CONTINUING IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

I could never have imagined that mere weeks after concluding our celebrated 125th year of educating dentists, we would face one of the greatest challenges in our history: educating our students during a deadly global pandemic.

Like the rest of Marquette University, the Dental School moved student instruction and assessment online in mid-March. This presented a difficult but doable endeavor for didactic instruction, but it required a complete rethinking of how clinical instruction is delivered. There is, of course, no physical distancing in clinical dental practice. We had no option but to close all clinics except our Advanced Care Clinic, which continued to provide limited, emergency care to patients of record.

A response team comprising many Dental School leaders as well as faculty and staff collaborated virtually to get creative in addressing a host of challenges. Among other priorities, ensuring that all D4s completed all work and assessments required for graduation was a key focus. Fortunately, all D4s completed all work and assessments for things to look quite different as we take precautions to avoid coronavirus transmission. New procedures and protocols designed for these times may serve us well into the future.

Enhancing the future of patient care is the Dental School’s commitment to interprofessional education and the ways in which we are incorporating it into our curriculum. Our cover story (p. 2) addresses the many partnerships our faculty members have already developed, not only with Marquette University’s programs in other healthcare disciplines but also with external institutions. Students who can communicate well with and understand the work of healthcare providers outside of dentistry gain a critical understanding of each patient’s unique health situation. They can ultimately provide more customized treatment and better experiences, particularly for patients with medically complex profiles. We aim to be a leader in IPE within Marquette as the university advances a broad commitment to this type of learning.

Finally, we welcome a new leader for our Department of General Dental Sciences, Dr. Ana Bedran-Russo (p. 11). Her multifaceted clinical, research and leadership experience will be a tremendous asset, and we are fortunate to have her join our team.

At press time, all clinical and simulation lab programming had no option but to close all except the primary care and emergency care clinics. This presented a difficult but doable endeavor for didactic instruction, but it required a complete rethinking of how clinical instruction is delivered. There is, of course, no physical distancing in clinical dental practice. We had no option but to close all clinics except our Advanced Care Clinic, which continued to provide limited, emergency care to patients of record.

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One of these graduates, Anthony Acuña, shares a bit about his experience in a profile on page 6. As the D4 class president and liaison, Acuña brought the concerns and desires of the class to the response team with grace and good nature. We wish him and all of his classmates continued success in all that they pursue going forward, and we sincerely hope we can reunite them for a proper celebration of their hard work.

We look forward to helping our other classes of students catch up on missed clinical time, planning for a proper celebration of their hard work.

Be well,
Dean William K. Lobb, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H.
Learning to Collaborate For Better Care

Dental School delivers interdisciplinary education to prepare future dentists to tailor treatment and achieve better outcomes

As Americans live longer and older adults make up a larger percentage of the population, a growing number of patients in the healthcare system can be described as “medically complex.” At higher risk for chronic disease, aging adults are more likely to enter a doctor’s office or dental operatory with underlying health conditions that require communication and collaboration among a patient’s full cadre of care providers.

To help future dentists learn to factor in the patient’s full health picture as they research and design their treatment plans, the Marquette University School of Dentistry is expanding interprofessional education (IPE). A high priority across the broader university, IPE aims to enhance the provider experience, improve the patient experience and outcomes, and lower the cost of care. The University’s Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Committee (IPECPC) includes faculty leaders from nine health-related education programs including dentistry.

Dr. Pradeep Bhagavatula, associate professor, Dental Clinical Services, is the Dental School’s IPECPC representative. He says his involvement was a natural outgrowth of his work leading through cases. The faculty advisers designed to require an interdisciplinary approach.

Bhagavatula is a willing champion of IPE within the Dental School and across the university. “IPE is such an important aspect for dental education these days,” he says, particularly in light of the growing number of medically complex patients that will require future dentists to “have a broader outlook” and consult more frequently with physicians and other health professionals to provide the best care. “Being able to communicate with other professionals can certainly help in improving the quality of care,” he says. “You need to have that open-mindedness and willingness to speak to those providers to get all the information and see how it will affect your treatment plans, because if you just ignore those and go ahead, you will have poorer outcomes.”

