

# Momentum



## Caring for the Patient Inside and Out

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*Inside:*

THE EASTMAN LEGACY LIVES ON | RESEARCH UPDATE | ON THE LIGHTER SIDE | REPORT ON GIVING





## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Despite the economic woes of our city and nation, Eastman Department of Dentistry and Eastman Dental Center's future is brighter than ever. I've never been more excited about dentistry's future than I am now.

We continue to develop important partnerships with community organizations to combat oral disease. Most recently, we've joined forces with Hillside Work Scholarship Program. This group has seen extraordinary success equipping city teens with the awareness and skills to be self advocates and more independent in their academic, employment and now health care endeavors. Some 40 students from this program came to Eastman Dental Center one early Saturday morning to get exams, dental cleanings and a lesson on why oral health care is so important. We expect similar programs to occur throughout the year.

As the saying goes, when one door closes, another opens. So it is true. After serving the area for some 15 years, we unfortunately had to close our Mt. Morris site. Since the county lost its Health Professional Shortage Area designation a couple years ago, it's been an ongoing challenge to recruit dentists to serve in this rural area. However, we have invited and encouraged all our patients to continue their care at any of our other sites. In the meantime, we are ramping up our efforts to better serve the neediest part of the Rochester

area, which is in the downtown area. We expect to increase our patient base by 35% within a year.

Many of you have heard me use the phrase 'Excellence without Exception' in reference to our services. I am delighted to say that we've compiled a team of division chairs, administrators and other end users to define and prioritize process changes to improve overall patient satisfaction and operation efficiencies.

To have our patients truly experience excellence without exception, I envision divisions having more authority, control, responsibility and accountability for their clinical operations. By developing effective and empowered teams, dentistry and oral health within the University of Rochester Medical Center will be widely known as a high quality multi-disciplinary health care provider. I invite you to join us as we embark on a journey to provide unparalleled care and education, and continue to render breakthrough research.

Cyril Meyerowitz, DDS, MS  
Director, Eastman Dental Center  
Professor and Chair, Eastman Department of Dentistry

### ON THE COVER:

URMC PATIENTS (L TO R)  
RILEE TOPPING, SARAH MINTEL,  
MONICA TEDESCO, AND KARA TIBALLI  
WORKED AS CAMP COUNSELORS AT  
THIS YEAR'S CRANIOFACIAL CAMP.

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COVER STORY

CARING FOR THE PATIENT INSIDE AND OUT

“I’ll never eat Jell-O again,” declared 15-year old Monica Tedesco of Webster, NY.

“Oh, yeah, and I will NEVER eat broth again,” Sarah Mintel, 17, of Farmington, NY, concurred. “To me, it’s just disgusting now.”

What do these teenagers have against Jell-O and broth? For six straight weeks following one of their many surgeries, their mouths were wired shut, and could eat nothing but liquids or very soft foods.

But the girls laugh as they reminisce of surgeries past, while comparing scars on their hips or stomachs, where bone was removed from their pelvis or ribs to place where there was none in their jaws.

Monica and Sarah are among those who were born with craniofacial anomalies, or facial

differences. Most have cleft lip and/or palate, a condition in which the tissues of the mouth or lip don’t form properly during fetal development.

The Craniofacial Team at the University of Rochester Medical Center sees up to 20 patients a month, each averaging about eight surgeries throughout their development years.

The Team, along with local and national companies who provide donations, hosts a camp each year so these patients, ranging in ages from six to 19, can hang out with each other, their surgeons, nurses, social workers, and others who play a critical role in their care.

The kids have non-stop fun playing carnival games, winning prizes, jumping in a bounce house, eating popcorn, cotton candy and pizza, petting animals from



Happy Campers

Patients and providers enjoyed a full day of festivities at the annual URMC craniofacial camp



a visiting zoo, making T-shirts, and getting wet at the spray park, all while making new friends.

“Most importantly, it’s a day to help our patients make connections with other kids going through the same situation,” said John Giroto, MD, Plastic Surgery Team Director. “More than likely, they are the only child in their school with facial differences, or the only one who has to wear braces for up to eight years.”

“The camp is a blast,” said Monica, who says she’s thankful for the IO surgeries she’s had. “It’s always good to meet people you can really relate to and have fun with.”

“We’re with these families through many surgeries, and countless appointments starting from the child’s first surgery at three months old to their last around age 18,” Giroto added. “It’s also a chance for us to interact with our patients outside of the hospital. We’re not just their doctor or nurse, we’re really part of their community, part of their family.”

The Craniofacial Team is comprised of many URMC

specialists, including pediatric dentistry and medicine, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pediatric and plastic surgery, audiology, speech pathology, psychology, genetics, and social work, among others.

“We have a skilled, multidisciplinary team to address the bio-psychosocial challenges many of our patients experience,” said Lenora Colaruotolo, LMSW, URMC/Eastman Dental Center social worker. “Depending on a child’s particular needs, medical, dental, and behavioral health professionals collaborate to evaluate, treat and provide patients and their families with comprehensive care.”

“I have been pleased with all of Rilee’s care here in Rochester,” said Claudia Topping, mother of patient Rilee Topping.

“I think she’s been to about every specialist and they have all been wonderful! Rilee was seen by Eastman Dental at a very early age and now has braces through Dr. Sommers’ practice.”

Sarah Mintel sat down with her mom and tried to figure out how many surgeries she’s had. “We came up with 10, not counting the multiple sets of ear tubes I have had,” she said. “Every surgeon that I





ever had has been amazing. I don't think that there is any way that I could ever thank them for giving me my smile." But socializing with peers can be a challenge for children with craniofacial differences, and this camp offers an opportunity for the patients to share experiences and learn from each other.

"Some kids make fun of me, say I have a big head," said 12-year-old Vinny Molinari of Ogdensberg, NY, who loves coming to camp each year because, he says, it has a lot of fun stuff for kids with facial differences. "When I was 10, a girl called me brace face. Sometimes, I let it get to me, so I just tell them, 'be quiet, I don't want to listen to that.'"

