



*Dr. Isabel Garcia*

# FASTFORWARD

A UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY UPDATE

from  
*Dean A. Isabel Garcia* DDS, MPH

UF College of Dentistry,

It seems that, for years now, we have been talking about and preparing for our 2023 CODA Accreditation Site Visit. It's hard to believe that the big event is officially here. Tomorrow, we'll welcome our advanced education and predoctoral site visitors from the Commission on Dental Accreditation to the College of Dentistry for the three-day site visit Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We are rehearsed, we are well prepared, and it's time for UFCD to shine! While many reminders have come via email, let this be **one last reminder** to ensure each of your areas are in tip-top shape, clean and organized, as our site visitors will be touring through each part of our college, including clinics, labs and some office areas. No space is off limits.

An incredible amount of work has gone into our self-study process and the operational and hospitality details of hosting, and I truly thank everyone who came together to make sure we represent UF, UF Health and the college the best way we know how. Let's not forget we're a part of the No. 1 public university in the country, according to the Wall Street Journal, and our goal is to give our site visitors an experience that lives up to that standard.

What's most impressive is that our college has continued to churn forward with great momentum despite all the added accreditation responsibilities. We officially welcomed a new class of advanced education residents in July, and the DMD Class of 2027 in August as the newest Gator Dentists. We're so glad you're here!

Our incredible work serving the community continues, and our research endeavors are thriving – including interdisciplinary research and the incorporation of artificial intelligence in patient care. Read on for some fabulous stories. And while it's "July news," I want to congratulate Dr. Andre Reis once again for taking over the reins as the director of Faculty Practice, while Dr. Cal Dolce turns his focus toward enhancing orthodontics services at our newest dental center, UF Health Dentistry – Wildlight in Yulee, Florida.



DENTAL.UFL.EDU



@UFDENTISTRY



SCHOOL/UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



# FASTFORWARD

A UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY UPDATE

from  
*Dean A. Isabel Garcia* DDS, MPH

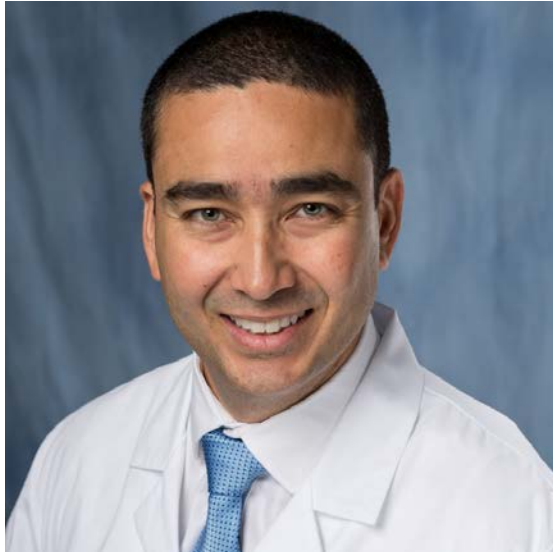
We hosted our first-ever Staff Assembly at the end of July, and we've received incredible feedback from our post-meeting survey that will help guide our future efforts. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to provide a forum to ensure all staff have a voice, are informed, and to open the lines of communication and openly discuss ideas, opportunities and topics that affect each of us.

Please enjoy the updates and reminders in this issue of Fast Forward. Our future is so bright, and it's because of you – our faculty, staff, students and residents.

Thank you to our entire UFCD family for the incredible work thus far as we enter the home stretch of accreditation and beyond, and for putting your best foot forward this week. If there's anything this process has taught us, it's that we have so much to be proud of.

All my best,






### DR. ANDRE REIS ► FACULTY PRACTICE DIRECTOR

After over seven years of leading UFCD's Faculty Practice, while simultaneously serving as chair for the Department of Orthodontics, Dr. Cal Dolce stepped down from his Faculty Practice role at the end of July, and Dr. Andre Reis, clinical associate professor in the UF Department of Restorative Dental Sciences Division of Operative Dentistry, was appointed the new director of faculty practice. Congratulations, Dr. Reis!



