

# **gatordentist** TODAY

A publication of the University of Florida College of Dentistry

Summer 2017

## **A BRIGHT FUTURE**



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA



FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni & Friends,

In February 1963, the Florida Dental Society held a workshop on the dental workforce needs in Florida and concluded that, “an absolutely first quality school of dentistry should be established at the University of Florida promptly.” It would be nine years before the “alpha class” of 24 dental students matriculated at UF in 1972 but, from the beginning, the workshop’s goal of creating an absolutely first quality UF College of Dentistry was realized.


Since that time, our school has educated 2,913 new dentists and another 1,544 residents, fellows and interns. Of those, the majority live in Florida, serving the oral health needs of people throughout the state. The rest are scattered across our country and the globe, some providing care to our communities in need or to members of our armed services. These 4,457 Gator Dentists continue the tradition of excellence for which we have become known throughout our profession, regardless of where they practice.

And now the college again looks to the future as we launch a new strategic planning process that will define our goals and priorities, and inform our decision-making for the next five years, being mindful that continued success requires us to be innovative and adaptable, constantly evolving to fulfill our vision. In addition, it is crucial that we maintain balance in all parts of our mission, while focusing on key areas of opportunity.

The planning process itself will engage college faculty, residents, students and staff as well as alumni and leadership within UF and UF Health. Creating a new strategic plan will help ensure that the college continues to be the flagship dental school in the state, an asset to UF and its academic health center and an exceptional place in which to work, learn, study and teach. Achieving even closer integration between education, clinical care and research will provide unparalleled opportunities to faculty, staff, students and residents, and support for the citizens we proudly serve.

We look forward to the next five years as well as the decades beyond, protecting and growing this school’s reputation of absolute first quality in all areas of what we do. It’s great to be a Gator Dentist!

Warm regards,

  
A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Dean



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In May, groups of faculty, staff, students and residents embarked on an ambitious project to create a new strategic plan to designate key priorities and actions to advance the work of UFCD as one of the nation’s premier schools of dentistry.

*Key Features of the Process*

- A 16-member steering committee composed of senior college leadership, researchers, clinicians, administrators and student residency representatives.
- Four area-specific working groups charged with developing programmatic recommendations on: Education; Research; Patient Care; and Institutional Growth, Support & Advancement.
- Multiple town hall meetings and focus groups to encourage and secure input from key stakeholders. These groups include faculty and staff, students and residents, practicing clinicians, alumni and friends, and industry representatives.
- Analysis of significant trends confronting schools of dental education, dental practice and research.
- An accelerated timetable targeting a completion date by year-end 2017.
- Oversight and support for all activities provided by the UFCD dean, associate dean for strategic initiatives, senior administrators and an outside strategic planning facilitator and writer.

It is anticipated that the new strategic plan will recognize the need to:

1. Invest in people, programs and infrastructure
2. Drive discovery and new knowledge
3. Transform the DMD Curriculum
4. Continue to meet Florida’s oral health needs



**SUMMER HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
University of Florida

*All six University of Florida health colleges.*

*Free, six-week enrichment curriculum for underrepresented students and those from communities of socioeconomic and educational disadvantage who are interested in careers in health care.*

*Mission of improving access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions, directly aligning with the six academic college missions and UF Health's emphasis on multidisciplinary and cross-college collaboration.*

## UF SHPEP

### Making goals achievable

The Summer Health Professions Education Program, or SHPEP, arrived on the University of Florida campus this summer, thanks in large part to the UF College of Dentistry's Patty Probert, Ph.D., assistant dean for student and multicultural affairs and principal investigator on the \$415,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant, which is helping fund the pilot UF SHPEP project.

The UF campus is one of four new SHPEP sites this year, joining nine other sites across the U.S.

All six health colleges, which are part of UF Health have joined forces to create a six-week enrichment curriculum, which ran May 22-June 30, and is free of cost to the 80 attending students. The SHPEP is intended for students from communities of socioeconomic and educational disadvantage who are interested in careers in health care.

The mission of SHPEP focuses heavily on improving access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions, directly aligning with the six academic health college missions and UF Health's emphasis on multidisciplinary and cross-college collaboration.



"The Summer Health Professions Education Program is meant to open health care professions to a more diverse student audience," Probert said. "We were excited to host this pilot and are proud of everything that UF has to offer program participants. This program's purpose is to open doors and serve as a pathway to success for students."

The program pays for transportation, food and on-campus room and board while providing access to information and resources that will strengthen participants' knowledge and understanding of each field. Students enrolled in UF SHPEP explored four main career pathways through the six-week curriculum — medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and public health — with extensive exposure to nursing, physician assistant studies and veterinary medicine.

At the College of Dentistry, UF SHPEP took the place of the Summer Learning Program, or SLP, which provided 15 years of guidance, knowledge, resources and support to aspiring dentists from 2002-16.

"I do not think I would be where I am today without the SLP," said Olga Luaces, D.M.D., an adjunct clinical professor in the Department of Community Dentistry, and former SLP participant. "It was really the first major stepping stone into my career in dentistry. As a student without any family background in the health professions, I felt I had limited knowledge of dentistry and the dental school application

process. SLP changed all that. Not only did I get an in-depth overview of the application process, but also was able to meet one-on-one with admissions committee members, take a full-length practice dental aptitude test, and even participate in a mock interview."

**Students enrolled in UF SHPEP explored four main career pathways through the six-week curriculum — medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and public health — with extensive exposure to nursing, physician assistant studies and veterinary medicine.**

Probert, College of Dentistry colleague Frank Catalanotto, D.M.D., and the SHPEP coordinator, Takeshia Pierre, M.P.H., were actively involved in planning all aspects of the new program with dentistry staff, alongside faculty and staff representatives from all six UF Health academic units.