"I talk different than a lot of kids my age, and sometimes my friends are curious, or ask me what's wrong with my lip," explained Ryan Crater, of

Fairport, NY. "So I just tell them I have a cleft lip."

Ryan, who's 12 years old, has had 13 surgeries so far, and has attended the picnic four years in a row. "A lot of people here are like me; I have fun here," he said. Ryan lives with his twin sister, mom and dad and new dog, Hannah. He loves to play ice hockey and lacrosse, and says his condition hasn't prevented him from being physically active. "I even played dodgeball right after one of my surgeries."

Ten-year old Kayla Smith, of Greece, NY, said petting the animals was her favorite part of the camp. Born with bilateral cleft lip and cleft palate, she's had eight surgeries since she was three months old. "I don't care if they do any more or not, 'cause I've gotten so used to it," she said.

Rilee Topping, a self-confident 18-year-old from Pittsford, NY has attended most of the picnics, but this year worked as a camp counselor for the first time.

"It feels good," she said, smiling. "I feel older, like I'm part of the staff. The picnics are great, because it's a time we can all get together in a fun setting and make some new friends that are like us."

Rilee has had surgery almost every summer of her life, including open heart surgery at age 5. She, too, has dealt with the challenges of looking different throughout her school years. "Some kids used to stare at me because of my scars and that made me feel different. It used to bug me when I was little, but I've learned to ignore it. Now when that happens, I just smile and wave."

"People definitely notice," agreed Lina Horwitz, 19, a pensive young woman who wants to be a professional violinist. "When you're younger, people make fun of others....yeah, it hurts."

"For kids going through it right now, I'd tell them to hang in there, the surgeons are great. They've made my life so much better," Lina said. "It really boosts your confidence when you look as normal as you can. I'm really grateful for the change."





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### CHANGE THE WORLD, CHANGE YOURSELF

*The Eastman Legacy Lives on in Alumni*



**DR. ED PLEKAVICH EXPLAINS THE PROCESS TO A PATIENT.**

When the Academy of Prosthodontics decided 16 years ago to re-direct its efforts to become more focused on outreach, in addition to presenting research, little did they know what exciting adventures, rewards and great fun awaited them.

“Our first project was to help a short-staffed clinic on an Indian reservation in Ada, Oklahoma,” said Ed Plekavich, DDS, MS (Prosthodontics ’73). “When 10 of us arrived for a week’s worth of volunteering, we learned they had hundreds and hundreds of people on a waiting list for dentures.”

Isolation and limited resources have resulted in untreated dental disease and loss of teeth. The American Dental Association, which is lobbying

for additional funding for Indian Health Service (IHS) dental needs, reports that 65 percent of IHS specialists will be eligible for retirement within a year. In addition, it blames population growth, medical inflation and flat budgets for this increasingly serious situation.

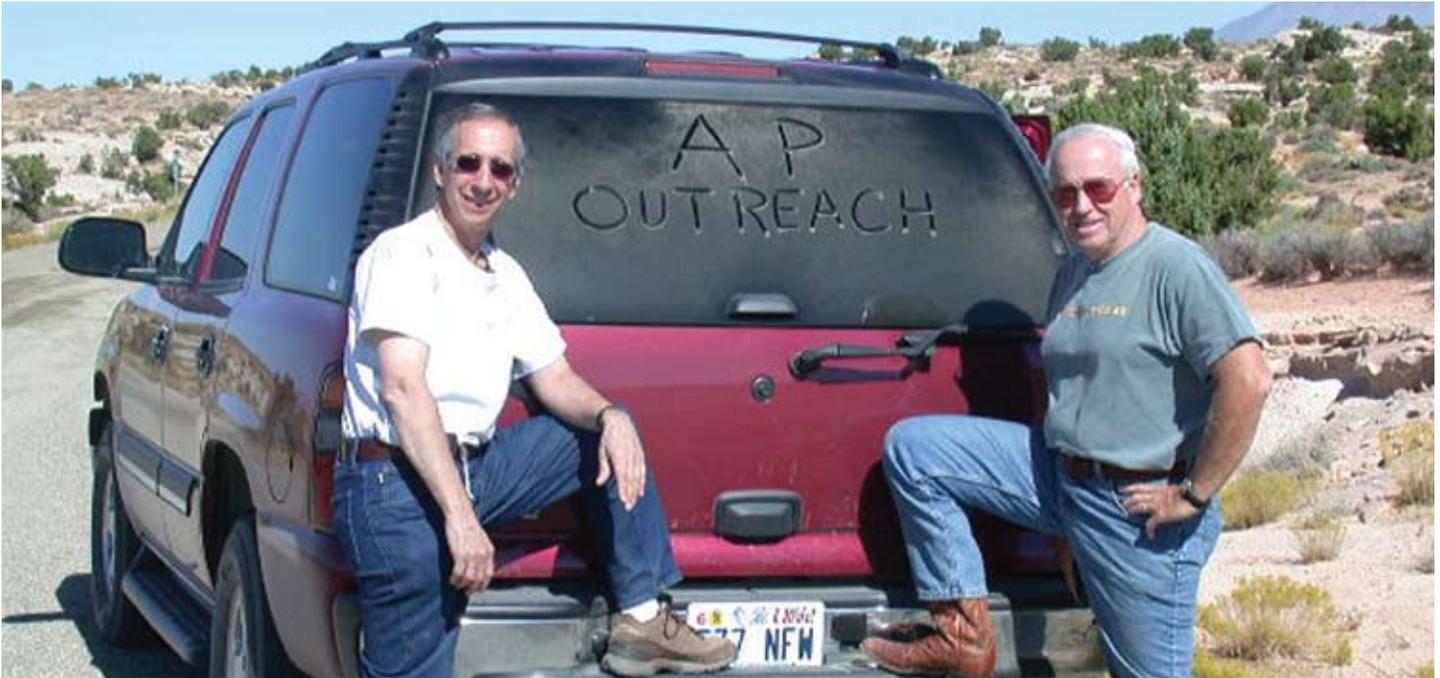
To date, 1,292 dentures and partials have helped 715 patients, thanks to some 40 different dentists and technicians affiliated with or a guest of the Academy of Prosthodontics, a group founded 100 years ago by dentists with an interest in complete dentures. Together and individually, they’ve volunteered in America’s most beautiful areas – Alaska, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Oklahoma, North and South Dakota.