Read more on Dr. Reis and the Faculty Practice transition on [www.dental.ufl.edu](http://www.dental.ufl.edu).

### DR. DAN MCNEIL ► NIDCR GRANT

 Congratulations to Dr. Dan McNeil and his co-investigators for a \$3,692,175 NIDCR grant award for **an interdisciplinary collaborative project between UFCD and the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine** to establish an academic multidisciplinary practice-based research network within/between their respective dental schools. This "Development of Opportunities for Research (DOOR) in Dental Schools" initiative will provide dental students, residents and clinical faculty with a competency-based training program for skills development, research mentorship and participation in practice-oriented clinical research. The collaboration addresses NIDCR's opportunity for Practice-Based Research Integrating Multidisciplinary Experiences in Dental Schools, with the goal of a culture shift that promotes embracing research as a critical component in both dental education and clinical practice.



### DR. DIVAKAR KARANTH ► AAOF FELLOWSHIP AWARD

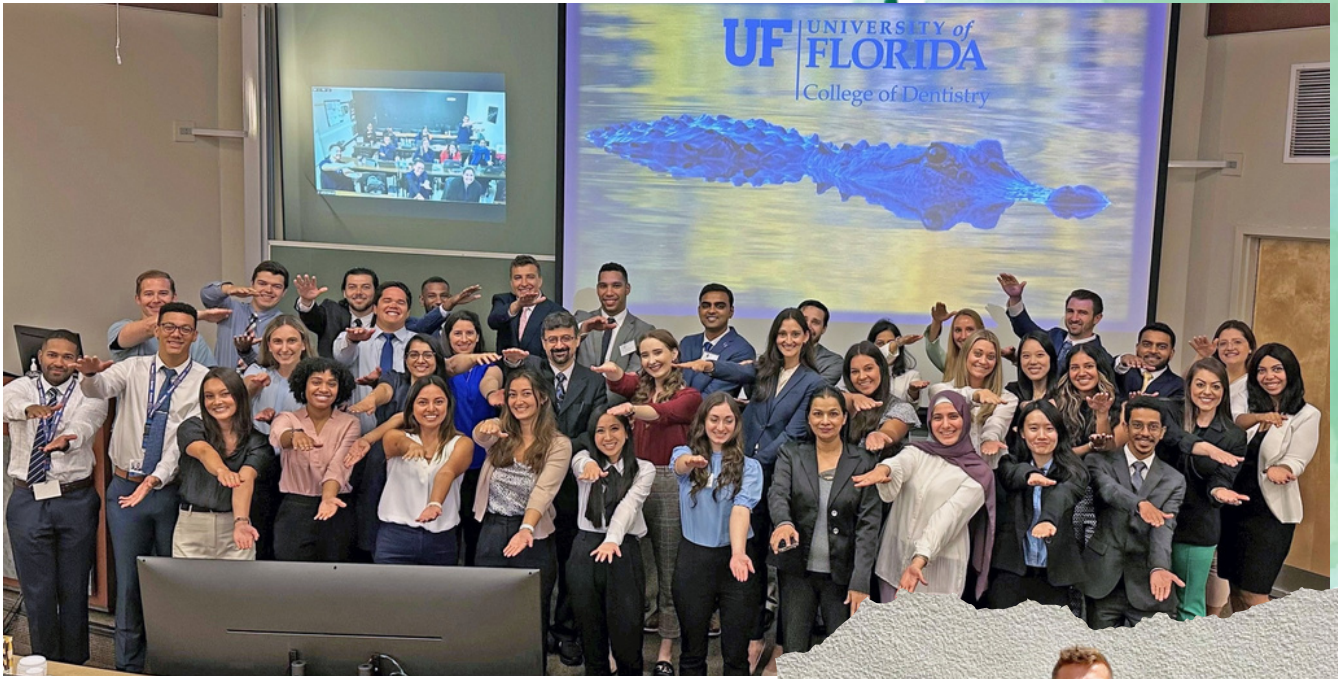
Clinical associate professor and program director of graduate orthodontics Dr. Divakar Karanth was awarded a \$30,000 James A. McNamara Orthodontic Faculty Fellowship Award from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation for his research project, "Machine Learning Model to Assess the External Apical Root Resorption from the CBCT Image." Karanth will utilize the AAOF fellowship award to implement artificial intelligence in orthodontics to provide better care for patients, particularly when it comes to undetected root resorption.