Seven months of intensive developing, implementing, planning, marketing, and seeing the application process through is complete and the UF Health welcomed its first group of 80 SHPEP students to campus at the end of May.

*(continued)*





*(UF SHPEP continued)*

Of the 80 students who arrived in Gainesville this summer, 20 focused heavily on dentistry. The dental career pathway featured hands-on projects in a dental simulation lab, the opportunity to shadow dental students in general and specialty dental clinics, and the chance to explore dentistry and its specialties with faculty, residents and students.

Students attended the 2017 Impressions Program, hosted by the dentistry's Chapter of the Student National Dental Association, and participated in a variety of workshops from Dental Aptitude Test prep, interviewing, professionalism, financial aid and research. The SHPEP curriculum also included health policy education and financial literacy, among other topics.

The college saw 220 students come through the Summer Learning Program from 2002-16. Approximately 65 percent of those alumni enrolled in dental school, and approximately 30 percent of those students who went on to dental school attended UF.

Luaces, who participated in 2009 SLP as a rising junior undergrad at UF, added that at the conclusion of the program not only was she reassured she wanted to pursue a career in dentistry, but for the first time she felt the goal was in reach.

"I left the program excited, motivated and encouraged through the strong support system and knowledge I had gained," Luaces said.

# Opening Doors

## Health Resources & Services Administration Grants

Without question, dentistry is a highly rewarding profession, and the UF College of Dentistry is a leader in quality of education and clinical experience. Increasing the delivery of oral health care to underserved individuals and communities in Florida is one of the top priorities in the college's three-part mission that includes education, research and patient care.

Becoming a dentist comes at a cost, and the reality of future debt for dental students can present a huge burden to aspiring dentists. According to the American Dental Education Association, or ADEA, U.S. dental graduates in 2016 had an average of \$261,000 of debt, and over 30 percent of indebted dental school graduates in the same year reported debt in excess of \$300,000.

For comparison, according to U.S. News & World Report's average indebtedness of medical school graduates in 2015, medical students graduating from the UF College of Medicine incurred an average of \$150,000 in debt, while Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine student debt topped the list at \$259,000.

That is why the Health Resources & Services Administration, or HRSA, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, or SDS, are so important for our UFCD students. These scholarships enable the UFCD to recruit and retain the most talented students, thereby improving access to health professions education and fostering a diversified health workforce. They also reduce student debt so that scholarship recipients are more likely to provide care in underserved areas after graduation. The UFCD Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, under the leadership of assistant dean Pamela



*The members of the Office of Admissions have focused tirelessly on securing scholarship funding for dental students.*

### Access to education for qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds is a priority in order to recruit the most talented future dentists to UF.

Sandow, D.M.D., was awarded a second consecutive four-year grant in July 2016.

HRSA's latest SDS award will total nearly \$2.6 million from 2016-20. A total of \$647,979 was designated for the 2016-17 academic year, with recommended future support for the same amount each academic year until 2019-20.

The UFCD was the only unit at UF to receive the award both terms, and also was one of three dental schools in the country for 2012-16 and one of five dental schools across the country for 2016-20 receiving these highly competitive HRSA grant awards.

In total, that's over \$5 million in funding over eight years and over 300 scholarships awarded to UFCD students. Take senior Walmir Da Costa, who graduated with his D.M.D. in

May. Da Costa is a nontraditional dental student who has been married to his high school sweetheart for 13 years.

"The reality of higher debt was a strong consideration in my decision to continue my education," Da Costa said. "But scholarships have been a huge help for me and my family and I am grateful I can continue to pursue my dream of becoming a pediatric dentist."



*Da Costa, his wife Irene, and their four boys.*



# MAKING SAFE MOVES

*An innovative peer-learning experience where physical therapy students teach dental students how to safely transfer patients with assistive devices into and out of the dental chair*



The value of interprofessional research and education is at an all-time high in today's academic climate, but logistical challenges, like meeting curricular and scheduling requirements, frequently create barriers and deterrents to interdisciplinary collaboration on college campuses.

Co-located on one campus in Gainesville, University of Florida Health and all six health science colleges have an advantage in research and health professions education collaboration. All six colleges, major research centers, institutes and most clinical enterprises are located within a half-mile radius of one another, and are adjacent to the main university's campus.

The University of Florida College of Dentistry and the Department of Physical Therapy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, or PHHP, jumped at the opportunity to team up for an interprofessional education course, "Making Safe Moves."

Venita Sposetti, D.M.D., associate dean for education in dentistry, and Kim Dunleavy, P.T., Ph.D., O.C.S., director of professional education and community engagement in the department of physical therapy in PHHP, joined forces to make the interactive practical experience a reality and a win-win opportunity for dental and physical therapy students.

Dentistry and physical therapy embraced the obstacles, and the result is "Making Safe Moves," an innovative peer-learning experience, where physical therapy students teach dental students how to safely transfer patients with assistive devices into and out of the dental chair.

"Making Safe Moves" has made big moves on the UF campus and is garnering attention across the country.

A peer-reviewed article in the Winter 2016 edition of Collaborative Healthcare, a publication of the Jefferson Center for



Interprofessional Education, detailed the hour and a half "Making Safe Moves" course.