“It’s really more fun than anything else,” Plekavich said. “The people you treat are so nice and they’re excited you’re there. Many of the patients we see have had no teeth for years. One elderly Navajo woman reminded a new volunteer of his grandmother. I watched them throughout the week, and she treated him like her grandson...they shared such a warm relationship, and she had tears in her eyes when he left.”

“This is our biggest year so far, with six different sites and about 35 people volunteering,” said Eric Rasmussen, DDS, MS, who has chaired this outreach effort since its inception. Initially, the group went back to Ada, Oklahoma each year, but soon added new sites to the mix. “We serve about 25-30 patients each visit. Making dentures is a very labor and equipment intensive process, and we’re working on site with limited, old fashioned equipment and some things McGyver would be proud of.”

Originally, the Academy, through its Foundation, paid some of the expenses for the dentists who volunteer. Today the IHS sometimes provides transportation and lodging. They also get significant support from manufacturers and dental suppliers who generously donate materials. Some of them include

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS. —Margaret Mead



**DRS. GARY ROGOFF (BA '67, PROSTHO '74, DNS '80) AND GERALD GRASER VOLUNTEERED IN UTAH.**

*The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* Editorial Council, The Dorothy Snyder Foundation, Dentsply International, Ivoclar Vivadent, Straumann Switzerland, Patterson Dental Inc., Brassler, Inc. AP Foundation.

Transportation is always a problem because many patients live quite remotely from the clinic sites, and many have to walk for hours to come for their appointments. Others depend on friends, relatives, or tribal or IHS transportation.

"We had to work out of the back of a pick-up truck, in tents, or off picnic tables," Rasmussen explained. "In Juno, Alaska, patients traveled by boat or airplane to get this desperately needed service."

"Sometimes you sleep on hard floors, work 12-15 hours a day, skip meals, and it still is --by far-- the best week of the year you'll ever spend," promised Plekavich, who has served at various reservations frequently since the program started.

"I'm convinced the giver gets more out of it than the recipient," added Plekavich, who also enjoys working alongside his former EDC classmates he wouldn't see otherwise. "Doing something for someone else makes you feel good, and we're programmed to do that. I believe there's something in our DNA, it's part of our nature. The compensation is far greater than anything money can buy."

Rasmussen, who also volunteers at a free clinic in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, agrees.

"Anytime you help other people, you feel good about yourself; it sort of justifies your existence," he said. "And you never know, you may influence a young person to go into dentistry or help someone in the community. But I think it does me more good than it does them — I feel terrific when I help others."

But that's not all the benefit for Rasmussen, who one year was invited to participate in a Native American Sundance ritual that turned out to be a life changing experience for him.

“WHAT WE DO DURING OUR WORKING HOURS DETERMINES WHAT WE HAVE;  
WHAT WE DO IN OUR LEISURE HOURS DETERMINES WHAT WE ARE.”

– George Eastman

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *continued*

“I’ve been able to experience their culture and their view of the world in a way that simply cannot be transmitted into words...it was a very transforming experience,” he explained. “I’ve enjoyed learning about the people who were here before us and the long and sad history with treaty rights. You become more aware of not just what you’re doing, but how you fit in throughout history.”

“It is a rewarding feeling to be able to help others in need, especially Native Americans who are dependant on the Indian Health Service, which is always short staffed and needs dentists that can treat patients in need of dentures,” added Gerald Graser, DDS, MS (Prosthodontics ’72, DNS ’75), who has volunteered three times at different reservations.

General dentist Frank Carberry, DDS, Eastman Department of Dentistry faculty member, also had an opportunity to help the Indian Health Service in New Mexico, where there was a reservation with rampant dental disease. Each child he saw had 14 to 15 cavities each.

“The reservation was full of nice people, an awful lot of kids who needed help, and one dentist who was snowed under,” said Carberry, who traveled there regularly for six months to help get the situation under control. The experience landed him a new skill, as well.

“I became real good at making lists,” he laughed. “I would get off an airplane in Albuquerque and go buy everything I was going to eat or drink for two weeks. It was 100 miles one way to a grocery store if I forgot something.

“Volunteering in this capacity is a great experience,” said Carberry, who has also volunteered in Honduras and closer to home in Wayne County, NY. “The problems of the world are pretty similar, but the solutions are different. When you get involved in these situations you always learn something new.”

Another EDC Alumnus, Peter Aborn, DDS, MS (Prosthodontics ’76) also has a dedication to service, and was

recently recognized as a CNN Hero.

Writer Helen Thompson interviewed him for a story published in a Costa Rica publication. In part, she wrote that native New Yorker Aborn came to Costa Rica in 1995, and two years later he had an experience that changed the trajectory of his life, he said.

“I had a dental practice on Fifth Avenue before I came to Costa Rica. Now I was working with people who have almost nothing – they live in wooden huts and eat rice and beans for every meal,” Aborn described. “They have a wonderful philosophy of life, and in all these years I have never heard them complain.

“There are only two dentists for 30,000 people in this area, and some people would have to walk for days to get to their nearest practice. They just want the dentist to pull the tooth out, whether it can be saved or not,” Aborn said. “Who wants to risk the problem returning, and have to walk another 6 days to see the dentist again?”



(L TO R) JOSH ABORN, DR. PETER ABORN, ROMMEL MAURICIO VARGAS (TALAMANCA COMMUNITY LEADER), AND AARON ABORN.

DENTISTRY AIMS TO NOT ONLY RELIEVE PAIN AND SUFFERING, BUT TO IMPROVE A PERSON'S QUALITY OF LIFE BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO EAT BETTER AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES. – Ed Plekavich, DDS, MS (Prosthodontics '73)

For years, Aborn has been traveling from his practice in San Pedro to Shiroles in the Reserva Indigena de Talamanca as often as his personal budget will allow, spending several days doing operations and procedures without charge. Most of the time, the temperatures reach 106° F and we are working in areas without electricity or drinkable water.