His work on the IPECPC involves helping to organize and schedule a four-workshop series for Marquette students from all the IPECPC-disciplines as well as students from MCW that is based on the Interprofessional Education Collaborative model. The model comprises four “competency domains” for interprofessional practice: values and ethics, roles and responsibilities, communication, and teamwork.

Beginning in their second year, MUSoD students are required to complete the four workshops over two academic years, one per semester. IPE rotation course numbers appear on students’ final transcripts as evidence of their IPE experience.

Rising D3 students completed the workshop on communication in fall 2019 and finished the teamwork workshop before the university moved to online instruction due to COVID-19. Working in small, interdisciplinary teams, students remain with the same cohort throughout the series. Bhagavatula, along with colleagues he recruited from the Dental School and faculty from the other disciplines, mentor the student groups.

The communication workshop was particularly enlightening, says Bhagavatula. It revealed the ways communication can break down among professionals as dentists call for medical consults. Students learned best practices for the process and approach.

Bhagavatula is also involved in an IPE initiative with the School of Pharmacy at Concordia University Wisconsin. Pharmacy faculty, he says, wanted to bring the dental perspective into an IPE program focused on opioid abuse, so Bhagavatula arranged for D3 students to attend.

“We focused on the epidemic of opioid abuse and the responsibilities and roles of each of the professions in preventing addiction and abuse,” Bhagavatula says. “Our D3s were able to talk to pharmacy students about prescribing opioids, when it is necessary and some alternatives to opioids in pain management, among other things. It was a very good session.” Also involved was MUSoD Adjunct Associate Professor Joseph Best, an oral surgeon who teaches dental pharmacology.

Given the topic’s importance, Bhagavatula and the Concordia organizers plan to make this an annual event and send the D3 students each year, which is no small feat, as it requires canceling or rescheduling their classes and clinic appointments. Supported by Dental School leadership, Bhagavatula and Dr. Mary Cimrmancic, clinical associate professor and clinical group leader, are working to make the Dental School a hub of sorts for IPE at Marquette.

Cimrmancic is integrating IPE into Dental Rounds. Students take a Rounds course each term, working in teams on case presentations. They contribute in different ways depending on their year in school — researching basic science, reviewing pathology and literature or designing treatment plans.

Depending on the semester, cases relate to a given dental specialty, but once in their four years, each of the Rounds groups focuses on emerging topics and trends, including collaborative care. “The Rounds course opens the door to collaboration and consultation from outside specialties,” Cimrmancic says. “We can learn to do our jobs better when we learn how other (medical professionals) do theirs.”

Last summer, the Dental School collaborated for Dental Grand Rounds with the Biomedical Sciences Department (College of Health Sciences) on what Cimrmancic calls a “lessons learned” review of a past case to discuss patient safety and error prevention.

The case involved considerations for assessing patients who present with symptoms that do not quite fit the pattern of a medical emergency seen in the dental setting. The lessons learned addressed the concurrent opioid crisis, focusing upon recognition of and response to the effects of opioids and opioid substitutes such as methadone in chronic pain patients, and the clinical presentation of withdrawal syndrome.

Cimrmancic is also hoping to collaborate with faculty and students from Marquette’s program for Physician Assistant Studies, to offer dental students more experience in communicating with medical providers to assist with tailoring the planning and delivery of dental treatment specific to a patient’s needs. For example, dental students may need to request a medical consult from the primary care provider and/or specialists.

“The patient might have a chronic condition like hypertension, or diabetes that might not be well controlled, or they might be going through chemotherapy,” she explains. “Anything for
Learning effective ways to word medical consult requests and honing their ability to communicate with healthcare professionals from other disciplines can help dental students achieve improved patient safety and outcomes.

