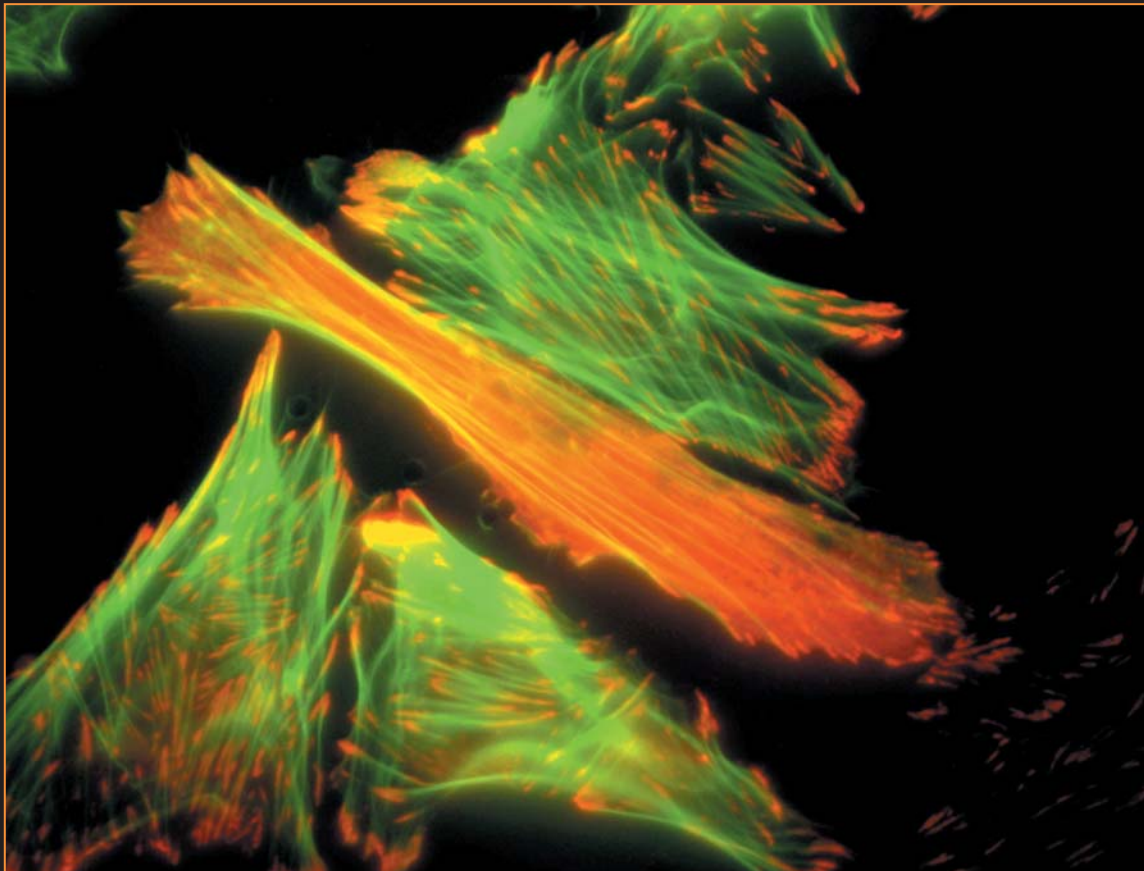


# alumni today

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

VOLUME 28 • ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2010



## Research Training Addresses Major Health Challenges

*Also in this issue...*

*It's time to party at the Annual Awards Gala and pay tribute to our honourees. Your invitation is enclosed!*

*Serving youth with daunting oral health needs – one alumni's commitment*

*U of T Endodontic alumni and friends celebrate*

*Attracting the best and the brightest – meet some of our newest academic staff*

*Start dreaming of better weather – our latest CDE cruise is just a call away!*

# alumni today

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

Volume 28 • Issue 1 • Winter 2010

Faculty of Dentistry  
Alumni Relations



University of Toronto

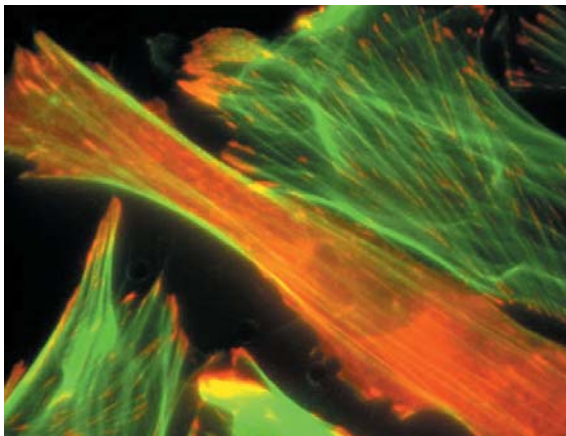
COVER STORY:

## 14 Research Training Addresses Major Health Challenges

*Providing financial support and interdisciplinary research training experience for doctoral students who want to become leaders in*

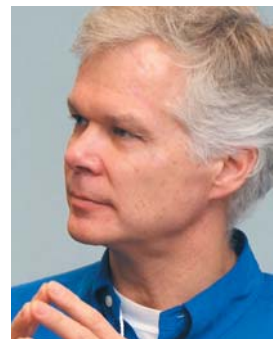
*health research, the Cell Signals program at the Faculty of Dentistry has just had its funding renewed in the amount of \$1.95 million over six years. This new generation of health investigators is pursuing an interdisciplinary approach*

*to solving major health challenges. They will ultimately provide the leadership and vision that will define the direction of health research through the coming decades. They may also determine dentistry's role in a research community that is rapidly going global.*



Cover photo: Cultured human airway smooth muscle cells labelled with fluorescent probes for actin filaments (green) and vinculin (red), important proteins of the cytoskeleton.

Photo image by summer student Claire Montgomery, Cell Signals trainee Dr. Jack Fairbank, and mentor Dr. Geoff Maksym, Dalhousie University. Dr. Fairbank is presently a postdoctoral fellow, Meakins-Christie Laboratories, McGill University.



VISIT OUR WEB SITE:  
[www.utoronto.ca/dentistry](http://www.utoronto.ca/dentistry)

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*Alumni Today* is published by the Office of Alumni Relations, University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, for and about Alumni, staff and students. Material published does not necessarily represent the official position of the Faculty of Dentistry or the editor.

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Photographs will be returned if requested.

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**Alumni Relations: 416-979-4940**

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# You won't get these stories anywhere else!

*Read this magazine. I don't know any other way to say it. You won't get these stories anywhere else.*

- News of classmates and reunions, including Endo and Pedo
- Letters from readers about **Helen Chomyn**, and the Mexican Border
- An alumni-only discount for Raptors tickets
- A Collingwood Ski Day with alumni and colleagues
- Toronto's longest running theatrical production (*Dentantics 2010*, March 11 and 12)
- U of T's President and Chancellor with **Anne** and **Jack Dale**, and **Bernie Blackstien**
- Whose daughter is heading Make-A-Wish Foundation of Canada?
- Which specialty program is 50 years old this spring?

There's more serious news, as well, concerning the sudden loss this fall of classmates and long-standing staff at the Faculty.

Our feature story definitely should not be missed. The Cell Signals mentorship program is one of Canada's pre-eminent interdisciplinary health research training programs, based at U of T and including partners and participants overseas. Bringing a range of disciplines to basic science questions about pain and inflammation, this is truly the future of health research, and it's happening right now, right here at your Faculty of Dentistry. **Richard Ellen**, **Chris McCulloch** and their colleagues are training the next generation of researchers whose work will lead to very real practical applications in patient care.

This issue includes another inspiring alumni volunteer story, 3D imaging at the Faculty and our Awards of Distinction Gala which will raise funds for a new cause this year – helping our clinic patients complete their treatment plans, even amid financial hardship. I hope to see you on Saturday, March 27th, as we fete **Aldo Boccia**, **Howard Tenenbaum**, and the **Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society**.

Don't miss the news about student activities and what our Faculty and staff have been up to. Enjoy this issue of *Alumni Today* – and let us know what you think.

DAVID MOCK 6T8



THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

**Development & Alumni Relations and the  
Dental Alumni Association**

*Invite You to Join Us for a  
Cocktail Reception  
at the Pacific Dental Conference  
in Vancouver*

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Pan Pacific Hotel – Pacific Rim Suite 1*

**RSVP 1-800-743-3788**

**RSVP@dentistry.utoronto.ca**

# Share your news – and join us!

*I have two main messages for you:  
Share your news and join us!*

## Share your news

This is your magazine, and a great way to catch up on what your classmates and colleagues are up to, but only if alumni send in news for others to read. Whether it's a wedding, birth, retirement, move, specialty training, volunteer work or special award, share the news and keep our magazine relevant and brimming with news. Email the editor: [barbaramurray@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaramurray@fastmail.fm)

## Join us

There are many opportunities coming up:

*Mentoring dental students* at two alumni evenings in January and March. If you're interested contact the Alumni Office at 416-979-4940 extension 1.

*Partying for a great cause:* 2010 Awards of Distinction Gala on Saturday, March 27th, is raising funds to help the Faculty's clinic patients who face financial hardship. This year's event honours Alumni Association members **Aldo Boccia** and **Howard Tenenbaum**, as well as an organization of which many Toronto alumni are members – the **Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society**. Last year, 650 alumni, colleagues, friends and industry participants attended. Why not organize your own mini-reunion at the Gala?

*Getting together with other alumni:* at the Faculty's alumni reception hosted by **Dean David Mock** during the Pacific Dental Conference. (See opposite), and at the Alumni Board meetings which are open to all. Please join us for a light supper at 6:30 p.m. at the Faculty. (See box below)

And don't forget to buy your tickets to *Dentantics 2010*, March 11 and 12, at Hart House Theatre ([www.uofttix.ca](http://www.uofttix.ca) on sale in February).

