

STONY BROOK DENTISTRY TODAY



Commencement Caps Student Achievements

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On the front cover:

Stony Brook's new doctors of dental surgery show their enthusiasm at the 2002 commencement ceremony.

Photo by Medical Photography



Dean Barry Rifkin

From the Dean

Alumni form the firm foundation for any great educational institution, and it is with much pride that this issue of *Stony Brook Dentistry Today* features news about the many stellar alumni who make up the foundation of our school. Some are in the midst of building successful dental practices, while others are raising families—and even raising Cain (read about how one alumnus, Dr. Dan Greenstein, does just that, combining a successful dental practice with a dual career as a comedian, see page 15).

Through the years, our alumni have taken distinct paths in their personal and professional lives. Our early graduates have reached maturity, but we have matured along with them. This synchronous maturity was evident at a celebration coinciding with Commencement 2002 that paid homage to a special anniversary, silver to be precise, of a special class—the class of 1977 (see page 2).

The 24 members of the class of '77 were pioneering students selected from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants. These students graciously assisted the faculty and staff in resolving problems in the school's clinical care activities and early

curriculum. It was heartwarming to see them reminisce and to hear longtime Stony Brook supporter, State Senator Kenneth LaValle, deliver the commencement address (page 18).

2002 was significant in another way: The School of Dental Medicine hosted members of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) at a wine-tasting reception and dinner. The ADEA members were in town to learn about our programs and facilities (see page 2). From the feedback I've heard, we have earned the respect of an influential cadre of dental educators.

The ADEA conference highlighted Stony Brook's accomplishments in many educational areas, but there have also been noteworthy research achievements. In this issue we detail a study by Associate Professor of Oral Biology and Pathology Jonathan Garlick, which sheds light on how oral cancer develops (page 7). In other research news, Drs. Christopher Cutler and Ravi Jotwani are learning how dendritic cells interact with oral bacteria and viruses to activate an immune response, and are exploring how gingival dendritic cells help the HIV virus infiltrate deeper tissues (page 5). On the clinical research side, Drs. Richard Oringer and Vincent Iacono are looking at ways to increase alveolar bone in patients seeking dental implant therapy (page 10).

Groundbreaking research is one reason our School is so outstanding. Our distinguished alumni and their continuing contributions in the field of dentistry is another. Both reflect on the School and its commitment to excellence, past and present. And with the arrival of the best students through our doors each year, I know we will continue to meet—and exceed—the consistently high standards we set for ourselves, now and in the future.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Stony Brook Dentistry Today*. Know that as an alumnus of Stony Brook, you are part of a select group of talented professionals who are the best in their fields. You are the movers and shakers of dental science, and that is something of which all of you can be very proud. ■

ADEA Conference Highlights School's Accomplishments

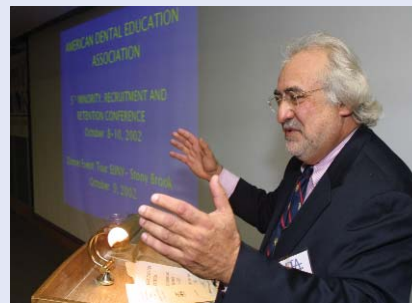
The School of Dental Medicine recently hosted representatives from the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) at a wine-tasting reception and dinner. The reps were in town to attend a conference on Minority Recruitment and Retention at the Wyndham Wind Watch Hotel in Hauppauge, New York, and to learn about the strengths of Stony Brook's dental program and facility.



ADEA reps learn about Stony Brook's dental program.

Dean Barry Rifkin presented an overview of the School's accomplishments in patient care, research, and community service to approximately 100 administrators from U.S. dental schools. Dr. Jonathan Garlick, Associate Professor of Oral Biology and Pathology, spoke about Stony Brook's program to encourage diversity in the dental profession through internships for minority

undergraduate students. Following Dr. Garlick, Dr. Erin Riley, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, reviewed the high quality of Stony Brook's dental students and the diversity of the school's student body. After the formal presen-



Dean Barry Rifkin

tations, faculty members and student volunteers conducted a tour of the patient care center and the school's research facilities.

Helping to make the conference a success were Dr. Kathy Yunger, Assistant Dean for Development; the Jazz Studies section of the Department of Music; and the generous support of Brasseler USA, Dental-EZ, DenX America, Inc., and the Long Island Wine Council.

25 Years of Success

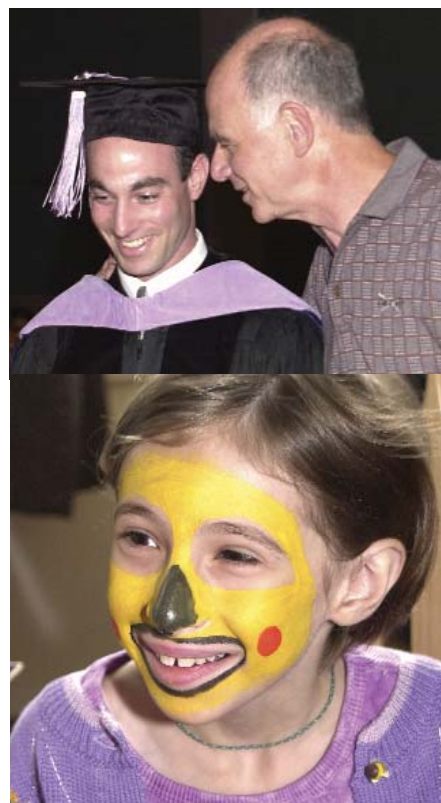
The Class of 1977 celebrated its 25th anniversary reunion last May. In an activities-filled weekend beginning with the convocation ceremony for the class of 2002, a moving moment came during the presentation of post-doctoral certificates: Dr. Paul Handsman ('77) presented a certificate in Orthodontics to his son Brett Handsman ('02), designating the school's first legacy graduation.

Following graduation, members of the class of '77 ventured to The University Club on the Stony Brook campus for dinner. Drs. Bruce Gottlieb, Robert Peskin, Joan Phelan, Susan Schiffman, and Kathy Stanislaw, members of the first graduating class, were joined by some of their original faculty and staff, including Sharon VonBock and Elizabeth Cruthfield, as well as Drs. Stanley Alexander, Paul Baer, Fred Ferguson, Loren Golub, Burton Pollack, and Robert Renner.

Dean Barry Rifkin and the graduation marshals also attended the fun-filled evening.

Later that weekend, a deluge moved the School's outdoor celebration indoors at the Childs Mansion in Old Field, New York, where a blazing fire and delicious barbecue were waiting. While it poured outside, alumni, faculty, students, and staff reminisced and compared notes on raising families and building dental practices. The children, under the supervision of staff from the Stony Brook Child Care Services, Inc., had the run of the upstairs rooms, where games, face painting, and other activities kept them entertained and their parents free to socialize.

Dr. Kathy Yunger, Assistant Dean for Institutional Advancement and organizer of the 25th class reunion, said she was encouraged by the success of the school's first such event. ■



Top: Dr. Paul Handsman with his son Brett
Bottom: Putting on a fun face at the reunion



Drs. Charles and Maria Ryan

Ryan Endowed Scholarship Created

Drs. Charles Ryan ('90, PhD) and **Maria Ryan** ('89 DDS, '98 PhD) have endowed a new scholarship to promote and foster the development of future dental academicians. The Ryans appreciate the importance of research and have been dedicated to supporting student involvement in such activities for many years.

"We are experiencing a global shortage of well-qualified dental educators that is almost at a crisis level," said Maria. "Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine is an ideal institution to prepare future dental faculty. There is an extensive amount of research taking place and numerous clinical and didactic innovations resulting in well-trained and well-prepared graduates."

Effective Spring 2003, a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a third-year student with excellent scholarship in the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology who has conducted substantive research in any department of the School of Dental Medicine and expresses an interest in dental academia. The recipient will be known as the Ryan Scholar and faculty is encouraged to serve as mentors.

"Maria and I are delighted and

excited to play a role in perpetuating excellent dental faculty. We are happy we are doing it at Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine," said Charles.

