name pays tribute to Lionel Pelletier's parents, Bernard and Jacqueline Pelletier. Pelletier's generosity and foresight is already making an impact in the life of an AGE student and in the future of the specialty.

"Having financial assistance while being surrounded by a supportive community at HSDM has set the foundation for my future career as a prosthodontist,"

said Rushford. "After completing my residency, I hope to work in private practice while having a part-time position as a clinical educator."

Campaign Ends on a High Note

It Begins with Me—the Campaign for Harvard School of Dental Medicine concluded in June with the total amount raised topping out at just over \$10.7 million. The generosity of HSDM's donors and friends had the most significant impact in generating new scholarships and financial aid for students. The Campaign:

- Raised new scholarships/financial aid for DMD students
- Created fellowship funding for students to pursue global health research and service
- Raised unrestricted funds that will support core HSDM needs
- Celebrated our 150-year anniversary by raising a gift to students—an endowed student scholarship for the best and brightest regardless of financial need

With special thanks from the Campaign Committee: Jack Silversin, DMD72, MPH73, DPH75, Chair; Reed Day, MD84, DMD85, PD90; Edward Mopsik, DMD67, and Kimberly Ritrievi

HSDM Graduates Poised to Shape the Future of Dental Medicine



The Class of 2018 in Harvard Yard.

On a picture perfect May day, Class of 2018 Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) students marched down Quincy Street and into Harvard Yard for the 367th Harvard Commencement. Class Marshal [Lindsay D'Amato](#) led the way with an inflatable toothbrush held high. The air was filled with excitement, bagpipe music, and choirs that heralded the entrance of the degree candidates from the twelve graduate schools of Harvard and Harvard College as they took their seats in Tercentenary Theatre. The provost and deans introduced the candidates from their schools, and for the final time in her presidency, Harvard President Drew Faust verbally conferred the degrees.

Thirty-four HSDM graduates received DMD degrees, seven with honors in a special field, and six with general honors. Thirteen advanced graduate students received MMSc degrees and four received DMSc degrees. Additionally, several residents and fellows received specialty certificates in their chosen fields.



Advanced Graduate Education students celebrated their new degrees at Harvard Commencement.

In the afternoon, HSDM students joined their Harvard Medical School classmates to celebrate [Class Day](#) on the Quad. Harvard dental and medical school graduates, along with faculty, family, and friends, gathered to hear remarks by student speakers, deans from both schools, and guest speaker [Neal Baer, MD96](#).

HSDM Class Day speaker, [Nisarg Amrishi Patel](#), spoke of how the class grew as they learned together,

**“We’ve made great strides as students.
Let’s make leaps as doctors.”**

—Nisag Amrish Patel, DMD18
HSDM Class Day speaker



Clockwise from left:

Nisag Patel, DMD18, HSDM Class Day speaker, spoke about the journey of the Class of 2018.

The DMD Class of 2018 posed on the steps of Gordon Hall.

Monica Tain, DMD18 received her hood as her classmates looked on.

The DMD graduates had front row seats at Class Day on the Quad.

and how as new doctors they will draw on their educational experience to change the practice and delivery of dental medicine.

“As Harvard graduates, we have both the fortune of having a limelight shining on our shoulders wherever we go, and an important responsibility that comes with that illumination,” Patel said.

“So, while today is an occasion for celebration, we shouldn’t simply rest on our laurels. We’ve made great strides as students. Let’s make leaps as doctors.”

HSDM [Dean Bruce Donoff](#), DMD67, MD73, congratulated the graduates on reaching a major milestone in their long journey of education and discovery. He noted that he will remember the Class of 2018 DMD graduates as a remarkable group who have published more research papers than any other class.

“Your achievements should make you very proud.

Those who have helped you reach this day and those who have nurtured and sustained you share that pride. The entire HSDM community and I feel no small measure of joy and pride in your accomplishments. We look forward to your futures with justifiably high hopes,” Donoff said.

Donoff encouraged the new graduates to be leaders who will transform health care.

“Most importantly, do the right thing, especially when no one is watching,” he added.