In closing, I'd like to say a word about the feature article on the Faculty's interdisciplinary research training program, Cell Signals. This article reminds us of how fortunate alumni of U of T are to have studied at one of the world's leading dental research centres. Research at the Faculty of Dentistry has led to real advances in professional practice as well as enriching the student experience. At our Faculty, star researchers are regularly found in the classroom instructing undergraduate students – what a remarkable opportunity.

Best wishes for the New Year ahead.

VALERIE STAVRO 8T4



## Everyone Welcome!

Board member or not, please join us and make your views known at the following Alumni Board Meetings:

Tuesday, February 16

Tuesday, April 13

Wednesday, June 9

Everyone welcome! Light dinner at the Faculty at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to RSVP to [susan.alksnis@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:susan.alksnis@dentistry.utoronto.ca) so we can order enough food for all!

## We've Got Mail!

Thank you for responding to the last issue of *Alumni Today* with your comments, volunteering stories, and thoughts about the Faculty. We love to hear from you!

Keep sending in your letters and emails and we will publish as many as we can.



**David:**

Thank you for your presence at our 60th reunion dinner. (See photo on page 8.) You and your two staff members, **Susan Alksnis** and **Sara Vanos**, gave a very real meaning to the Faculty's interest in their alumni. My classmates were also impressed to think that the Dean and his staff would give up an evening to spend with people who had graduated so long ago. I know they appreciated your being with them. In return, I want you to know how much **Grover Lightford** and I appreciated the excellent support, encouragement, and cheerfulness of Sara and Susan. They deserve your strong commendation for their efforts. Good on all of you.

Likewise my classmates were totally impressed with the Faculty tour conducted in person by you, the Dean. Wow! You actually took time to show us oldies the facilities.

You might just remember that our class graduated from the school on College Street, with its old equipment and very little concept of dental research. Some of our people had not been in a dental school since graduation. They were mesmerized by the new teaching techniques, the super sophisticated technology with the state-of-the-art anaesthetic machine and recovery area, the advanced knowledge and training of staff, the radiology equipment, the TV studio (graphic arts) and more.

Heck David, I was truly impressed with the advancements you have accomplished in the nineteen years since I retired. You must have a great deal of pride in what you have achieved, and be very excited by the future prospect of a new school.

Thank you David and good luck with a new school. I think that you are doing an admirable job.

Sincerely,

JOHN SPECK 4T9

Thank you so much for the story you printed on my husband **Keith Routley**. Nobody realizes the hours and days that he spent meeting with the Mexican Government to obtain the land for the Clinic in addition to the two full days each week that he treated patients.

One of my favourite stories from our time there was the first dental chair that was donated by an American dentist. The Mexican authorities would not allow anything to be brought into Mexico, so to get the chair through customs we had a Mexican lady sit on it, covered her with a blanket, put a cloth over her forehead and pretended she was sick. We took her across the border in a van and that's how the chair got through customs!

**BEV ROUTLEY**

## Alumni Discount on Raptors Tickets

*University of Toronto alumni are eligible for discounts of up to 30% on 2009-2010*

*Toronto Raptors baseball tickets.*

*Visit [alumni.utoronto.ca/raptors](http://alumni.utoronto.ca/raptors) for more details.*

*Our story on Helen Chomyn really hit a nerve with Alumni. She is remembered fondly by so many. Following are some of the comments that readers sent in.*

In the spring of 1977 we were getting ready to graduate and our thoughts were on the grad ball. Being somewhat shy when it came to the opposite sex I didn't have anyone to go with and decided I would not attend. Mrs. Chomyn heard about it and undertook to ask one of the assistants in the ortho clinic if she would go with me. I had a great evening all because Mom Chomyn cared. I have never forgotten her concern and have always been grateful.

D. REEDS 7T7

I read with great interest the story on Helen Chomyn. I found my four years in dental school to be the worst experience in my professional career. However, it was those like Mrs. Chomyn who were beacons of light.

Fortunately with Dean Mock's leadership there are many more faculty members and staff who provide that support to our students today. For the last 31 years, before I enter Clinic One to



teach, I think of Mrs. Chomyn and those like her in the hope that I can also set the right tone in the clinic.

LORNE CHAPNICK 7T2

I have nothing but good memories of Helen Chomyn from my time in dental school. She always had a smile on her face and an encouraging word on her tongue. She made me feel that she was on my side, and her presence at the school

made the process much more pleasant. I wish her all the best – she deserves it for being the great person she is and has always been.

HARVEY BRANICKY 7T1

# Ski for Kids

@ALPINE SKI CLUB Collingwood

Friday, February 5, 2010



Cleft Lip/Palate Program



**Entry fee includes** complimentary bus transportation leaving @ 7:00am from the Henry Schein Canada offices at 221 Jacob Keffer Parkway, Concord.

**Entry fee also includes...** Ski Lift Ticket, Continental Breakfast, Beginner/Novice Ski or Snowboard Lesson, Intermediate/Advanced Ski or Snowboard Lesson, Snowshoe Tour, Dual GS Team Fun Race Participation, Buffet Lunch and Raffles with Apr s Ski Party.

presented by

**HENRY SCHEIN** 

.....in association with.....



Faculty of Dentistry  
Alumni Association



University of Toronto

**Register Online: at this web site:**

[www.sickkidsfoundation.com/page/skiforkids](http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com/page/skiforkids)

**You are Invited to a Lunch and Learn Session**

We are in the process of applying for CE credits for a one hour Lunch & Learn

## Register now and Ski for Kids

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My entry fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

I REQUIRE:

Skiing/Snow Boarding Ticket @ \$150.00

Social Ticket @ \$100.00

Child (under 16) Ticket @ \$75.00

Skis/Snowboard Lesson - please sign me up

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on the bus for me at no additional charge.

• **10% Discount for groups of 5 or more. (one payment per group please)**

• **Sign Up for Lessons and Dual GS Fun Race at the Hill**

**I can't attend, but would like to make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cheque enclosed...payable to **Ski for Kids**

Ski for Kids Charitable Business # 10808 4419 RR0001

VISA  MASTERCARD

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

**Register by Mail:** Copy/Mail this Form with your cheque to:

**Henry Schein Canada**

221 Jacob Keffer Parkway, Concord, Ontario L4K 5T9

Attention: Suzy Marzouk

Tel: 905 832 9101 ext 4321 Fax: 905 417 8965

Email: [suzy.marzouk@henryschein.ca](mailto:suzy.marzouk@henryschein.ca)

# Reunions



## Class of 4T9

The reunion of the Class of 4T9 consisted of two oral and maxillo-facial surgeons, two periodontists, one orthodontist and six general practitioners. The Dean's tour of the dental school was much appreciated and also very impressive. Dean Mock was a student of mine many years ago and I just knew he would amount to something special.

JOHN SPECK 4T9



## Class of 7T9 Ortho

The Ortho Class of 7T9 celebrated its 30th reunion at the Canadian Association of Orthodontists meeting in Kelowna last month and naturally we had a picture of us taken for posterity's sake. (See above.) Thirty-one years ago, we had a similar picture taken during one of **Ron Landsberg** 5T4 and **Howard Tile**'s 6T3 famous Sailing Days (many thanks to Howard Tile for letting me have the picture). Unfortunately, **Ed Pong** 7T4 (the fellow second from the right in 1978 shown below) was unable to attend the Kelowna meeting, but we had a drink on his behalf anyway!

Gordie Organ 7T6 (OR 7T9)

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Class of 6T0

The 50th reunion of the Class of 6T0 will take place May 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Faculty Club for cocktails and dinner. Contact **Dr. Marvin Klotz** to offer suggestions, help, etc. at Tel: 416.597.8675 Ext. 5; Fax: 416.597.8774; or email [dr.klotz@heredental.com](mailto:dr.klotz@heredental.com)

### Dental Hygiene Class of 6T5

The 45th reunion of the Dental Hygiene Class of 6T5 is planned for May 2010. We want to connect with as many classmates as possible. Please email **Linda Berry** at [berlinlou@sympatico.ca](mailto:berlinlou@sympatico.ca) or **Jane Rogers** at [rrogers7@cogeco.ca](mailto:rrogers7@cogeco.ca)



The motley crew's names are: from left to right: **Reijo Peltoniemi** 7T6, **Gordie Organ** 7T6, **Gerry Solomon** 7T2, **Paul Milne** 7T5, **Ed Pong** 7T4 and **Paul Witt** 7T4

**Just had a Reunion? Please send your reunion pictures and stories to the Alumni Today editor.**

(Pictures can be 4 x 6 glossy prints or email them as high resolution jpeg files to [barbaramurray@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaramurray@fastmail.fm))



## Celebrating Pedo's 50th Anniversary! Mark your Calendar Now!

The Specialty Program in Pediatric Dentistry turns 50 in 2010 and they are throwing a party! A very special

Graduate Program Pediatric Dentistry Alumni Day will take place on Saturday May 1st, 2010. Held at the Chestnut Residence of the University of Toronto, it will include breakfast, luncheon and a celebration dinner. The Norman Levine Graduate Pediatric Dentistry lectures will be given by **Dr. Martin Trope** and

### Dr. Blayne Thibodeau.

Please join us as we mark our 50th in style and honour some of the individuals who have made it possible. Registration details will be available on the Faculty of Dentistry website in the near future or you can email **Michael J. Sigal**, Head Pediatric Dentistry at [m.sigal@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:m.sigal@dentistry.utoronto.ca) or **Raisyl Wagman**, Continuing Education office at [raisyl.wagman@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:raisyl.wagman@dentistry.utoronto.ca)

## Our Face is Red!

Our apologies to the **Class of 5T9** for showing the wrong photograph on page 6 of the Fall 2009 issue of *Alumni Today*. The photograph we printed was actually the **Class of 6T4** – their 45th reunion at the Rosewater Cafe. Shown here is the correct photo – the Class of 5T9 enjoying their reunion at the Four Seasons Hotel.