This endowed scholarship ensures that the annual award of \$1,000 will always be available for outstanding students. While there are several named scholarships at the school, only two of them, the **Eric Holst Memorial Scholarship** and the **Dr. Blasco C. Gomes Scholarship**, have endowments for future support. The value of endowed funds provides both the potential recipients and the School with the knowledge and security that the financial award will continue to support academic excellence.

The Ryans are actively involved with the dental school and with the University. In February they opened their home for an alumni gathering. Among the 50 guests who mingled with alumni were **Dr. and Mrs. Norman Edelman**, Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice President of the Health Sciences Center, and **Dr. Barry Rifkin**, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine.

After receiving his PhD in Oral Biology and Pathology, Charles became a patent attorney and now is Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of Lab 21, a skin care company that uses genetic testing to make individualized skin care formulations. Maria is an Associate Professor at the School of Dental Medicine and Executive Committee member of the University Alumni Association Board.

"Charles and Maria Ryan saw a need to increase the number of dental faculty worldwide and they decided to take action on the local level at Stony Brook. I am so pleased to have such dedicated alumni," said Dean Rifkin.

For more information on endowments, please contact Dr. Kathryn Yunger, Assistant Dean for Institutional Advancement, at (631) 632-8807. ■

Alum Honored for 9/11 Recovery Efforts

Tom Giusto '95 (Periodontics '98) was among those dental professionals who were recently honored at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City for their work in helping to identify victims of the World Trade Center tragedy and the crash of American Airlines Flight 587.

About 35,000 man-hours went into the identification effort, with nearly 200 dental professionals participating. Dental records play a critical role in victim recovery and identification efforts, with the majority of all positive identifications made through such significant evidence.

Dr. Giusto, who identified two World Trade Center victims, volunteered nearly 75 hours of his time at the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner between November 2001 and May 2002. The tragedy hit home for him because his own brother Christopher barely escaped from the 81st floor of Tower One shortly after the first plane hit. Three of his brother's colleagues, unfortunately, were not as lucky and perished that day. Dr. Giusto identified one of his brother's co-workers through the dental evidence. "To have been able to help bring closure to victims' families was both personally and professionally rewarding," he said.

Previously, Dr. Giusto helped identify victims of TWA Flight 800, which crashed off the coast of Long Island in 1996. During his senior year at Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Giusto completed a 100-hour elective in forensic dentistry through the Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office.

Dr. Giusto practices periodontics and implant dentistry in the New Jersey towns of Watchung and Clark, where he lives with his wife Jennifer and daughters Sydney Rose, 3, and Stephanie Brook, 1.

Is MALT at Fault for Periodontitis?

Research Points to Link Between Lymphoid Tissue and Oral Disorders

A recent study raises the question of whether there is a connection between oral mucosa (gingiva) associated lymphoid tissue (MALT), a key component of the body's system for defending itself from pathogenic organisms, and the destructive way it responds to certain oral pathogens, such as those found in gingivitis and periodontitis.

Dr. Christopher Cutler, Associate Professor of Periodontics at Stony Brook University, along with co-investigator Dr. Ravi Jotwani, has conducted research on the role of oral mucosal dendritic cells for the past eight years. The two researchers believe that the way the MALT responds to these pathogens causes structural damage to tooth-supporting apparatus.

To understand the complex interactions of MALT, it is important to look at how this tissue functions. The gastrointestinal tract, including its portal of entry, the mouth, is lined by mucosa that contains cells of the innate and adaptive immune systems. These and other cells constitute the MALT, a complex interactive system that may be able to induce tolerance to "normal flora" organisms that reside in the mouth, or generate an immune response aimed at eliminating specific organisms.

The MALT identifies organisms and their products that have a "history" of injuring host tissues (through the production of toxins) and targets them for destruction. Beneficial and innocuous organisms are not targeted and survive to colonize oral mucosa and tooth surfaces. Among the many



For nearly a decade, Dr. Cutler has conducted research on the role of oral mucosal dendritic cells.

cell types that comprise the MALT system are dendritic cells, which perform the tasks of detection and early warning. Langerhans cells in the epithelium are a subset of immature dendritic cells. After taking in bacterial components, immature dendritic cells

undergo maturation, and depending on the microbe, gain the ability to activate T-lymphocytes, initiating an adaptive immune response directed specifically at foreign organisms.

Following interaction with microorganisms or inflammatory signals,

Trafficking Jam

Researchers Propose that Gingivitis May Mean More Than Sore Gums

For the past eight years, Drs. Christopher Cutler and Ravi Jotwani from the Department of Periodontics have investigated the responsiveness of different subsets of oral dendritic cells to oral bacteria. The two researchers have demonstrated in a recent study that human oral mucosa is a site of active trafficking of dendritic cells and activated T-lymphocytes, a phenomenon that can be potentially dangerous in the case of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Because mucosal dendritic cells carry receptors for HIV, these cells could convey the virus from the gingiva to lymph nodes. Drs. Cutler and Jotwani have hypothesized that inflamed gingiva may be a portal of entry and reservoir for HIV in the human host.

These ideas form the basis for a grant proposal by Dr.

Jotwani to study the role of gingival dendritic cells in HIV infection and the possible relationship between chronic periodontitis and HIV infection. If approved and funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, this study would be conducted in collaboration with Dr. Roy Steigbigel of the Department of Infectious Diseases in the School of Medicine.

Knowledge gained from studying bacteria-dendritic cell activation, such as the research being conducted by Drs. Cutler and Jotwani, could have broader significance, especially in cancer therapy. Many of the same steps used in mounting an effective immune response to microbial organisms is applicable in identifying, targeting, and destroying cancer cells, albeit through different recognition and processing molecules.

dendritic cells migrate out of the mucosal tissue, carrying with them small bits (antigenic peptides) of microbial origin, and make their way to local lymph nodes by way of lymphatic vessels. Within the lymph nodes, the now mature dendritic cells, acting as antigen presenting cells, display antigenic peptides on their cell membranes, exposed for contact with T-lymphocytes. Only T-lymphocytes expressing receptors capable of engaging the specific antigenic peptides, along with host protein (MHC) displayed on the dendritic cells, are triggered to undergo activation. Activated T-lymphocytes are capable of secreting a spectrum of biologically active molecules, such as cytokines, that form part of the cell-mediated immune response. Activated T-cells proliferate to give rise to progeny that have the same specific antigen receptors, thereby amplifying the immune response to the initiating microbes. In addition, activated T-helper cells are able to help B-lympho-

cytes differentiate into plasma cells, thereby participating in the humoral (antibody) immune response.

Activated T-lymphocytes migrate from lymph nodes to mucosal sites via the bloodstream, concentrating in the sites from which the dendritic cells made their initial contact with the oral microbes. In the case of gingivitis and periodontitis, T-cells activated in local lymph nodes appear to return to the gingival lamina propria. Dr. Cutler's work suggests that activated Langerhans cells may mature and activate T-cells directly within the lamina propria, possibly without circulating to lymph nodes.

Unfortunately for the host, this dendritic-cell-directed immunostimulatory activity can become destructive if too many activated lymphocytes are attracted to the site of the bacterial insult, especially if, as in the case of the periodontal pocket, bacteria are not efficiently eliminated by the early innate response.

Dr. Cutler has underscored the parallel between this condition and contact hypersensitivity, a skin disorder where large numbers of dendritic cells and T-lymphocytes are activated. Both chronic periodontitis and contact hypersensitivity involve a destructive T-cell response.

In previously published studies, Drs. Cutler and Jotwani have shown that during the transition from human gingivitis to periodontitis there is a significant increase in the number of Langerhans cells in the gingival epithelium. There is also a significant increase in the number of mature dendritic cells in the underlying lamina propria connective tissue. They also demonstrated an increase in the numbers of activated T-cells and plasma cells in the inflamed connective tissue. Cytokine measurements of gingival crevicular fluid showed increases of the cytokines interleukin-1 beta, prostaglandin E2, and interleukin-10,

a profile that is consistent with local cytokine dysregulation.