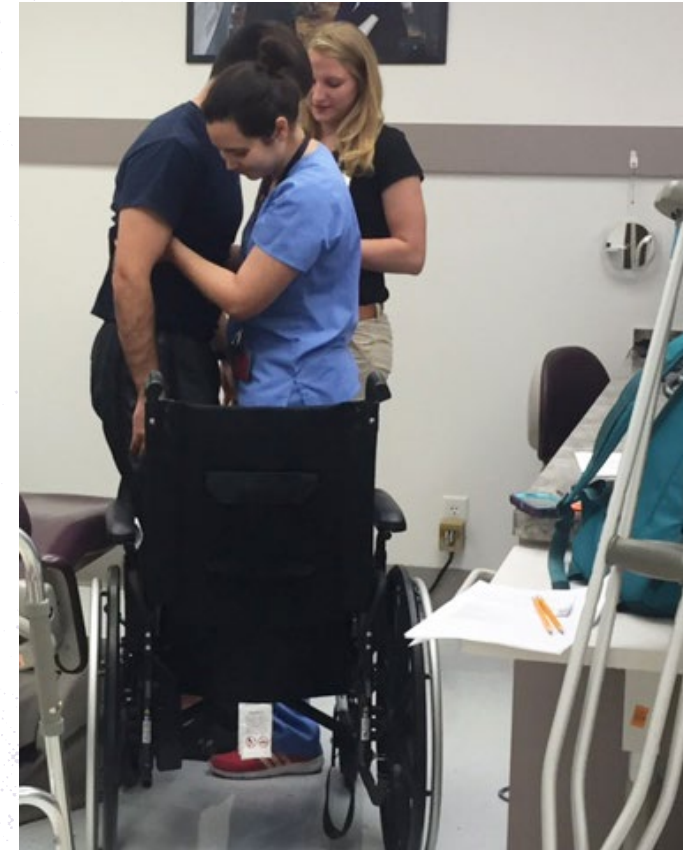
"It was so great working with Dr. Dunleavy in PHHP on 'Making Safe Moves,'" Sposetti said. "We're so proud that others see the value in this particular interprofessional education collaboration. This is only the beginning; we know that our interdisciplinary efforts with other educational units will only continue to flourish."

Thought to be the first of its kind in the country and the only one the UF campus, the one-on-one interactive experience meets curricular objectives for the dental and physical therapy groups and addresses some of the barriers to interprofessional education. On a scale of 0-10, all physical therapy and dental students who took the initial course believe that learning how to perform transfers, about appropriate body mechanics and how to address needs for those with mobility deficits were very important.

After the experience, 79 percent of D.M.D. students reported being confident or very confident assisting patients with mobility needs to the dental chair, while 100 percent of the Year 1 Doctor of Physical Therapy students reported being confident or very confident teaching other professionals in their environments.

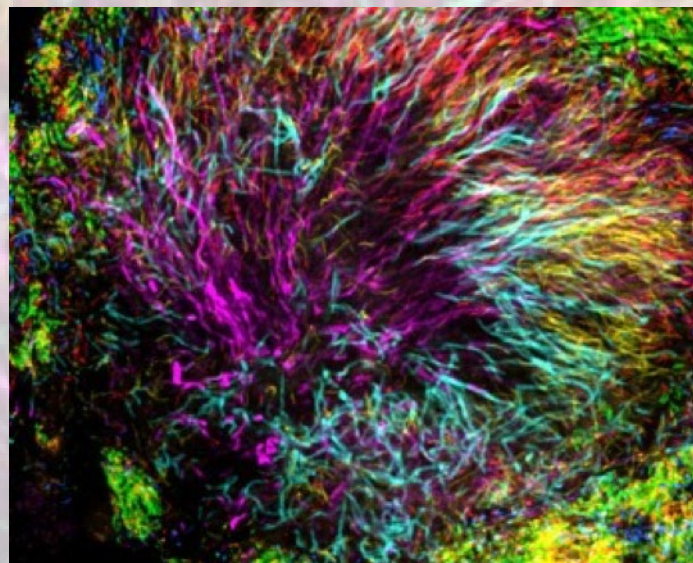
"It was great being able to share our personal experiences that we recently learned over our four clinical rotations in order to simulate actual patient situations," third year physical therapy student Lindsay Brinker said of the course. "It was also very fun working with the dental students to encourage interdisciplinary interactions and promote the importance of communication between different medical fields."

Sposetti shared insights learned during the development and deployment of the program during the annual meeting of the American Dental Education Association in Long Beach, California, in March. The course is now a mainstay in the dental and physical therapy curriculum at UF.





# The Human Microbiome



## Clasi-Fish

*Frias-Lopez is one of a growing number of researchers around the world who are working to chart the "human biome." A group of researchers at Brown University and the Woods Hole Marine Biological Lab developed a method to create an image of microbes in the human mouth — which had never before been observed. The method Combinatorial Labeling and Spectral Imaging – Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization, or Clasi-Fish, allows researchers to see 15 different species of microbes in a single image. Some of the structures had never been seen before.*

According to the Human Microbiome Project, in the body of a healthy adult, microbial cells are estimated to outnumber human cells 10 to one. The community of microbial cells remains largely unstudied, leaving their influence upon human development, physiology, immunity and nutrition almost entirely unknown.

This makes human microbiome a research field of high importance, and one that Jorge Frias-Lopez, Ph.D., specializes in.

Frias-Lopez joined the University of Florida Department of Oral Biology as an associate professor in August 2016. Frias-Lopez arrived in Gainesville from Cambridge, Massachusetts, after eight years and three different roles at the Forsyth Institute, the only independent research institute in America specializing in oral health and its impact on overall wellness.

The unifying theme of his work is to understand the role that microbial communities play in human health and disease. His research interests are concentrated on studying the ecology of the human microbiome focusing on the oral microbial community.

The search for greater understanding about the human microbiome fuels Frias-Lopez and his research team to find answers. He uses polymicrobial disease, or periodontal disease, as a model to study and understand complex human microbial communities and the interactions among their members and hosts.

Another aspect of his research focuses on understanding how microbial communities are structured and what the driving forces are that shape them. Frias-Lopez and his team also have an interest in understanding what makes

these communities resilient to environmental changes, and how to quantify the robustness of microbial communities.

He was most recently awarded a R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health, or NIH, for a project, "Dysbiosis of the subgingival microbiome: host-microbial metatranscriptomic analysis during periodontal disease progression and post periodontal treatment," that is expected to end in 2021. The relevance translates directly to periodontitis, which is caused by complex microbial communities, and can ultimately result in the loss of teeth.