*The Class of 6T4 – their 45th reunion at the Rosewater Cafe*

## Alumnus' Daughter Appointed CEO

Just the latest chapter in her service-driven career, **Jennifer Ritter**, daughter of **Marvin Klotz 6T0**, was recently appointed CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Canada. A licensed lawyer in Ontario and Alberta, her previous appointments were Executive Director of the Holocaust Museum of Central Florida, and Director of the Toronto Holocaust Memorial and Educational Centre. Under her guidance the THMEC increased its scope and focus. Congratulations to Jennifer and Marvin!

## CAO Elects New President

**Dr. Gerald Zeit 8T3** is the new president of the Canadian Association of Orthodontists for 2009/2010. Born and raised in Toronto, Gerald graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry in 1983 and after working briefly in general practice returned to the Faculty to study orthodontics. He carried out his research project with **Dr. Aaron Posen**. Gerald has been an Associate in Dentistry and Clinical Instructor in the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Toronto for over 20 years.

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# Recognizing Exceptional Volunteering Efforts

## *In Our Community...*

### EVERGREEN CENTRE STREET YOUTH TORONTO

Just a stone's throw from the Faculty of Dentistry, the Evergreen Centre on Yonge Street serves youth with daunting oral health needs. Many of them have grown up in poverty and may have never been able to afford dental care. Many others are addicted to drugs that seriously erode their teeth. Most of these youth share a history of abuse and neglect, and they all lack financial resources to access regular dental care.

Since 1994, Evergreen has been offering youth a full range of medical and dental care through the generous involvement of volunteer professionals, including dentists and dental hygienists. Many of these are graduates of the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. **Dr. Avrille Bow** 8T2 is one of them.

Originally a Bachelor of Science and Physical Therapy graduate from McGill who worked in physio for a few years, Avrille decided to make the switch to dentistry and applied to the University of Toronto. A graduate of the class of 8T2, she was pregnant with her second child when she entered first year. "It wasn't easy," she says of her decision to continue her studies, "but you do what you have to do!"

Avrille has been involved at the Evergreen Centre for the past 15 years, working there every Monday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. throughout the year, with just the months of July and August off. She always saw herself as volunteering somewhere, but it was an ad in the

ODA Journal for the start up of the Evergreen Centre that piqued her interest. She went along for an interview, saw the facility, and recognized the need.

"The clinic is always busy," she says. "I arrive just before 1:00 p.m. and there is

always a line-up of young people waiting to be seen. The clinic works on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is only one operator so it's impossible to see everyone." And the patients they do see frequently have challenging requirements.

"We do some pretty extreme dentistry here," says Avrille. "When you work in a general practice and see your patients regularly you catch problems at an early stage. That's obviously not the case here at the clinic. Some teeth you can't save because the decay is down to the bone, so it challenges you as far as your dental skills are concerned in a way that you are not challenged in normal practice. Many youth come in with broken or missing front teeth because they have been in a fight, or been beaten, and they can't get a job because of their appearance. Once we've replaced those teeth their self esteem goes back up – they can smile again without feeling embarrassed, it's a really big deal for them. They can go for an interview for a job feeling more sure of themselves. It



makes a huge difference."

For Avrille, looking at these young people gives her a feeling of 'but for the grace of God these could be my children'. "I treat them like I treat my own kids – with respect. There are so many needs in our community and this is a way that I can do something positive to help."

Last spring, Avrille was recognized for her 15 years of volunteering by the Province of Ontario at a ceremony held in Toronto.

For the past six years the Toronto Crown and Bridge Study Club has supported the Evergreen Centre with donations every year. **Carolyn Poon Woo** 8T5, who is on the Executive Board of the club, says that the Evergreen Centre is "dear to my heart because of the fantastic work they continue to do for street youth."

*For more information on the Evergreen Centre visit: [www.ysm.ca](http://www.ysm.ca)*

# In Our Faculty...

## ARBOR AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's Arbor Awards recipients: **Bernard Blackstien** 5T2, **Anne** 5T8 and **Jack Dale** 5T8.

A member of the University's Senior Alumni Association since 2003, Bernie Blackstien is known for his enthusiasm, persistence and success in applying his professional skills to his volunteer endeavours.

Anne Dale studied at U of T's Faculty of Dentistry at a time when there were few women studying in this field and became a role model for women in dentistry. For more than 20 years Anne has played an integral role as the curator of the Faculty's dental museum.

Retired dental professor Jack Dale was a favourite of the many students he taught and mentored. Together with his wife and fellow alumna, Anne, Jack has given countless hours to the preservation and chronicling of Canadian dental history.



Left to right: U of T President David Naylor; Bernard Blackstien and U of T Chancellor David Peterson



Left to right: U of T President David Naylor; Anne Dale, Jack Dale and U of T Chancellor David Peterson

## CE Courses January 2010 – June 2010

January 22, 23, 2010	<b>"Esthetics In Action" Clinical Techniques, Materials and Technology*</b> Dr. Ross Nash
January 29, 30, 2010	<b>Periodontal Surgery for the General Practitioner</b> Dr. Steven Corber, Dr. Gerry Pearson
February 5, 2010	<b>Medical Emergencies</b> – Dr. Dan Haas
February 6, 7, 2010	<b>Nitrous Oxide/Oral Sedation</b> – Dr. Dan Haas, Dr. Michelle Tang
February 12, 13, 2010	<b>Smile Design: The Art of Temporization*</b> – Dr Elliot Mechanic
March 5, 6, 2010	<b>Dental Magnification: Loupes and Microscopes in Clinical Practice</b> Dr. Manor Haas
April 9, 10, 2010	<b>How to Take, Manage and use Communication Quality Photographs in Dentistry.*</b> Dr. James Dunn, Dr. Richard Young
April 30, May 1, 2010	<b>The Total Endodontic Experience: "Mastering Competence, Consistency, and Confidence"</b> Dr. John West
June 11, 12, 2010	<b>Advanced Technology in Aesthetic Surgery *</b> Dr. Robert Miller

\*A Component of the Esthetics Continuum



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1-800-743-3788

# In Memoriam

## Joyce Elizabeth Agate 5T0

Joyce passed away suddenly, in her eighty-first year, on May 30, 2009 at St. Catharines General Hospital. She left behind her devoted husband, **Dr. Thomas E. Agate 5T0**, four children, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Joyce grew up in Vineland, Ontario and joined the Dental Nurse program. Joyce met Tom when she was assigned to assist at his dental chair as he worked on the Dean. Tom asked Joyce to the formal dance, and they were together from then on. Joyce and Tom married a few days after their graduation in 1950, and immediately went to work in the Red Cross dental coach, travelling from town to town in Northern Ontario. They worked in the Port Loring and Parry Sound areas before moving back to Niagara, where Tom opened his Beamsville practice.

Joyce worked with Tom between raising their four children, running the business administration and working after hours for emergencies. Their eldest son, **Dr. John T. Agate 7T8**, joined the practice in 1978 and carries on the practice today.

Joyce worked until she and Tom retired together in the fall of 2007. They founded a friendly, caring community practice, treating several generations of families for 55 years, and never turned away a person in need. Mrs. A., as she was generally known, was a friendly, familiar face about town, and is greatly missed by her family, friends and community.

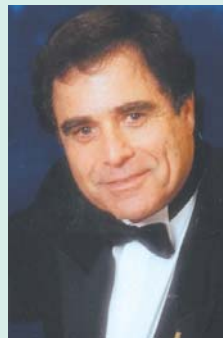
**John T. Agate 7T8**

## Alan Norton Winnick 6T0

Alan Norton Winnick 6T0 (1937-2009) succumbed to cancer on July 13, 2009. To his many professional colleagues, Alan was a periodontist, professor, and dear friend. Devoted to his family above all else, Alan was a passionate advocate of the dental profession, and the continuing importance of clinical education.

Among Alan's many professional awards were the H.K Box Medal in Periodontology, the American Academy of Oral Medicine Prize and the Student Participation Award in Undergraduate Activities in 1960, as well as the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity Certificate of Merit in 1991.

For many years a part-time clinical instructor in the periodontal department of the Dental Faculty at the University of Toronto, Alan also served in both the undergraduate and graduate



### WE MOURN THE LOSS

Joyce Elizabeth Agate 5T0  
Gopal Bariana 7T3  
Robert Brown 6T7  
Mark Leroy 8T1  
Henry Robert Pelton 5T3  
Lech Porczynski  
Lynda Sellars  
Alan Winnick 6T0

*Alumni obituaries should be sent to:*

Editor, *Alumni Today*, University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, 124 Edward Street, Room 527, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1G6, or email: [barbaramurray@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaramurray@fastmail.fm)

departments. His presence influenced and challenged both staff and students.

Notwithstanding his myriad of academic and professional achievements, to his children – Scott, Michael and Jennifer – he was simply ‘dad’ and that was his greatest achievement and pleasure of all. Dad will be missed by all who knew him.

**Jennifer Walsh**

## Henry Robert Pelton 5T3

A 50-year member of the ODA, Henry Pelton passed away at the age of 80 this July. A member of the Sudbury Component Society, Dr. Pelton maintained his general dentistry practice in Sudbury until he retired in 1996.