The two researchers have been investigating the responsiveness of different subsets of oral dendritic cells to oral bacterial lipopolysaccharide and fimbriae through Toll-like receptors and other recognition molecules, and their subsequent ability to activate T-lymphocytes. One of the major goals of their research is to understand the mechanisms whereby dendritic cells capture bacteria and recognize their antigens (through

The MALT identifies organisms and their products that have a “history” of injuring host tissues (through the production of toxins) and targets them for destruction. Beneficial and innocuous organisms are not targeted and survive to colonize oral mucosa and tooth surfaces.

Toll-like or other types of receptors), and how these receptors initiate messages for cytokine production.

Accordingly, Drs. Cutler and Jotwani have submitted grant proposals to study components of the NF- κ B cascade involved in dendritic cell activation. Of special interest is the early finding that *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, a known periopathogen, appears to cause mature dendritic cells to express a cytokine profile that does not favor an effective immune response. ■

About the Researchers

Dr. Christopher W. Cutler, DDS, PhD, was appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Periodontics in August 2000. Dr. Cutler was previously Assistant Professor in the Departments of Periodontics and Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College of Dentistry. A native of Staten Island, New York, Dr. Cutler received a bachelor of science degree from Florida Atlantic University prior to obtaining his DDS at Emory University. Following dental school, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Periodontics and a PhD in experimental pathology at Emory. Dr. Cutler successfully completed the Northeast Regional State Dental Boards, the Texas and Georgia State Boards, and is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology.

During his professional education, Dr. Cutler was the recipient of several awards, including the Edward Hatton Award from the American Association of Dental Research. He has served on many National Institutes of Health panels and is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Periodontal Research*, *The Journal of Periodontology*, and *Infection and Immunity*.

After he joined the Department of Periodontics at Stony Brook University, Dr. Cutler was joined by Dr. Ravi Jotwani, PhD, a research collaborator and supervisor of the Core Microbiology Laboratory at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas. Dr. Jotwani holds a PhD degree from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He has also completed postdoctoral training at the Institute of Anaerobic Bacteriology in Gufu, Japan, and in immunology at Baylor. He brings expertise in immunology and biochemistry to the Department of Periodontics. He holds the position of Research Assistant Professor of Periodontics.



Dr. Ravi Jotwani

Research Grants Awarded

Dendritic Cells, LPS, and Oral Mucosa, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, 2000-02, \$300,000

Oral Pathogens and Dendritic Cell Subsets, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, 2001-06, \$950,000
Research Applications Pending

Dendritic Cells and Chronic Periodontitis in Humans, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, \$617,389

Dendritic Cells, P. Gingivalis, and NF- κ B, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, \$1,845,603

Oral Mucosal Dendritic Cells and HIV Infection, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, \$300,000

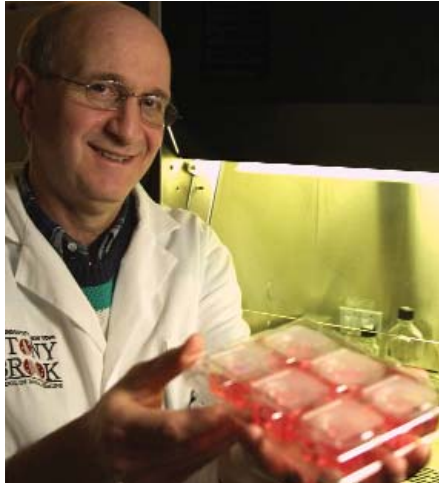
Engineering a New Understanding of Oral Cancer

Dr. Jonathan Garlick Unravels the Mystery of How Lesions Form in the Mouth

With approximately 6,000 deaths and nearly 30,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the United States, oral cancer remains a significant health concern in terms of patient management. Complicating this is the fact that surgery often has debilitating effects and the disease has a high rate of recurrence. Cancer researchers, who have long striven to understand the biology of pre-cancerous lesions in order to develop effective treatments, are making major strides in identifying potentially malignant oral lesions, such as leukoplakia and erythroplakia, before invasion of the connective tissue has occurred.

Dr. Jonathan Garlick, Associate Professor of Oral Biology and Pathology, is one such researcher dedicated to unraveling the mystery of how these lesions develop into oral cancer. Dr. Garlick's laboratory has successfully used tissue engineering to fabricate human tissues that mimic the essential features of pre-cancer. Through this approach, he has been able to study the nature of the pre-cancerous state as never before.

"There is an emerging understanding that cancer is a disease of altered tissue structure, which is difficult to study using conventional tissue culture techniques, that does not faithfully mimic the structural features of human tissues," he said. "Our approach involves engineering tissues in the laboratory that simulate the essential features of pre-cancerous oral lesions seen *in vivo*. This allows us to study early cancer as it develops in the mouth and in other tissues—



Dr. Garlick in his lab

within a network of other cells."

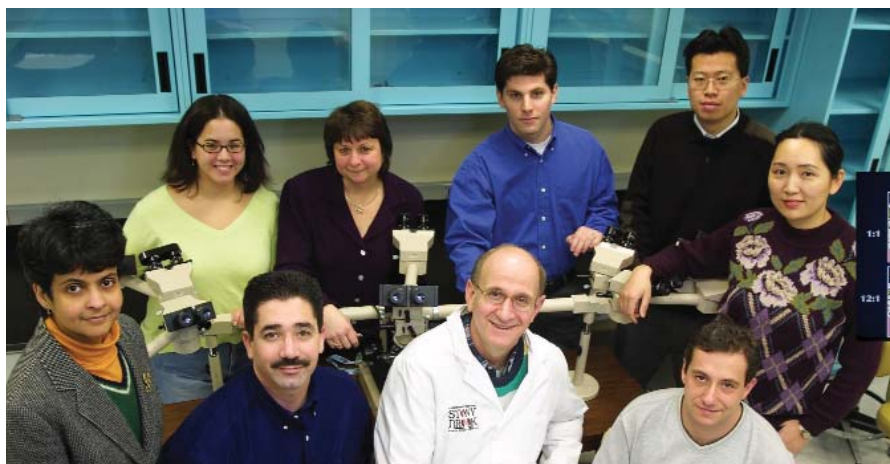
Because the pre-invasive stages of cancer development, known as intraepithelial neoplasia, begin as foci of abnormal cells in a sea of more normal cells, artificial tissues grown in this way must incorporate this interrelationship. Dr. Garlick's research generated pre-malignant tissues by growing mixtures of normal human keratinocytes (NHKs) with varying numbers of cells from a pre-malignant keratinocyte line (II-4), forming tissues with varying numbers of abnormal cell clusters that were surrounded by NHKs. This tissue engineering technology is known as organotypic culture.

To track the potentially malignant II-4 cells, Dr. Garlick and his lab genetically labeled these cells with the gene for b-galactosidase, which can be detected by simple stains. In papers published in *Cancer Research*, the group found that a critical number of potentially cancerous cells need to be present in pre-malignant tissue for them to progress to fully invasive can-

cer. For example, when the II-4 cells were mixed with NHKs at a 1:1 ratio, the foci of pre-malignant cells expanded within the cultured tissues, invading into the connective tissue when transplanted to immunodeficient mice. However, when fewer II-4 cells were grown with a majority of NHKs, the pre-malignant cells stopped dividing, underwent terminal differentiation, and were desquamated from the tissue after grafting. According to Dr. Garlick's studies, NHKs induced a state of "intraepithelial dormancy," which blocked the ability of potentially malignant cells to develop into full-blown cancer by exerting a "normalizing" effect on the pre-malignant cells adjacent to them.

"This is the first evidence that factors in the tumor cell's immediate 'microenvironment,' such as contact with adjacent cells, were critical in controlling progression of a pre-malignant lesion to a malignant one," Dr. Garlick said. "We have learned that our tissues and organs have the intrinsic ability to eliminate small numbers of pre-cancerous cells, thereby suppressing cancer development. This tells us that genetic changes in individual cells in pre-cancerous tissue are not sufficient for cancer to develop and that the tissue context in which those cells are found is also a critical determinant in cancer progression."