Already, Cimrmancic and Dr. Yasser Khaled, an assistant professor specializing in oral medicine, TMD and orofacial pain, have collaborated with faculty from the Physical Therapy program in the university’s College of Health Sciences to bring the PT perspective into the TMD-focused Rounds course. Khaled, who completed residencies in general practice, oral pathology, oral medicine and TMD/orofacial pain, brings significant experience in interdisciplinary care. Not long after he joined MUSoS in October 2017, he reached out to PT Clinic Director Dr. Jeff Wilkins, who responded enthusiastically to the idea of a collaboration.

“Rounds became kind of an incubator,” for the dental and PT disciplines to come together, Cimrmancic says, in fall 2018. Dr. Sheila Schindler-Ivens, associate professor, or Physical Therapist Susana Arciga “would come to a session to participate in discussions, get a sense of our approach to patients with TMD and what we do as dentists, and what we know, and then we got to learn from them what services they provide and how we can work together collaboratively to treat a patient. We got to know each other’s professions and philosophies.”

Cimrmancic and Khaled also participated in the PT students’ Rounds. “The students were so insightful with their evidence and so well trained,” she says. “It was obvious how valuable these departments collaborating would be for our patients and our students.”

At spring 2019 Dental Grand Rounds, Schindler-Ivens was the keynote speaker, and Wilkins and Arciga participated as well. “The whole student body got to see this collaboration and how our modalities can work together,” says Cimrmancic.

As an IPE facilitator, Khaled also convenes twice a year with representatives and students from Marquette’s nursing, PA and health sciences programs, as well as partners from the Medical College of Wisconsin, to discuss how the disciplines might work and learn together. Khaled recently became an adjunct faculty member at MCW and is hoping to send more dental students there for rotations and rounds, as well as inviting the medical students to the Marquette dental and PT clinics.

“There is a lot that can be done between dentistry and medicine, especially in oral medicine,” Khaled says. “For example, collaborations with the MCW oral surgery and oncology departments about the diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention.” Khaled has previously helped coordinate MUSoS-MCW workshops on cancer treatment in which students work with real patients for a half day; he was planning one for this past spring that was canceled due to the pandemic.

The question for IPE now is, “Can we have more?” says Bhagavatula, adding that it’s a balance between the clear benefits of IPE and the challenges of time management and coordination among busy dental students and their counterparts from other health disciplines. “Fortunately,” he says, “we have really strong support from the Dental School.”

COVID-19: The Dental School’s Pivot to Virtual Instruction and Assessment

W hen Marquette University decided to not bring students back from spring break to campus due to the rapid spread of a novel coronavirus, schools and departments across campus scrambled to move instruction online for the remainder of the semester. For School of Dentistry leaders, doing so presented daunting challenges: How would they convert a hands-on, patient-centered program to a virtual environment, and still deliver for their students? A response team comprising Dean William Lobb, all associate deans and department chairs, as well as director of information technology Tom Wirtz, and assessment director Emily Bovee, began meeting — virtually — several times each week to think through priorities, devise solutions and implement changes.

Student liaisons also participated in the process. Moving didactic instruction online — while no small feat itself — would address coursework for the D1, D2, and to some extent the D3 students. But because all fourth-year coursework is clinical, a key focus, says Lobb, became “how we were going to get our D4s graduated.”

With all Dental School clinics closed except the Advanced Care Clinic — open only for emergencies and not allowing students in as clinicians — some D4 students weren’t sure how they would complete all requirements before the May 15 target date. Lobb says the response team decided the best way to ease anxiety and provide a sense of control was to invest the time to develop personalized graduation plans for the dozen-plus students with significant work to complete.

For the rest of the D4s, final assessments were moved to an online format. The assessments were based on clinical cases and designed to determine students’ ability to “think critically, reason clinically and come up with solutions to problems and challenges, just like you would chairside,” Lobb says.

A key technical challenge was configuring access to the Dental School’s electronic health records. To maintain confidentiality, these are only available on school computers. Wirtz says he and his team configured about 15 to 20 school laptops to access the school’s virtual private network, then distributed them to group leaders and others who needed to review graduating students’ work.

