Patricia Pereira, D.D.S., Ph.D., was appointed the new associate dean of academic affairs for the UF College of Dentistry following a national search. Pereira will begin her role following the retirement of Venita Sposetti, D.M.D., in fall 2019.

“I am very confident that Dr. Pereira brings the leadership, dedication and vision we need to maintain our standing as one of the best dental education programs in the country,” said Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H., dean.

Pereira has 19 years of teaching, research and leadership experience that will be very valuable as she takes the role of serving as the senior educational officer for UFCD. Her duties focus on establishing a vision and strategic plan for the Office of Academic Affairs; planning, developing and managing the predoctoral dental education program; and working closely with other members of our senior leadership team to ensure coordination and support for all three missions of the college.

Pereira joined UFCD in 2015 as a clinical associate professor in the UF Department of Restorative Dentistry Division of Operative Dentistry; she has served as program director in the master’s in operative dentistry program since 2016. She earned her dental degree from the University of the Planalto Central, Brasilia, Brazil, in 1993, her doctorate in operative dentistry from Tokyo Medical and Dental University in 1998, and a certificate in prosthodontics from the Patos de Minas Educational Association in Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 2014.

While in Brazil, she co-founded a continuing education institute, the Integrato Specialized Education, which posted over 120 courses and trained over 1,100 dentists. In 2019, Pereira was one of three faculty to earn the college’s Sustained Exemplary Teaching Award; in 2017, UF dental students selected her as the Clinical Sciences Teacher of the Year.
Drs. Rocha, Ottenga and Oliveira joins the division

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Mateus Rocha earned his dental degree in 2013 from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 2013; completed an internship in biomaterials at the Oregon Health and Science University’s School of Dentistry in Portland, Oregon, in 2015; and earned his master’s and Ph.D. at the Piracicaba Dental School, State University of Campinas, in Sao Paolo, Brazil, in 2016 and 2019, respectively. He joined the department of restorative dental sciences and his main responsibility will be work in the biomaterials curriculum for the restorative dental sciences and also collaborate with other departments. We are very excited to revamp our biomaterial curriculum.

Marc E. Ottenga received his dental degree in 1980 from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. The following year he completed a General Practice Residency program at the VA Medical Center in Miami, Florida and in 1981 Dr. Ottenga worked in private practice in the Orlando area for 20 years until 2003. In 2003, he became a faculty member of UFCD until 2017. In 2017, Dr. Ottenga served as the Assistant Dean of Education at the LECOM School of Dental Medicine from 2017-2019. Dr. Ottenga return to UFCD as a Clinical Professor in the department of Operative Dentistry. We are thrilled to have him back!

Dr. Dayane Oliveira earned her DDS degree from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and her MS degree in Operative Dentistry and Ph.D. degree in Dental Biomaterials from the State University of Campinas in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Oliveira has devoted her teaching experience and her private practice to restorative and esthetic dentistry. Dr. Oliveira wrote six international book chapters, including topics on color selection, color matching, light curing, and diagnosis in Operative Dentistry. Dr. Oliveira has a research background in color science and composites’ development, which contributed to several patents. Her most recent and pioneer research involves the development of dental light cured materials using long wavelengths, such as red light.

New Operative Residents

Yasser Merdad
DDS.
Program: M.S. and Clinical Certificate
Hometown: Saudi Arabia

Renata Grazziotin
DDS, MS, PhD.
Program: Clinical Certificate
Hometown: Brazil

Maria Lopez-Mendez
RDH, DDS.
Program: Internship
Hometown: Venezuela
**Operative Division Teaching and Education**

**Dr. Nascimento named Class Advisor of the Class of 2022**

The Class of 2022 proposed to Dr. Marcelle Nascimento and asked her to be their Class Advisor and she said YES!

“I am so incredibly thankful for their trust on me, and honored to serve as faculty advisor for this amazing group of young, fun and bright future dentists” said Dr. Nascimento

See the video of the proposal [here](#)

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**Dr. Delgado has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor**

Alex J. Delgado received his DDS degree from Universidad Santa María, Caracas, Venezuela in 2001. He earned his Master’s in Operative Dentistry and a Clinical Certificate in Advanced Operative Dentistry from University of North Carolina, School of Dentistry at Chapel Hill in 2014. He then became a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Florida College of Dentistry where he now serves as Director of the Division of Operative Dentistry.