After the remarks, the graduates received their diplomas and hoods from Associate Dean for Dental Education Dr. Sang Park, MMSc01, PD01, and their senior tutors. The graduates then joined their families and HSDM faculty and staff for an Alumni Reception honoring the School’s newest alumni.

Meet Endodontics' New Program Director Dr. Jennifer Gibbs



Dr. Jennifer Gibbs joined HSDM in September 2018.

Dr. Jennifer Gibbs joined Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) in September as a member of the faculty and director of Endodontics. She comes to HSDM most recently from NYU College of Dentistry where she was assistant professor of Endodontics.

What led you to the field of endodontics?

It was my PhD training in the neurobiology of nociceptors (pain detecting neurons) that led me to endodontics. As a PhD student at University of Texas San Antonio I joined the lab of Ken Hargreaves, who is a neuroscientist and endodontist. I was first exposed to endodontics during this training period. Later, I decided to go to dental school, and it was there that I learned that pain interpretation and pain management are essential to the practice of endodontics. It was pretty clear to me then, given my research focus, that endodontics was the specialty for me. I decided to go to the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) for my endodontic training so that I could pursue post-doctoral research training with Allan Basbaum, a prominent pain scientist, that would overlap with my residency. I then became a faculty member at UCSF, and have remained an academic endodontist scientist since then.

What excites you about coming to Harvard and taking the role of director for endodontics?

So many things! First, I'm really thrilled about being a part of the community at HSDM. It goes without saying that being a part of Harvard, arguably the best institution in the world for scholarship, education, and research, is a great honor and beyond exciting. However, it was very striking to me during my interviews that the community at HSDM is uniquely positive, supportive, and humanistic. This is something really special about Harvard that is generally difficult to achieve in academia. My predecessor, Dr. Bob White has done an incredible job creating a nurturing, and even familial culture, within the endodontic division, and I am very excited to be a part of it and continue that tradition.

Second, I am quite excited for the opportunity to challenge myself through serving as a leader at HSDM and in endodontics. Although I've had opportunities for leadership in science, this is my first time as a division director, and I'm looking forward to serving in this role. There are a lot of changes happening in endodontics such as renewed interests in vital pulp and regenerative therapies. I look forward to the challenge of leading Harvard Endodontics during these interesting times.

As an educator, what do you feel is important to the learning process? What kind of experience do you hope postdoctoral students will have?

I think the right balance of empowerment, curiosity, and humbleness are essential to learning. Technical and clinical confidence will come over time during residency training. I think the most valuable learning happens when students stretch themselves out of their comfort zone and accomplish something they never thought possible. This could be giving an oral presentation for a national conference, publishing a manuscript, or organizing a community outreach event.

Now it's not just learning but also personal growth that is accomplished. Curiosity is essential for students to work outside of their comfort zone, and keep asking questions. Humbleness comes when you expand your knowledge base enough to realize how much remains unknown. When this level of learning happens, we become humbled by the fact that we have no choice but to be lifelong learners.

My goal for postdoctoral students is first to have ample experiences to become fully confident in their clinical skills. Then, to stretch themselves to accomplish things during the program that they can be proud of for the rest of their lives. Finally, to cultivate curiosity and humbleness during the program so that students leave the program dedicated to the process of lifelong learning. Our postdoctoral students will leave with the skills needed to be endodontic leaders in whatever capacity that appeals to them.

Could you describe your research interests and the work you've done as a neuroscientist?

The dental pulp is seemingly hardwired for pain, and my research has focused on understanding basic neurobiology of the dental pulp. My research group found that large diameter neurons that typically convey the sensation of light touch are more prevalent in dental pulp, while paradoxically, classical pain fibers are underrepresented. The reason for the unique innervation of the pulp is still not clear, and it remains intriguing to me. We also established that nerve injury signaling lasts long after tooth injury, suggesting a potential mechanism for persistent dental pain. This is important because it is still underrecognized that routine dental procedures, like root canal treatment, can produce chronic pain. Complementing this work, we are currently conducting a clinical study measuring pain after endodontic surgery. This will help identify predictive clinical and biological factors associated with poor pain outcomes after surgery. The problem of persistent pain after dental injuries is difficult and important to understand, because the lack of recognition often leads to multiple unnecessary dental procedures.

