Dear UF College of Dentistry,

As I reflect on a busy and exciting fall semester, I am filled with pride. From a successful accreditation site visit in September, after more than two years’ worth effort, to yet another top-10 year in NIH research funding to fuel multiple leading-edge oral health research projects, we have taken advantage of every opportunity this year – and then some – to shine and showcase exactly what UFCD is about.

The accreditation self-study process afforded us the incredible opportunity to thoroughly evaluate our educational programs and to listen to feedback from you, our students, faculty, staff and residents! Thank you. Earning a dental education is extremely hard work, and I hope that you feel the improvements and adjustments we made to better the curriculum and educational experience.

While there was so much focus on accreditation, our clinical enterprise and community service outreach efforts continued to thrive. Each year, through the UF Statewide Network for Community Oral Health, we care for patients from all 67 counties in Florida which shows the significant impact we have on the oral health of Floridians, not only at our UF-owned clinics in Gainesville, Hialeah, Naples, St. Petersburg and Wildlight, but our DMD rotation sites and facilities where residents provide care.

We recently welcomed Palms Dental in Trenton to our network, and will begin serving patients at the Marion County Department of Health in January. The opportunities for collaboration and to make a statewide impact with education, research partnerships, patient care and service are unrivaled.

There’s never been a more exciting time to be a part of the UF Academic Health center, which already had a footprint in Gainesville and Jacksonville, and in recent years expanded to include central Florida with UF Health The Villages, St. Augustine at UF Health Flagler Hospital, and in Ocala where the UF College of Veterinary Medicine opened a new veterinary hospital at the World Equestrian Center.
Last year about this time we were celebrating the college’s 50th anniversary and previewing a future that embraces artificial intelligence and technology in research, education and patient care, while furthering our commitment to addressing and removing access-to-care barriers for our statewide patients. I am so proud to say we are well on our way.

Thanks to increased support and gifts earmarked for the special needs community, our ability to serve those with autism and special needs in St. Petersburg, Naples and Hialeah is unmatched. Our partnership with Overjet has positioned us as a national leader in dental education, and this spring we’re planning an open house for the new Digital Dentistry Center – it’s absolutely incredible. The scale of equipment and technology we have at our fingertips is among the top in the world for a dental education institution.

Spring always features some of my very favorite events: Super Sealant Saturday, Gator Nation Giving Day, Spring Synergy Research Day, Commencement and the Professional Coating Ceremony.

But before we jump ahead, there’s one thing that meaningful, hard work requires – and that’s rest. You all deserve it, and I hope you take time this winter break to rest, recharge, spend time with special people in your lives and do things that bring you all the happiness in the world. You are so valued, and I appreciate your dedication to our college and your craft.

Instead of asking, ‘Have I worked hard enough to deserve rest?’ I’ve started asking, ‘Have I rested enough to do my most loving, meaningful work?’

-- Nicola Jane Hobbs

Happy holidays and all my very best to you and yours,

@UFDENTISTRYDENTAL.UFL.EDU SCHOOL/UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
First-year dental student Natasha Patel's oral presentation was named Most Outstanding Presentation in the Basic Sciences at the 28th Annual Hinman Student Research Symposium in Memphis last month. Patel, who was part of the Summer Research Program, entered dental school in August 2023 as part of the BS/DMD combined-degree program. She'll earn her bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences from UF in May.

Project: Oral Keratinocyte Extracellular Vesicles Immunomodulate Periodontal Ligament Fibroblasts

Natasha Patel, D1

Click each headline above for the full story
For the ninth straight year, the University of Florida College of Dentistry was recognized with an INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity, or HEED, Award for its consistent best practices to build an inclusive environment, not only for the college’s students, residents, faculty and staff, but for the patients and communities it serves through the UF Statewide Network for Community Oral Health.

UFCD is one of just two dental schools in the U.S. that received this year’s award, and our efforts can be characterized into three main areas: recruitment, internal initiatives and resources, and serving our patients throughout our communities and state.