## Gopal Bariana 7T3

With the same tenacious courage and quiet dignity with which he lived his life, Dr. Gopal Bariana completed his life journey on Sunday, November 8, 2009. He is survived by his wife April and his loving



children, Simran, Sam and Chere. He absolutely lived for them. He was blessed to enjoy their journey into adulthood, knowing he was instrumental in guiding their lives.

Gopal was born in Nangal Isher, Punjab, India. He possessed a sharp wit and intellect, high morals and ethics and a passionate love of nature and animals. Gopal was a true and loyal friend, a steadfast and compassionate parent and a consummate professional. He

possessed a generous and uplifting spirit and he cherished his friendships.

He studied medicine in India, (Bombay: BDS and MDS), Canada (U. of T. 1973, DDS), the USA (Lancaster Cleft Palate Institute in Pennsylvania) and completed a fellowship in clinical studies at Sick Children's Hospital. Then he practised dental surgery in Brampton for 25 years, until a stroke in 1998 forced him to retire.

Now he has found everlasting peace in God's hands.

He will forever be fondly remembered by his family, NIMDAC friends, neighbours, patients, medical co-workers and colleagues.

**Sam Bariana**

## Share Your Memories – Honour a Loved One

Please send your personal tributes and memories of those alumni who are no longer with us, to:

The Editor, Alumni Today  
University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry  
124 Edward Street, Room 527, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1G6  
or email: [barbaramurray@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaramurray@fastmail.fm)

Accompanying photographs should be sent either as high res attached jpegs or original photographs mailed or dropped off at the Faculty. Please notify us if you wish photographs to be returned.

**Final date for tributes for the Spring 2010 issue:  
March 18, 2010.**

*We are saddened to announce the death of the following faculty and staff.*

*They will be missed by their colleagues.*

*Our sincere condolences go out to their family and friends.*

### **Lech Porczynski**

A highly regarded and popular clinical instructor in our Faculty for the past 31 years, we are sad to report that Dr. Lech Porczynski passed away on November 13, 2009.

### **Gerald Robert Brown 6T7**

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Dr. Brown on November 4, 2009. A retired dentist, he continued his work by teaching part-time in the Faculty of Dentistry clinics as an Associate in Dentistry for the Comprehensive Care Program in 4th Year DDS. A helpful, knowledgeable and conscientious teacher, he will be greatly missed by our Faculty.

### **Lynda Sellars**

Faculty and staff were saddened to hear that Lynda Sellars died on October 12th.

Lynda was the Undergraduate Program Officer in Student Services in our Faculty. She worked here for

17 years and was known for her strong work ethic and great sense of humour.

A special memorial reception, hosted by Lynda's daughter Corrine, was held at the Faculty on November 19th.

Speakers included **Dean Mock 6T8, Donna Crossan, Dr. Jim Posluns 9T1, Donna Hennyey, Alison Mahoney,**



**Dr. Marc Yarascavitch OT8, Lori Mockler and Margaret Edghill.** The Faculty's Art Committee will be donating a photographic art piece by former staff member, **Kate Tarini**, to Student Services which will be displayed in the Student Services Reception in memory of Lynda.

Remembrances of Lynda are invited and will be shared with her daughter, Corrine. A permanent student award at the Faculty of Dentistry is being established in Lynda's memory. Alumni who wish, may join with faculty and staff in donating to this award.

Contact Sara Vanos for information at 416-979-4940 Ext. 1, or email [sara.vanos@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:sara.vanos@dentistry.utoronto.ca).

# Research Training Addresses Major Health Challenges

*A New Generation of Health Investigators Pursue an Interdisciplinary Approach*



*Breaking down the barriers and engaging medical and bio-engineering researchers on an equal footing; collaborating among the professions seamlessly; focusing on excellent mentors and establishing both local and international partnerships; pursuing new directions and establishing best practices for running a research training program – the innovative program known as ‘Cell Signals’ set the bar high during its first term and has been renewed in the amount of \$1.95 million over six years by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.*

The University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry continues to enhance its international reputation for research through the CIHR Training Program ‘Health Applications of Cell Signaling in Mucosal Inflammation & Pain’ (Cell Signals for short), directed by **Dr. Richard Ellen**, Professor, Matrix Dynamics Group. Providing financial support and value-added, interdisciplinary research training for doctoral students who want to become leaders in health research, this innovative research training program, funded by the CIHR, Canada’s federal health research agency, is part of its Strategic Training Initiative for Health Research (STIHR). The STIHR concept grew from the broadly recognized need for Canada to build its health research capacity by developing an outstanding

new generation of health investigators who would pursue collaborative, interdisciplinary approaches to solve the major health challenges facing the public.

The genesis of the Cell Signals program began in 2000 when the federal government changed the nature of its funding agency for health research. Legislation was passed that created a new entity – the CIHR – in place of the Medical Research Council (MRC), which had far broader responsibility for research in the health arena. This new entity, besides doing outstanding fundamental research, was given the mandate to foster research that would lead to the improvement of the health of Canadians and contribute to the economy. What became immediately apparent was that Canada did not have

sufficient capacity for excellent research in numerous areas. The University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry made the decision to invest in a strategic research training program: a program which was not restricted to dentistry or graduate dental research, but which created an interface between those in dental research and those in medical and bio-engineering research – a radical departure.

Prior to the year 2000, the MRC, through all its years, had only funded one training program; it was for combined PhD and dental specialty training at the University of Toronto. That program, which ran from 1970 until 1986, was the one that recruited Cell Signals Director Richard Ellen to Canada from the U.S.A. As a former NIH trainee himself, and an investigator whose salary was paid for the first few years by the grant to U of T, there are few who understand more clearly the benefits this type of program offers to students embarking on research careers.

“By the time this decade came around it was very clear that most excellent research is done at the interface between disciplines,” says Ellen. “We wanted to make professional backgrounds invisible so that we could collaborate seamlessly among the professions. Nothing could be more helpful to dental research than to break out of its shell and engage medical and bio-engineering researchers on an equal footing. And, quite frankly, if you are going to go after grants from an agency like the CIHR, you have to be creative



**RICHARD ELLEN**  
Cell Signals Director



**CHRISTOPHER MCCULLOCH**  
Cell Signals Co-Director

and propose something innovative. Dental researchers remaining isolated in their own cocoon would not impress.”

What would impress? Four leading researchers and academic leaders at the Faculty of Dentistry put their heads together. Ellen, who, at that time, was the Associate Dean for Graduate and Postgraduate Studies, **Dr. Paul Santerre**, Associate Dean of Research (now Director of the University’s Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering), the Faculty’s Dean **Barry Sessle**, and **Dr. Christopher McCulloch** 7T6, Director, Matrix Dynamic Group and Professor, Faculty of Dentistry, were all involved in fundamental sciences that studied surfaces – communication interfaces – where cells signal to each other. “We thought we could wrap training around the idea of cell signaling,” says Ellen. “We were thinking strategically. We knew we had to be unique to get a STIHR grant.”

At the preliminary review stage the CIHR was interested, but questioned what signaling actually had to do with health and disease? So it was back to the drawing board to find the link that tied the disciplines together. Each of them was involved in one of the major barriers to health, inflammation: inflammation around teeth, around implants, in joints, in the gut. Inflammation, and especially pain arising from inflammation, causes physical, social and behavioural disabilities for many in our society.

“It’s no good having great ideas for research if you don’t get the financial support to proceed,” says Ellen, “and to



*“The Cell Signals program is especially important for international students, giving them financial support and a broad training network which enabled me to establish valuable collaborations.*

*“I worked under the supervision of two Cell Signals mentors, Dr. Glogauer and Dr. Ellen, analyzing neutrophil migration and activation during inflammation. The Cell Signals program offered a complete training environment and definitely helped me start my career.*

*“After finishing my PhD program, I have started a postdoctoral fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York under the supervision of Dr. John Condeelis. I’m currently studying cancer metastasis, more specifically, how cancer cells degrade and invade surrounding tissues.”*

**MARCO A. O. MAGALHAES, DDS., PH.D.**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Anatomy and Structural Biology  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**GROUP PHOTO FACING PAGE:**

*Cell Signals trainees, mentors, guest experts, invited high school science teachers and students affiliated with the Canadian Biotechnology Education Resource Centre gathered for the Cell Signals two-day workshop on “Ethics in Health Research”, 2008.*

# Cell Signals Research Training Program

*"Today's scientific world has no geographical boundaries. Information moves seamlessly across the globe. Our students and research fellows are most familiar with the places and cultures where they have resided and studied, but must be facile at navigating science and research as it is performed world-wide. The Minnesota Craniofacial Research Training Program (MinnCResT) is excited to collaborate with Cell Signals. The scope of our community is now international. Without the support of NIH and CIHR for our respective programs, the next generation of scientific investigators will never develop, and the frontiers of biomedical research and the benefit to human health will be lost forever."*

**MARK HERZBERG**  
Professor and Director  
University of Minnesota  
Department of Diagnostic and  
Biological Sciences  
MinnCResT Program  
Mucosal and Vaccine Research Center



*"As a physical therapist my graduate work was in pain neuroscience. My research and teaching are both multi-dimensional and interprofessional and don't fit within the boundaries of one specific discipline. Working with Dr. Ellen and the Cell Signals training program fit perfectly with my goals.*

*"During my PhD studies, I continued as*

get the grant you have to project your work in a way that people on the street can understand. Everyone understands inflammation and pain!" It certainly struck the right chord with the CIHR.

Another aspect of the Cell Signals program that resonated was the idea for the program to have international partners. To underscore the international and translational training objectives, Cell Signals highlighted four health areas – oral/periodontal, gastrointestinal, circulatory/respiratory, and chronic pain – and designated a single international partnering institute for each area, with which it would collaborate in a major way.