In more recent studies, the Garlick lab used this approach to determine further mechanisms through which this tissue-based control of early cancer development could occur. Dr. Frank Andriani, a graduate of the School of Dental Medicine and a PhD



The Garlick team (front row, l-r): Sujata Pawagi, Dr. Frank Andriani, Dr. Garlick, and Alex Margulis; (back row, l-r): Shari Greenberg, Laura Bertolotti, Larry Pfeiffer, Dr. Weitian Zhang, and Ning Ling

student in the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology, has conducted research demonstrating that interactions with basement membrane proteins at the epithelial-connective tissue interface can rescue pre-malignant cells from being lost from tissue and can promote cancer progression.

In other studies, Alexander Margulis, a graduate student in the Garlick lab, has shown that loss of E-Cadherin, a cell adhesion molecule on the surface of epithelial cells, results in the abrogation of cell-cell adhesion, loss of tumor cell suppression, and invasion of cells into the connective tissue. These ongoing studies, supported by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, have begun to identify the key molecular targets that direct cell-cell and cell-connective tissue interactions in early stages of cancer progression. By determining the molecules responsible for the microenvironmental control of incipient cancer progression, it may be possible to develop new therapies to control this disease before invasion occurs.

These studies are part of a broader effort of the Garlick lab to use tissue engineering to study aspects of oral cancer treatment, to investigate the role of epithelial-mesenchymal inter-

actions in the development of normal tissues, and to study how epithelial cells respond to injury. The organotypic culture system has been used to study the potentially harmful effects of smokeless tobacco extracts on engineered oral mucosa. In studies published in the *Journal of Dental Research* in 2001, both fibroblasts and keratinocytes demonstrated increased rates of cell division when exposed to this agent, thus helping to explain the development of lesions seen in the mouths of smokeless tobacco users.

In other studies funded by the Cancer Research Foundation of America, Dr. Garlick's team of investigators has demonstrated that it is possible to transfer a "suicide gene" to pre-cancerous cells *in vitro* to kill cells with the potential to be malignant. This has been accomplished by transferring the gene for cytosine deaminase to tumor cells so that cells exposed to a non-toxic prodrug (5-fluorocytosine) are selectively killed by converting 5-fluorocytosine to a toxic drug (5-Fluorouracil).

The Garlick lab is addressing other questions in mucosal biology by using organotypic tissue models to study epithelial-mesenchymal interactions. In a study soon to be published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*,

Dr. Andriani has worked under Dr. Garlick's mentorship to study factors required for basement membrane assembly and maturation in stratified squamous epithelium. The team has also adapted a similar model to the oral mucosa by using a cellular connective tissue known as AlloDerm (provided by LifeCell, Corp.) to determine how oral fibroblasts modulate the growth and differentiation of oral epithelial cells.

Several studies are now ongoing that use the organotypic, human-like tissue model to determine how stratified squamous epithelium responds to cellular damage. In a study funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Dr. Garlick's laboratory is investigating how sulphur mustard initiates damage in human skin by using tissue models with defects in basement membrane assembly.

In addition, his lab has published several articles in which the effects of UV irradiation and incisional wounding have been modeled in the laboratory through tissue engineering approaches. These and other studies are funded at a little less than \$1.5 million by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the U.S. Army, The Cancer Research Foundation of America, LifeCell, and Biomerix Inc.

Investigating the development of a highly complex disease like oral cancer requires the cooperative interactions of numerous biologic disciplines. Thousands of investigators supported by millions of cancer research dollars have waged war on cancer in laboratories across this country for decades. The School of Dental Medicine is proud to be able to participate in this endeavor through the leadership of such dedicated researchers as Dr. Jonathan Garlick. ■

Mission Possible

Dr. Vincent Iacono Takes to Task the Future of Periodontics



Dr. Vincent Iacono

As the elected Vice President of the American Academy of Periodontology, Dr. Vincent Iacono, Chair of the Department of Periodontics, will step up to the organization's presidency in 2005. A major task during his tenure will be to formulate a plan to fulfill the Academy's new mission of advancing oral health through expertise in implants, periodontal medicine, and oral plastic surgery. In an interview with Stony Brook Dentistry Today, Dr. Iacono talks about the future of periodontics and upcoming changes in practice.

Dentistry Today: What major factors are shaping periodontics in the future?

Dr. Iacono: Given what we know today regarding periodontal inflammation as a risk factor in systemic disorders such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and premature childbirth, periodontists will become increasingly involved in collaborating with physicians to manage systemic conditions. The impact of periodontal systemic interrelationships on clinical practice and periodontal education will ultimately

depend on the outcome of intervention studies. If the links are strong and clinically relevant, periodontal educational programs and clinical practice will change and third-party reimbursement for the treatment of periodontal diseases will increase to a greater level than what occurs today.

Dentistry Today: As a periodontist with extensive experience in dental implantology, do you see more periodontists providing implant placement?

Dr. Iacono: The number of patients undergoing implants, oral plastic, and reconstructive procedures will dramatically increase in the next decade.

Implants will become the preferred standard of care for tooth replacement and will receive third-party coverage equivalent to that of traditional dental prostheses. As a result, general dentists and hygienists must become better educated to manage gingivitis and slight-to-moderate periodontitis.

Dentistry Today: Will these changes in periodontal practice affect educational programs?

Dr. Iacono: The changes will affect both our predoctoral and postdoctoral curricula. Periodontal specialty programs will have to focus on both advanced surgical techniques and related biomedical sciences. It will be necessary to make periodontology a central component of all predoctoral and dental hygiene education. Dental students will be exposed to the full scope of periodontal specialty care and educated to evaluate, treat, and manage patients with slight-to-moderate periodontal diseases in a competent manner. The Academy must make significant efforts to convince the decision-makers in dental education that these

changes must be made in dental education. To this end, I will chair a new task force on educational initiatives to address these issues. The key ingredient to success in education will be increased support by the federal government, industry, and dental alumni groups to provide sufficient financial resources to recruit outstanding clinicians to dental faculties.

Dentistry Today: Is there an oversupply of periodontists today?

Dr. Iacono: From epidemiologic studies, millions of people in the United States have untreated periodontal diseases. The segments of our society at highest risk for periodontal diseases have increased and will continue to increase in the foreseeable future. The current assessment of annual expenditures on periodontal and preventive services is more than \$14 billion. This figure is guaranteed to grow with public awareness of periodontal systemic interrelationships and the incorporation of oral plastic surgical procedures in periodontal practices. The increased demand for care will require better-trained dentists and hygienists to manage early-to-moderate periodontal diseases, and periodontists with more advanced surgical skills.

We do not have an oversupply nor an immediate shortage of periodontists, but many programs are hard-pressed to obtain the necessary resources to educate postdoctoral students in the various aspects of oral plastic surgery, regeneration, tissue engineering, and implantology. Unless this problem is solved, we will face an inadequate supply of properly trained periodontists in the near future. ■