More recently, my group, mostly through the efforts of Dr. Benoit Michot, has investigated the mechanisms by which bacterial toxins such as lipopolysaccharide (LPS) produce pain. This is relevant to many painful

oral conditions including pulpitis. We've been working to understand the receptors through which LPS activates pain fibers and found that it depends on two very different types of receptors. First, the classic toll-like receptor TLR4, which is established as the receptor for LPS, is essential to activate neurons. Interestingly, TRPA1, an important ion channel for detecting noxious stimuli on nociceptors, is also required. We think that the TRPA1 channel is a very good target for controlling bacterial mediated pain as occurs in pulpitis.

As a newcomer to Boston, what are you hoping to learn or experience here?

Moving here from New York City I'm looking forward to the (hopefully) slightly slower pace of life. We found a place to live on a quiet tree-lined street and I'm really enjoying this little taste of suburbia. The thing my husband and I are most excited about is having better access to nature here. We want to take our daughter camping and hiking more often and look forward to exploring New England. I also look forward to going to a Celtics game. I love basketball and the Celtics are a great team that I have followed over the years. Although it's way too early to talk about being a fan yet, and my allegiance in basketball is fully with the San Antonio Spurs, let's just say I'm looking forward to seeing where this relationship with the Celtics goes!

The Robert R. White Endodontics Fellowship

A fellowship has been created to honor the 42-year academic career of Dr. White, and provide financial aid for endodontic residents.

Dr. White's dental career began at the University of Pennsylvania where he earned his DMD and taught for three years before earning a certificate in Endodontics at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1979. At Tufts, he served as full-time faculty and tenured Associate Professor until 1996. In 1996, he was appointed as the Endodontics program director at HSDM. This fall, he will step down from his full-time responsibilities.

His career has been characterized by a passion for teaching. He has trained nearly 200 postdoctoral endodontic residents. An educator to his core, he has always expected the very best from every student, and in turn been a trusted mentor and advisor.

To learn more about supporting the The Robert R. White, DMD, Endodontics Fellowship see: hsdm.harvard.edu/robert-white-fellowship

Generations of HSDM Graduates Return for Alumni Day



Members of the Class of 1978 (L to R): Seinwel Steinhart DMD78, Rute Kalpins DMD78, PD81, MMSC82, Nelson Assael DMD78, Bradley Phillips DMD78, Barbara Gooch DMD78, Kim Gibbons DMD78, and Ronald Goldstein DMD78

Alumni classes spanning five decades returned to Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) on Alumni Day, Friday, June 1, to reconnect with their classmates, faculty, and mentors. DMD graduates from the Class of 1950 to the Class of 2013 enjoyed a day of reminiscing and learning about the latest activities of the School.

The day began with breakfast in the Research and Education Building followed by a program that included the Harvard Dental Alumni Association (HDAA) business meeting led by Dino Bertini, DMD97, MMSc99, vice president of the HDAA; a presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Awards; a symposium on Oral Health on a Global Scale; and Dean Donoff's State of the School address.

Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, presented the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards to individuals

chosen for their contributions to the profession that honor the mission of the School. This year's recipients included a well-known Boston dental entrepreneur, a leading researcher in the field of tissue engineering and wound healing, and a dedicated educator and advocate for access to oral health care around the globe.

The Distinguished DMD Alumni Award for the 50th reunion class was presented to Charles M. Trauring, DMD68, an entrepreneur who built a unique multi-specialty group practice in Boston, and also served for several years on HSDM's Dean's Advisory Board. The Distinguished DMD Alumni Award for the 25th reunion class was awarded to Ichiro Nishimura, DMSc86, PD86, DMD93, a leader in the field of tissue engineering and wound healing, whose passion for translational research has led to advances in the treatment of facial defects. The Distinguished Advanced Graduate Education Alumni Award was presented in absentia to Nawarat (Jip)



Left: Ichiro Nishimura, DMSc86, PD86, DMD93, with Charles M. Trauring, DMD68

Below: The Class of 2008 reenacts their DMD class photo on the steps of the main building at 188 Longwood.



HSDM classmates from all reunion years reconnected with each other at Alumni Day.

Wara-aswapati, DMSc98, a dedicated educator and researcher in periodontology, and advocate for access to oral health care around the globe.

The awards were followed by a symposium on the topic of Oral Health on a Global Scale led by Jane Barrow, SM87, associate dean for Global and Community Health. Barrow introduced speakers, representing HSDM's international projects and partnerships in Rwanda, Vietnam, and Japan. The panel of speakers as well as HSDM students from a global health extension course, took questions from the audience. The symposium was followed by Dean Donoff's State of the School address which touched on highlights from the past year at HSDM.

After the program, alumni had the chance to reconnect over lunch and take tours of the School. The classes of 1978 and 2008 were most visible with 40% and 60% of their classmates in attendance, respectively. The Class of 2008 gathered for a special 10-year reunion lunch, and all 24 attending graduates from the class along with their spouses and children posed for a photo on the School's front steps, reenacting their DMD class photo.



Betsy Disharoon, DMD88, MPH88 and Christine Hamilton-Hall, DMD88, with Christine's son Malcolm Hamilton-Hall, III and husband Malcolm Hamilton-Hall (right) and Vice Dean John Da Silva DMD87, MPH87, PD89, PD91, SM92 (center)

New Partnership in Vietnam Focuses on Strengthening Dental Education



Above: Nguyen Van Lan, DMD84; Donna Hackley, PD95; Tien Jiang, DMD14; Jane Barrow, SM87; Brittany Seymour, MPH11; Jarshen Lin; and Hoang Hung

Right: Faculty participated in a two-day hands-on mapping workshop in June for the new curriculum. Brittany Seymour, MPH11 (center) to her left, Prof. Ngo Thi Quynh Lan, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, with the rest of the core UMP Faculty of Dentistry.

Stepping off the plane in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in January, Tien Jiang, DMD14, felt a flood of emotions when she was greeted in Vietnamese. “It was an eye-opening and very meaningful moment for me. It was a real connection of my personal and professional life,” she said.

Jiang, who was born and educated in Boston, was returning to the country where her parents were born to work on an initiative that will ultimately bring a new competency-based curriculum to Vietnam’s dental schools. The opportunity to use her training and education to make an impact in her family’s homeland resonates deeply with her.

“It’s a chance for me to apply my dental education as well as my master’s degree in education to a program that is eager to reform,” she said. “The dental faculty (in Vietnam) are so excited to work with us and learn from us. They are so focused on their students and patients, and becoming leaders in dentistry in southeast Asia.”

Jiang is one of several HSDM faculty members involved in the Vietnam Health Advancement Initiative: Competency-based Dental Education, a new collaboration between Vietnam’s Ministry of Health, Ho Chi Minh City Medicine and Pharmacy University (UMP), and Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) with the goal of strengthening and standardizing the country’s dental education system. Currently, dental schools

in Vietnam use a credit-based curriculum rather than competency-based curriculum.

The team includes Jane Barrow, SM87, associate dean of Global and Community Health; Donna Hackley, instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology; Jarshen Lin, instructor in Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, and Brittany Seymour, MPH11, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, who serves as principal investigator. DMSc candidates Hesham Alhazmi, DMSc2021 and Fahad Hegazi, DMSc2022 are also assisting with the project.

“The program is an incredible opportunity for all of us. Globalization is affecting not only the health of the world’s population, but also health professions education,” Brittany Seymour, MPH11 said. “It is challenging dental educators to work together to build toward global standards so that dental students are prepared to respond to today’s complex challenges across the globe. Competency-based education is an integral part of this progress; we are hoping that our partners will lead the way in the southeast Asia region,” she added.



The team’s initial visit in January to the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City kicked off a six-month pilot program that began to lay the groundwork for the program. In meetings with Vietnamese faculty, the team began to discuss approaches to defining competencies and evaluation metrics for assessing student competence. In subsequent visits to Vietnam, HSDM faculty continue to provide hands-on support as UMP prepares to launch the new curriculum this fall, making the transition from credit-based to competency-based education.