“I have seen periodontal disease in 8-year-olds and malocclusions in 12-year-olds,” said Aborn. “I saw a 3-month old child with active leishmania tropica, an insect-born disease that causes scarring sores, on her face.”

Aborn delivered the first dentures and did the first root canal treatments ever to be performed on the reserve. He says that the diet of sticky foods such as rice, beans and plantains, accompanied by sugary drinks and sweets, are to blame for the poor nutrition and dental diseases that abound in the area.

He makes the trip, which involves transporting all his equipment to the base camp of Shiroles first by kayak, then by an ancient bus without brakes, and then by foot, two or three times a year, with a dedicated following of volunteer students and specialists.

Aborn concurs with Rasmussen about the deeply indelible cultural experience he's gained in Talamanca.

“The Bribri and Cabecars have incredibly profound thoughts, which make me think, ‘why do we think they are primitive?’”

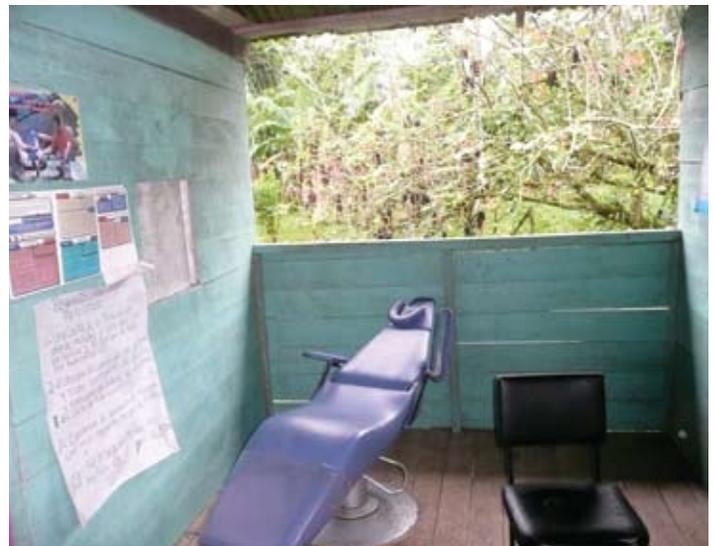
Aborn invites all to join him for a life changing experience:

“Devote five days with us,” he said. “I will take you places even the *National Geographic* has never been. I will show you situations, conditions, and introduce you to people that will change you.”

Plekavich says that underserved parts of the world experience not only the pain and suffering of dental disease but also the social embarrassment of tooth loss. Dentistry aims to not only relieve pain and suffering,

but to improve a person's quality of life by making it possible to eat better and feel good about themselves.

“Individuals with skills to share realize that the difficulties faced in providing care in remote or uncomfortable areas,” Plekavich added, “pale by comparison to the good they do.”



A TYPICAL DENTAL 'CLINIC' IN TALAMANCA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Academy of Prosthodontics  
[www.academyofprosthodontics.org](http://www.academyofprosthodontics.org)

Project Talamanca  
[www.dentalmedicinecr.com](http://www.dentalmedicinecr.com)



RESEARCH

## NEW RESEARCH SHOWS FASTER IMPLANT SUCCESS FOR SMOKERS



Georgios Romanos, DDS, Dr.med.dent., PhD, recently joined Eastman Dental Center as a professor in Periodontology and General Dentistry, and director of EDC's Laser Dentistry Unit. He is an associate professor of Oral Surgery and Implant Dentistry at the University

of Frankfurt, Germany and former clinical professor at New York University in the Periodontology and Implant Dentistry Department. He has conducted research published recently in the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants* that will likely change traditional treatment for heavy smokers.

Previously, many studies have shown that smoking negatively affects the healing related to oral dental implants. Because of the known high failure rate, many dentists won't treat heavy smokers unless they stop smoking.

However, Romanos and his colleague, Dr. G.H. Nentwig, from the University of Frankfurt followed

nine patients for five years. The study represented 72 implants that were loaded with fixed bridges immediately after surgery. After five years, they saw a 98% success rate and no bone loss.

"These findings are significant," said Romanos, who is also an editorial board member of various scientific journals in periodontology and implant dentistry fields. "Now, patients can go home with the fixed prostheses without having to wait the three to six months for healing until we load the implants."

Romanos and Nentwig were also published in the *International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentures* for their research related to regenerative therapy of deep peri-implant infrabony defects after CO<sub>2</sub> laser implant surface decontamination.

"When implants have inflammation and there is a risk for failure, we can treat them and achieve a good long term result, even after three years of therapy," Romanos explained. "We irradiate the implant surface to 'kill' the bacteria, and then we fill the defects with bone grafting materials."



## DR. KOO LANDS \$1.6 MILLION NIH GRANT



Eastman Dental Center's Hyun (Michel) Koo, DDS, PhD, has been awarded \$1.6 million to continue his work on preventing dental caries, the single most prevalent and costly oral infectious disease in the U.S.

Koo's work has been focused on finding novel therapeutic substances

from natural sources that could prevent bacteria from forming dental biofilm by disrupting the production of polymers and also acids. Previously, Koo's group at Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center, have found that specific polyphenols from cranberry and grapes may significantly reduce the ability of bacteria from forming plaque and to cause cavities.

Recently, Koo and his team have identified a strategy to reduce the development and virulence of dental biofilms and caries by combining two naturally occurring anti-biofilm molecules (a flavonoid and a terpenoid) with fluoride, a well known anti-caries agent.

The National Institute for Health grant will allow Koo, who is recognized around the world for his work with natural substances and their potential protective effects against dental caries, to continue his work in analyzing how the novel combination therapy will affect the ability of bacteria to produce polymers and acids with the goal of preventing dental biofilm before it occurs. Koo will now take a multi-disciplinary approach to identify the most effective dosage and the mode of action of this therapeutic approach in vivo, which may also reduce fluoride exposure.