"We live in a shrinking world," says Ellen. "We cannot work in a vacuum. Global health is one of the key elements that CIHR and our federal government are emphasizing. We want our trainees to be well placed to not only compete in that environment, but to excel and lead."

Four international institutes that are leaders in their field have been chosen to relate to the four main foci for translational research training: the University of Minnesota NIH craniofacial research training program, Minneapolis, USA; Linköping University, Gastro-Intestinal Mucosal

Infection and Immunity Center, Sweden; the National Jewish Health Center, Denver, USA; and the Center for Sensory-Motor Interaction, Ålborg, Denmark.

International collaborations present trainees in the Cell Signals program opportunities to study and conduct some research abroad. This enables them to not only gain international exposure, but also to form relationships that will undoubtedly grow throughout their developing careers.

Cell Signals trainees are supervised in their interdisciplinary studies by dedicated mentors. Mentors are selected not only for their academic standing, but for their ability to translate biomedical discoveries into action, as well as their commitment to the core values and goals of the Cell Signals program. Although the majority of the Cell Signals mentors are based at the University of Toronto and affiliated hospital research institutes, some mentors are also located at UBC, Dalhousie, and Ottawa. Mentors collaborate with many local colleagues, through newly formed training endeavours with the U of T Institute of Medical Science and the U of T Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical

*Chair of the Interfaculty Pain Curriculum at the University of Toronto. Our team has received international recognition for this innovative, interprofessional pain curriculum. In 2006, we were awarded the prestigious Northrop Frye Award of Excellence: for linking research to education. After my PhD I continued my faculty teaching and conducted my research at the Toronto Rehab Lyndhurst Centre, a specialized hospital for people with spinal cord injury.*

*"Last year I successfully competed for my first large grant as a primary investigator.*

*This too, was interprofessional. I am also one of several multi-disciplinary co-investigators with Dr. J. Henry in a \$2.5 million grant entitled 'A National Action Plan to Address the Chronic Pain Chasm in Canada'. It was my participation in Cell Signals that helped me see that this type of collaboration was possible and rewarding as a career."*

**JUDITH HUNTER BSc (PT), MSc, PhD**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Physical Therapy Chair, UTCSP  
Interfaculty Pain Curriculum  
University of Toronto



Engineering (IBBME).

The credentials that the current mentors bring to the table are impressive: eight Canada Research Chairs; a member of the Governing Council of the CIHR; a Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Scholar; three directors of research institutes; the chair of a CIHR advisory board, and the list goes on.

In the first term, when the grant was initially sought, a novel category of mentor was invented – that of mentor-in-training. “Everyone understands that students need mentoring, but investigators who are just starting their career also need someone to bring them along and help them develop mentoring skills,” explains Ellen. In the first term, six new young professors, who had excellent potential but little experience supervising students, became the first group of mentors-in-training. Four of them are now mentors in the second term of the program. Two of them – **Drs. Morris Manolson** and **Michael Glogauer** 9T3 – are in the Faculty of Dentistry. Of the four new mentors-in-training, two are former trainees, **Drs. Loren Matheson** and **Judith Hunter**.

Looking ahead to the next six years, the objectives are to learn from the best practices put in place in the first term. “We have thoughtfully scrutinized our achievements and our shortcomings,” says Ellen. “We have also determined

ways by which we can move forward and continue to be innovative... new approaches with our partners to provide training support and value-added training in translational research – which means moving fundamental research into more pragmatic applications.”

In the peer review of the successful renewal, led by co-principal investigators Richard Ellen and Christopher McCulloch, there was praise for the achievements and career paths of the trainees during the past term. To date, 32 trainees who have completed their PhD have been funded by Cell Signals. Of these, 29 are still in full-time research, most as university-based postdoctoral fellows (PDFs). Two are doing their PDFs in a government institute. For example, a bio-engineering and microbiology graduate from IBBME and Dentistry, **Dr. Peyman Khalichi**, is a PDF at the NIH Institute of Cancer Research. Several trainees have gone on to be PDFs in the corporate sector; four are already staff researchers in industry. Some former trainees are now assistant professors, including Judith Hunter, who is an outstanding example of what CIHR’s Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research is all about. She is now a CIHR and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) funded clinician-scientist, who advances research at the interface of disciplines and who applies her research in pain into professional teaching programs that bring student



*“I was a trainee of the Cell Signals program during the entirety of my doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia. This program has a very strong focus on trainee development and collaboration.*

*“The Cell Signals program accelerated my career development in several ways, providing me with a network of peers and mentors with whom I could discuss research topics and career options. Along with a stipend, Cell Signals supported me with travel funds to present my research at an international conference and also as an invited speaker at the University of Toronto.*

*“I am currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Genentech in San Francisco and am studying pathways that lead to inflammatory disorders with the goal of identifying novel targets for disease treatment.”*

**JENNIFER H. COX PhD**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Genentech, Inc.



CELLSIGNALS TRAINEE PATRICK BLIT  
UN STUDENT DELEGATE

*Cell Signals trainee **Patrick Blit**, PhD student with mentor Paul Santerre, was selected to represent Canada and his native Uruguay in July 2009 at the 47th Graduate Student Program at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.*

## Cell Signals Research Training Program



*“Through the vision and tireless efforts of Richard Ellen we have a premier graduate research funding program in the field of inflammation and oral diseases, allowing us to recruit and fund top tier graduate students. Dr. Ellen has also worked to expose students to key research related issues such as knowledge translation and research ethics through yearly research meetings in which he brings in experts to discuss the hot topics.”*

**MICHAEL GLOGAUER**  
Associate Professor  
Matrix Dynamics Group  
University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry

health practitioners together for improved patient management. Visit the Cell Signals website at [www.cellsignals.ca](http://www.cellsignals.ca) and click on the people finder. As you browse the trainees, past and present, you will see a representation of the population of Canada – a rainbow of backgrounds. “We don’t face some of the difficulties that my colleagues in the US have when we recruit,” says Ellen. “Unlike the very firm affirmative action program in the US, recruitment for diversity happens naturally here. NIH training programs may only fund Americans and permanent residents. In CIHR’s programs, we are encouraged to recruit international trainees and support them. We in Canada know that many international students stay permanently, the best of them adding to our research capacity. Those who leave, go home with positive feelings about the experience they have had in Canada. Through our CIHR program they have been exposed to some of the best researchers in their field, and consequently they then send their own students here, so the international relationships continue to thrive. That type of exchange of knowledge is

important in today’s world.

Keeping a complex program like Cell Signals on track requires a dedicated team. As director of the program, Richard Ellen has ensured that the right people are in the right places. Due to retire in June 2010, Ellen has a strong successor in co-director Christopher McCulloch. The structure includes an Admissions Committee for Training (ACT), composed of senior professors from different disciplines, who advise Ellen on the acceptability of applicants. There is also a Program Advisory Committee for Training (PACT). Ellen stresses the importance of having knowledgeable and experienced lateral thinkers, who are able to analyze the program’s outcomes. PACT members reflect the objective of translational research and are accordingly mostly clinician scientists. Membership is also based on the priorities of four CIHR institutes that are officially assigned to Cell Signals as partners – the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA), the Institute of Infection and Immunity (III), the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH) and the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD). The PACT Chair is **Dr. Cyril Frank**, professor and director of the Alberta Bone and Joint Institute. A clinician scientist, and one of the top orthopaedic surgeons in Canada, he is a guru when it comes to assessing outcomes of complex programs. The PACT international member is **Dr. Gregory Downey**, a respirologist-scientist, who collaborates on grants with Christopher McCulloch and Michael Glogauer. A former Canada Research Chair, Downey was at one time Director of Respirology at the University of Toronto. He is now the Vice-President of the National Jewish Health Center in Denver – a hotbed of translational research in circulatory and respiratory health. One

*“The combined format of lectures and group discussions during the Cell Signals annual workshops gives a unique opportunity to all students to undertake the role of discussion leaders. The diversified range of mentors associated with Cell Signals has prepared me for real-world situations that I will encounter as an independent researcher. My current research, under the supervision of Dr. Barry Sessle, entails studying the role of the sensorimotor area of the cerebral cortex in adaptive mechanisms associated with tooth movement using orthodontic appliances. With my training and clinical experience as an orthodontist and a researcher in neuroscience, I think I am uniquely positioned to serve the role of a clinician scientist.”*

**MANDEEP SOOD**  
Graduate Resident in Dept. of Orthodontics and  
PhD student in Dr. Barry Sessle’s lab.



of the most knowledgeable people on the impact of oral health on cardiovascular disease is PACT member **Dr. Howard Tenenbaum** 7T8, professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, and one of the original brains behind the genesis of Cell Signals. The committee also includes one trainee. Entering the last year and a half of her PhD program,



*“The Cell Signals program excels at connecting researchers from a variety of backgrounds and exposed me to an extensive network of highly successful researchers engaged in various areas of basic and clinical research. These experiences influenced my decision to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship in a different scientific discipline (microbiology). An improved understanding of how harmful bacteria invade host cells to cause disease is necessary for the future development of newer, more effective treatments. I am extremely grateful for the education and mentorship that I received from Dr. McCulloch’s laboratory and the Cell Signals training program, which will undoubtedly help me as I further my scientific training at Harvard Medical School.”*

**HUGH KIM**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Pathology  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital &  
Harvard Medical School

**Jackie Bender** is a student in the Public Health Sciences Program, whose research is in the area of eHealth innovation and pain.