Lawrence Bacow Takes the Helm as Harvard's 29th President

Earlier this year, Harvard University named widely admired higher education leader, and Harvard Corporation member, Lawrence Bacow, MPP76, JD76, PhD78, as its next president. Bacow is an alumnus of both Harvard's Law School and Kennedy School of Government, where he also served as Hauser leader-in-residence at the Kennedy School's [Center for Public Leadership](#). With a long career in higher education, he served for a decade as president of Tufts University, and previously as a faculty member and chancellor of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Bacow stepped into the presidency in early July, and on his first day sent a personal message to the community.

"I am honored to succeed Drew and humbled to have the chance to lead this extraordinary institution. I am one of countless people whose lives have been transformed by Harvard, and helping extend that experience to others is the opportunity of a lifetime," he said.

"There is no place I would rather be, and no community I would rather be part of, to help address the challenges ahead and to consider how we can each do our part to meet them," he added.

Bacow begins the presidency at a time when higher education has been under scrutiny.

"This is a pivotal moment for higher education — one full of extraordinary possibilities to pursue new knowledge, enhance education, and serve society, but also a time when the singular value of higher education and university research has too often been challenged and called into doubt. Such a time calls for skillful leadership, strategic thinking, and disciplined execution. Larry will provide just that," said William F. Lee, AB72, senior fellow of the Harvard Corporation and chair of Harvard's presidential search committee.

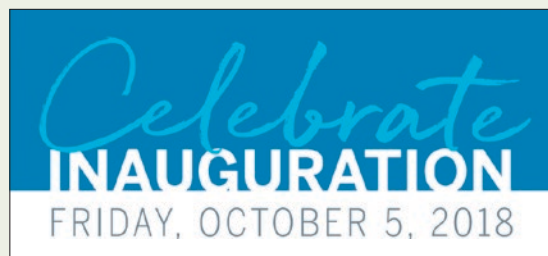
"He will bring to the task not only wide experience, deep expertise, and an intimate familiarity with Harvard's opportunities and challenges, but also a passionate commitment to helping universities, and everyone within them, serve the larger world," continued Lee. "He is ideally positioned to hit the ground running and keep Harvard moving ambitiously forward."



Bacow is also well known to Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and was keynote speaker at HSDM's Sesquicentennial Gala in 2017, where he spoke about the importance of the School and its mission.

The 29th president's inauguration ceremony will be held on Friday, October 5, in Harvard's Tercentenary Theatre. Members of the Harvard community are invited to attend or to watch the livestream broadcast online.

Larry Bacow, MPP76, JD76, PhD78, former Harvard Corporation liaison to HSDM, spoke at HSDM's Sesquicentennial Gala.



2:00 p.m.
Academic Procession

2:30 p.m.
Installation of Lawrence S. Bacow
followed by The Bacow Block Party

Alumni News



Veerasathpurish (Sath) Allareddy, MMSc10 (Orthodontics) was appointed head of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry's Department of Orthodontics in July. Most recently, Allareddy was professor and director of clinical

research at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Allareddy also formerly taught at Harvard School of Dental Medicine where he was director of predoctoral orthodontics.

Frank Catalanotto, PD71 (Pediatric Dentistry) professor of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, presented lectures at three recent meetings, all entitled "What is Dental Therapy and Why is it Good for Both Patients and Dentists?" including at the Florida Association for Community Health Center's Annual Clinician's Meeting, the ADEA Allied Dental Education Leadership Training and Convening: Advancing Coordinated and Comprehensive Oral Health Care, and the 2018 DEO Summit - Emerging Future of Group Dentistry.

Donald Giddon, DMD59, PD62 (Periodontology) gave a lecture in August at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA on "The Brain and the Portrait: Visual and Emotional Aspects of Portraits, From the Art of Norman Rockwell and Others."

Lorne Golub, PD68 (Periodontology) was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Golub is a well-known leader in clinical and research periodontics and was selected for his noteworthy accomplishments and prominence in the field.

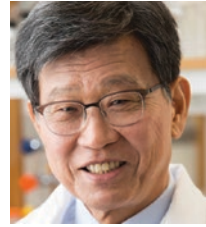


James Hupp, DMD77 has been appointed vice dean for Student and Faculty Experience at Washington State University's new Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine in Spokane. In his new position he is responsible for overseeing the academic, student, and faculty

affairs of the College, as well as graduate medical education programs.