In the meantime, graduate students were leveraging videoconferencing for assessments, and D1, D2 and D3 students were finishing semester exams online using proctoring software acquired from the same vendor Marquette uses for online quizzes, says Wirtz. The software leverages a student’s webcam to record them as they take the exam, then runs the recording through artificial intelligence to detect anomalies, such as another person in the room, or the appearance of looking at notes or a student leaving their seat during the exam. Wirtz says the solution was the most cost-effective for the Dental School’s large student body, noting that many other such programs require human proctors to watch each video.

Lobb says another decision was to front-load didactic material from the summer program for the D1s, D2s and D3s, “so that when we get back, we’ll be able to get into the sim lab, and they can just focus on the hand skills.”

The matter of when and how students are able to return to the building was not fully determined in May, but Lobb and his team are focused on developing a return and recovery plan. Although the university has declared that all summer instruction will be delivered online, “That’s not our horizon,” Lobb says. “We cannot do any more online teaching. We have to figure out how we’re going to bring students back with all the constraints. There are a lot of moving parts: What kind of infection control protocols and personal protective equipment do we need, how are we going to bring patients in, is testing for the virus going to entail? These are all things that there probably aren’t good answers for right now.”
An Unusual Conclusion

Dental School’s final months were quite different for Anthony Acuña and his fellow 2020 graduates, but he hopes they can celebrate together in the future.

When he became class president in his D1 year, Anthony Acuña couldn’t have imagined what the role would require during his final months of dental school in 2020.

As the rapid spread of Covid-19 halted in-person learning and forced the Marquette University School of Dentistry clinics to close, Acuña served as the voice of his fellow D4 students — along with the class vice president and class liaison — during weekly meetings with administrators to discuss and decide how the school would move forward in an unprecedented situation.

“My job was mostly reaching out to my class, gathering their feedback and concerns, and relaying them in a constructive way to administrators,” he explains.

While Acuña believes administrators came up with reasonable solutions under rapidly changing circumstances, he says it was definitely an unusual way to conclude dental school. Instead of seeing patients, most seniors completed their clinical assessments virtually. They also missed out on the usual festivities.

“All of us were really looking forward to the typical senior week and graduation and celebrating with our families,” Acuña says. “But there should be plenty of time in the future for us to catch up with each other and celebrate.”

Acuña grew up in Orlando, Fla., where his mother and father are both dentists; his father still works there in private practice. In his teens, Acuña liked the idea of working in healthcare, but was also drawn to art and other hands-on activities. “When I looked into dentistry more deeply, I realized it was a perfect blend of helping people with their health, and getting to use my hands and do cool things with materials,” he explains.

He attended the University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate, then interviewed at multiple dental schools but says Marquette stood out. “In my opinion, no other school cares more about the success of their students, and helping them become competent and confident clinicians,” Acuña says. “I’d have also hoped to maintain some work-life balance in dental school, and sensed that Marquette provided many opportunities for fun.

“This spring, Acuña packed up his belongings and headed west with his wife, Ellie Sato, who just completed medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They’re relocating to Salt Lake City, where he plans to practice dentistry, and she will start an orthopaedic surgery residency.

As excited as they are to start this new life, Acuña is sad to say goodbye to his classmates. “Over the last four years we’ve built such positive relationships,” he says. “I’m kind of jealous of my friends who are going to be working together in the same area, because they’ll be able to continue to collaborate and bounce ideas off one another. As usual, the admissions team of Brian Trecek and Cassie Stewart assembled an awesome class.”

Anthony Acuña

Acuña particularly enjoyed participating in and serving as fundraising chair for the Marquette chapter of the Special Care Dentistry Association, which he says is designed to “create opportunities to learn more about and interact with individuals with special healthcare needs.” He took a sign language class through SCDA, and he and his classmates also coached basketball and softball for Special Olympics. “It was really fun,” he says. “The biggest joy is to work with so many eager athletes who are just there to have a great time.”