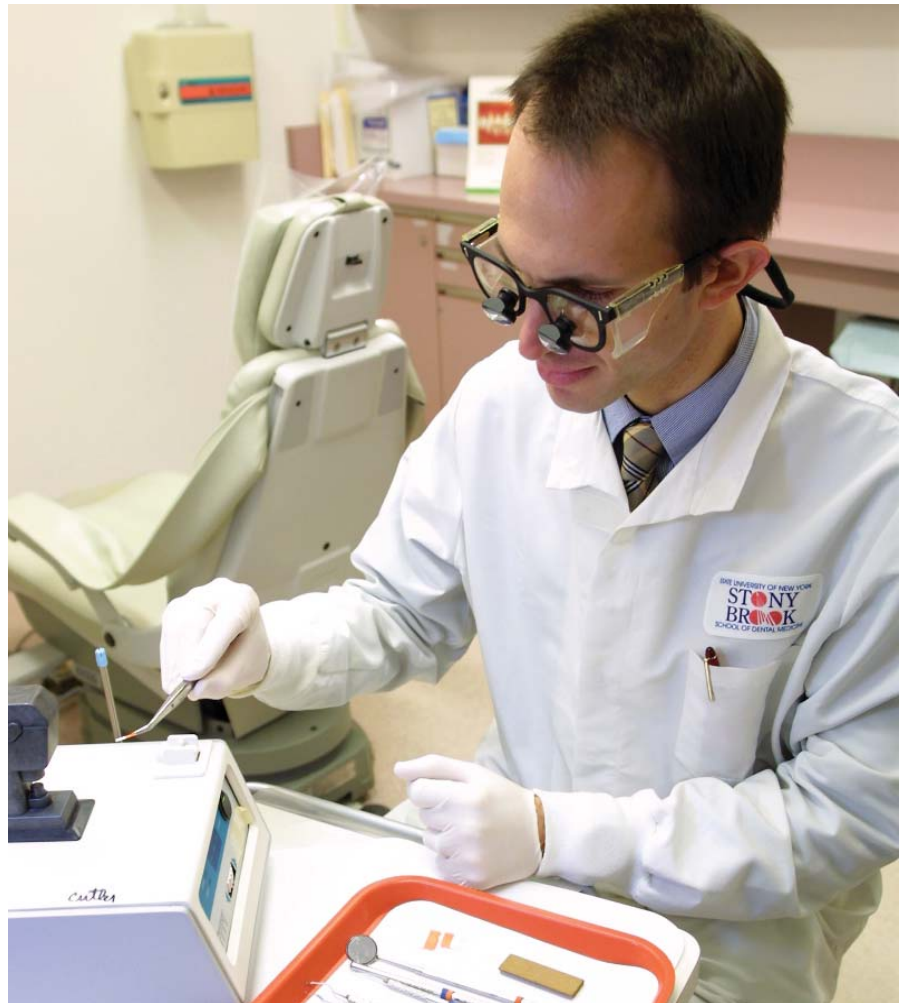
Fellowship Recipient Investigates New Ways to Treat Periodontitis

Despite a demanding teaching schedule and a busy intramural clinical practice, Dr. Richard Oringer finds time to conduct research to develop improved methods to treat periodontal disease. An Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontics, Dr. Oringer is the recipient of the 2002 Tarrson Fellowship, an annual award from the American Academy of Periodontics that acknowledges past achievements and recognizes the potential for additional growth. Proceeds of the \$30,000 fellowship will enhance Dr. Oringer's research to develop better methods of preventing, diagnosing, and treating periodontal disease.

The award is testimony to Dr. Oringer's success in the simultaneous pursuit of research, teaching, and patient care—the goal of every full-time faculty member. Excessive teaching commitments, overly time-consuming administrative responsibilities, lack of research funding, and pressure to produce income from clinical practice are some of the most common obstacles to achieving this goal.

“The School of Dental Medicine maintains an environment conducive to teaching, research, and patient care—and Dr. Oringer has demonstrated the energy and skill needed to succeed at all three, serving as an excellent role model to his students,” said Dr. Barry Rifkin, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Oringer serves as Director of Pre-Doctoral Periodontics, a post that brings him into daily contact with stu-



Clinical investigator Dr. Richard Oringer

dents and their patients. “Imparting knowledge to students is a privilege that is accompanied by great responsibility. I strive to incorporate both humanistic and leadership qualities in my interactions with students,” he said.

Recently, Dr. Oringer was a principal investigator, along with Department of Periodontics Chair Dr. Vincent Iacono, in a multi-center phase III clinical trial. The trial evaluated the safety and efficacy of locally

administered minocycline microspheres as an adjunct to scaling and root planing to treat chronic periodontitis. Overall, the use of minocycline microspheres plus scaling and root planing provided greater reductions in probing depth than scaling and root planing alone. The results of this trial were submitted for scientific review to the Food and Drug Administration and resulted in the approval of a novel therapeutic agent,

Arestin®, for adjunctive treatment of chronic periodontitis.

Dr. Oringer is also participating in a major clinical trial to find a predictable method to create new bone volume to support the placement of endosseous dental implants. Many patients who have suffered severe loss of jawbone from advanced periodontal disease are unable to undergo dental implants. This is especially true in the posterior maxilla, where only a thin layer of bone separates the maxillary sinus from the oral cavity.

The objective of the clinical trial is to improve upon a surgical method, maxillary sinus floor augmentation, to create new bone in the maxilla prior to placement of dental implants. The basis of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 (rhBMP-2) in stimulating more robust bone formation, thereby accelerating the formation of new bone and increasing its quantity prior to implant placement.

Preclinical studies of a variety of experimental animal models have demonstrated that rhBMP-2, administered in a resorbable collagen sponge, induces endochondral (proceeding through a cartilage intermediate), or direct, bone formation. In either case, the final result following implantation of rhBMP-2 in a bony defect is the restoration of bone and bone marrow, a process that takes place over several months.

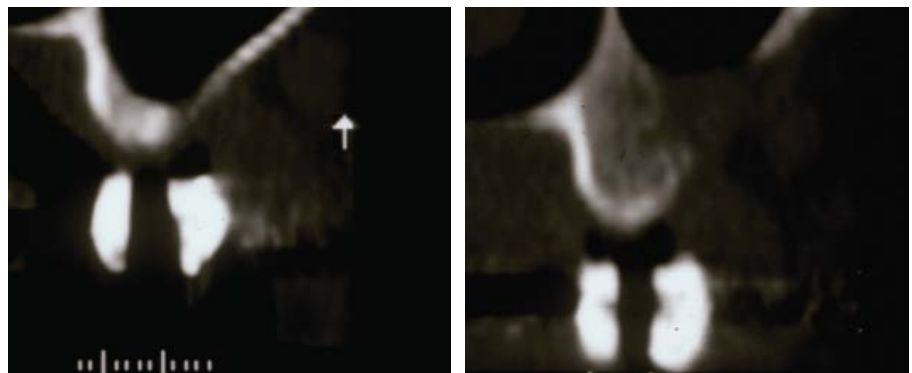
In the maxillary sinus floor augmentation procedure, a surgical window is created in the lateral maxillary wall, followed by elevation of the sinus membrane from maxillary bone, to create a pocket to receive the collagen sponge/rhBMP-2 insert. Preliminary results suggest that rhBMP-2/ACS may be as effective as standard grafting material to create bone of suffi-

cient quantity and quality to support the placement of dental implants. The collagen sponge/rhBMP-2 insert eliminates the morbidity associated with harvesting procedures, which are performed to collect bone from either the patient's oral cavity (e.g., chin) or hip.

Dr. Oringer's interest in science and research started during his undergraduate studies at Stony Brook University, when he served as a teaching assistant in organic chemistry and as a research assistant in oral biology. As a student at the School of Dental Medicine, he continued to participate in research by helping to elucidate the role of the

IL-2-receptor on natural killer cells and CD8+ gingival lymphocytes in the pathogenesis of periodontitis. His postdoctoral studies at Harvard University led to a clinical specialty certificate in periodontology and a doctor of medical sciences degree in oral biology.

While at Harvard, Dr. Oringer participated in the design and execution of clinical trials to evaluate new diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Chief among these endeavors and the subject of his doctoral dissertation was his study of the diagnostic potential of the crevicular fluid levels of aspartate aminotransferase to monitor periodontal disease progression. ■



Top photo: Dr. Vincent Iacono (left) with Dr. Richard Oringer. Bottom, left figure: Pre-operative CT scan of maxilla demonstrates insufficient bone height for placement of dental implant. Right figure: Post-operative CT scan six months after maxillary sinus augmentation using rhBMP-2/ACS exhibits significant formation of bone suitable for placement of dental implant.

Dr. Richard Haug Demonstrates Excellence on Many Levels

Since graduating from the School of Dental Medicine with highest honors in the class of 1980, Dr. Richard Haug's career in academic dentistry has followed a steep trajectory, culminating last year in his appointment as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Dentistry, at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. But success for the Stony Brook alum isn't measured merely in terms of prestigious academic appointments. When he is not working at the university, Dr. Haug spends much of his time with family, striking a rewarding balance between work and home.

Dr. Haug last visited Stony Brook University in 2001 as the School of Dental Medicine's commencement speaker and was the recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award. As Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, he acts as the Chief Operations Officer for 11 clinical facilities, and is responsible for 270 students and clinical residents, and 245 faculty and staff.

