



UF College of Dentistry
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FAST FORWARD

March 2018

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 early arrival of warm days in Gainesville, I hope everyone is enjoying the weather and also a productive Spring 2018 semester. Last week, we received some very exciting news about our college's research enterprise. According to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, UFCD now ranks fifth nationally among all U.S. dental schools in terms of funding from the National Institutes of Health. The Blue Ridge rankings are based on NIH funding data and serve to educate the public about research and research results. UFCD has been among the Top 10 dental schools in NIH funding for many years and now with \$9.5 million in funding for 2017, we rank below the University of Michigan, the University of California San Francisco, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. You can see the rankings [posted here](#), scroll down the page until you see "Schools of Dentistry." Congratulations are in order to all the faculty, students, residents and staff who together contribute to our research mission, with expert guidance from our Office of Research. I am extremely proud and appreciative of your efforts. With the upcoming AADR annual session being held on March 21-24 in Ft. Lauderdale, I look forward to a strong presence from our college and continued engagement with the many partners from across the U.S. and globally that make our research mission so very successful.

On the educational front, we continue our outstanding performance in our predoctoral and graduate education. A comparison of dental schools in the U.S. based on mean GPA of admitted students, DAT scores and acceptance rates ranks UFCD 9th among 64 U.S. dental schools. Continuing our efforts to streamline and revise the DMD curriculum, I have appointed a working group to review the stream of preclinical psychomotor courses and make recommendations to enhance and strengthen this important part of the predoctoral curriculum. The working group will be led by Dr. Deborah Dilbone, with representation from across RDS, the Office of Education and support from the Dean's Office. Our college will be extremely well represented at

continued



From left: Dr. Pam Sandow, Alberta and Abel Gilbert at the UF Student Recruitment Conference, on February 17, hosted by UF Black Student Union and the Association of Black Alumni at Emerson Alumni Hall.



From left: DMD Student Natalie Atyeo, Florida U.S. Representative Ted Yoho and Dr. Isabel Garcia in Washington, D.C., on February 27. Dr. Garcia and Natalie were in Washington as part of the American Association for Dental Research's Research Advocacy Day where they were sharing the importance of NIH and NIDCR funding.

this year's ADEA meeting in Orlando from March 17-20. UFCD Gator Dentists will be presenting their work and participating in workshops, committees and other activities.

During the ADEA meeting, UFCD will receive a 2018 ADEAGies Foundation® Award for Vision – Academic Dental Institution as part of the 10 Trailblazers in Academic Dentistry and Oral Health Education Awards for the Comprehensive Training Program, or CTP, in Oral Biology. You can learn more about the [awards ceremony here](#) and more about the award in this issue of Fast Forward.

Earlier Professional Coating Ceremonies

One of the goals of the DMD curriculum revision is to provide predoctoral students earlier clinical experiences. As we work towards that goal, we are moving the Professional Coating Ceremony, or “white coat,” to occur during the spring semester of the first-year. This change symbolizes our commitment towards curriculum change and indicates to all of our students that the ethical and professional expectations of becoming a future dentist start in year one. This transitional year, we will hold two ceremonies, with the class of 2020 receiving their coveted white coats in June, followed by the first-year coating event in July. Due to a scheduling conflict, the DMD Class of 2020's ceremony will be on a new date. The venue for both events will also change to the University Auditorium as noted below.

DMD Class of 2020

Saturday, June 16 at 5pm
University Auditorium

DMD Class of 2021

Saturday, July 14 at 10am
University Auditorium

DMD Class of 2022

February 2019
Date and location are to be determined

I hope that you will join us for one or more of the Professional Coating ceremonies as well as the much awaited 42nd Annual Commencement on May 18. All faculty, staff, residents and students are encouraged to attend. These are always joyful events for everyone in attendance, and they give us time to pause and reflect on the true nature and value of what we do every day. *Together we make a difference.*

I am also looking forward to seeing our faculty come together during a Faculty Retreat on April 30 at the UF Austin Cary Forest's learning center. We are finalizing the program and will share the details with our faculty soon.

Regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia

Development & Alumni Affairs Update



Miller Named Senior Director of Advancement

Richard “Rick” Miller started with the college on January 12 as the senior director of

advancement. He is responsible for identifying and cultivating major gifts for the college, formulating and implementing fundraising plans and policies, and building and managing relationships and programs that support UFCD alumni relations and development goals.

Rick has 10 years of experience in development at UF and Florida State University and joins dentistry after working for the the UF College of Law since 2014.

We are very happy to have him on board as we move forward with major initiatives related to the UF capital campaign that launched in October 2017.



UFCD Grateful Gator Day 2018

March 14 from 11am to 2pm
D3-21

A day that students thank our alumni for their support by writing personal messages of thanks.

Welcoming New Faculty



[Eleonora Bakiri](#)



[Luisa Schertel Cassiano](#)

A number of new faculty have joined the college recently and you can learn more about each of them from our website, where we're posting their profiles one at a time.

To learn more about each of them, click on the names below their photos.

Watch the college's news slider for more faculty profiles and other interesting updates about our college.

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[Sasanka Chullapalli](#)



[Christopher Connell](#)



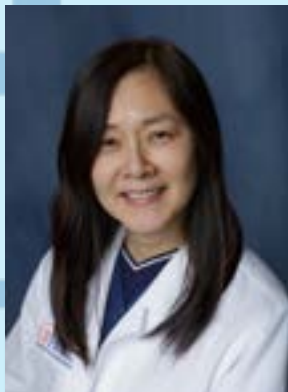
[Carlo Guevara](#)



[Danielle Freburg-Hoffmeister](#)



[Fernando Haddock](#)



[Satoko Matsumura](#)



[Esteban Mulkay](#)



[Marianella Natera-Fernandez](#)



2018 Gies Award Winner

Comprehensive Training Program in Oral Biology

We are very proud to have received a 2018 ADEAGies Foundation® Award for Vision – Academic Dental Institution as part of the 10 Trailblazers in Academic Dentistry and Oral Health Education Awards for the Comprehensive Training Program, or CTP, in Oral Biology.

The CTP was founded in 1990 to train the next generation of outstanding researchers, academics and leaders. The field of oral biology blends many scientific disciplines in unique ways, with the goal of developing new and effective approaches to manage, cure or prevent diseases and developmental disorders. The program is highly integrated into the college's research and education enterprise, as well as that of the UF Academic Health Center and the entire university.

“We could not be more proud that this program has been recognized for academic vision by the ADEAGies Foundation. For 28 years, many individuals in this college have believed in, supported and fostered the growth of future leaders in academic research through the CPT and have truly made a difference in discoveries that have been made, and more to come,” said A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H., dean of the college. Supporting about 14 fellowships per year, the CTP in Oral Biology is the largest NIH research training award at UF. Since 2005, over 45 individuals have earned Ph.D. degrees and department faculty have trained over 50 postdoctoral fellows. In the program director's laboratory alone, of the 12 post-doctoral fellows completing their training prior to 2008, all remain in science, 11 hold academic positions, six are in tenure-accruing positions, and six have secured independent funding from the NIH.



Mark Your Calendars

The college's [online calendar](#) includes lots of important dates and information for upcoming events, professional development opportunities and more. To add an event, email [Karen Rhodenizer](#).



March 17-20
ADEA in Orlando

March 21 - 24
AADR in Ft. Lauderdale

March 24
Bicuspid Ball

March 30
UFCD Spring Synergy

April 23-27
Semester Break (1-3DN)

April 30
UFCD Faculty Retreat

May 18
Commencement

June 16
Class of 2020 Professional Coating

July 14
Class of 2021 Professional Coating