What does Ellen see as the biggest challenges facing research and programs like Cell Signals? Of immediate concern is the retirement of a transformative generation of oral health researchers. At U of T, this loss is further deepened by the premature death in 2007 of valued faculty member **Jaro Sodek**. “We need to nurture the young, bright, and technologically sophisticated generation of investigators to follow. Strength in research is built by concentrating on a short list of strategic priorities. Dental faculties will have to make strategic decisions to concentrate effectively in the new interdisciplinary sciences, and to operate in the new international economy; to look beyond their walls and into the future, and to foresee where their resources will truly achieve excellence. These are tough decisions because excellence in research requires much more than a new building; it takes outstanding, well-prepared and committed investigators to make the new edifice resound with progress.”

Tough decisions indeed, but the legacy that Richard Ellen leaves will undoubtedly be accelerated by Christopher McCulloch as he takes on the role of Director, and in the choice of innovative mentors and partners. Together they offer outstanding opportunities for value-added research training to the new wave of students who will ultimately provide the vision and leadership that will define the direction of health research through the coming decades. They may also determine dentistry’s role in a research community that is rapidly going global.

**Visit the Cell Signals website at:**  
[www.cellsignals.ca](http://www.cellsignals.ca)



*“Completing a PhD thesis can be a lonesome journey. Connecting with a community of peers and mentors early on who share your research interests can help to break the sense of isolation and introduce you to people and resources that you may not otherwise be exposed to.”*

*“My doctoral research is investigating the role of online support networks as a source of supportive care, e.g. pain and symptom management, for breast cancer survivors.”*

*“The multidisciplinary nature of the Cell Signals program has had a significant impact on my goals for the future. It has enhanced my appreciation of the value and challenges of multidisciplinary research and served to reinforce my interest in collaborating with individuals from different disciplines on health issues that would benefit from a diverse set of perspectives. Following completion of my PhD, I plan to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at a strong research institution with a multidisciplinary team working on innovative ways to solve complex health problems.”*

**JACKIE BENDER** MSC  
PhD Candidate  
Dalla Lana School of Public Health  
University of Toronto  
Centre for Global eHealth Innovation  
University Health Network

# New Frontiers in the Age of 3D Imaging

At the Dean's Breakfast on November 20th, **Dr. Ernest Lam**, recently appointed Head of the Discipline of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, spoke about a new clinical study being developed using the Faculty's conebeam CT scanner to take a closer look at salivary glands.

The problem with 2D radiography, Dr. Lam explained, is that there is a lot of overlapping of anatomical structures over some very delicate structures. "Taking a 3D image will allow us to subtract those anatomical structures. We are hoping that we will then be able to see some of the abnormal structure with more clarity." The study will compare 2D and 3D imaging in the same patients over the next two years.

One area of concern is that these newer 3D techniques deliver a higher radiation dose. "This is becoming a topic of increasing concern for international radiation protection agencies," said Dr. Lam. "Over the last 5-10 years, people who study radiation dose and risk of disease development from radiation, have come to the conclusion that radiation is far more damaging to tissues than previously thought. In addition, certain tissues that in the past were not considered to be particularly sensitive to radiation are now proving that is not the case."

This raises many questions for the dental profession. Dentists act as their own radiologists and are primarily responsible for not only designing an imaging study but interpreting the study. In addition to the higher dose delivered by these new 3D techniques, the anatomy contained in them is far more complex. Oral Radiologists, as a group, feel that this type of equipment needs additional training beyond what the average dental student receives. In Ontario there has been much discussion about this, and owning/operating the conebeam is limited to radiologists. In the rest of Canada this is not the case.

The salivary gland study currently being done using the conebeam is a PhD project of one of the Faculty's graduate PhD students, **Fatima Jadu**. In October 2009, another undergrad student, **Jeff Chadwick**, won the Charles R. Morris Student Research Award from the American Oral Radiology Academy for a project he worked on using the data from the conebeam.

"We are really getting a lot of added value from this piece of equipment," says Dr. Lam. "The generosity of the donation made by the estate of **Dr. and Mrs. H. Guy Poyton** to cover the ongoing cost of operating the conebeam is helping to provide a necessary diagnostic tool as well as ensuring that our graduate students have access to the critical resources they need for their areas of research."

**The Faculty accepts referral for radiologic services, including cone beam CT imaging, from dentists in the community. Referral forms can be obtained by contacting [oral.radiology@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:oral.radiology@dentistry.utoronto.ca) or by calling 416-979-4932 Ext. 4377.**



*Dr. Ernest Lam, Dr. Michael Pharoah, family friend Margaret Cameron and Dean David Mock at the unveiling of a plaque honouring the many gifts of Dr. and Mrs. Guy Poyton. The plaque will hang in the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Clinic.*

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# AWARDS OF DISTINCTION *Gala*

**MARCH 27, 2010**

Our Goal for This Year's Gala:  
**HELPING PATIENTS ACCESS CARE**

Even with reduced fees at the Faculty's clinics, financial hardship causes many of our patients to decline even basic dental care. We find ways to help, but with your support, we can keep our community smiling.

*We are proud to pay tribute to this year's honourees:*

**Aldo Boccia**

**Howard Tenenbaum**

**Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society**

Our 2010 Awards of Distinction Gala will take place at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre. Don't miss being part of an exciting and memorable evening.

- ◆ cocktails and silent auction
- ◆ dinner and dancing
- ◆ live entertainment by George St. Kitts' Midnite Starr Band
- ◆ presentation of the Awards of Distinction

Buy tickets online at [www.utoronto.ca/dentistry/gala](http://www.utoronto.ca/dentistry/gala)  
or see the enclosed invitation.

For more information call 416-979-4940 Ext. 1.

*Thank you to our major  
sponsors to date for 2010:*



## Dr. Aldo Boccia

A graduate of the Class of 714, Dr. Aldo Boccia started giving back the following semester, joining Dr. George Zarb in the Prosthodontic Department teaching one-and-a-half days each week. After three years that time commitment had grown to two-and-a-half days, at which time he actively participated in the second year and third year programs for fifteen years.

In 1979 he took over Head of Dentistry at St. Joseph Health Centre, a teaching hospital, a position he held until 1994. He is still on active staff at St. Joe's treating challenged patients. Since 1974 he has had a successful clinical general practice with an emphasis on geriatrics. He has been the staff dentist for the Franciscan Friars since 1976 and for the Sisters of St. Joseph since 1979.

Dr. Boccia has participated at a senior level of leadership in a volunteer position in many organizations, including the Dentistry Canada Fund, Past Chair and Exhibit Chair of Winter Clinic at the Toronto Academy of Dentistry, and the Editorial Board of Oral Health. He has held Chair positions in his church and community groups including President of Amesbury Sports Club and Rotary International (a Paul Harris recipient and Rotarian of the year 1994). A past Director of the University of Toronto's Dental Alumni Association, he has also taken a leading role in organizing class reunions throughout the years.

As a member of the Bloorview MacMillan Centre, now Bloorview Kids Rehab, and on its Foundation Board of Directors, he helped raise over \$5,000,000 annually. In total Dr. Boccia has been involved in raising significant funding for over 17 organizations including Down Syndrome Society of Toronto, the Canadian Cancer Society, Dentistry Canada Fund and the Faculty of Dentistry.

The many positions he has held include President of the West Toronto Dental Association (1982-1983), the Toronto Academy of Dentistry (1989-1990) and the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (1999-2000) – only the second Canadian to have ever held that position. He currently holds the Presidency of the American College of Dentists (Ontario Section).

His awards include a 2007 Arbor Award from the University of Toronto and an Award of Distinction from the Ontario Dental Association. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the International College of Dentists, the Academy of General Dentistry and the American College of Dentists.

Well-deserving of this, his latest honour, Dr. Boccia's contribution of time, effort and skill, which he has given to both his profession and his community, is an outstanding example to all.



*His exemplary leadership, which has earned him several awards, his impressive list of volunteer activities, and the funding he has been instrumental in raising for so many organizations make him a deserving recipient of the Award of Distinction.*

## Dr. Howard Tenenbaum

Dr. Howard Tenenbaum has been at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry on professorial staff since 1984. From 1997-2005 he was Head of the Discipline of Periodontology at the Faculty, and from 2001-2007 Associate Dean, Diagnostic and Biological Sciences. Sought after by dental manufacturing companies for his expertise and advice, he is an excellent teacher and clinician, able to immediately grasp the clinical implications of scientific papers.

A graduate of the Class of 718, Dr. Tenenbaum went on to complete his specialty in Periodontology as well as a PhD in bone cell biology at the Faculty. This was followed by a 2-year post-doctoral Medical Research Council fellowship in Bethesda at the National Institutes of Health. In addition to his degrees, Dr. Tenenbaum has a Fellowship from the Royal College of Dentists of Canada, as well as the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry International.

'Passionate' is an adjective frequently mentioned by colleagues and friends – passionate about his work, his family and his support for Israel. That passion empowers his teaching and mentoring.

"It's a great source of pride when students come back years later to thank you for what you did. That's what keeps you doing what you do," he says. His own approach to research is a mixture of fascination and intrigue, which leads him into many different areas and collaborations.

In addition to his academic and research duties at the Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Tenenbaum also conducts a graduate clinic rotation for Periodontics Residents and graduate students at Mount Sinai Hospital. One day a week is spent in his private practice.

Passionate; disciplined; a true team player as evidenced by his many collaborations with colleagues; outstanding teacher and mentor; and lest we forget, a sense of humour that anyone who knows him can attest to, his leadership style is to play to people's strengths – to be the coach of a team rather than simply the head. Looking at the careers of many who have had the privilege of being mentored by Dr. Tenenbaum, it is obvious that this approach has paid off, benefitting both them and the profession.

The national and international appointments he holds; the honours he has received for both research and teaching; the indelible mark he has made on this Faculty and on his profession, all attest to his worthiness as a recipient of this Award of Distinction.