Read more about our HEED Award online.
SPOTLIGHT ON JACKSONVILLE: February 16-17

A new location for our 21st Annual Oral Pathology and Radiology Symposium

New this year at the Sheraton Jacksonville, the oral pathology and radiology symposium will present a plethora of interesting case studies in oral and maxillofacial pathology and radiology covering a variety of conditions encountered in general and specialty dental practices. Emphasis will be placed on lesions and conditions commonly seen in dental practice, especially those difficult to diagnose and/or manage, newly diagnosed conditions, and premalignant or malignant lesions. The topics will cover a wide range of topics spanning human papilloma virus, including oro-pharyngeal HPV-driven cancers, to various benign lesions of the oral mucosa.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Some Fall and Winter Office of Research Newsletter Headlines

- Fall & Winter Multi-Million Dollar NIH Award Recipients
- Recent UFCD Seed Grant Awardees
- Graduate Students Receive NIH/NIDCR F31 Fellowship Awards

Read the 2023 fall/winter newsletter online.
SUPER SEALANT SATURDAY
Join Us Under the Sea on February 3 🌟

Super Sealant Saturday is the UF College of Dentistry’s annual student-run event where UFCD students and faculty provide FREE preventative dental care and education for children in the community (ages 1-17) at the College of Dentistry in Gainesville.

Super Sealant Saturday includes: dental exam, dental sealants, as needed, fluoride varnish, fun educational activities surrounding healthy eating habits to keep teeth happy, interactive brushing and flossing demonstrations, face painting, goodie bag and more!

Appointments are not mandatory, but they are strongly recommended.

A parent/legal guardian must accompany each child and present a valid government-issued ID. Spanish translator available!

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT Super Sealant Saturday!

go.ufl.edu/supersealantsaturday

DENTAL.UFL.EDU  @UFDENTISTRY  SCHOOL/UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
Highlighting Upcoming Events

ASDA GALA ▶ APRIL 6
THE GREAT GATSBY

WHO: Students, faculty, staff, residents, guests
WHAT: ASDA Gala Speakeasy (food, drink, band and awards)
WHEN: April 6, 2024 | 6-9 p.m.
WHERE: Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention
COST: ASDA members/faculty FREE | guests/non-members ~ $45
ATTIRE: Semi-formal; dress to impress: feathers, flappers, jewels and pearls!
SPEAKEASY PASSWORD: Pearls

Click to reserve your spot today.

Presented by the DMD Class of 2025

BICUSPID BALL ▶ MARCH 23

WHO: Students, faculty, staff, residents, guests
WHAT: Bicuspid Ball ~ In Full Bloom (dancing, drinks, hors d’oeuvres)
WHEN: March 23, 2024 | 7-11 p.m.
WHERE: 1908 Grand
COST: Early-Bird Special ~ $55
ATTIRE: Formal attire fitting the whimsical floral theme; turn heads in your best flower-inspired fashions!

In the hustle of everyday life, Bicuspid Ball returns to remind us all to stop and smell the roses.

Click to purchase tickets today.
UFCD Calendar Check

DECEMBER
DECEMBER 18-JANUARY 1
Semester/Winter Break

JANUARY
JANUARY 2
JANUARY 15
JANUARY 26
JANUARY 29-31
Classes Begin
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
ACD Ethics Seminar (D3 & D4)
CDBS Saving Smiles Clinic (Manning Building)

FEBRUARY
FEBRUARY 3
FEBRUARY 8-9
FEBRUARY 15
FEBRUARY 24
Super Sealant Saturday ~ Under the Sea
Clinic Exam II (D4 - Operative/Perio/Restorative)
Gator Nation Giving Day at Swamp Head Brewery details coming!
CDBS Saving Smiles Clinic (T.B. McPherson Center)

MARCH
MARCH 9-12
MARCH 11-15
MARCH 13-16
MARCH 15-16
MARCH 23
MARCH 29
ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition (New Orleans)
Spring Break
IADR/AADOCR/CADR General Session & Exhibition (New Orleans)
Florida Board Exam (D4 - Operative/Perio/Restorative)
Bicuspid Ball ~ In Full Bloom (1908 Grand)
Spring Synergy Research Day

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DENTAL.UFL.EDU @UFDENTISTRY SCHOOL/UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
Pictures Worth a Thousand Words

UFCD in the Halloween Spirit

DMD Class of 2025 Holiday Greetings
Pictures Worth a Thousand Words

SCADA WINNERS AND MENTORS

DMD CLASS OF 2027
CODE OF CONDUCT CEREMONY

ACADEMY ONE HUNDRED EMINENT SCHOLAR CHAIR

DR. MIGLIORATI NAMED

DMD CLASS OF 2026 ADVISOR PROPOSAL: DR. CABRERA

STAFF SERVICE PIN CEREMONY

UFCD FACULTY & STAFF HOLIDAY TEA
Pictures Worth a Thousand Words

ACCREDITATION IN THE BOOKS

ACCEPTED STUDENTS OPEN HOUSE

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CAFECITO

UF INNOVATE: STANDING INNOVATION AWARDS

College of Dentistry UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA