

Never a dull moment

Since becoming dean, I have been amazed by the constant activity of our college. There is always something to attend to, decide or celebrate. This is certainly a stimulating environment that's always changing and progressing; here are a few recent examples of what's happening in our college.

A Year Ago We Caught The Wave

The "new" Teams DMD Clinical Education program isn't so new anymore. The program celebrated its first anniversary at the start of the fall semester. Congratulations to the many people who assisted with the successful transition last year, and to those who worked the kinks out of the program during its initial phase. The Class of 2009 Senior Exit Interviews conducted before graduating and the productivity data are overwhelmingly positive and, from my perspective, heartwarming. For example, we saw a 25 percent increase in DMD clinic patient-visits. Both students and patients report great satisfaction with the program. It's always nice to know when we do something right.

This month **A.E. "Buddy" Clark**, D.M.D., Ph.D., who has served the college in many roles since he joined us in 1984, has agreed to serve as an interim Team Leader replacing K. David Stillwell, D.D.S., MAGD, who accepted a faculty position at UAB's School of Dentistry. Buddy has always been willing to step in and assist the college and his knowledge and experience will be a great asset to the program.



Faculty Update

One new hire

We welcomed **Cuong Nguyen**, Ph.D. to the Department of Oral Biology as a research assistant professor. He completed his undergraduate studies in Biochemistry at the University of Nebraska and completed his Ph.D. in Immunology and Microbiology in 2006 at the University of Florida. Nguyen has also recently completed a fellowship in the department of Oral Biology.



Two more to come

UF administration recently approved our request to hire two new faculty members as part of a plan to hire 100 new faculty across the university using \$10 million in federal stimulus money. We will quickly initiate a search to hire a cell biologist and a clinician scientist to advance our basic and translational research program.





Honors & Awards

Nery Clark, DMD, received word this week that the college's **Internationally Educated Dentists Program** has been selected as a semi-finalist for the 2009 Examples of Excelencia, a national award give by the Excelencia in Education which focuses on improving Latino educational success. The Examples of Excelencia initiative is designed to identify and honor programs and departments that are at the forefront of increasing academic opportunities and improving achievement for Latino students at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Graduate levels. Nery has been invited to several meetings in Washington D.C. at the end of September where she'll be able to share information about the IEDP program with officers at the U.S. Department of Education and learn about federal resources that support campus-based activities to improve college access, success and degree completion for Latinos. This provides an excellent opportunity to promote the new face of our IEDP while we are redesigning it as an off-book program based at our Hialeah Clinic.



Sam Low, DDS, MS, Associate Dean for Continuing Education and Strategic Partnerships, was installed as president of the American Academy of Periodontology during their annual meeting in Boston this week. Sam plays an active role in organized dentistry at the state and national level and he is an excellent ambassador for our college and our profession.

Research Funding is Strong

We've had an auspicious start to our year in terms of research dollars. During the first two months of this fiscal year, researchers from our college have received awards totaling \$8 million. Last year our total research awards were \$17 million.

I'd like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to everyone in our research enterprise for the hard work and passion for scientific inquiry that makes this possible. The awards for July and August were for the following:

Oral Biology

Dana Catafamo (Dr. S. Wallet), Byung Ha Lee (Dr. A. Peck), Rushi Patel (Dr. E. Chan)

"Medical Guild Research Incentive Awards & Graduate Research Awards"

from the University of Florida Medical Guild

\$750 each for one year

Dr. Edward Chan

"Mirna Biomarkers Affecting the Interferon Pathway in SLE"

from the Lupus Research Institute

\$300,000 for three years

Dr. David Culp

"Salivary Mucins as a Potential Diagnostic Indicator and Therapeutic Treatment"

from the DSR Opportunity Fund

\$85,000 for two years

Dr. N. Ingvar Magnusson

"A Pilot Study to Assess Plaque Following Regular Once or Twice Daily Use of Marketed Anti-Microbial Mouth Rinse"

from two corporations

\$66,000 for two years and \$99,000 for six months

Research Funding is Strong *continued*

Dr. Cuong Nguyen

“Gene Therapy Targeting the TH17/IL-27 System in Autoimmune Exocrinopathy”