*Widely recognized as an expert in his field of research, Howard is one of those individuals who has brought international acclaim to the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. The indelible mark he has made on this Faculty and on his profession, and his ability to bridge basic science and clinical practice all attest to his worthiness as a recipient of this Award of Distinction.*

## Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society

In the Hebrew it's called Tikkun Olam – 'repair the world' – deliberately pursuing a course of action that benefits those less fortunate. A textbook definition of what the Toronto Chapter of Alpha Omega seeks to do. As an organization, Alpha Omega actively encourages members to give back to the community, and the Toronto Chapter has responded to that enthusiastically. Each year funds collected from the various events held for members are allocated to organizations who are meeting our community's greatest needs. Many members provide free dental services to patients referred by Jewish Family and Child Services. At the Faculty of Dentistry, their commitment to the students who are just starting their careers is demonstrated by the scores of Alpha Omegas, including our own **Dean David Mock**, who are teaching either full- or part-time. And on a wider scale, they have benefitted the international community, through the two dental schools that they, along with other Alpha Omega chapters, have built in Israel.

One measure of the stature of the Toronto Chapter of Alpha Omega is the five international presidents – all alumni of the Faculty – that have come from their ranks: **Drs. Harry Jolley** 3T0, **John Sherman** 2T4, **Murray Cornish** 3T9, **Gordon Perlmutter** 5T0 and **Barry Chapnick** 7T0.

The oldest international dental organization, Alpha Omega International celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2007. Primarily an educational and philanthropic organization, its 6,000 active members worldwide raised almost \$250,000 last year to help 'repair the world'.

The Faculty has been one of the beneficiaries of their philanthropy. Since 1950 the Alpha Omega Fraternity Prize has been awarded to the student with the highest overall achievement during their four years of dental school. In 1969 the Toronto Alpha Omega Memorial Bursary was put in place for students in their third year, and in 1972 the Murray Cornish Award in Oral Pathology was established. Alpha Omega also provides a vital resource to new students at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry through their mentorship program. A true friend of the Faculty, over the years they have supported many endeavours, including a significant donation in 1985 toward the Faculty's campaign to bring 25-year old lecture rooms up to the standard of the newly constructed wing.

With close ties to the Jewish community, Alpha Omega welcomes members from all backgrounds. It is the strong values of giving back to the community, of doing 'good deeds' and honouring those who have achieved distinction that is the paramount focus. A fitting tribute then that this year, as Alpha Omega is honoured, the two individuals who have also been selected for this honour are both members of the Toronto Chapter.



*The oldest international dental organization, Alpha Omega is primarily an educational and philanthropic organization. Last year its 6,000 active members worldwide raised almost \$250,000 to help 'repair the world'.*



## Dr. John McComb Receives CDA Award

Each year the Canadian Dental Association recognizes individuals for outstanding service to the Association and for their contribution to the dental



Dr. McComb is shown receiving the award from CDA president Dr. Deborah Stymiest.

Photo Credit: tecklesphoto.com

profession. This year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award was Dr. John McComb, Head of Oral Pathology/Oral Medicine at the Faculty of Dentistry. Dr. McComb has served as President of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada and as the RCDS's Chief Examiner in Oral Pathology. He is currently serving his second term as President of the Ontario Society of Oral Pathologists.

The Toronto Academy of Dentistry honoured several alumni and faculty at their Awards Night, November 12th.

Honourary Life Membership went to faculty member Dr. Barry Sessle. Other faculty and alumni received 50 year pins and good friend of the Faculty, Mr. Arthur Zwingenberger, received the Academy Service Award.

Watch out for photo coverage of this event in the next issue of *Alumni Today*.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Dr. Carol Forster** OT6, a second year MSc/Perio graduate student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, who won first place in the basic science division for the Canadian Association for Dental Research (CADR) Student Research competition.

**Dr. Roland Leung**, a third year PhD/Perio graduate student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, who was awarded the Bisby Fellowship by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).



## Stepping Up Award

The University of Toronto recognized outstanding administrative staff at the President's house on September 17th. "Staff are the backbone of the University," said President David Naylor. "They facilitate the learning and growth of our students and they create the working environment that contributes hugely to the success of our faculty."

Faculty of Dentistry administrative staff who received the award this year for organizing dentistry's first Wellness Fair are shown above with Dean David Mock: from left to right: **Leah Raz; Caroline Seeto; Jennifer Vatta; Lily Young; Margaret Provenza; Monique Toulch; Dorothy Tsang.** (Not shown: **Darlene Chambers; Dorcas Johnson; Alison Mahoney**)

# Annual Endodontic Alumni Day and Graduation Banquet

'upgraded' to an

# ALUMNI WEEKEND



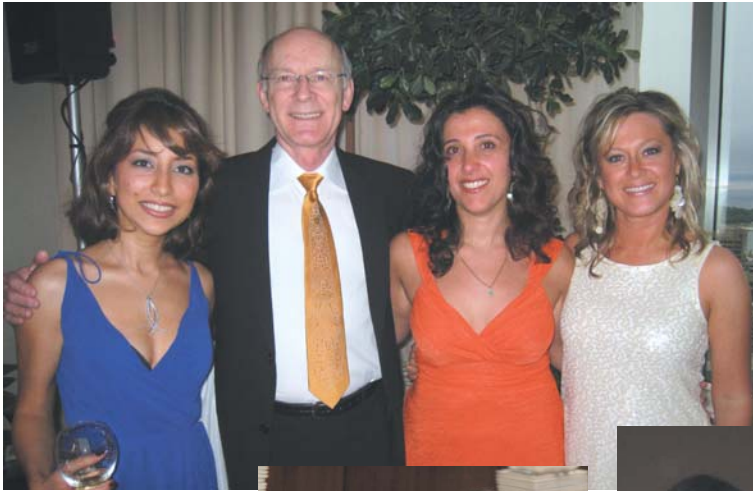
Above: Group photo of attendees at the 15th Annual Alumni Day, with the two guest speakers and three graduating students seated at the centre, accompanied by Dr. Bettina Basrani, the Program Co-Director

After 14 years of celebrating the annual Alumni Day and Graduation Banquet each June since 1995, the U of T Endodontic Alumni & Friends 'upgraded' their annual celebration to an Alumni Weekend on June 19-20, 2009. Close to 50 students, alumni, staff and guests, gathered to listen to two cutting edge scientific presentations by **Professors Paula Ng** and **Kishor Gulabivala** of the Eastman Institute, University College of London. The graduating class – **Drs. Tina Kell, Mana Mirfendereski** and **Carmina Barone** (also known as the three 'A's': TinaA, ManA, CarminA), presented their research. Friday night the Endodontic Alumni & Friends crowd was hosted by **Profs. Thuan Dao** and **Shimon Friedman** for a BBQ party at their home. With lots of food and



drink, and with the jovial spirit of the 50 guests, the party lasted late into the night. On Saturday evening, 65 alumni, teaching staff, clinic support staff and representatives from the Faculty, regional and national endodontic associations and the industry, gathered in the elegant St. Andrew's Club for a festive banquet celebrating the

graduating class, all skillfully orchestrated by the Discipline Secretary **Ms. Annemarie Polis**. Attendees were greeted by **Dean Mock**, Program Director Prof. Friedman, and representatives of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics (**Dr. Ian Watson**) and the Ontario Society of Endodontists (**Dr. Kevin Calzonetti**).



Above (left to right): The three graduating students, Drs. Mana Mirfendereski, Carmina Barone and Tina Kell with Prof. Shimon Friedman, the Program Director

Above (left to right): Alumni Drs. Natanya Padachey from Victoria, BC, and Gaelle Villette from Paris, France, are joined by Program Co-director Dr. Bettina Basrani

Right: The secret to having happy students – feed them well! First year student Dr. Valerie Tom-Kun zeroing in on her lunch



Above: The two Alumni Day guest speakers, Prof. Ng (left) and Gulabivala (right) with Prof. Emeritus Calvin Torneck at the Graduation Banquet



Left: Second year student Amir Azarphazoo working hard to supply the demand



Above: Prof. Friedman enjoys the (only) benefit of being a Program Director (and BBQ master to the masses)

The highlight of the event was the roast of the graduating class by their second-year colleagues, who revealed all secrets about their seniors. The three A's rebuttal consisted of insightful and at times emotional addresses illustrating their experiences in the program. This wonderful evening was also a great way to end the academic year.



Left: Dr. Terence Mah of Seattle, Washington, President of the U of T Endodontic Alumni & Friends, with Ms. Annemarie Polis, Discipline Secretary

# In the News



## U of T and UBC Faculty of Dentistry Deans Present Educational Session

The Canadian Dental Authority Federation, the national entity of regulatory bodies for dentistry, had an educational session as part of its annual meeting. **Deans David Mock** (U of T) and **Chuck Shuler**, (UBC) were asked to present a full day session on guideline development, on determining which resources are sound and valid, and how we determine what are the standards in the modalities of dentistry that we teach. The objective was to try and assist regulators to come up with a national approach as to what resources could be provided to dentists at the chairside.

## alumni today

**NEXT ISSUE: SPRING 2010**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 18**

Send your reunion, class news, comments, questions, letters/email, personal or professional news, or other input, along with photographs, to:

Editor, Alumni Today, University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, 124 Edward St., Toronto, Ontario M5G 1G6, or email [barbaramurray@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaramurray@fastmail.fm) no later than Thursday, March 18.

*Submissions may be edited due to space limitations.*

## Professor Daniel Haas in Sao Paulo

Professor and Associate Dean **Daniel Haas** 7T9 was invited to provide a full-day presentation on local anaesthesia and sedation at the São Leopoldo Mandic Dental Conference, in Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, on October 23rd. This photograph shows him at the end of his presentation accepting gifts and thanking the organizers for inviting him.