"By integrating biochemical and molecular techniques with an in vivo model of dental caries, we expect to enhance our understanding of how these compounds modulate the pathogenesis of plaque development and expand their potential usefulness as a novel chemotherapeutic approach to prevent plaque-related diseases," Koo said.

Dr. Koo received his PhD degree from the State University of Campinas, Brazil, in 1999; his M.S. in 1996 from the State University of Campinas, College of Food Engineering in Brazil; and his D.D.S. degree in 1993 from the State University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He was a postdoctoral fellow in oral biology at the Center for Oral Biology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Koo joined the Eastman Department of Dentistry faculty in 2002 and is an assistant professor and principal investigator of the Laboratory of Applied Oral Microbiology located at EDC.



## 'KNOW WHO YOU COULD BE,' GRADS TOLD



This year, Dentistry Graduation guest speaker was Charles N. Bertolami, DDS, Dean, College of Dentistry at New York University and president of the American Dental Education Association and past president of the American Association for Dental Research.

Dr. Bertolami

challenged the 47 graduates to make a choice: to become people that are socially poised, outgoing and cheerful...to become people who have a capacity for commitment to people or causes, taking responsibility, and for being sympathetic and caring in relationships.

Quoting the influential 19th century author John Henry Newman, Bertolami said “to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often.’ If you don’t choose to change for the better, then you will change for the worse.”

Dr. Bertolami earned a D.Med.Sc. degree from Harvard and completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. He’s held teaching posts at the University of Connecticut and Harvard and served as Chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at UCLA, and Dean, University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry.

“You are graduating from one of the finest postgraduate dental institutions in the entire civilized world,” he told the graduates. “You have all the tools you need to live a life of real meaning—and significance. It’s not so important that you know what you want. What’s important is that you know who you are and who you could be – and then create the conditions for that to happen.”

“And, oh yes. One last piece of advice,” Bertolami added, “remember to brush and floss.”



**All Smiles** Forty-seven residents from orthodontics, general dentistry, prosthodontics, periodontics and pediatric dentistry celebrated with their professors and colleagues after Convocation ceremonies earlier this year.



NEWS

**GETTING TO KNOW DR. JEFFREY KARP, PEDIATRIC DENTIST**

**Dr. Jeffrey Karp, assistant professor in Pediatric Dentistry in the Departments of Dentistry and Pediatrics, is a member of the Cleft and Craniofacial team at the Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong. He treats patients at Eastman Dental Center and in the operating room at Strong Memorial Hospital. He will become Program Director next year.**

**Q. How did you become interested in Pediatric dentistry?**

I have always enjoyed working with kids of all ages. I worked at a batting cage, taught at baseball camps, and coached little league. I found dentistry interesting after 10 years of braces, but I had never encountered tooth decay until I began treating patients at Temple Dental School. I was more than blown away when I began seeing young children with early childhood caries from the streets of North Philadelphia. I continue to feel great satisfaction in helping kids in these situations. I knew pediatric dentistry, and especially hospital-focused pediatric dentistry, was for me when I treated my first childhood cancer patient during residency. Pediatric medicine is fascinating to me and has become my career interest since then.

**Q. What changes within Pediatric Dentistry do you see occurring over the next couple years?**

In his tenure as Program Director and Division Chair, Dr. Berkowitz has created a program where our residents become comfortable as an important member of the pediatric health care team. Our residents leave with the ability to understand pediatric medicine and the developmental and psychosocial aspects of our specialty. Our residents are culturally competent and empathetic for people of all backgrounds and personal situations. I am proud to say that I am affiliated with our program. I look forward to further integration



with our colleagues in the Medical Center and especially the Department of Pediatrics. I—like all of us—want to see our clinics run as efficiently as possible so we can duplicate the flavor of private practice dentistry in our resident clinics.

**Q. What services or programs would benefit Pediatric Dentistry alumni?**

Although I may not be the most computer savvy person, I know that the Internet can connect all of us. I hope to bring our residents into direct communication with our alumni so that the experiences and wisdom of our alumni can be integrated into the contemporary education of our residents. I foresee a time where pediatric dentistry related continuing dental education is available to our alumni through online courses. We are a small community in the world of pediatric dentistry and I hope that through an active alumni program, I will have the opportunity to meet or at least speak with all of you in the months and years to come.

## ALUMNI | FACULTY | STAFF NEWS

Jeffrey Karp, *continued from page 13*

**Q. The number of children with caries continues to rise. What's the solution?**

As the parent of a 2 year old and an infant, I now realize that the solution to the caries epidemic is this: healthy living must be instilled in our children during the first two years of life. We need to encourage “chug cups” versus sippy cups. We also need to engage our high risk families prenatally whenever possible to remain one step ahead of the caries process. Oral health education is integral to the process and we need the full support and collaboration of our colleagues in pediatric medicine.

**Q. How do you plan to communicate happenings in pediatric dentistry?**

I see our alumni, faculty, and residents as an extended family. I would love to develop both informal and formal means of communication with our friends outside the walls of EDC. I think that Internet chat groups and online CDE courses are another way for us to interact without the hassles of airfares, hotels, and increasing gas prices. I welcome our friends of EDC to contact me with more concrete, realistic ideas as time goes forward. For our patients, our program is an open book to the community. We are embarking on a marketing campaign to continue to build our patient base and to further educate the community on the importance of oral health throughout childhood.

**Q. What types of research are you doing?**

I am funded by the Department of Surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital for a study examining the safety of performing invasive dental procedures in pediatric oncology patients diagnosed with cancer or a disease requiring bone marrow transplantation. I also work closely with our primary care pediatricians at Strong to increase oral health education for pediatric medical residents and increased referral rates for the age 1 dental visit among high risk populations.

Contact Dr. Karp at [jeff.karp@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:jeff.karp@urmc.rochester.edu)

**A moment with Dick Ranney, Alumnus and EDC Foundation Board Member**

Dick Ranney, DDS, MS, (Perio '68, DNS '69) has had



**DICK RANNEY WITH HIS WIFE, PATRICIA**

an impressive career in the academic, clinical and research arenas. Throughout his nearly 40-year career, Ranney has been actively involved in numerous scientific and professional associations, is widely published, and

has received countless honors for his contributions and accomplishments. He has served on the EDC Foundation board for three years.