The goal of his work is to understand crosstalk between organisms and hosts during periodontitis progression, with a goal of developing specific treatments against the disease.

Frias-Lopez's latest undertaking continues his desire to understand the mechanisms of progression of the most common infectious polymicrobial inflammatory disease. He was awarded NIH grants from 2011-13 to study changes in the metagenome and metatranscriptome of the oral community that could explain why, in some cases, disease progresses, and in others, it does not.

Using system biology approaches, his lab has begun to identify bacterial modules in the pathogenic microbial community that are associated with disease. As part of his work on disease progression, he has also collected samples from diseased individuals after treatment.

Frias-Lopez presented on the topic in March during the International Association of Dental Researchers in San Francisco, California, with his presentation "The Metatranscriptome of the Oral Microbiome in Periodontal Disease Progression."

In addition to NIH funding, Frias-Lopez's research is supported by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, or NIDCR, and companies like Colgate-Palmolive. He collaborates extensively with investigators at multiple universities.

Frias-Lopez recently started a collaborative project with Maria A. Kukuruzinska, Ph.D., at Boston University and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, to study the potential role that the oral microbiome plays in oral cancer. The investigators are analyzing samples from a small group of patients in a pilot study characterizing the profiles of



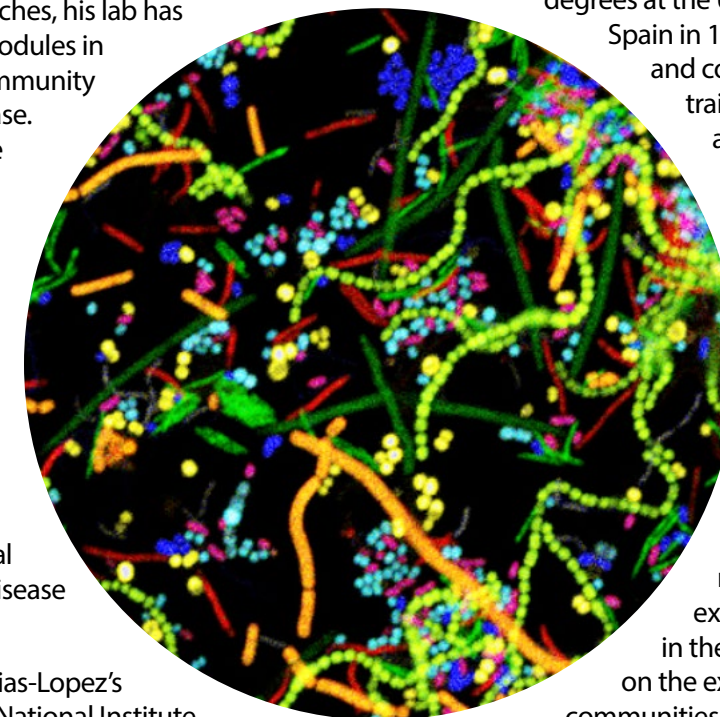
Jorge Frias-Lopez, Ph.D.

gene expression of the microbial communities colonizing active cancer sites by metatranscriptome analysis, as well as of the host response on those sites.

Frias-Lopez completed his bachelor's and doctorate degrees at the University of Barcelona in Spain in 1987 and 1992, respectively, and completed his post-doctoral training at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 2001-04. He then moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to work as a research scientist at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

It was not until he was working at MIT that he was able to develop a methodology to study microbial community gene expression in situ, which resulted in the first comprehensive report on the expression profile of bacterial communities in open ocean waters.

In 2008, he joined the Forsyth Institute, becoming an associate member of the staff in 2013 before heading to Gainesville last fall. He lectured at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and served as co-chair of the microbiology department at the Forsyth Institute. While at Forsyth, he established a research program focused on the study of the function of the components of the oral biofilm in vivo and using a multispecies biofilm model.





## WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

**Thomas L. Bowers IV**, D.M.D., M.D., a member of the DMD class of 1984, returned to his roots in Gainesville in October 2016 as a clinical assistant professor in the UF Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery following nearly 15 years in private practice and nearly three decades of service to the country.

After Bowers earned his dental degree and completed a year in general practice residency at UF in 1984-85, he spent the next four years in public health service with the West Orange Farmworker Health Association in Winter Garden before serving in the United States Navy on active duty in a number of different dental roles from 1988-1994. Bowers earned 16 professional awards and honors for his service throughout active and reserve duty in the U.S. Navy. Bowers returned to medical school at the Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1994 and earned his medical degree in 1998. He completed his ORFS/MD residency and a general surgery internship at Mayo in Rochester. A Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a member of the National Dental Board of Anesthesiology, Bowers has continued his service in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

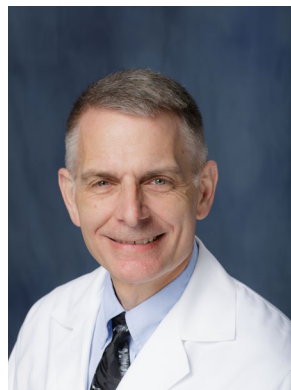
**Jorge Frias-Lopez**, Ph.D., joined the UF department of oral biology as an associate professor in August 2016. Frias-Lopez arrived in Gainesville from Cambridge, Massachusetts, after eight years and three different roles at the Forsyth Institute. The unifying theme of Frias-Lopez's work is to understand the role that microbial communities play in human health and disease. His research interests are concentrated on studying the ecology of the human microbiome focusing on the oral microbial community.

The community of microbial cells remain largely unstudied, leaving their influence upon human development, physiology, immunity and nutrition almost entirely unknown. The lack of knowledge fuels Frias-Lopez and his research team to find answers. He uses polymicrobial disease, or periodontal disease, as a model to study and understand complex human microbial communities and the interactions among their members and with their host. Frias-Lopez earned his doctorate degree in microbiology at the University of Barcelona in Spain in 1992.

