

Fast Forward

a college update from A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Dean, UF College of Dentistry



To: UF College of Dentistry,

With the beginning of a New Year, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be part of the family of Gator dentists. I am also particularly mindful of the many achievements and accomplishments of UFCD during 2015! There are quite a few highlights from 2015 and below are just a few I would like to share with you:

- Faculty, residents, students and staff received many awards recognizing their accomplishments. Our commitment to excellence has been recognized by groups and organizations within UF, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- We completed our accreditation site visit successfully and await a final report next month which we expect to be positive.
- Our pre-doctoral, advanced education and graduate programs are in high demand across the board. We received about 1,500 applications for 93 DMD positions and more than 1,000 applications for 53 slots in our advanced education programs.
- Our Continuing Dental Education program maintained high standards and is well respected. Many of our faculty and alumni participate as speakers and rely on our program for their continued dental education needs.
- UFCD dental centers completed more than 133,000 patient visits; a 20 percent increase over the past five years. Patient satisfaction feedback is overwhelmingly positive in quality, trust, and patient service.
- We continue to serve as a major safety net provider providing high-quality care throughout Florida to individuals who would otherwise not receive dental services.
- Clinical collections were \$18.6 million and represent about 28 percent of our total revenues, an increase of 2.5 percent.
- Research funding increased by 15 percent to \$15.4 million, with most of it coming from federal grants - particularly impressive given the highly competitive environment for funding.

I am pleased that we were able to recognize the efforts of our faculty and staff in a number of ways.

Effective January 1, 2016, merit raises were awarded to faculty and staff. Although UF provides the state portion of those increases, our college must use non-state funds to cover increases on clinical and self-funded program salaries. Fortunately, our current finances allowed us to cover these salary increases without compromising other programmatic funding. *(continued)*



Smart Mouth Guard team wins national award

In January, University of Florida students and faculty were named “Global Youth Innovators” at the iCAN Consumer Electronics Show.

The team created a smart mouth guard that tracks users’ physical activity and potential exposure to head, heat and heart-related injury.

The UF team is comprised of five members; Dr. YK Yoon of the Multidisciplinary Nano Microsystems group, Dr. Fong Wong, Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, and Sheng-Po Fang (Ph.D. candidate), Todd Schumann (Ph.D. candidate), and Justin Correll (undergraduate).

Congratulations!

Also in January, advanced education program directors were recognized with lump sum payments for their leadership and role in the successful accreditation site visit for their individual programs. Modest lump sum payments, based mainly on contributions to the clinical mission as determined by departmental chairs, were awarded to faculty in those clinical departments that had positive net positions at the end of FY'15.

In February, research faculty will receive lump sum payments as a result of their successes in securing salary support from NIH and other funding agencies, and for corporate-sponsored research.

As we look forward to the coming year, I do not believe there are any surprises in store in terms of our priorities.

I will be asking for your input and participation on the development of a new strategic plan for our college that will support our priorities as well as those of UF Health and the university as a whole.

Another high priority is to revitalize the curriculum revision process and formalize several of the changes that have been pilot-tested. I look forward to working with many of you, as we review the thoughtful recommendations from the curriculum revision committee and together work towards a DMD educational model that will emphasize critical thinking, evidence-based dentistry, and the scientific underpinnings of dentistry – all while providing development of skills, professionalism and ethics.

We will continue to focus on maintaining quality and enhancing efficiency in what we do. For example, we will be streamlining processes and crosstraining in the business office and exploring possible innovations for clinical operations. Another high-priority item will be increasing marketing efforts to highlight the excellent care provided by our college and to educate the community about the services we offer. One key element in ensuring success with marketing efforts is to streamline our patient intake processes, enhance inter-department referrals and increase referrals from local dentists to our specialty clinics.

Our work is supported and strengthened by the excellent work of our alumni, friends, business and community partners; my thanks to all for your generosity. Personally, I am indebted to all of you. You have patiently guided and oriented me to the many aspects of, and moving parts, of our college. I have been a Gator Dentist for 11 months, and it has been a steep and rewarding learning curve. I plan to spend a good part of 2016 increasing my depth and breadth of knowledge of our college and setting in motion many initiatives to address long-standing high priority needs.

Finally, I plan to 'hit the road' a bit more, getting to interact with more of our alumni and friends. To that end, I am planning a tour through our dental centers in Hialeah, Naples and St. Petersburg as well as in most of the major Florida cities to connect with alumni, friends, and others colleagues.

With appreciation and kind regards,

Dean Isabel Garcia



February 2

[UFCD Annual Performance Management Training](#)

February 15

[Instructional Design Seminar: Student Genotyping in the Classroom](#)

February 18

[UF Emerging Pathogens Institute Research Day](#)

February 22

[COM Celebration of Research](#)

March 9

[Faculty Assembly](#)

March 12-15

[ADEA in Denver](#)

March 16-19

[AADR in Los Angeles](#)

March 29

[Acid Etch Talent Show](#)

April 1

[2016 UFCD Spring Synergy](#)

April 9

[Super Sealant Saturday](#)

May 11

[Faculty Assembly](#)

May 20

[UFCD Commencement](#)

June 16-18

[Florida Dental Convention](#)

[Visit the UFCD online calendar for details on these events and more.](#)

Nothing but smiles!



Hialeah residents and staff joined forces with the Colgate Mobile Unit in January, visiting an elementary school where they educated the children about good oral health habits.

DMD Class of 2018

It's great to be a Gator dentist.

It was cold the day that the DMD Class of 2018 scheduled a photo session . . . *outside*. But they showed their pride and spirit anyway, gathering at the Founder's Gallery for a class

photo and then taping a quick Gator cheer before grabbing their hats, gloves, blankets and coats, and scurrying back inside. You can check out their [Gator dental pride here.](#)