## Dr. Barry Sessle receives Pfizer Grant

**Dr. Barry Sessle** has received a grant from Pfizer Canada to determine if a novel anti-convulsant drug that has been shown effective in relieving some pain conditions elsewhere in the body has an analgesic effect on behaviour related to pain in the face and mouth, and if any such analgesic effect may be due to the drug depressing brainstem mechanisms underlying orofacial pain. Such information will be fundamental in identifying the potential clinical utility of the drug in pain conditions affecting the face and mouth, in elucidating underlying mechanisms that may contribute to its analgesic actions, and in providing new targets in the brainstem that may be useful for the development of further novel analgesic drugs.

## Dean Mock Appointed Member of Education Opioid Working Group

In response to the concerns with opioids, four working groups have been created to focus in on, and develop public policy recommendations, to address the issues. **Dean David Mock** was invited by **Dr. Stephen Wetmore**, Chair of the Education Opioid Working Group, and **Dr. Rocco Gerace**, Registrar of the CPSO, to become a member.

# Welcoming New Faculty Members

*The high regard in which the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry is held enables us to attract the best and brightest from around the world.*

*In this issue we are pleased to introduce **Dr. Anuradha Prakki**, Assistant Professor in the Restorative Department of Clinical Dentistry.*

Born and raised in Sao Jose dos Campos, São Paulo, Brazil, Dr. Anuradha Prakki was always encouraged to excel in academic activities. Having grown up in a family which valued intellectual pursuit (her father is a professor of Atmospheric Sciences and a leading Climatologist in Brazil), Dr. Prakki attended the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), São Paulo, one of the foremost Universities in Brazil for her dental degree course.

"After a few years of clinical experience, I joined the University of São Paulo, Bauru Dental School, for my Masters and Doctoral degrees," said Dr. Prakki. "As part of my PhD research program I went to the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill, USA."

It was while she was finishing her Doctoral Thesis work that she saw a call for applications on the internet for a position in Toronto at the Faculty of Dentistry. "I didn't hesitate," she says. "I applied immediately."

Now, as Assistant Professor at the Restorative Department of Clinical Dentistry, here at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Prakki feels that teaching itself, especially at the undergrad level is one of the most rewarding aspects of her job. "It keeps the teacher always in touch with the subject," she explains. "Interacting with young minds allows the teacher to develop logical thinking, and perfects his or her concepts."

Dr. Prakki's own research includes the study of experimental resin composites such as propoxylated Bis-GMA (CH3Bis-GMA) and fluorinated Bis-GMA (CF3Bis-GMA) used in dental materials, with an emphasis on wear characteristics and its clinical implications. Her other research interests include the use of experimental adhesive systems (glutaraldehyde based adhesives) and techniques in dentin bonding studies, and incorporation of additives (propionaldehyde and diketone) to improve polymer/composite mechanical properties.



*"Teaching, especially at the undergrad level, is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job... Interacting with young minds allows the teacher to develop logical thinking, and perfects his or her concepts."*

**DR. ANURADHA PRAKKI**

## NEW ACADEMIC STAFF

Three new academic staff joined the Faculty of Dentistry this summer:

**DR. ANIL KISHEN**, who comes to us from the Faculty of Dentistry at the National University of Singapore, joined our Endodontics Discipline as an Associate Professor;

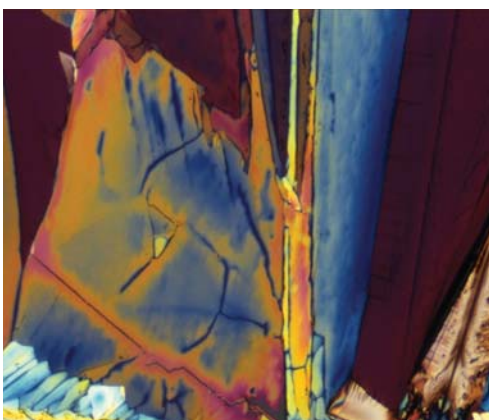
**DR. HASHIM NAINAR**, who has joined our Pediatric Dentistry Discipline as an Associate Professor comes to us from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta;

**DR. HASAN ALKUMRU**, from the Faculty of Dentistry, Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, has joined our Prosthodontic Discipline as an Associate Professor.

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# Mark Your Calendar Now!

## Don't Miss These Special Events...



### Research Day, Tuesday, February 23, 2010

All the dental specialties will showcase their unique areas of research, much of which is having a direct impact in clinical applications. Starting at noon in Room 207 at the Faculty, we will have a keynote speaker followed by lunch and poster presentations in the auditorium. Second keynote speaker, along with an undergrad and grad student, will present in the afternoon followed by the awards presentation. We'll wrap up with wine and cheese.

There is no charge for alumni, but please register by contacting Leah Raz in the Dental Research Institute at [l.raz@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:l.raz@dentistry.utoronto.ca) (Keynote speakers: **Dr. Susan Kinder Haake** and **Dr. Richard Ellen.**)

Artwork by Bruno Rakiewicz



### Dentantics 'Driller' March 11-12, 2010

This year's *Dentantics* is returning to the legendary Hart House Theatre! You won't want to miss a great night of singing, dancing and acting as the undergraduate students of the Faculty of Dentistry perform to the music of the legendary Michael Jackson. All proceeds are benefitting Oral Health Total Health. Tickets go on sale in February and can be purchased online at [www.uofttix.ca](http://www.uofttix.ca). Tickets will also be sold in the lobby of the Faculty.



### 9th Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament Friday, September 17th, 2010

Come out and enjoy a great day with friends at the Copper Creek Golf Club. There's always lots of fun, food, cocktails, prizes and golf! We'll have more information regarding cost and sign-up in the next issue of *Alumni Today*.

# Alumni Demonstrate Professional Responsibility

When staff was planning for this year's CDE program we were concerned about the economic environment as well as other issues that might cause interest in CDE programs to be very weak. I am pleased to report to you that that has not been the case. We are still enjoying good attendance by dentists and generous support from our sponsors. In my opinion this is a reflection of how our profession, and those who support it, considers the importance of continuing dental education. Congratulations to all alumni, whether you attended one of our programs or programs offered by other providers, for this demonstration of professional responsibility.

## Commitment to Quality Programs

The CDE Department is committed to providing quality programs in areas of dentistry that alumni tell us are important to them. One of those areas is implant dentistry. In response to this demand the department has three new implant courses confirmed. Full details will be presented in the next CDE news and on our web site but I would like to briefly highlight them for you.

## A Realistic Training Experience

The first will be a two day hands-on course focused on the surgical aspect of implant placement including bone grafting and the use of osteotomes. Human cadavers will be used to enrich the hands-on learning with a more realistic training experience. This course was offered two years ago and is back by popular demand.

The second implant program will be presented by **Drs. George Sandor** and **Robert Carmichael**. It will be a one week program integrating both the surgical and prosthodontic aspects of implant dentistry. Students will not only have laboratory hands-on experience but also observe several demonstration cases on actual patients.

The third program will be headed up by **Drs. Asbjorn Jokstad** and **Jim Lai**.

This program will take place on various weekends over the course of the 09/10 academic year. Each dentist attending will have the opportunity to treat an implant patient from start to finish under the one-on-one guidance of a member of our expert staff in this area. We believe there will be no other program that will offer dentists, new to implant treatment, the opportunity for quality implant education and hands-on experience in both the surgical and prosthodontic phases without the filter of a commercial bias.

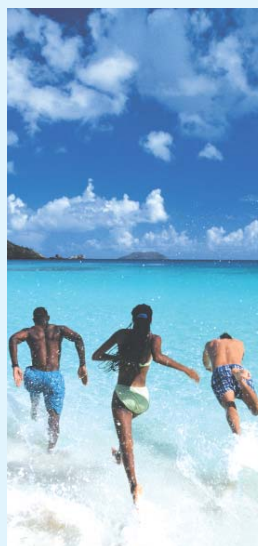


DR. ROBERT CARROLL  
Assistant Dean  
Continuing Dental  
Education & Professional  
Relations

## BE PART OF THE PROCESS

*As part of the commitment mentioned above to respond to what our alumni want in our CDE programs I am announcing the formation of a CDE Advisory Committee. This committee will meet twice a year with the CDE staff to discuss program and speaker options. Please consider volunteering for this committee. Our goal is to have a committee that represents a broad cross section of our demographic profile and practice environments.*

*Interested alumni can contact Dr. Robert Carroll at 416-979-4942 or [Robert.Carroll@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:Robert.Carroll@dentistry.utoronto.ca).*



Check out the brochure on our latest "Seminar By The Sea" included with this issue of *Alumni Today*. Taking place at the beautiful Emerald Palms Resort on South Andros island in the Bahamas, this is one educational experience you just won't want to miss!

A perfect time to kick start the summer, this

five day get-away begins April 14, 2010. Check out the brochure and then call Barry Chapnick at 416-979-4902. Ext. 6087.

# alumni today

The University of Toronto  
Faculty of Dentistry and Dental  
Alumni Association are  
proud to announce the 2010

AWARDS  
OF  
*Distinction  
Gala* Celebration  
of Excellence

Honouring

- Dr. Aldo Boccia
- Dr. Howard Tenenbaum
- Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society

Saturday, March 27, 2010  
Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre

**Raising funds to help patients access care**

Even with reduced fees, financial hardship causes many of our patients to decline even basic dental care. We find ways to help, but we need to do more.

**Seating is limited! RSVP by March 8, 2010.**

**\$250.00/person. Hotel discount available**

Buy tickets online at [www.utoronto.ca/dentistry/gala](http://www.utoronto.ca/dentistry/gala)

**For more information call: 416-979-4940, Ext: 1**



The University of Toronto  
Faculty of Dentistry  
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