**Why I serve on the Board:** A way of acknowledging my debt to the EDC for the impetus it provided to my career.

**Favorite way to spend an evening:** Dinner with friends followed by a Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concert.

**Most people don't know** that I pitched a no-hitter in high school.

**Fondest memory during residency:** Friendship with classmate Jim Kennedy as well as other residents, including Jim Butler, Harold Grupe, Jr., and Leif Glavind.

**Future of periodontology:** I've proved several times that I'm no good at predictions.

**What one thing, not person or pet, I'd save in a fire:** my laptop computer; it has most of the information I'd need to begin reconstructing my affairs.

**Historical figure, living or dead, I'd most like to have dinner with:** Gabriel García Marquez

**Who should be the next president:** Anyone with policies decidedly different from those of the past eight years.

**Greatest accomplishment:** Children and grandchildren.



NEWS

## BIBBY LIBRARY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

To celebrate Basil G. Bibby Library's birthday, a blog has been created where friends may share their memories of the library past and present. Please visit <http://bibbybirthday.blogspot.com/> to share your comments! Photos taken throughout the years will be posted on the library web page and displayed throughout Eastman Dental Center.

Members of Dr. Bibby's family and former library staff gathered at a reception in early October to celebrate.

Although the Basil G. Bibby library has been in the EDC building for 30 years, its origins began in 1916, when the Rochester Dental Dispensary opened its doors to the indigent children of Rochester. The original library was funded by a gift from the Rochester Dental Society. Furnished with dark woods and leather chairs, the library provided dental resources and a quiet place to study, as it does today.

The library was dedicated and named after Basil G. Bibby, Eastman Dental Center's second director on Oct. 24, 1978.

In addition to its physical place and print collections, Bibby library offers resources and services virtually. Those currently affiliated with the URMCC can visit the library website to use an extensive

collection of electronic journals, books, and databases. Library staff provides email reference service, one-on-one consultations, and teach classes on searching techniques. Moreover, in an explosive information environment, users are kept up-to-date through dental news and tips on the library website and blog.

For information, please contact Elizabeth Kettell, 585.275.3247, or visit the birthday blog at <http://bibbybirthday.blogspot.com/>.



## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE....WELL, SORT OF.



DR. SEAN MCLAREN WORKING ON GIGI

She isn't the type of patient pediatric dentist and faculty member Sean McLaren (GPR '03, Pedo '06) usually treats. But when he got the call about 36-year old Gigi, who had a fractured right lower canine, he was eager to drive out of state to treat her.

Gigi is a 220 lb. gorilla, who lives at Zoo New England's Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, Mass. During a routine visual exam performed regularly by the keepers during behavioral training sessions, they noticed the tooth was fracturing, along with some discoloration below the fracture line.

The zoo's veterinarians, including Dr. Eric Baitchman, evaluated the situation to determine if the problem would require anesthetic intervention.

"When we are working with the gorillas, it is a frequent practice for us to consult with specialists in the human medical field, in order to provide the best possible care for our animals," Baitchman explained. He then called close friend and former college roommate McLaren, for his professional opinion.

"I was thrilled for the opportunity to collaborate professionally with a friend that I never thought I would because we're obviously in such different fields," said McLaren, who provided his services pro bono.

Unlike the sterile OR he's used to at Strong Memorial Hospital, McLaren conducted the procedure behind the scenes in the Tropical Forest building which did prove a bit challenging.

"I was constrained with the limited material and instruments, such as no dental x-ray equipment," McLaren said. "The procedure was a little harder than I thought it would be, because I didn't fully appreciate how thick the bone and how big the tooth was. I had to flap the gum tissue back and cut away the bone and elevate it out. She had a draining abscess and I didn't want it to get re-infected."

Thirty-five minutes and a few stitches later, Gigi was safely back in her cage.

Today, Gigi is doing very well. "The extraction site is healed and closed and Gigi continues to behave and eat normally," said Baitchman, who managed anesthesia during the procedure.

Will this experience turn into a career change for McLaren?

"Not likely....the pro bono stuff won't pay the mortgage," McLaren joked. "Seriously, it was a very interesting and enjoyable experience, and I would be happy to help out again anytime."

## ALUMNI | FACULTY | STAFF NEWS

## STAY IN TOUCH! UNIVERSITY-WIDE ALUMNI DIRECTORY COMING SOON

**What is the Rochester Alumni Directory project?**

In 2009, the University of Rochester will publish a comprehensive alumni directory, *University of Rochester Alumni: Today* containing listings of alumni sorted by school, class year, and geographic region. During the summer and fall of 2008, our partner, Harris Connect, will be contacting alumni to update their personal information so that we provide the most accurate listing of Rochester graduates.

**What information will be listed in the directory?**

The directory will include listings of alumni names, school, class year, degrees earned at other institutions, preferred address, job title, employer, spouse and children, and preferred email address. In addition, alumni have the option of including a headshot or portrait as well as a brief personal message.

**Can I opt out?** Yes, completing the directory update is optional. Basic information – name, school, and class year – will be listed in the directory regardless of completion.

**How can I purchase a directory?** Harris Connect will contact alumni with opportunities to purchase *University of Rochester Alumni: Today*. Both print and CD-ROM versions are available.

**When will it be published?** The directory is scheduled for delivery in March 2009.

**Who can I contact with additional questions?**

If you have additional questions, please contact Jana Wineburg, Associate Director of Alumni Relations, at [jwineburg@alumni.rochester.edu](mailto:jwineburg@alumni.rochester.edu).

## STAY CONNECTED!

Send us your email address and sign up to receive e-news updates to keep you current on the latest happenings in Dentistry at the University of Rochester. Learn about your colleagues and classmates in the field as we share announcements of births, deaths, marriages, new positions and awards. We want to hear from you! Email your news to Karen Black at [Karen\\_black@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Karen_black@urmc.rochester.edu)

.....  
DR. NESTOR SCHEJTMAN PLOTNIK (Prosthodontics '02) and his wife Raquel welcomed son, Ariel, Sept. 10, 2007.