Before he was named Associate Dean, Dr. Haug was appointed Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Kentucky in 1999. He was inducted into the American College of Dentists in 1994 and the International College of Dentists in 1996. Dr. Haug has served on the editorial boards of numerous professional journals and has co-chaired several international meetings. He is a former President of the Ohio Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and has performed extensively in university service and in numerous professional societies.

Dr. Haug has published more than 85 journal articles, several hundred abstracts, edited several atlases of oral surgery, and contributed chapters to 24 textbooks. He has extensive experience as a principal investigator in clinical research projects funded by surgical and pharmaceutical companies, and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation.

After graduating from the School of Dentistry, Dr. Haug completed a general practice residency at Stony Brook University Hospital, followed by specialty training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. In 1986, after two years of private practice on Long Island and as a volunteer clinical assistant professor at the School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Haug began a full-time career in academic dentistry as Assistant Professor of Surgery at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. At Case Western Reserve, he was appoint-



Dr. Haug successfully blends family time with a demanding career.

ed Associate Professor and held the positions of Director of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Director of the Advanced Education Program in Oral Surgery.

Dr. Haug was born in Queens, N.Y., in 1954. His wife Joanne and he are the proud parents of four daughters, Christine, born in 1987, and triplets Rebecca, Melissa, and Priscilla, born in 1990. Despite his academic achievements, Dr. Haug said he is most proud of his daughters' athletic and academic accomplishments.

The couple spends a lot of time with their daughters, all of whom are competitive swimmers. The girls' daily routine begins at 4:15 a.m. and lasts for two hours, and then they engage in another two-hour session at 6:00 p.m. Last summer the girls made it to the state finals. To accommodate the rigorous schedule of training and competitions, the Haug siblings are enrolled in a distance learning program at Stanford University's Educational Program for Gifted Youth, successfully blending their athletic worlds with the academic. They are learning the important lesson of balancing priorities from their father. ■

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Four members of the School of Dental Medicine were among the many faculty honored in 2002. **Dr. Jonathan Garlick**, Associate Professor of Oral Biology and Pathology, received a Chancellor's/President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In nominating Dr. Garlick, **Dr. Israel Kleinberg**, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology, wrote, "I have never seen his enthusiasm for teaching wane, even in times of considerable overload. I am not surprised that he is chosen year after year to be Grand Marshal by the graduating class in Dental Medicine."

Dr. Steven Zove, Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontics, received a President's Award for Excellence in Teaching as Part-Time Faculty. **Dr. Vincent Iacono**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Periodontics, in his nominating letter noted that Dr. Zove "was instrumental in the development of the advanced educational program in Periodontics in 1991. Largely because of his dedicated commitment, the program has been accredited with commendation since its inception."

Drs. Fred Ferguson, Professor of Children's Dentistry, and **Mark Wolff**, Professor of General Dentistry, were recipients of Presidential Mini-Grant Awards for Innovative Teaching Projects.

Dr. Paul Baer, Professor of Periodontics, was recently honored by Brooklyn College with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 60th reunion of his graduating class.

APPOINTMENTS

Deborah Schade was recently appointed senior financial aid advisor. Schade received her BS degree from SUNY College at Old Westbury and her MS degree from Long Island University/C.W. Post campus. Before joining the School of Dental Medicine, she was employed as a senior financial aid counselor at C.W. Post.

Patricia Vitale was named staff assistant to the Dean. Vitale is a graduate of Nassau Community College. Prior to joining the School of Dental Medicine, she was employed as a senior administrative assistant to the Dean in the School of Medicine (1992 to 1999), and in the Department of Planning at Stony Brook University (1999 to 2001). Most recently she served as a senior staff assistant in the Registrar's Office at Stony Brook.

Jafine Abdelali was appointed a dental laboratory technician. Abdelali received an associate's degree in dental technology

from New York City Technical College in 2002. Prior to coming to the United States, Abdelali was employed as a dental technician in Morocco and France. He is fluent in English, French, and Arabic.

Dr. Denise A. Trochesset was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology. She is a graduate of Cornell University (1983) and the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry (1988). Following ten years of private practice in general dentistry in Norwalk, Connecticut, Dr. Trochesset resumed training in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at New York Hospital, Queens. Her three-year specialty training focused on surgical pathology and oral medicine and was completed in June 2002. Dr. Trochesset is a Fellow of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. She recently received certification to serve as director of a clinical laboratory in New York State and is planning to re-establish a biopsy service at the School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Trochesset is involved in teaching dental students both in the classroom and in the clinic, and is Course Director of Oral Medicine. She is now treating patients in oral medicine in the Dental School's faculty practice. Dr. Trochesset's most recent publication on the topic of mesenchymoma is in the January 2003 issue of *Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology and Endodontics*.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Dr. Burton R. Pollack, Professor and Dean Emeritus, is the author of *Law and Risk Management in Dental Practice* (Quintessence Books, 2002). ■



Dr. Burton R. Pollack

1977

Since finishing his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in 1980, **Scott Goldstein** has been in private practice. He is a clinical instructor at Cornell Medical College and a clinical assistant professor at New York Medical College. He is also an attending surgeon at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Jamaica Hospital, and at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Scott has been married to Nadine for 25 years. They have two sons: Ross, a junior at the University of Michigan, and Spencer, a sophomore at Great Neck South High School.

Following graduation, **Bruce S. Gottlieb** moved to Connecticut, where he began his solo private practice in Waterbury. His wife Linda is a speech pathologist in the Woodbridge, Connecticut, school system. They have two children: Elyse, a junior at American University, and Adam, a freshman at Cornell University.

Stephen L. Grossman completed a general practice residency from the Bronx-Lebanon Albert Einstein Medical Center in June 1978. He is practicing in Babylon, New York. He and his wife Shelley have two daughters, Jaclyn, 17, and Ashley, 13. Steve has pursued his interest in musical theatre by participating in community and regional groups in Nassau and Suffolk counties, and has performed in or directed more than 25 musical productions since his graduation from Stony Brook.

Paul S. Handsman reports that although he is longer in the tooth, he is still thin! Paul has a family dental practice in New Jersey. In the warmer weather, he and Norma go to the Catskills. Brett, Paul's oldest son, who was born when Paul was a dental student, completed his education in Orthodontics at Stony Brook, graduating in 2002. David, 26, graduated from Temple Dental School in 2002 and is becoming a gum specialist. Eric is 21 and having a blast studying in Spain.

Colonel Raymond G. Koeppen is Prosthodontics Flight Commander, 59th Dental Squadron, 59th Medical Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas. He oversees the clinical activities of 15 providers and the Air Force's only residency in Prosthodontics. Ray completed specialty training at the University of Texas Health Science Center

at San Antonio in 1986. After graduating from the Air War College in 1992, he completed the Combat Casualty Care Course (C-4) at Camp Bullis, Texas ('93). He has served as a dental officer at San Vito Air Station, Italy; Hancock Field, New York; Nellis AFB, Nevada; Lackland AFB, Texas; and at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Ray holds an appointment as clinical associate professor in the Department of Prosthodontics at the University of Texas Dental School at San Antonio. He is Chief Consultant in Prosthodontics to the United States Air Force Surgeon General, and is the Special Consultant in Prosthodontics to the United States Air Force Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services. Ray is married to Donna Lyn Reed of Miller Place, New York. They have three children: Erick, 24; Mark, 22; and Brian, 11.

Ira B. Lamster was selected as the Alumnus in Focus in the Summer 2002 issue of *Dentistry Today*. He was recently appointed Dean of the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery. Ira has been a member of Columbia University's faculty since 1988. He is a board-certified periodontist and a member of the American Board of Oral Medicine. The National Institutes of Health supports his research on periodontal disease, and he served as the Chair of the Dental and Craniofacial Research Panel of the American Dental Association's Future of Dentistry project. Dr. Lamster is the author of more than 100 manuscripts and book chapters, and co-author of the *Clinical Guide to Periodontics*.