Last year he was recognized with the 2017-2018 Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Florida. In addition, his students selected him as the 2015-2016 and 2018-2019 Clinical Teacher of the Year. In 2016, he received the Judson C. Hickey Scientific Writing Award from the American Prosthodontic Society.

He belongs to the Dental Material section for the IADR/AADR and was recently appointed to the Constitution Committee of the American Association for Dental Research. Dr. Delgado is a member of the National PBRN and serves as part of the Communication and Dissemination Subcommittee. Alex is a member of several professional organizations including the American Dental Association, the Florida Dental Association, the Academy of Operative Dentistry, and the International Association for Dental Research. He also serves as ad hoc reviewer for 6 peer review dental journals and is the editor-in-chief of the Operative Bond.

Dr. Delgado has a practice focused on providing preventive, restorative and esthetic dentistry. He serves as faculty advisor for the ASDA and faculty director/advisor for the Equal Access CN. Alex is also a Clinical Instructor for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Dr. Delgado is one of the founder of the Masters in Operative Dentistry and Esthetic program and The Academy of Operative Dentistry just named him as the recipient of the 2019 Faculty Rising Star Award.
Published Research (Sep-Dec 2018)


Dos Santos AF, Pacheco JM, Silva PAO, Bedran-Russo AK, Rezende TMB, Pereira PNR, Ribeiro APD. Direct and transdental biostimulatory effects of grape seed extract rich in proanthocyanidin on pulp cells. Int Endod J. 2018 Sep 23


Published Research


**Refereed Abstracts** (97th General Session & Exhibition of IADR, Vancouver, Canada)


**Schiffman EL, Look JO, Litaker MS, Riley JL, Rindal DB, Gordan VV, National Dental PBRN Collaborative Group.** Outcomes for Painful TMD Patients in the National Dental PBRN. Abstract 3178396.


**Kakudate N, Yokoyama Y, Sumida F, Matsumoto Y, Gordan VV, Gilbert GH.** Dentists’ Practice Patterns in the Treatment of Deep Occlusal Caries. Abstract 3133200
**Operative Division Research**

**Refereed Abstracts** *(97th General Session & Exhibition of IADR, Vancouver, Canada)*


Dos Santos AL, de Moraes D, Rezende T, Bedran-Russo A, **Pereira PN, Ribeiro APD**. Effect of solvents in the biostimulation of crosslinking agents. Abstracts 1337.


Waiken E, Arguelles L, Ribeiro APD, **Nascimento MM**. Can Demographic Characteristics Influence Caries Risk? Abstract 3564

Arguelles L, Waiken E, Ribeiro APD, **Nascimento MM**. Assessing Individual Factors as Predictors of Caries Risk. Abstract 3559

**Nascimento MM**, Richards VP, Burne RA. Studying the ADS of supragingival oral organisms. 97th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR; Abstract 274.

**Refereed Abstracts**

UFCD receives award to continue Practice-Based Research Studies

The University of Florida College of Dentistry will serve as the administrative base for one of the six regional nodes of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (National DPBRN) recently funded by a seven-year, $22.4 million grant funded by NIH/NIDCR (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research) to continue a national dental practice-based research network designed to improve the nation’s oral health. National DPBRN is a consortium of participating practices and dental organizations committed to advancing knowledge of dental practice to further benefit real world, everyday clinical practice.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry, will serve as the National Administrative and Resource Center. The University of Florida under the leadership of Dr. Valeria Gordan, will be the base for the South Atlantic Node, comprising the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Stated by Dr. Gregg Gilbert, national network director. “The Dental PBRN is a unique investigative union of real-world practicing clinicians and academic clinical scientists that aims to improve the nation’s oral health by expanding the knowledge base for clinical decision-making and moving the latest evidence into routine care. As such, the network is a precious national resource for our profession and our patients, and we are fortunate that NIDCR has invested in the future of our profession.”

“A unique aspect of this network is the participation of practitioners at every step of the process, from research idea generation, gathering of the data, to dissemination of studies’ results, including serving as authors in peer-reviewed journals and as presenters at national meetings.” said Gordan, also serving as the director of Practitioner Recruitment and Engagement and Practitioner Training Components for the National Network.

The network presents a different concept for conducting clinical research by making a point of tapping into the practical clinical wisdom that exists out in the dental community at large. The Network functions as a conduit allowing bidirectional communication between dentists and researchers: researchers are promptly made aware of clinical observations that may enhance their research programs and clinicians are quickly made aware of research findings that may improve the delivery of dental care in their practices.”