Class of 2018 graduates **Frederick Lambert, Kellie Moore, Yasmeen Pirooz, Chloe Wong, Sara Rosenberg,** and **Leigh Yarborough** were inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), the National Dental Honor Society. Founded at Northwestern

University in 1914, OKU represents the highest achievements in dental scholarship, professionalism, and ethics.



No-Hee Park, DMD82 dean emeritus and distinguished professor, UCLA School of Dentistry, was inducted into the Korean Hall of Fame in Science and Technology. Park was recognized for his contribution

to society and the STEM fields.



Rick Valachovic, MPH81, SM82, PD82 (Pediatric Dentistry) will retire from the American Dental Education Association as President and CEO in 2019 after 21 years of service. Dr. Valachovic is known for his commitment to ensuring dental education is part of discus-

sions of federal and global policy and health care, alongside partners in medicine; nursing; pharmacy; public health; and others. Before joining ADEA, he served on the faculty of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

In Remembrance

Steven Offenbacher, PD81 (Periodontology)

a pioneer in researching the relationship between periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease as well as adverse pregnancy outcomes, died on August 9, 2018, at the age of 67. He was the WR Kenan Distinguished Professor and former chair of the Department of Periodontology at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Dentistry. Offenbacher was known for introducing and popularizing the term "periodontal medicine." His work earned him many awards, including the 2015 ADA Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Dental Research, which recognized his groundbreaking work connecting periodontal and systemic health.

Ricardo Teles, DMSC96, PD96

(Periodontology) former professor and chair of Penn Dental Medicine's Department of Periodontics who passed away in December 2017, was honored with a new research award established in his name by the International Academy of Periodontology and offered through the International Association for Dental Research Periodontal Research Group. It recognizes Dr. Teles' many contributions to the field of clinical periodontal research.



Nawarat (Jip) Wara-aswapati, DMSc98, received her Distinguished Alumni medal in August while she and a delegation from Thailand visited the Longwood campus.

HSDM News



Robert Riviello, MPH01; Agnes Binagwaho, HMS Faculty; Jane Barrow, SM87; Paul Farmer, MD88; Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73; Philip Cotton, University of Rwanda; Donna Hackley, PD95; J. Mike Karangwa, University of Rwanda

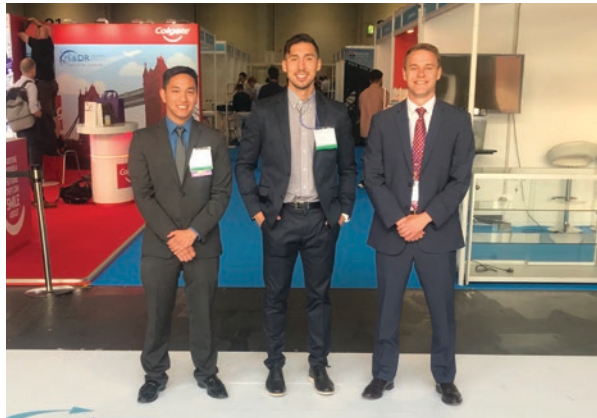
This past May, University of Rwanda Vice Chancellor Philip Cotton visited Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) with Dr. Paul Farmer, MD88, Kolokotronis University Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, and other partners from the Human Resources for Health (HRH) Program. Vice Chancellor Cotton spoke about the University of Rwanda’s efforts to build a new healthcare education infrastructure, including the first ever dental school, in collaboration with HRH partners such as HSDM.

Marcy Borofsky, HSDM Dean’s Advisory Board member, and founder of Smile America Partners was recognized by Crain’s Detroit Business as one of 35 women chosen as 2018 Notable Women in Health Care. Recipients were nominated by their peers at work and in the community and include women who advocate for patient safety, opioid-free pain relief and access to mental health help among other accomplishments.



Drs. **Tien Jiang, DMD14** (left) and **Jarshen Lin** (right) had the opportunity to meet with Vietnam’s Vice Minister of Health, Dr. Le Quang Cuong (center) during

his visit to Harvard. Jiang and Lin are part of a team of HSDM faculty involved in the Health Advancement Initiative in Vietnam (HAIVN), a new project to advance competency-based dental education in Vietnamese dental schools.