The ultimate goal of SCDA is to encourage dental students to consider treating this underserved population, and in Acuña’s case, it worked. He hopes, eventually, to apply for a pediatric dental residency, which would include opportunities to treat patients with special needs.

INDUCTEES INTOOMICRON KAPPA UPSILON (OKU)

Cole Michael Brennan
Alexander S. Craine
Chelsea Elizabeth Ewing
Cassandra DAE Hammer
Kaitlin Anne Jasper
Sydney Elizabeth Johnson

Magdelyn Mueller was honored with the Kramer Award.

74%

OF THE 2020 GRADUATES WHO ARE WISCONSIN RESIDENTS REMAINING IN THE STATE

30%

OUT OF STATE STUDENTS STAYING IN WISCONSIN

16

STUDENTS ENTERING POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMS

5 GPR | 2 AEGD | 4 Pediatrics | 3 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
1 Endodontics | 1 Fellowship Program

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

An Unusual Conclusion

Anthony Acuña

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CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2020!
CHICAGO MIDWINTER RECEPTION

In Marquette tradition, an impressive number of alumni, students, faculty and friends gathered at the Dental School’s reception during the Chicago Midwinter meeting in February. Thanks to the following sponsors for their support.

FRONT BACK ROWS:

• Pat Boyle, D ’88, Tom Kraklow, D ’88, Nancy Larson, D ’87, Mary Quinn, D ’79
• Back row: Dwight Johnson, D ’18, Briana Moody, D ’19, Melanie Nestitt, D ’12, Amber May, D4 student Jessica Vargas
• Josephine Berman, Arts ’87, D ’91, Cynthia Grady, Mike Peters, Arts, ’86, D ’91, Grad ’83, Greg Buerschen, D ’91, Jean Piper, D ’91, Van-Anh Peters, Arts ’88, D ’91
• Marc Jacobson, D ’90, Dean Bill Lobb, Stanley Taplin, D ’72
• John Poth Arts, ’96, D ’98, Karla Poth, D ’95, Fred LaCourt, D ’85, Matt Houting, HS ’12, D ’15

GENERAL DENTAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW LEADER

Meet clinician-scientist Ana Bedran-Russo

D r. Ana Bedran-Russo had her eye on the Marquette University School of Dentistry for some time before she was named professor and chair of the Department of General Dental Sciences this past March.

“It’s a trip she had made just a handful of times in her first couple of months on the job, given that the university and dental clinics have been closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. “I moved with a research lab, so I have had to physically move my lab and organize things,” she says of her few visits involved joining Marquette, she would have a manageable commute.

It’s a trip she had made just a handful of times in her first couple of months on the job, given that the university and dental clinics have been closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. “I moved with a research lab, so I have had to physically move my lab and organize things,” she says of her few visits to the Dental School building.

Bedran-Russo came to Marquette from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, where she wore several hats in the department of restorative dentistry. She directed the applied biomaterials and bio-interfaces lab, headed a program in multi-disciplinary oral sciences training and was a full professor.

As Bedran-Russo moved into a career-stage mindset where she felt “ready to offer more to others,” she secured a fellowship position with an executive leadership in academic medicine program for women, offered through Drexel University. It helped her prepare for her new role as a department chair, where she is excited about supporting faculty career development and scholarship, sustaining and advancing the high standards of MUSoD’s programs and networking with other leaders on campus.

She says she is impressed with the number of women in leadership roles at Marquette, appreciates what she senses is a collaborative atmosphere, and admires the university’s commitment to serving the surrounding community.

She says she is impressed with the number of women in leadership roles at Marquette, appreciates what she senses is a collaborative atmosphere, and admires the university’s commitment to serving the surrounding community.