National DPBRN Network in Gainesville, Florida. From left to right: J. Danny Johnson, Deborah McEdward, Brenda Thacker and Dr. Valeria Gordan
Faculty Updates

Dr. Valeria Gordan has been appointed to serve as a member of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and she also was elected as Chair of the committee. Dr. Gordan has also been appointed as Director of Practitioner Training Component and Director of Practitioner Recruitment and Engagement Component for the National Dental PBRN.

Dr. Marcelle Nascimento was the recipient of the IADR Cariology Research Group Award for the study entitled “Studying the ADS of supragingival oral organisms”. She also was part of the expert panel of the new ADA EBD Caries Management Group.

Dr. Ana Riberio has been elected as the new Chair of the Student Affair committee and Vice Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Upoma Guha was elected to the Faculty Development Committee.

Dr. Alex J. Delgado was elected as member of the Student Performance Evaluation Committee (SPEC).

Dr. Deborah Dilbone served as advisor for the ADEA Summer program: Emerging Academic Leaders. She also was elected to serve in the Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Rebecca Sikand participated at the ADEA Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Luisa Cassiano attended to the International Dental Show (IDS) meeting in Cologne, Germany and the ITI Congress North America in San Francisco, California.

Drs. JF Roulet, Mateus Rocha and Dayene Oliveira presented at the Halifax Light Curing Symposium.

Drs. Margarita Silva, Maria Caraballo and Deborah Dilbone attended to the Florida Dental Convention meeting.

Dr. Jean Francois Roulet presented several professional lectures in the European Academy of Esthetic Dentistry in Munich, Germany; The Academy of Prosthodontics in Banff, Canada and the LECOM School of Dental Medicine in Bradenton, Florida.

A Word from Dr. Delgado

It is no a secret that dental education is a people business, and success depends largely on how you treat people. As a dentist, you must respect and value your staff and patients; and as an educator, your students and peers. The dentist’s success not only depends on their hand skills, but upon their ability to listen carefully, communicate clearly and transmit empathy and trustworthiness. The outcome is not a nice picture after the treatment, or a profitable business. Rather, the real value comes from the relationship that you build with your patients, students, staff, and colleagues. Dr. L.D. Pankey was a pioneer in making dentists understand this concept and recommending a school curriculum that, instead of making students drill and fill, to remember there is a human being in the chair, and there is another one chairside and teaching. As a dentist, administrator, and educator, I have to wear many hats, but I always keep in mind to remove them, and just be a simple guy that is trying to do the best for the people.

Alex
Dr. Susan Nimmo: The Women’s Champion

The American Association of Women Dentists, or AAWD, named the Student Chapter at the University of Florida College of Dentistry the 2019 Chapter of the Year. Susan Nimmo, D.D.S., M.P.H., a clinical associate professor, is the chapter’s faculty advisor and submitted the nomination. Nimmo said the UFCD chapter of AAWD began in 2005 with only 25 members and has grown to nearly 100 members.

One of the most active organizations in the College of Dentistry, the AAWD chapter hosted more than 30 community service and social events last school year. The chapter recruited alumni and successful women in dentistry to speak and inspire their members to reach their full potential, as well as serve as mentors.

Throughout the year, many chapter members were active in oral health research targeting women’s issues. Lauren Arguelles, DMD Class of 2020, and Emily Waikem, DMD Class of 2021, have been working on a retrospective caries risk assessment project that details the different parameters in which the college measures and assesses caries risk. One of the factors of importance is gender and is signified as an important differentiating factor. Arguelles and Waikem received grants to present the findings of their research in Vancouver in June 2019.

“As the faculty advisor,” Nimmo said, “I am inspired by these dedicated young women, who are not only passionate about Dentistry but also support each other through the trials of dental education. If there is a ‘secret’ to cultivating a successful chapter, I mostly stay ‘out of the way;’ the officers and executive board select their own projects and goals. Their success is their own.”

Providing CARE to our Patients

Many of the Division of Operative faculty members are devoted to providing comprehensive care to patients in Faculty Practice in the area of prevention, diagnosis, restorative and esthetic dentistry.

Dr. Upoma Guha, Dr. Patricia Pereira, Dr. Luisa Cassiano, Dr. Susan Nimmo, Dr. Andre Reis, Dr. Alex Delgado, Dr. Ana P. Dias-Ribeiro, Dr. Mateus Rocha, Dr. Dayene Oliveira and Dr. Jean François Roulet.

Make an Appointment