Fourth-year DMD students **Justin Montenegro, Babeck Ebadpour**, and **Thomas Ferlito** (L to R) presented their research at the 2018 International Association for Dental Research conference in London this past July. Their research presentations involved cariology and erosion as well as orthodontics’ clinical and translational science.



HSDM students, faculty, and staff gathered for a fiesta in August to celebrate the upcoming school year.

Faculty News

Myron Allukian, MPH67, PD69, corresponding member of faculty in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, reached a milestone of serving over 52 years at HSDM. He began his career as a research fellow in 1966 and served as associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology for the majority of his career at the School. Dr. Allukian also worked as the City of Boston Dental Director for 34 years. He continues to contribute to HSDM by teaching and mentoring students in the Dental Public Health Program.



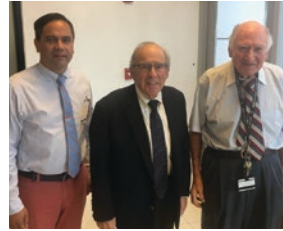
Drs. **Hend Alqaderi, DMSc16**, and **Brian Swann, MPH08** volunteered in Lebanon through the Miles for Smiles Project, providing care to 1,200 children in a Syrian refugee camp and implementing dental protocols.



Steffany Chamut joined HSDM as an instructor in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, with a role in the Office of Global and Community Health. Prior to joining HSDM, she completed her post-graduate studies in restorative prosthetics and dental public health at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, A.T. Still University, and the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, as well as fellowships at the Pan-American/World Health Organization and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Her work within the health field spans private, public, and academic settings. Dr. Chamut's research interests are focused on oral health, geriatrics, nutrition, and addiction.

Sung Choi joined HSDM as an instructor in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, with a role in the Office of Global and Community Health. Dr. Choi comes from Stanford University, where she received her PhD in Management Science and Engineering. She also earned her Masters of Science in Biostatistics from Harvard University. Dr. Choi will be

teaching the Biostatistics class starting this Fall and will be working with the Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine on big data analyses and simulations.



John Da Silva, DMD87, MPH87, SM92, PD89, PD91 (left) and **Leon Dogon, DMD63** (right) were recently honored for their many years of service at HSDM. Dr. Da Silva is a graduate of HSDM and has served as a member of the faculty for 25 years. He also currently holds the position of vice dean. Dr. Dogon celebrates an astonishing 50 years at HSDM, and currently serves as a professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences.

Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73 has been named to the board of directors of The Community Health Center of Cape Cod which is a nonprofit health center that provides access to health care for adults and children regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. It has locations in Mashpee, Falmouth, and Bourne.

Martin Nweeia, lecturer in Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, and his co-author William Fitzhugh won the 2018 William Mills Prize for Non-fiction Polar Books for the book *Narwhal: Revealing an Arctic Legend*, a companion book to the Smithsonian Institution exhibit. Additionally Nweeia has received grant funding from the Price Albert II Foundation for field research that will add to the breadth and depth of his work on Inuit traditional knowledge and genetics.

Man Wai Ng, MPH96, PD93 (Pediatric Dentistry), chief of the Department of Dentistry at the Children's Hospital Boston, and associate professor of Developmental Biology, received the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine.



Thomas T. Nguyen joined the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity as a faculty member in Periodontology. He joins HSDM from the University of Montreal, where he was assistant professor and from which he received his DMD. Dr. Nguyen will teach in both the advanced graduate and predoctoral periodontology programs and maintain a clinical practice in periodontology and implantology in the Harvard Dental Center's Faculty Group Practice.



Fellowship director Dr. David Hirsh with Ohyama, MMSc96, DMD03 at the graduation ceremony.

Hiroe Ohyama, MMSc96, DMD03, assistant professor and director of predoctoral operative dentistry in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, recently completed an HMS Academy Medical

Education Fellowship. The fellowship program provides educators with dedicated time to develop the expertise and skills needed to advance academic careers in medical education and medical education research. Dr. Ohyama published two papers during her fellowship.



