



FASTFORWARD

A UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY UPDATE

from

Dean A. Isabel Garcia DDS, MPH

Dr. Isabel Garcia

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.



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SCHOOL/UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



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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,



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CATCH UP ON THE RECENT HEADLINES

- »»»» UF, ECU Opening DOOR for Practice-Based Research
- »»»» Welcoming Dr. Avni Bhula to Oral Radiology
- »»»» Welcoming Gator Dentist Alumnus Dr. Bryan Smallwood to CDBS
- »»»» Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox Receives Distinguished Alumni Award
- »»»» Dr. Ana Dias Ribeiro Appointed Interim RDS Chair
- »»»» Welcoming Six RDS Faculty for Summer/Fall 2023
- »»»» Welcoming Four CDBS Faculty for Summer/Fall 2023



Click each headline above for the full story

NATASHA PATEL EARNS TOP HONOR AT HINMAN

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



READ MORE



Natasha Patel, D1



NINE CONSECUTIVE HEED AWARDS



UFCD EARNs NINTH STRAIGHT HEED AWARD

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.*

WWW

2023

2022

2021

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015



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UPCOMING CE CALENDAR



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.

 REGISTER NOW



DR. NEEL BHATTACHARYYA



DR. ANITA GOEL



DR. NADIM ISLAM



OFFICE OF RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Some Fall and Winter Office of Research Newsletter Headlines

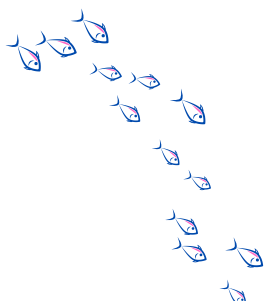
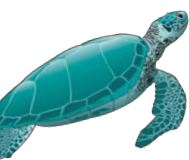
- ▶ Fall & Winter Multi-Million Dollar NIH Award Recipients
- ▶ Recent UFCD Seed Grant Awardees
- ▶ Graduate Students Receive NIH/NIDCR F31 Fellowship Awards

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!



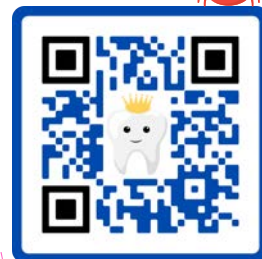
Appointments are not mandatory, but they are strongly recommended.



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

UNDER THE SEA

HELP SPREAD THE
WORD ABOUT
Super Sealant Saturday!



 go.ufl.edu/supersealantsaturday



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.](#)



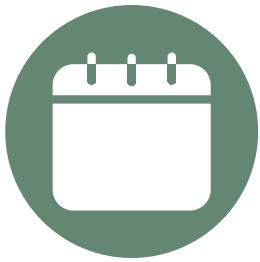
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DECEMBER

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



Pictures Worth a Thousand Words



SAVING SMILES IN ARCHER



DENTAL FALL WEEKEND



UFCD IN THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

DMD CLASS OF 2025 HOLIDAY GREETINGS



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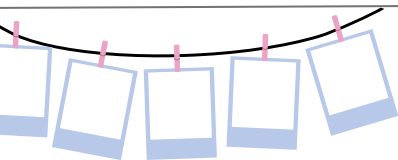


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Pictures Worth a Thousand Words



STAFF SERVICE PIN CEREMONY



SCADA WINNERS AND MENTORS



**DMD CLASS OF 2027
CODE OF CONDUCT CEREMONY**



**UFCD FACULTY &
STAFF HOLIDAY TEA**



Pictures Worth a Thousand Words



◀◀◀
**ACCEPTED
STUDENTS
OPEN HOUSE**



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CAFECITO

ACCREDITATION IN THE BOOKS



▶▶▶
**UF INNOVATE:
STANDING
INNOVATION
AWARDS**