[LEARN MORE](#) 





WELCOME TO UFCD, GATORS!



UFCD 2023 New Residents



Naples First-Year Residents



DMD Class of 2027 in GNV!



DENTAL.UFL.EDU



@UFDENTISTRY

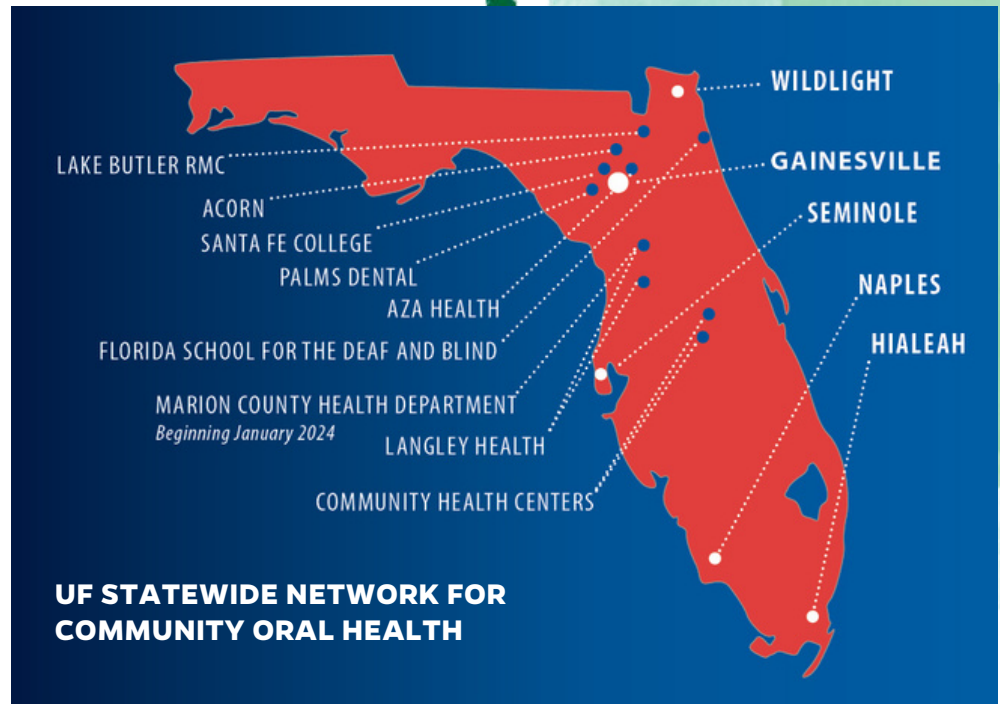


SCHOOL/UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



## WELCOME PALMS DENTAL TO THE UFCD FAMILY

Palms Dental in Trenton began hosting UF College of Dentistry DMD students for two-week clinical rotations in September, making them the newest addition to the UF Statewide Network for Community Oral Health. Welcome, Palms Dental!

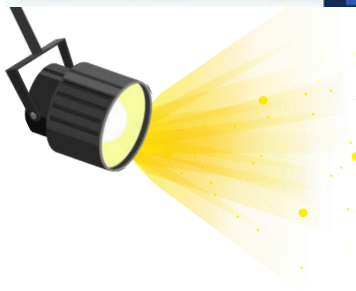


## REMINDER: CHECK OUT OUR CE OFFERINGS!



A reminder that our UFCD Office of Continuing Dental Education provides world-class, quality courses both online, in Gainesville and in other locations throughout the state.

Head over to [ce.dental.ufl.edu](https://ce.dental.ufl.edu) to check out the upcoming courses, including our in-person License Renewal Seminar coming up in Gainesville later this week, and our Practical Insights Regarding Autism in Children and Teens in Naples in October. Our next MasterTrack Comprehensive Dentistry Program, in partnership with the Florida Academy of General Dentistry, kicks off in June 2024.



### SPOTLIGHT ON DENTAL FALL WEEKEND: **November 3-4**

UFCD will welcome our Gator Dentist alumni from the DMD classes ending in 3 and 8 at this year's **Dental Fall Weekend**, along with members of the 2022 reunion cycle that was cancelled due to Hurricane Ian. Don't miss Friday's CE opportunity!

**Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry | Dr. Mateus Rocha**  
Friday, November 3 / 1-3 p.m.

# SMILECON DENTAL OLYMPICS

Four of our Gator Dentists will be representing UF and UFCD at the ADA annual meeting in Orlando next week at the SmileCon Dental Olympics! Details and a schedule are below. Sending them all the good vibes and, of course, if you're in the area or attending ADA, support is welcome as they compete against LECOM, Nova and the University of Puerto Rico's dental schools in the Dental Olympics! Go Gators!

*Thank you!*

- ▶ Faith Emetu
- ▶ Jessica Jacobs
- ▶ Diana Rodriquez
- ▶ Brandon Valerio



*good luck*

Let's Go  
Gators!

Over two days, your classmates will face off with their rivals in various events including: **a social media competition, dental trivia, and a couple of fun surprise competitions** along the way. The team with the most points will be declared the victor on Saturday.

Be there to support your team with these discounted prices:

**Dental Central Pass \$50** – With this pass, you get access to Dental Central, our exhibit hall, filled with learning opportunities, industry exhibitors, Oral Pathology Escape Room, and a whole lotta unexpected fun! You are also welcome to attend the Opening Session and the Saturday Keynote, where your school's team will be recognized for their dental acumen.

**Smile Pass \$149** – A Smile Pass gives you everything included in the Dental Central Pass PLUS much more CE outside the exhibit hall. You also get a ticket to our Grin & Gobbler Fest.

Register  
today at  
[SmileCon.org](https://SmileCon.org)

Come join and cheer on your fellow students during **Dental Olympics at SmileCon®**, the American Dental Association's annual meeting, Oct. 5-7 in Orlando, FL, as they battle it out in a fierce competition against:



### Schedule of Events

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 6

##### Social Media Competition

begins 2 p.m.

##### Dental Trivia

2-3:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, OCT. 7

##### Social Media Competition

9 a.m. – Noon

##### Surprise Competition

10 a.m.

##### Dental Trivia Finals

1-1:30 p.m.

##### Winners Announced

2 p.m.

Sponsored by:





# UFCD SWAMP HEAD SOCIAL REMINDER



Per tradition, UFCD's Swamp Head Social will be our big college-wide fundraiser for **UF's Campaign for Charities** on Tuesday, October 17, from 5-8 p.m. Once again, our UFCD Community Outreach Programs are a benefitting organization. It's always a blast, so we hope to see you (and your dogs) there to support.

- The more the merrier! Please feel free to invite family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, workout buddies, classmates, etc., to our social
- Swamp Head Social **wristbands are \$8 in advance, \$9 at the door** – enjoy 10% off Swamp Head beverages with the purchase of a wrist band. 100% of wristband sales go to the campaign. Venmo in advance by scanning the accompanying QR code with the camera on your phone to reserve your wristbands today. Be sure to write your name and the number of wristbands you're purchasing in the memo field. Wristbands will be distributed to the purchaser at our Swamp Head check-in table October 17. If you'd prefer to pay for wristbands via cash or check, bring advance payment to the Dean's Office by Friday, October 13
- **Allllll the furbabies welcome! To enter this year's 'Cutest Pup' contest, please submit a photo of your pup to Kelly Sobers ([k.sobers@ufl.edu](mailto:k.sobers@ufl.edu)) by Friday, October 13.**
- We will have large and small pup categories again. Voting will take place at Swamp Head on Oct. 17 from 5-6:15 p.m. and winners/prizes will be announced at 6:30 p.m. the day of the social. Pup and furparent must be present to win

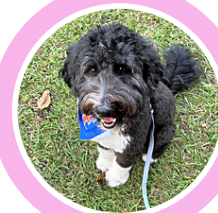


**venmo**

2022 SMALL PUP WINNER: DONATELLA



2022 LARGE PUP WINNER: TULLY



## UFCD'S UFCC SWAMP HEAD SOCIAL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 | 5-8 PM | **CUTEST PUP ANNOUNCED AT 6:30**



## OFFICE OF STUDENT ADVOCACY & INCLUSION

The Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion is dedicated to supporting students and residents on their journey to becoming excellent practitioners, from well-being to student events and advocacy, including:

- ▶ counseling
- ▶ wellness programming
- ▶ community resources
- ▶ student advocacy
- ▶ milestone event support
- ▶ tutoring and disability accommodations
- ▶ student leadership and experiences

HALLWAY UPGRADE!



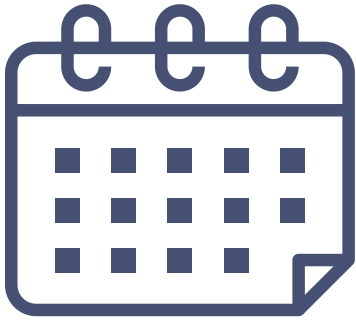
### SERENITY ROOM SELF-CARE CABINET

Located in **D3-30N**, the SAI Serenity Room now boasts a self-care cabinet for all those unexpected day-to-day annoyances, with a quick-reference list of resources on the outside of the cabinet. In case you didn't know, the Serenity Room is open for all UFCD students and residents to use as a private place for prayer, meditation, self-reflection, self care and breastfeeding or pumping.





## Calendar Check



### SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 26-28

CODA Accreditation Site Visit

### OCTOBER

OCTOBER 6

OCTOBER 5-7

OCTOBER 6-7

OCTOBER 17

OCTOBER 23-27

Homecoming

ADA Annual Meeting (Orlando)

SmileCon Dental Olympics at ADA Meeting (Orlando)

UFCD/UFCC Swamp Head Social (Swamp Head)

Fall Break

### NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 3

NOVEMBER 3-4

NOVEMBER 10

NOVEMBER 22-24

Senior Professionalism Day

Dental Fall Weekend

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER

DECEMBER 15

DECEMBER 18-JAN 1

Classes and Clinics End

Semester Break

#1



The **Wall Street Journal** named the University of Florida the No. 1 public university in the country in its "2024 Best Colleges in the U.S." report. The WSJ improved its methodology this year by working with research partners College Pulse and Statista to focus on the importance of real-world student outcomes. Read more online!



## SECURITY REMINDERS

It takes all of us to keep our UFCD family safe, and simply being cognizant of our surroundings and making sure to lock and secure our computers, workstations, offices and labs when we leave, or step away, goes a long way to protect belongings and our safety. If you see something, say something! Being part of the UF Academic Health Center is a really wonderful thing, but also creates a very porous environment with our building being connected to two Shands hospitals, the VA and multiple other UF health colleges.



- ▶ Don't walk alone at night
- ▶ Be aware of your surroundings
- ▶ Lock your bikes and scooters with a U lock
- ▶ Register them with UFPD
- ▶ Never leave bags/packages in view in a vehicle
- ▶ Call 911 if you see anything or anyone concerning



UFPD's **GatorSafe app** is a tremendous resource for safety guidance and community resources for personal and campus safety.



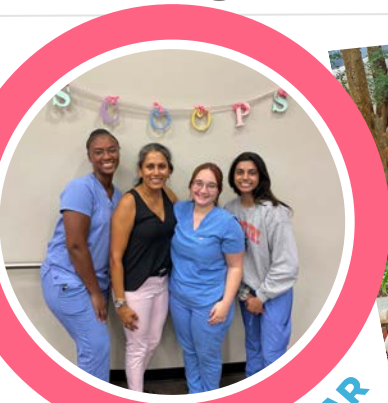
DENTAL.UFL.EDU



@UFDENTISTRY



# Through the Lens: Latest Happenings



SCOOPS SEMINAR



SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM



SILVER CENTRAL AWARD



WHITE COAT



SHPEP



SAVING SMILES



JUNETEENTH



SNDA IMPRESSIONS PROGRAM



BIG-LITTLE REVEAL



Barbie



What's cookin'?