**Frank Gibson**, Ph.D., joined the UF Department of Oral Biology as an associate professor in fall 2016. Gibson came to UF after eight years as an associate professor of medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases.

Gibson earned his degree in biology (1989) and his Ph.D. in microbiology (1994) from the University of New Hampshire and followed his education with research fellowships in medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School from 1994-97, and Boston University from 1998-2001.

Research in Gibson's lab is focused in areas of host-pathogen interaction geared toward developing a better understanding of the host mechanisms and bacterial structures important in infection-elicited inflammation, thus his research interests include host-pathogen interaction, inflammation, infection and systemic disease, and bacterial pathogenesis. In addition to focusing on the pathogenesis of oral disease, Gibson's lab is engaged in collaborative studies that have been seminal in identifying associations of oral bacterial infection with cardiovascular disease.



Thomas L. Bowers IV



Jorge Frias-Lopez



Frank Gibson



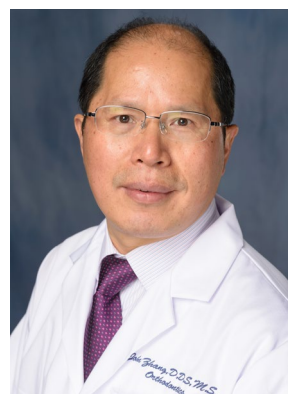
Ana Duran-Pinedo



Annetty Soto



Tina Treloar



John Zhang

**Ana Duran-Pinedo**, Ph.D., started at the college in November 2016 as a research assistant professor following 12 years at the Forsyth Institute in Boston, Massachusetts.

Duran-Pinedo earned her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Barcelona, Spain, in 2001, and then served as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from 2002-04 before taking her first position at the Forsyth Institute as a postdoctoral fellow. Duran-Pinedo was most recently the principal investigator on a grant studying regulated proteins in the bacterial species *Tannarella forsythia* during periodontal disease, with the goal of understanding the role of the organism in the progression of periodontal disease. Some of her latest research relates to characterizing microbial communities and their gene expression profiles associated with the progression of periodontal disease.

**Annetty Soto**, D.M.D., joined UF in January as a clinical assistant professor in the division of pre-doctoral general dentistry. Soto teaches UF's predoctoral students and treats patients in Faculty Practice.

Soto comes to the University of Florida after two years in Boston, where she completed a geriatric dental medicine fellowship at Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine and Boston Medical Center. She additionally completed the two-year Boston University School of Medicine Center of Excellence in Geriatric Series, took three postgraduate professional development courses at the Harvard Macy Institute, and completed the Massachusetts Dental Society Leadership Institute course. Soto graduated cum laude with her dental degree from the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in 2006, and earned Certificates of Advance Graduate Study in Fixed, Removal and Implant Assisted Dental Prosthesis and Oral Esthetics Restorations from the Universidad del Salvador Asociacion Odontologica Argentina in Buenos Aires.

**Tina Treloar**, C.D.A., R.D.H., B.A.S., joined the faculty in January as a clinical research coordinator and dental hygienist for Luciana Shaddox, Ph.D. Treloar oversees the compliance and administration aspects of Shaddox's studies, assists with data and sample collection, serves as a clinical and course assistant, and provides periodontal maintenance treatment to patients involved in the studies. Treloar also serves as a continuing education instructor for dentists, hygienists and dental assistants.

Treloar began her dental career at Santa Fe College in Gainesville as a dental assistant in 2006, continued her education to become a dental hygienist in 2008, and then earned her bachelor's of applied science degree in health services administration in 2011 from Santa Fe. Treloar is expected to earn her master's degree in public health, with an emphasis on public health practice, from the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions in May 2018.

**John Zhang**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.S.D., started at the college in the UF Department of Orthodontics in February as a clinical associate professor. Zhang, a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, is teaching predoctoral and graduate orthodontics students while also serving patients in the Faculty Practice.

Zhang earned both his dental degree in stomatology (1991) and his Ph.D. in orthodontics (1995) from Beijing Medical University, and followed with his M.S.D. in orthodontics (2010) from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He came to UF from the Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences at Jacksonville University, where he was an associate professor and course director of Science and Research in Orthodontics. Zhang serves as a journal reviewer for the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, as well as The Angle Orthodontist.



## HONORS, AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

**Robert A. Burne**, Ph.D., was elected by the American Association for the Advancement of Science as a member-at-large to the section on Dentistry and Oral Health Sciences. Burne, a distinguished professor at UF, will serve a four-year term from February 21, 2017, to February 15, 2021.

**Mary Ellen Davey**, Ph.D., joins the Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences Study Section of the National Institutes of Health as a full member in summer 2017. The section reviews applications on oral microbiology, oral immunology, periodontology, cariology, salivary gland biology, pathophysiology and clinical studies of oral structures and restorative dentistry.

**Deborah Dilbone**, D.M.D., was accepted as a Fellow of the 2017-2018 American Dental Education Association, or ADEA, Leadership Institute and also as the 2017 ADEA/ADEAGies Foundation Drs. Connie L. and Richard R. Drisko Scholar in the ADEA Leadership Institute. The recipient of this award receives a \$10,000 stipend for tuition and fees.

**Jaana Gold**, D.D.S., M.P.H., C.P.H., Ph.D., was elected to the Leadership Council of Oral Health Florida and also elected as section councilor for the American Public Health Association's Oral Health Section.

**Deeba Kashtwari**, B.D.S., M.S., was appointed as a Commission on Dental Accreditation site visitor for Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, effective fall 2017.

**Jose Lemos**, Ph.D., joins the Bacterial Pathogenesis Study Section of the National Institutes of Health in July 2017. The study section reviews grant applications submitted to the NIH and makes recommendations on these applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and surveys the status of research in their field.