“This felt like a perfect place for me to take the next step in my career,” she says. “I look forward to contributing to many aspects of the pillars of the university.”
The Marquette University community joins in prayerful remembrance of those who passed away between January and June 2020. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

REMEMBERING OUR OWN

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1946 William E. Castle
Lockport, NY
1953 John H. Bowen
Eau Claire, WI
1956 James A. Englander
Milwaukee, WI
1957 Donald L. Beall
Peoria, AZ
1958 William E. Hallinan
Helena, MT
1959 Lawrence J. Ginebra
Rochester, IL
1960 Robert A. Gordon
Milwaukee, WI
1963 Dimitrios A. Pappas
Albuquerque, NM
1965 Larry R. Holcomb
Springfield, IL
Paul D. Sorel
Mequon, WI
1967 Thomas E. Carney
Peoria, IL
Alan M. Shimovitz
Mequon, WI
1969 Jack A. Hambach
Barr, WI
1970 Curtis G. Ball
West Salem, WI
Ronald D. Santilli
Milwaukee, WI
Leonard C. Schrank
Nashik, WI
1972 David A. Krawiek
New London, WI
1973 Robert J. La Selle
Fort Myers, FL
1974 Walter M. Meacham
Marathon, WI
1975 Philip A. Woller
Indianapolis, IN
1977 Michael R. Lewis
McFarland, WI
1979 John D. Burkart
Aurora, CO
1983 John D. Burkart
Aurora, CO
1987 Lee M. Radke
Muskego, WI
1988 Thomas P. O’Connell
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Robert Gordon, DDS
Dr. Bob Gordon, an orthodontist on the North Shore of Milwaukee for more than 45 years, passed away in January. In addition to having a long and successful practice, Dr. Gordon believed in the importance of education and extended his commitment to teaching at Marquette University School of Dentistry and the Orthodontics program for more than 50 years.

Ronald Santilli, DDS
Dr. Ron Santilli, former part-time faculty member and alumnus, passed away in June. Dr. Santilli served for many years at the School of Dentistry teaching wherever he was needed. He exemplified Marquette’s values; his spirit, generosity, and caring and loving manner will be missed.

The Dental School also mourns the loss of two faculty members who gave so much of their time and heart to our students over so many years.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Please go to marquette.edu/dentistry for changes and updates on these and other events and for information on how to participate in continuing education courses virtually. If you have questions, call 414-288-3093.

AUGUST

August 21
CE: Infection Control and Prevention for Dentistry During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Katharine Schrubbe

SEPTEMBER

September 8
CE: Radiology Study Club: Interpretation of Intraoral Images - The Lore and the Lure of the Lamina Dura
Lisa Koenig

September 17
CE: Clinical Oral Pathology Primer for the Dental Office Team
Yashwant Kalsey

September 22
CE: Radiology Study Club: Interpretation of Panoramic Images: Darkness and Light, Shadows and Ghosts
Lisa Koenig

OCTOBER

October 13
CE: Radiology Study Club: CBCT Imaging: Dose in Perspective and Applications
Lisa Koenig

October 22
CE: This Looks Complicated
Mark Boldt

October 30
CE: Clinical Dental Update 2020
Hongpiew A. Jaci, Karol Walczak, Sathi Phadaw, Kenneth Walczak

NOVEMBER

November 4
CE: Uses of Hypnosis in Dentistry
Yasser Khaled

November 10
CE: Radiology Study Club: Radiographic Imaging of Temporomandibular Joint Disorders, Asymmetry and Airway Analysis
Lisa Koenig

November 19
CE: How do I Biopsy this Lesion?
John D. Burkart

DECEMBER

December 4
CE: Infection Control and Prevention for Dentistry During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Katharine Schrubbe

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on gathering, the School of Dentistry reunions scheduled for the fall have been postponed. They will take place in September of 2021.
STAY CONNECTED WITH THE DENTAL SCHOOL.

STARTING 2021:
*Dental Images* is becoming an annual magazine with electronic newsletters.

Beginning in 2021, *Dental Images* will be published as a printed magazine annually instead of twice a year. We will be adding more frequent and timely information shared electronically via email.

To make sure you stay connected with the Dental School and your classmates, please complete and return the postcard enclosed in the magazine so we can keep in touch with you!