(Subaward from A Peck, Pathology)

from the National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

\$142,378 for two years

Dr. Ann Progulski-Fox

“Integrative Approaches to Discover Pathogenesis Associated Proteins from the Causal Agent of Citrus”

(Subaward from E Triplett, IFAS Microbiology)

from the Florida Department of Citrus

\$49,302 for two years

Dr. William Williams

“CMS Craniofacial Network” “CMS Multiple Handicap/Neurology”

Subawards from J Nackashi, Pediatrics

from the Florida Department of Health, CMS COQRH-RENWAL

\$1,089,110 for three years

Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science

Dr. Roger Fillingim

“NCMHD Southeastern Exploratory Sickle Cell Center of Excellence”

from the Medical College of Georgia National Institutes of Health / National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities

\$125,025 for five years

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Dr. Marc Heft

“Pain Treatment Decisions: Influence of Sex, Race and Age”

Sub-award from M Robinson, Public Health and Health Professions

from the National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

\$30,434 for two years

Dr. Donald Price

“Pain Treatment Decisions: Influence of Sex, Race and Age”

Sub-award from M Robinson, Public Health and Health Professions

from the National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

\$25,578 for two years

Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences

Dr. Carol Stewart

“A Randomized, Double-Blind, Vehicle Controlled Parallel Arm Study of 552-02 in Subjects with Dry Mouth Associated with Sjogren’s Syndrome”

from a corporation

\$191,800 for two years

Research Funding is Strong *continued*

Periodontology

Dr. Luciana Shaddox

“Mechanisms and Treatment Response of Aggressive Periodontitis in Children”

from the National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
\$2,186,503 for five years

New NIH Director

On August 17, **Francis S. Collins**, M.D., Ph.D., took the helm of the NIH. Since then he made several appearances to discuss his priorities and perspectives including one on NPR's Science Friday on September 11, which is available online at (<http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/20090911>). The minutes from the first meeting Collins led at the NIH are also posted online and provide interesting insight into his philosophies and the themes he hopes to stress during his tenure (<http://www.nih.gov/icd/od/foia/icdirminutes/icdir08272009.htm>).

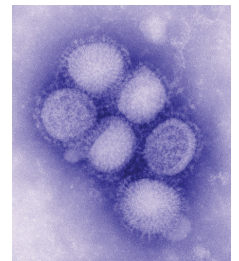
UF Academy Participant

Congratulations to **James “Jim” Webb**, assistant director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, who was one of 16 people selected to participate in the 2009-10 UF Academy. Jim joined us in 2005 and has been a wonderful addition to the college. The academy, entering its seventh year, is a nine-month program established to develop emerging leaders at UF by increasing participants' knowledge about the institution. The program is an “immersion” into the university culture and provides future leaders with the skills and tools to effectively manage and lead people. I am proud to have Jim representing our college during the coming year.



Preparing for H1N1

We've spend considerable effort to keep our college up-to-date on H1N1 flu information and to prepare in advance for our response should we be hit with an epidemic in our community and/or our college. Please take the time to ready the weekly information distributed by Dr. Boyd Robinson. Our hope is, of course, that we're essentially preparing for an event that never happens. One way everyone can help is by following all of the advice about hand washing, cleaning surfaces and staying home when you're sick – we can all influence how much affect this virus has on our college by using caution and care.



Security Issues

Please be safe and aware of your surroundings when you are inside our building, or heading to or from parking areas. Obviously locking our doors can help protect our property but more important is everyone's physical safety. Please be safe, use the buddy system or call 392-SNAP for an escort if you need it.

And, as always, thank you all for your hard work and support. Because you are committed to our college, we never have a dull moment around here!