

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,

I hope everyone is looking forward to another very successful academic year. The Fall semester is in full swing and it's hard to believe that we are a year out from our winning CODA accreditation visit. As you read the news below, you will agree that we have much to be proud of and celebrate, and that there are more great things ahead for our top-ranked school.

We have a number of exciting projects underway. Among them are development of a new college strategic plan, implementation of a hospitality and service program, and the re-start of the DMD Curriculum Revision.

Strategic Plan

The [Strategic Planning Committee](#) met September 30 to begin planning for the development of a new UFCD Strategic Plan that will span the next five years. Important to the process is ensuring broad representation from all communities of interest, including UFCD faculty, students, residents and staff as well as our college's alumni, friends, and its many partners both within UF and across the communities we serve. The new plan will take into account the exceptional opportunities for our college during this time of historic growth and success at UF. Strategies for the years to come will ensure that our college is well positioned to benefit from, and contribute to, UF's success and remain closely aligned with strategic directions of UF and UF Health. We have engaged two outside experts to assist us. Robert J. Berendt Associates has extensive experience in strategic planning and will serve to facilitate the process and guide the plan's development. Working with Mr. Berendt will be [Allison F. Davis, Ph.D.](#), as writer and editor. We look forward to engaging with them, and with all of you, as we move close to a kickoff date and events.



2016 Clinical Associates Reveal



Dr. Isabel Garcia, left, and DMD/PhD student KyuLim Lee, in Washington, D.C.

Hospitality & Service Program

Richelle Janiec, director of quality assurance and assistant director of clinical operations, is leading a new initiative on hospitality and service. We are modeling the program after the UF Health program that, since 2013, has trained 13 teams across UF Health Shands and the College of Medicine. The program provides a set of standards that urge us all to help create an even more welcoming and hospitable work environment – no matter where we work across our school. The program addresses four areas: hospitality, teamwork, communication, and professionalism & responsibility.

UF Health is sharing materials and expertise with us - our internal team will tailor the program to suit our college's needs and create a plan for rolling it out. Eventually, all of us will be part of this program and new employees will participate as part of their orientation. The team had its first meeting on August 30 and is learning from other trainers at UF Health. Patient satisfaction surveys continue to give our college high marks; yet we know there is room for improvement. Likewise, our faculty, staff and student surveys tell us we can do even better. I look forward to the program's development and being part of it. If you would like to know more, I invite you to read [Dr. David Guzick's column](#) on the topic when the program initially launched or visit the [Bridge](#) for more information.

DMD Curriculum Revision: Take Two

The eagerly anticipated “re-start” of the DMD curriculum revision has begun. Many of you participated in a rigorous, comprehensive and thoughtful strategy to revise the curriculum several years ago. We halted the process as the accreditation site visit loomed closer and as major changes to the National Board Dental Exam were solidified. During the hiatus, quite a few pilot projects were completed that created a path for our next steps.

A faculty steering committee and several working groups will lead us through a phased approach for implementation. The first phase will focus on one core domain– professionalism. The desired outcomes for this competency domain were defined by a working group that will, working backwards from the professionalism competencies, develop a summative competency assessment plan to evaluate students' attainment of these competencies. Following this, components of the curriculum that build student competency will be planned and developed.

A similar approach will follow for all other aspects of the curriculum, in a staggered sequence, keeping in mind that some elements will be more ready for implementation

Hospitality Action Team

Richelle Janiec, Leader

Jennifer Blackburn

Christine Cassisi

Dr. Cal Dolce

Dr. Monica Fernandez

Dr. Isabel Garcia

Dr. Micaela Gibbs

Theresa Pendray

Dr. Edna Perez

Terry Thomas

Michelle Watson

Connie White-Paulson

Patti Williams



2016 Annual Mighty Molar Picnic



For more Mighty Molar photos visit [UF ADSA](#).

than others. The lessons we will inevitably learn through the initial launch will enhance the rollout of additional phases of the revision.

Additional News & Updates

On September 23, I enjoyed attending an oral biology department retreat at the UF Austin Carey Learning Center. It was a wonderful setting and retreat that included three-minute presentations from faculty on their research, round table discussions, posters session and a keynote presentation from Dr. Roy Curtiss, a recent addition to the UF College of VetMed, who has been a colleague of Dr. Bob Burne's since the 1980s. I hope you enjoy some of the photos we've included as well as the special haikus that Dr. Burne wrote to illustrate the differences between oral biology research and understanding in the 1980s, when the department was established, and the oral biology research of today.

The next day, the DMD Class of 2020 enjoyed a class victory with a first place finish during the Annual Mighty Molar Picnic. With a team name of "Captain Amolarca," how could they lose? I was traveling and unable to attend but I have heard that the picnic was a great success.

On September 27, I visited the Washington D.C. offices of Florida senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson with Kyulim Lee, one of our DMD/PhD students. The visits were organized by the American Association for Dental Research to advocate for research funding for the National Institutes of Health, and the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research. Our research mission, and research trainees such as Kyu, benefit greatly from programs funded by NIH, which need to receive adequate, consistent and predictable funding.

Please visit our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for more news and accomplishments – including the highly popular new "reveal" of the clinical associates-mentor pairs of D2 and D3 students. The event, held in HPNP courtyard on October 3, included emoticons, healthy popsicles from Hippo and many great smiles from students, faculty and staff who attended.

With thanks for all you do to make us a proud Gator family.

Regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia

Oral Biology Retreat



Say It With a Haiku

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What better way to illustrate the advances over the past 30-plus years in oral biologic understanding of dental caries than with two thoughtfully-written haikus, courtesy of Dr. Bob Burne? *

Haiku for Dental Caries circa 1980

Strep mutans divides
Lactate scours minerals
There a hole is formed

Haiku for Dental Caries 2016

advanced genetics/
mutants bring clarity and
illumination

* Dr. Bob Burne is not officially or unofficially appointed as the poet laureate for the UF College of Dentistry.