.....  
SEAN MCLAREN (General Practice Residency '03, Pediatric Dentistry '06) and Andrea McLaren welcomed daughter Lauren Antonia on Mother's Day, May 11, 2008. She is a huge fan of the Orioles and Jeeps just like her dad.





NEWS

ALUMNI | FACULTY | STAFF NEWS

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ANNE C. O’CONNELL (GenDen ’88, Pedo ’91, DNS ’92), was one of four who won an American Academy of Pediatric Foundation Research Award. From those four finalists, she landed the Paul P. Taylor Award, given for most outstanding research for her work on the oral health status of children born small for gestational age. Dr. O’Connell is a senior lecturer/consultant in Paediatric Dentistry and director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning at Dublin Dental Hospital.



.....

RALPH SAUNDERS, DDS, MS (Res ’76, GenDen ’80, DNS ’88), Eastman Department of Dentistry faculty, has been chosen to participate in the first class of American Dental Association Evidence Reviewers. This initiative will help determine the nature and quality of evidence for the value of the wide range of dental procedures in use, Saunders says. “My particular interest is with evidence-based dentistry as it applies to geriatrics, because so many variables exist with this age group,” he said. “These factors can make unclear the applicability of evidence that has previously been available.”

.....

JACK CATON, DDS, MS, (Perio ’73, DNS ’73) chair and program director of Periodontology Division at Eastman Dental Center, is the 2008 winner of the American Dental Association-sponsored Norton M. Ross Award for Excellence in Clinical Research. From his research on the significance of bleeding upon probing, to his work in periodontal wound healing, Dr. Caton has spent a professional lifetime discovering ways to improve the way clinicians worldwide diagnose and treat periodontal disease. Several of Dr. Caton’s phase three clinical trials have resulted in the U.S. Food and

Drug Administration approving commercial products, most notably Periostat – the first host modulation drug indicated for treatment of chronic periodontitis. He also established and named the Eastman Interdental-Bleeding Index.

.....

ROBERT QUIVEY, PhD, was appointed Director for the Center for Oral Biology, which consists of several interdisciplinary research teams that integrate biochemistry, developmental biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, physiology, pharmacology and structural biology to explore important problems of craniofacial, dental and oral biology. The COB offers a Master of Science program in Dental Science, as well as a program to support PhD and postdoctoral level training.



His ongoing, NIH-funded research projects include Fitness Profiling of the Streptococcus mutans Genome, Low pH mediated membrane biosynthesis in S. mutans, Oxidative Stress in Oral Streptococci and Oral Infectious Disease: Virulence and Host Determinants.

The widely published Quivey has been conducting research and teaching for 20 years at the University of Rochester Medical Center, serving most recently as professor of Microbiology and Immunology. He is the immediate past president of Microbiology & Immunology Research Group within the International Association of Dental Research. He earned his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, and completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Rochester.

.....

DOMENICK ZERO, DDS, MS (GenDen ’76, MS/DNS ’80), HYUN ‘MICHEL’ KOO, DDS, PhD, and JOHN D. B. FEATHERSTONE, MSC, PhD, were among a select group of 30 scientists from around the world invited to participate in the International Conference

## ALUMNI | FACULTY | STAFF NEWS

on Novel Anticaries and Remineralizing Agents earlier this year.

Dr. Zero stressed that topically applied fluoride remains the standard for anticaries effectiveness and the current level of clinical evidence is not adequate to support the use of CPP-ACP (casein phosphopeptide-amorphous calcium phosphate) as an alternative remineralization strategy.

Dr. Featherstone presented on the remineralization as the natural caries repair process and the need for new approaches. When the bacterial challenge is high or the salivary components are lacking, remineralization is insufficient to halt or reverse the caries process. He stressed the need to find ways to enhance the remineralization process, and transfer such knowledge into clinical therapy.

Dr. Koo presented an overview of the biological effects of combining naturally occurring compounds with fluoride and discussed putative pathways by which these compounds attenuate the cariogenicity of *Streptococcus mutans* within biofilms and their potential usefulness as an alternative anti-caries chemotherapy. Dr. Koo's findings may lead to novel approaches to prevent or reduce cavities without increasing the levels of fluoride exposure required for therapy. "It was very exciting to meet and share information with the world's experts and leaders in academia and industry to discuss the next wave of research and products," Koo said.

ANDY TENG, DDS, PhD, traveled recently to Greece to speak at the 2nd International Conference on Osteoimmunology: Interactions of the Immune and Skeletal Systems, and to France to give a seminar at the International Oral Rehabilitation Conference. Later he hosted and chaired the first periodontal osteoimmunology symposium at the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Toronto.

ALIAKBAR BAHREMAN, DDS, MS, (GenDen and



Pedo '64, Ortho '66, MS '67) who served nearly 30 years as department chair and dean of the Dental School at the National University of Iran, was awarded for his dedication and achievement in administration, education and research. He is the

first dentistry faculty member to be named Professor Emeritus at the National University in Tehran. He was also awarded the highest medal in research and a recognition plate from the Dental School. Dr. Bahreman has been a full time faculty member at Eastman Dental Center since 2003, teaching in Ortho, Pedo and GD programs; he travels occasionally to Iran to provide lectures for dentistry residents.

JAMES E. MELVIN, DDS, PhD, won the 2008 Salivary Research Award from the International Association for Dental Research. The IADR Salivary Research Award recognizes outstanding achievements in research that advance the understanding of saliva and salivary glands. The award consists of a cash prize and a plaque, and is one of 16 IADR Distinguished Scientist Awards.

In an open competition to all postdoctoral researchers in U.S. and Canada, MARLISE KLEIN, PhD, a Postdoctoral Research Associate, was selected as top-nine finalist to participate at the highly competitive 2008 IADR/AADR Unilever Hatton Award, post-doctoral category in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Klein won second prize of this highly coveted and prestigious award. Her research studies the role that a starch and sucrose combination has in forming dental biofilms (also known as dental plaque) by *Streptococcus mutans*,

## ALUMNI | FACULTY | STAFF NEWS

the main microbial culprit of dental caries. Klein learned that this combination, which is more indicative of today's diet, produces more polysaccharides (the building blocks of dental biofilms) with a different structure, and also more acids, thus enhancing the formation and virulence of biofilms.