**Arthur Nimmo**, D.D.S., FACP, director of the University of Florida Predoctoral Implant Dentistry Program, was recently installed as the 67th president of the American Board of Prosthodontics.

**Patricia Pereira**, D.D.S., Ph.D., was appointed director of the Master's in Operative Dentistry program, a new graduate education program in the department of restorative dental sciences for general dentists.

**Roberta Pileggi**, D.D.S., M.S., was accepted as a Fellow in the 2016-2017 Class of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women.

**Wellington Rody Jr.**, D.D.S., M.S., became a board-certified orthodontist in October after successfully passing the American Board of Orthodontics Clinical Examination.

**Jean-Francois Roulet**, D.D.S., Ph.D., one of three editors-in-chief of the Stomatology Edu Journal, was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Congress of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, Romania, March 16-19, 2017. During the convention, he also received an honorary title, Doctor Honoris Causa, from the University of Bucharest.

**Carol Stewart**, D.D.S., M.S., was recognized for her contributions to the field of oral medicine during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Oral Medicine, or AAOM, in April 2017. Stewart received the Diamond Pin Award, the highest and most prestigious award bestowed by the AAOM. The award is for unusual, exceptional and dedicated service to the academy.

**Shannon Wallet**, Ph.D., received a 2016-17 UF Faculty Doctoral Mentoring Award for the Medicine and Dentistry from the UF Graduate School. Wallet, a professor in the UF Department of Oral Biology and the associate dean for faculty affairs for the UF College of Dentistry, received the award in recognition of her excellence, innovation and effectiveness in mentoring doctoral students.

### FIVE FACULTY RECEIVE ADEA SCHOLARSHIPS

Five faculty received scholarships from the American Dental Education Association, or ADEA, for professional development opportunities through the ADEA and the Academy for Academic Leadership, or AAL, in 2017.

**Abi Adewumi**, B.D.S., FDSRCS; **Monica Fernandez**, D.D.S., M.S.; **Olga Luaces**, D.M.D.; **Patricia Pereira**, D.D.S., Ph.D.; and **Ana Dias Ribeiro**, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., each earned 2017 ADEA/AAL Faculty of Color Tuition Scholarships.

The scholarships encourage and foster the development of faculty of color in academic dental careers. Supported by the ADEA Gies Foundation and AAL, each scholarship covers the cost of tuition for each program.

## ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

### Guelmann appointed Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives

**Marcio Guelmann**, D.D.S., a professor and chair of the department of pediatric dentistry, was appointed director of special projects and strategic initiatives, effective March 2, 2017. In this role, he will work with Dean Isabel Garcia and senior college leaders to develop and execute strategic initiatives and projects, in particular those requiring cross-disciplinary engagement across the college, UF academic health center, the university and external organizations. He will continue to serve as department chair.

Guelmann joined the university more than 18 years ago and has served as chair of his department since 2004 and, for the past seven months, took on added responsibilities as interim associate dean for clinical affairs and quality.



*Marcio Guelmann, D.D.S.*

### Migliorati joins the college as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Quality

**César Migliorati**, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., joined the college on March 1, 2017, as a professor in the department of oral and maxillofacial diagnostic sciences and as associate dean for clinical affairs and quality.

Migliorati was previously on faculty at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry where he had served on the faculty since 2009, having previously worked at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale; the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Clinic for Geriatric and Handicapped Dentistry, Health Department-Zurich, Switzerland; and the University of California in San Francisco.

Joining the University of Florida is something of a homecoming for Migliorati who was with the college from 1990 to 1993 as an assistant professor. He has extensive teaching experience, a comprehensive clinical background, and many years of administrative experience. His research collaborations focus on supportive care in cancer and the oral complications of cancer therapy. His most recent research involves osteonecrosis of the jaws associated with bisphosphonate medications, and the use of low-level laser therapy in the prevention and control of oral mucositis.



*César Migliorati, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.*

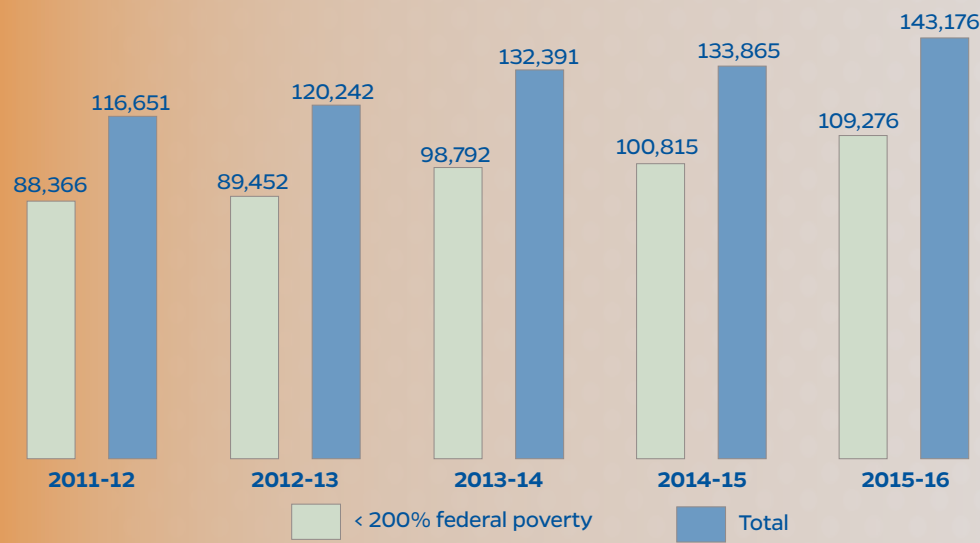


## 2015-16 UFCD Annual Report

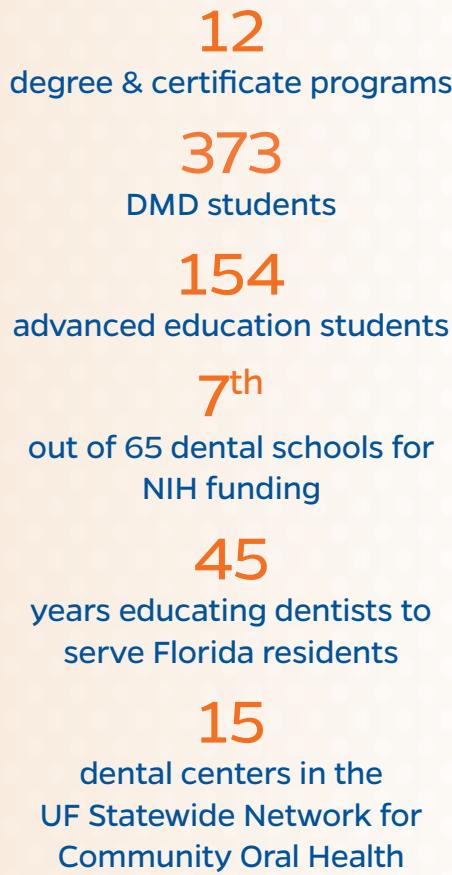
### Revenues by Source \$68.3 million

State General Revenue <i>(includes tuition &amp; fees)</i>	\$21,967,159	32%
Clinical Collections	\$19,744,340	29%
Misc. Income <i>(includes GME &amp; clinical service contracts)</i>	\$6,839,412	10%
Grants	\$11,900,629	17%
Research Foundation	\$13,008	0%
Trust <i>(other revenues, auxiliaries including CDE)</i>	\$7,029,435	10%
Florida Foundation	\$1,582,385	2%
Other restricted revenue	(\$420,245)	0%
Strategic funds revenue	(\$320,996)	0%
Total revenues	\$68,335,088	

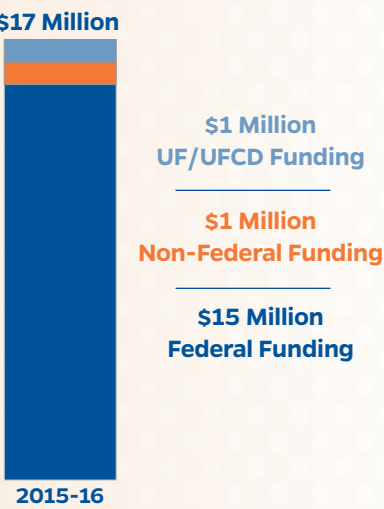
## Patient Visits to College-Owned Clinics



## Current overview



## Research Awards



To: Alumni & Friends,

Since my graduation a little over 11 years ago, a constant memory for me is the joy that we, as UFCD students, were able to bring to our patients, many of whom drove from perhaps hours away to obtain the oral health care they may not have been able to get in their own community. Each of us had specific patients with whom we shared an embrace as they left us pain-free, or with an ability to smile with a confidence they hadn't had in years.

Fast forward to our careers . . . how easy can it be to focus on an individual tooth, an individual treatment plan, or the dollar sign that comes with it? While doing our best for each patient every day is certainly a goal for every one of us, it stands to reason that we can become bogged down with dentistry's minutia and sometimes fail to see the larger picture of our practices' roles in our communities.

As professionals, we share a unique bond with medical doctors, attorneys and members of the clergy. We are able, and even called upon, to serve and positively impact those around us. By slowing down to take a macro perspective of our practices, and how we can be a positive influence, we will find weekly, if not daily, examples where we can truly make a difference in someone's life. By simply forgiving a fee for a patient that may have recently lost his job, or for an elderly patient who may be living on a social security income can touch someone far beyond the moment they leave your office.

Many UFCD alumni in my Central Florida community have created unique ways to assist those in need. Events such as Give Kids a Smile, Veteran appreciation days, and community outreach programs continue to offer hope for those who have little. On the largest scale the groundbreaking Mission of Mercy, or MOMs, events that have taken place throughout our state have been greatly influenced, organized and governed by many UF dentists. In MOMs events in Tampa in 2014 and Jacksonville in 2016, 4,400 patients received 26,000 procedures free of charge — an estimated value of almost \$4 million. In the coming years, this event will take place in Pensacola, Miami and Orlando.

The University of Florida has given us a gift that can never be taken away. By sharing this gift with others, we can and will perpetuate the Gator brand. My call to you, as alumni president, is to ask yourself, "When was the last time I have answered the call of service?" Think about it, and go make a difference. Go Gators!

Brett Zak, DMD Class of 2006  
President, Academy of Alumni & Friends

## A gift of art



If you look closely at the photo, you can see the Fighting Gator emblem on Paul Benjamin's cap, as he stands with his wife, Alexis, near a field of tulips in Holland. It is just one more bit of proof that Paul Benjamin, D.M.D., is as committed a Gator fan and Gator Dentist as anyone can be.

Benjamin's Gator Dentist pride goes back to 1972, when he joined 23 other aspiring dentists to create the first predoctoral class at the fledging UF College of Dentistry. In 1976, since there was no one in his class with a name beginning with A, he became the first graduate of the first class at the college, and remains as involved, supportive and connected to the school today as he was in 1972.

Recently Benjamin paid to have four of his art photographs made into Fractures and installed on what was a blank space in the college's Faculty Dental Practice. The beautiful images are colorful, uplifting and showcase what we've always known — our Gator Dentists are multitalented.

We appreciate his thoughtful and inspiring gift!



## UFCD IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN. WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

### JOHN GAMMICHIA, D.M.D., FAGD | CLASS OF 1995

On November 11, 2016, Veteran's Day, John Gammichia, D.M.D., honored veterans in a truly special way by treating local veterans free of charge at his Apopka, Florida, dental center from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dubbed "Operation Bright Smiles," this true community event was supported by Gammichia's staff as well as 11 other dentists, two oral surgeons, four hygienists and 15 additional volunteers, including Gammichia's four children. The laboratory that Gammichia works with also donated some partials and dentures.

"There's often so much red tape for veterans to get care through established veterans programs," Gammichia told the American Dental Association.

"This was a day to eliminate that burden and serve others that served for us. I want veterans to feel honored."

The Maitland Breakfast Club provided complimentary food and drinks for those waiting in line, a local men's club provided free BBQ, stylists from a local hair salon cut hair for free, and a DJ entertained the crowd waiting for services.

The true testament to the need in the Apopka community? A line began to form at 4 a.m. the morning of the event with people seeking care; the dental center had to stop taking names at 9:30 a.m. By the end of the day, volunteers had provided oral health care services to 103 veterans in need.

Treatments at Operation Bright Smiles included debridements, restorations and extractions, and Gammichia's removable denture lab even donated services to help repair partials and start a denture for a veteran who expressed that he wanted to have teeth before he died, Gammichia said.

The response from patients and impact on the Apopka community was profound. One patient ordered pizzas for the staff a few days after the event, while another brought



the team a homemade cheesecake. The dental office received cards and letters in the weeks following Operation Bright Smiles' day of care.

Gammichia, who is a big supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project, plans to continue Operation Bright Smiles this upcoming year on Veteran's Day to continue his patriotic service to Apopka and surrounding communities. The cause is close to Gammichia's heart; a number of his employees have husbands and sons who have served the country.

He has practiced dentistry in Apopka with his father for over 16 years, and he and his wife, Hilda, have four sons — Luke, Madison, Noah and David. He is active at his church, Orangewood Presbyterian, where he has served as a deacon since 2005.

Gammichia gave up playing basketball in 2007 after breaking his wrist, took up running and has since completed four marathons. He remains a devoted basketball fan, is a Gator men's basketball season ticket holder and enjoys watching all Gator sports.



### MONET DUCKSWORTH, D.M.D. | CLASS OF 2011

Despite graduating just six years ago, Monet Duckworth, D.M.D., is one example of many that proves these "recent" graduates are already out there changing the world for the better. In June 2016, Duckworth received the Outstanding Community Health Center Dentist of the Year Award from the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association. The award is in recognition of her work with the Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative Inc., at the Hattiesburg Community Dental Center, where Duckworth worked since graduating from the UF College of Dentistry. She and her husband, Julius Duckworth, are raising two sons, Donovan, 6, and Logan, 2.

### ASHLEY ORCHARD HODERS, D.M.D., M.S.D. | CLASS OF 2007

Ashley Hoders, D.M.D., M.S.D., has spent most of the years since graduating working on furthering her education. Hoders completed advanced training in general dentistry at the Baltimore College of Dentistry in Maryland and later returned to school for postgraduate training at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She became the sixth graduate and first woman to complete this dual specialty program, receiving certificates in prosthodontics and periodontology, as well as a M.S.D. degree. She recently joined Dr. Jim Janakievski in private practice in Tacoma, Washington.

### W. ADRIAN LOVELL III, D.M.D. | CLASS OF 2010

W. Adrian Lovell III, D.M.D., completed a pediatric residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and opened Lovell Pediatric Dentistry in May 2015. He also works at a clinic in an underserved area of the community and as an adjunct faculty member at UAB. Lovell is married to Lauren, who is from the Birmingham area, and they have two children and one dog, Gracie. Gracie is a certified therapy dog who loves making friends of all ages and goes to work with Lovell, helping patients feel comfortable while they're at the dentist.

### JAMES G. WILSON, D.M.D. | CLASS OF 1993

James Wilson, D.M.D., continued his dental education after graduating from the UF College of Dentistry by following up with a fellowship in oral and maxillofacial surgery, an AEGD and a periodontics residency. Today he has a periodontology practice in Tampa where he and his wife, Casey, are raising their sons, Palmer, 8, Justice, 11, Chancellor, 12, and Nick, 18. Wilson recently completed his sixth year serving as a trustee for the American Academy of Periodontology and is president-elect of the Florida Academy of Dental Practice Administration.

### MIKEY YUAN, D.M.D. | CLASS OF 2015

Mikey Yuan, D.M.D., is one of many new graduates who opt for immediate specialized training. Yuan is in his second year of a four-year Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. His residency is part of the department of general surgery in the School of Medicine, where he and his fellow OMFS residents are the only ones with previous extensive training on the oral cavity. Yuan just completed trauma surgery training and began a rotation in the surgical ICU on March 1. He will complete his residency in June 2019.

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We would love to share updates and special events in your personal or professional life. Please email [alumniandfriends@dental.ufl.edu](mailto:alumniandfriends@dental.ufl.edu), and let us know where you are, what you're doing and any life events you'd like to share.

Photos are welcome! To read more about fellow Gator Dentist alumni, visit our 'Alumni Spotlight' section on [dental.ufl.edu](http://dental.ufl.edu) under Alumni & Giving.



## A MISSION OF MERCY

Each year, the Florida Dental Association Foundation hosts its annual Florida Mission of Mercy event, known as FLA-MOM, to service low and no-income residents in the state of Florida.

The free first-come, first-served dental clinic rotates locations throughout the state annually, with the goal of treating 2,000 patients through the two-day clinic. This year hundreds of volunteers, including dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, nurses, doctors, lab technicians, students and translators descended on Pensacola, Florida, for the 2017 event at Woodham Middle School March 24-25.

As the state's premier philanthropic and charitable organization for dentistry, the FDA Foundation serves as a catalyst for uniting people and organizations to make a difference through better oral health. A total of 36 UFCD dental students and five faculty members, including Dean A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H., came together with the Pensacola community to deliver free care to those in need.

The FLA-MOM event, which featured 100 chairs in Pensacola, saw 1,905 patients and provided more than \$1.4 million in donated dental care over the weekend.



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