Brian J. Swann, MPH08, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, HSDM (pictured fourth from left) received a Dean's Community Service Award for his work with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). The award recognizes dedication and commitment to community service that has made a positive impact on the local, national, or international community.

Staff News

Sandra Abrego is a new dental assistant in the Harvard Dental Center, transitioning from her role as a phone specialist. She has held previous positions as a dental assistant in private practice at Kendall Square Dental Associates and Fenway Health.

William Budding, human resources coordinator, was one of 12 College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) members selected to participate in the 2018-19 CUPA-HR Wildfire Program, a 12-month leadership development experience designed for early-career higher education human resources professionals. He was chosen out of more than 150 applicants.

Vanessa Claudio joined the Harvard Dental Center's Faculty Group Practice as a patient services liaison. She comes from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts where she served as a clinical intake specialist. She worked at other healthcare institutions, including Signature Healthcare and Commonwealth Community Care prior to joining HSDM.

Molly Gallagher, who most recently served as a phone specialist in the Harvard Dental Center, has taken a new role as staff assistant in the Dean's Office. Prior to HSDM, she held administrative positions at the Broad Institute in Cambridge and Lighthouse Relief in Lesvos, Greece.

Courtney Henderson will be a new phone specialist in the Harvard Dental Center. Prior to HSDM, she held administrative positions with Harmon Law Office in Newton and the Tennessee and Ohio Democratic Party offices.

Suzi Peter joined the Office of Dental Education as the new DMD curriculum assistant. Prior to HSDM, she was a program coordinator with the Community Research Initiative of New England.

Ashley Simmons joined HSDM in the new position of digital communications coordinator where she will be contributing to the School's social media platforms, website, and email marketing, as well as working with HSDM's Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine. Ashley has experience working in academic settings in both higher education and independent schools.

Tiffany Sum is a new dental assistant in the Harvard Dental Center. She comes from Dental Partners of Boston where she served as a dental assistant.

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55,55	Age 65	7.8%
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65	Now	5.4%
65, 65	Now	4.8%
65	Age 70	7.6%
65, 65	Age 70	6.7%
70	Now	6.0%
70, 70	Now	5.3%
75	Now	6.7%
75, 75	Now	5.9%
80	Now	7.7%
80, 80	Now	6.5%

Please contact Wanda Mock at 617-432-5356 or wanda_mock@hsdm.harvard.edu or visit the website at www.alumni.harvard.edu/giving/planned-giving/pay-income



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Upcoming Events



Thursday, September 27 – Friday, September 28, 2018

Leadership Forum: Achieving Quality and Value in Healthcare Through Integration

Joseph B. Martin Center, Boston, MA

With keynote speaker Dr. Donald Berwick, President Emeritus and Senior Fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Thursday, October 11

Alumni Reception at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Meeting

6:00–7:30pm

Benny's Chop House, 444 N. Wabash, Chicago, IL

All alumni are welcome to attend; conference participation is not required.



Tuesday, October 16 – Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Improving Population Health through Oral Health in China

Harvard Shanghai Center, Shanghai, China

The conference will focus on strengthening the oral health delivery system in China.

Thursday, October 25

Boston Networking Night

6:30–8:30 pm

Cheeky Monkey Brewing Company, Boston, MA

All HSDM alumni are invited to attend the 2nd annual networking night out in Boston.

RSVP to Jessica Loew, jessica_loew@hsdm.harvard.edu, 617-432-2924

Thursday, November 15 – Friday, November 16, 2018

Continuing Education: Fixed Implant Rehabilitation of Edentulous Patients

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

Attendees will learn different planning and treatment modalities for fixed implant rehabilitations in edentulous patients.

Monday, December 10 – Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Continuing Education: Advanced Surgical and Restorative Implant Course

Venice, Italy

Friday, February 1, 2019

Alumni Reception at Yankee Dental Congress

6:00–8:00 pm

Webster Room, Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston, MA

All alumni are welcome to attend; conference participation is not required.

See a full list of events at:
hsdm.harvard.edu/calendar



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Welcome Class of 2022!



The HSDM Class of 2022 with their HMS classmates in the Tosteson Medical Education Center Atrium before the White Coat Ceremony. Story on page 3.