MARY ROGAN has joined the University of Rochester as the Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Mary previously spent six years with the United Way of Greater Rochester.



KAREN BURKIN started as secretary for Dentistry's Development and Alumni Relations Office in May. She worked for Dentistry from 2002-2003 and for the School of Medicine and Dentistry between 2006-2008.

Both Mary and Karen will support Dentistry's fundraising and alumni relations activities. Mary can be reached at 585-273-5947 or [mrogan@admin.rochester.edu](mailto:mrogan@admin.rochester.edu) and Karen can be contacted at 585-273-2766 or [kburkin@admin.rochester.edu](mailto:kburkin@admin.rochester.edu).

#### INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A DENTISTRY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION DURING THE YEAR?

The dates for all these events and more are at your fingertips.

Visit the dentistry calendar at [http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/dentistry/news\\_events/events.cfm](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/dentistry/news_events/events.cfm).

The site is also available on the dentistry website <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/dentistry/> and is the first item under "quick links."

Do you have questions or comments? E-mail [constance\\_truesdale@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:constance_truesdale@urmc.rochester.edu)

### *With Sympathy*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Dr. David Ramsay, a 1968 General Dentistry graduate, who passed away recently in Kent, England.

ROMAN SYSOL, an employee of EDC in General Dentistry since 1999, passed away in February.

DR. ERLING JOHANSEN, DMD, PhD, dean emeritus of Tufts School of Dental Medicine in Boston, previously of Rochester, NY, passed away Feb. 29, 2008 in his native home of Overhalla, Norway. Dr. Johansen received his DMD from Tufts dental school and returned to Norway as a dental officer in the Norwegian contingent of the Allied Occupation Army in Germany.

He was awarded a Fulbright stipend to pursue his PhD at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. After receiving his doctorate in 1955, he served as chairman of Rochester's Department of Dental Research, now the Center for Oral Biology, for 24 years. In 1978, he was appointed Dean of the Tufts School of Dental Medicine and became its longest serving Dean. The Tufts University Alumni Association honored him with the Distinguished Service Award, its highest honor, and an endowed chair in dental research bears his name. Dr. Johansen's research in preventive dentistry led to an oral health management system for cancer patients. He also wrote extensively about dental education improvements. In 2004, Dr. Johansen received the Leif Erikson Day Citation Award for his contributions to dental science advancement worldwide as a scientist, tutor and a dental ambassador of Norway.

# Thank you

## GIVING

### REPORT OF GIVING 2007-2008

Thank you to our generous donors noted below. We are deeply grateful to you for your support and commitment to Dentistry's education, research, and patient care missions. This report acknowledges the support of alumni, faculty, staff, corporations, foundations, and friends who have contributed to Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008.

#### July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007 Report of Giving Corrections

We sincerely apologize for the omission of donors in the Report of Giving included in the Spring 2008 Momentum edition. Thank you to the following individuals who supported one or more Dentistry funds during the Spring 2007 United Way Campaign.

Dr. Robert J. Berkowitz  
Mr. John and Mrs. Doris Borrelli  
Dr. Anthony and Mrs. Lenora Colaruotolo  
Ms. Jane Devries  
Dr. David and Mrs. Jane Levy  
Ms. Katherine McGill  
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Dr. Jack G. Caton, Jr. should have been included in the list of donors at the \$1,000+ level.

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*It was my great privilege to practice Dentistry for over 50 years in the Air Force and*

*then in Rochester. I am where I am today because of my parents and my educational environment from years ago.*

*It is very important to me to GIVE BACK to those teaching institutions which I was fortunate to attend. This especially includes our Eastman Dental Center to which I have made a bequest in my will.*

*I encourage ALL OF OUR ALUMNI to share in this legacy of learning to truly help our future generations.*

DR. HENRY (BUD) ROHRER, JR., '75,  
*Prosthodontist and Philanthropist*

For more information about how to include Dentistry in your will, or for other gift-planning ideas, contact the Office of Trusts and Estates at (800) 635-4672, or visit our Web site at [www.rochester.plannedgifts.org](http://www.rochester.plannedgifts.org).





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#### DENTISTRY CALENDAR

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### DENTISTRY EVENTS

For more information about these events, please see our Web site: [www.urmc.rochester.edu/dentistry/](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/dentistry/)  
Call 585-273-2766 or email [kburkin@admin.rochester.edu](mailto:kburkin@admin.rochester.edu).

#### American Academy of Dental Research (AADR)

#### International Association for Dental Research (IADR)

Dentistry Alumni Reception  
April 2, 2009, 6 PM  
Miami, Florida

7th District Dental Society and Handelman Conference  
April 24, 2009 (Tentative)  
Rochester, NY

#### American Association of Orthodontists (AAO)

Alumni and Friends Reception  
May 2, 2009, 7 PM  
Boston, MA

#### 21st Annual Allen A. Brewer Upstate NY Prosthodontics Conference

Dinner and Picnic  
June 5-6, 2009 (Tentative)  
Rochester, NY

#### Dentistry Convocation

June 26, 2009, 5:30 PM  
Rochester, NY

#### American Academy of Periodontics (AAP) Alumni and Friends Reception

September 14, 2009  
Boston, MA

### UNIVERSITY EVENTS

Because of Dentistry's affiliation with the University of Rochester, you can now take advantage of these University-wide events. Visit the Web site frequently, as new events are added regularly.

#### President Seligman Reception

November 5, 2008  
Baltimore, MD

#### Big Apple Circus Family & Friends Event

November 8, 2008  
New York City, NY

#### Wine and Food Tasting with President Seligman

November 12, 2008  
San Francisco, CA

#### Afternoon of Jazz

November 16, 2008  
Beverly Hills, CA

#### President Seligman Reception

November 16, 2008  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

#### Ying Quartet

December 5, 2008  
New York City, NY