Joan Phelan is the Chair of the Department of Oral Pathology at New York University College of Dentistry. Following graduation from Stony Brook, she completed a residency in Oral Pathology at Catholic Medical Center and joined the faculty of New York University. After a brief stay, she held positions at Montefiore Medical Center and Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery before serving as Chief of the Dental Service at the VA Hospital in Northport, New York. In 2000 she returned to NYU as Chair of the Department of Oral Pathology. Joan has been active in research in the oral manifestations of HIV infection and has co-authored a textbook, *Oral Pathology for the Dental Hygienist*. She and her husband Jerry plan to move to Manhattan. They

have two sons, Chris, an employee of FedEx, and Andy, an aspiring actor and employee of Network News Service.

Susan V. Schiffman lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, and is in private practice three and a half days a week with Dr. Mitchell Resnick, in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Susan's husband, Larry, is a rheumatologist in a multi-specialty group practice in Northampton. They have three children: Ted, 23, a networking and telecommunications student at the graduate engineering school of the University of Pennsylvania; Celia, 20, a junior at Union College in Schenectady, New York, studying geology and English; and Lucy, 15, a freshman in high school. Susan is also a freelance violinist, playing in the western Massachusetts area over the past 20 years.

Following graduation and a residency in restorative dentistry, **Kathy L. Stanislaw** joined Stony Brook's faculty as a clinical assistant professor, teaching clinical dentistry on a part-time basis. She has a busy family general practice, employing two associates (also Stony Brook graduates) and 12 staff members. She and her husband have one son, a sophomore in high school.

1978

Jeffrey A. Sachs was awarded the Stony Brook University Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service at a gala at The Vanderbilt, in Plainview, New York, late last year. Jeff, a dentist turned economic strategist, focuses on social problems of the world. In his acceptance remarks, he touched on his past involvement with helping the needy by creating housing for the homeless in New York City. Jeff heads the consulting firm Jeffrey A. Sachs Associates, Inc. in Manhattan.

1979

Following specialty training in Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles, and private practice in Northern California, **Gary W. Smagalski** retired in 1995. Six months later, he joined the dental school at the University of California, San Francisco, as a full-time faculty member. In this position, Gary was responsible for training in the care of facial trauma patients at San Francisco General Hospital. The Smagalskis have relocated to Virginia, where Gary has been offered a

CLASSNOTES

position at the Medical College of Virginia. He and his wife Faith have three children: Sean, who is in the Sheriff's Department in San Francisco; Lance, a four-year OMS resident at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.; and 16-year-old Ryan, a straight-A student who is ranked sixth in California for his weight class in wrestling.

1981

Richard Goldman sold his practice of 20 years in Manhattan and has assumed the position of Vice President for New Product Development at Parkell, a 54-year-old worldwide manufacturer and distributor of dental materials and services. He and his wife Anita, along with their two children, Jason, 6, and Selene, 3, have moved from Manhattan to Smithtown, New York.

1982

Paul Hilburg has been married to **Jessica Lippman Hilburg ('86)** for 19 years. They have a general practice in Valhalla, New York, and are busy raising two daughters, Rachel, 15, and Shayna, 12.

1983

Dan Greenstein bills himself as "America's funniest dentist." The Dr. Dan Show, featured at the Suffolk County (New York) Dental Society Staff Appreciation Night, was an outrageously funny event that brought laughs to dentists and their staffs. Dan has just released his CD *Spit Happens!* For more information, visit www.tonguencheek.com.

1984

After graduation, **Douglas Solow** entered practice as an associate in the Bronx and then ran a "solo" practice in South Huntington, New York. In 1996, Doug entered the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University full time and completed his M.B.A. in 1998. Doug is now an Associate Dean for Clinical Services at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry, Chapel Hill. His principal responsibilities are clinic oversight of 400 DDS, DH, DA, and graduate students; financial management; quality assurance; risk management; and patient admissions. Doug and his wife of 19 years, Cheryl, live in Chapel Hill with their two sons, Jonathan, 13, and Devin, 10.

1985

Seth David Beyers conducts an old-fashioned, successful, fee-for-service home-type dental practice. Seth, once recognized as a top bayman, put himself through dental school by clammng on the Great South Bay—something he'd done since he was 14 years old. Seth is also successful as the leader of a 13-piece band, the Steely Dan Tribute Band, a top band on Long Island. The band has two dentists and 11 professional musicians, including members from Tower of Power and the Billy Joel Band.

1986

Jo Wong Fearon and **Joseph Fearon** achieved Fellowship in the New York State Academy of General Dentistry this year as they successfully completed 500 hours of continuing education and passed a written exam. The Fearons live in New York City with their children Ming and Eddie.

Jeffrey Payne and Jodie Stein Payne ('87)

live in Lincoln, Nebraska, with their three children: Samantha, 11; Jeremy, 7; and Jonah, 2. Jeff is an Associate Dean at the Dental School of the University of Nebraska. Jeff was selected for the Alumnum in Focus piece in the Fall 2001-2002 issue of *Stony Brook Dentistry Today*.

1987

Ronald G. Worth is in private practice in Cortland Manor, New York, in northern Westchester County. He and his wife of eight years, Deborah, have three children: Samantha, 6; Rebeccah, 5; and Matthew, 2.

1988

After dental school, **Christopher R. White** received his MD from SUNY Buffalo and completed residency training in emergency medicine. He in a private group practice in Ravenna, Ohio.

1989

Linda (Natista) DeSimone and her husband Robert have three children: Alyssa, 10; Corey, 6; and Lauren, 5. They live in Massapequa Park, New York. Linda practices in Franklin Square, New York.

1990

Following dental school, **Tom Orfanos** completed law school. He is the founder of

Proventure Capital, Inc., an equity and debt investment services firm. Tom is also a corporate attorney. He can be reached at tom@proventurecapital.com.

Maria Kay (Garguilo) Shamul and her husband **John ('89)** have three children: Paul, James, and Claire. They live in Old Bethpage, New York.

1991

Hera Kim-Berman and **Irene Wong** organized the ten-year reunion for their class on August 26, 2001. The luncheon, a gathering of family, friends, and classmates, was held in Mineola, New York.

1994

My Huong Ta bought a general dentistry practice in New York City. She is specializing in cosmetic dentistry and studying implantology. She can be reached at (212) 355-2540.

1995

Thomas Giusto (Periodontics '98) and his wife Jennifer are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Stephanie Brook, on June 9, 2001. Tom is practicing periodontics and implant dentistry in New Jersey. He is the Chair of the New Dentist Council for the New Jersey Dental Society. Tom was honored for his help in identifying the remains of victims of the September 11th World Trade Center disaster.

1996

Alexander Shvartsman has become a Fellow in the New York State Academy of General Dentistry, an accomplishment requiring 500 hours of continuing education and passing a written exam. After graduation, Alex completed a two-year residency at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York. This was followed by a two-year fellowship in the Implant Department, where he now is an attending dentist. He practices in Glen Cove, New York. Alex and his wife, Melissa Levine, are expecting their first child at the end of May.

1997

Dean Prestino completed his residency at Staten Island University Hospital in 1997. He now practices in Toms River, New Jersey.

The White Coats are Coming!

Dental School Starts Tradition to Welcome Class of 2006



The new students read the Dentist's Pledge.

The School of Dental Medicine held its first White Coat Ceremony last fall to induct the class of 2006 as new health care providers. In an evening of solemnity and celebration, faculty, upper classmates, friends, and parents joined together to observe Stony Brook's newest class make the transition from the purely academic training of college to the clinical training and responsibility of patient care.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Erin Riley, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, told the class of 2006 that the white coat is a symbol of trust. Those who wear it have pledged to accept the trust of patients and the responsibility to acquire knowledge of both basic science and clinical dentistry. Accepting this responsibility entails learning to ask the right questions of patients, listening to them, and synthesizing the information into an appropriate plan of treatment, Dr. Riley said.

Dean Barry Rifkin praised the class of 2006 for its undergraduate academic achievements, noting they were among the best dental students in the country based on their undergraduate academic records and dental admissions test scores. He reviewed recent developments at the school that will ensure it remains a leading institution in research, clinical education, and patient care.



Top: Dr. Erin Riley delivers the welcoming remarks; right: Dr. Ann Nasti helps Diana Pop with her new white coat.

For example, Stony Brook's dental school is one of just a few schools in the country to acquire a dental operator simulation laboratory, where students can perfect their operating skills on computer-monitored patient manikins. It also is the first school to install a computer-based system for fabricating inlay and full crown dental restorations.

The evening's activities also marked the unveiling of portraits of the School of Dental Medicine's three distinguished professors: Drs. Stanley Alexander, Israel Kleinberg, and Louis Ripa. All three distinguished professors were joined by the Marshals of the 2002 Graduation Ceremony, Drs. Maria Barreto, Ann Nasti, Richard Oringer, and Ling Xu, for the presentation of white coats to the class of 2006.

Proudly wearing their new white coats, the members

of the class of 2006 listened to senior student Michael Scialabba, President of the School of Dental Medicine's Dental Student Association, as he delivered a speech on behalf of the upper classmates. He advised the new students to make the most of their time, to be proactive in taking responsibility for their education, and to welcome the diversity of Stony Brook's student body as a rich opportunity for expanding their own horizons.

The formal program ended with the reading of the Dentist's Pledge, led by Dr. Allan Kucine, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. A reception was held in the School of Dental Medicine's J. Howard Oaks Learning Center. ■

2002 Commencement

Marks Silver Anniversary Milestone



(l-r): Drs. Mahshid Borna, Kathy Boadway, and Enisa Begic

“You will, I know, find tremendous satisfaction in your work, but don’t let it define you.

Doing good work doesn’t make us good people.

Caring for others makes the difference.”

—The Honorable Kenneth P. LaValle

Those inspirational words were part of the address delivered by State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle at the 2002 commencement ceremony of Stony Brook’s School of Dental Medicine. The occasion also marked the 25th anniversary of the first graduating class. As Chair of the New York State Committee on Higher Education, Senator LaValle has played a key role in the growth and success of Stony Brook, as well as of all New York dental schools.

Dean Barry Rifkin introduced Senator LaValle, who quoted from humanist Albert Schweitzer and futurists Alvin and Heidi Toffler, and noted that happiness comes from serving humanity. He stressed that today's graduates must be prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. He also noted that by having received their education in an institution that cares for all people—among them, senior citizens, the indigent, and the medically compromised—the graduates have become not only better practitioners, but also better human beings.

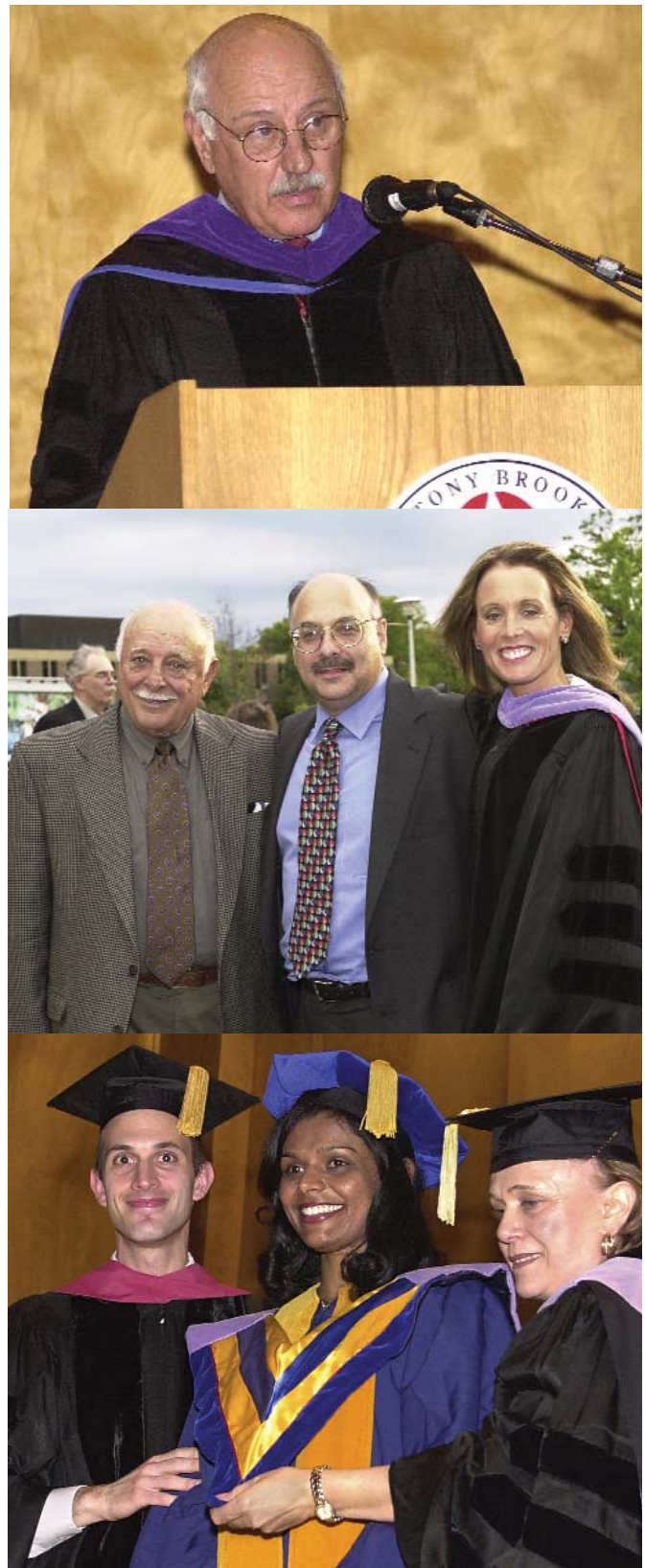
Grand Marshal Ann M. Nasti, DMD, Clinical Assistant Professor of General Dentistry, led the processional entry of faculty and graduates at the ceremony. Following Dean Rifkin's welcoming remarks and the introduction of distinguished guests and members of the platform party, Dr. Norman Edelman, Vice President of the Health Sciences Center, extended congratulations to the graduates and their parents and friends.

Among the special guests were members of the class of 1977. Dr. Paul Handsman, who was in that graduating class, was present to see his son, Dr. Brett Handsman, graduate from the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics, marking a generational milestone in the history of the school. To highlight the 25th anniversary commencement ceremony, Dr. Barry Waldman, Professor of General Dentistry, reflected on the history of the school.

Among the awards presented at graduation was the New York State Dental Association Student Leadership Award, presented to Dr. Michael DeLuke by Dr. Mark Feldman, President of the Dental Society of the State of New York. Dr. DeLuke was also honored as the recipient of the Suffolk County Dental Society Award, presented by Dr. Ira Glaser, President-Elect of the Suffolk County Dental Society and Clinical Assistant Professor of Children's Dentistry. Dr. William Tinkler, President of the local chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the dental honor society, presented fraternity keys to Dr. Michelle Bailey and Dr. DeLuke.

The graduating class selected Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou, better known by his peers as "Jimmy K," to deliver the student address, a traditionally humorous review of the past four years in dental school. True to his reputation as the class motivator and humorist, Jimmy K rocked the audience with his comical observations of life as a dental student at Stony Brook.

Following the presentation of diplomas to 33 dental school graduates, certificates to 20 graduates of the Advanced Dental Education Programs, and doctoral degrees to two dental graduate students, Dean Rifkin delivered closing remarks, praising the graduates for their perseverance and accomplishments. He also thanked the faculty for their dedication and enthusiasm in shaping the careers of the newest—and finest—generation of dental practitioners. ■



Top: Senator LaValle delivers a rousing speech; center: Thomas Nasti Sr. with his children Richard Nasti of the Stony Brook Council and twin sister Dr. Ann Nasti of the Dental School; bottom: Drs. Richard Oringer and Maria Barreto help new graduate Uzma Khan.



After four years of intensive study together, Stony Brook's newest dental practitioners are ready to embark on divergent paths in their careers.

STONY BROOK DENTISTRY TODAY

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