Dean’s word

I am immensely proud to congratulate our students who joined their peers at their graduation in the Great Hall on 4 March 2016.

Faculty of Dentistry – 2016 and beyond

In 2015 the University of Sydney commenced strategic planning for the ensuing five years that builds on the past five years’ achievements. Sydney’s primary focus is, naturally, on education and research but there is also an important focus on culture and organisational design.

Education and research strategies include student interaction and external engagement, with opportunities to drive quality and excellence in key disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas.

The culture strategy focuses on how to shift the institutional culture to best realise and promote the talents of all staff and students.

Changing our organisational structure has, as key goals, an increase in opportunities and resources for pursuing excellence and realising a reduction of such impediments as administrative burdens and barriers.

A large piece of work follows the decision to move from 16 to six faculties and three schools, which will include Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy as one faculty, the global name of which is yet to be determined.

An external review of our health and medical faculties is being conducted in April to recommend a final organisational design for these disciplines and enable us to maximise our educational and research potential. Allied health disciplines will remain as a faculty in the immediate period, with a review to consider integrating all health disciplines in a couple of years.
This redesign has some very exciting opportunities for dentistry. It will facilitate:
- our goal of integrating oral and systemic health through interdisciplinary translational research and educational activities
- accessing, utilising and coordinating resources across health and non-health faculties
- strengthening administrative processes and more effectively utilising ‘central’ (University-wide) services
- streamlining professional administrative processes across the combined disciplines
- adopting learnings from other health disciplines.

We will always retain our professional identity; equal standing with other clinical academic units; our education philosophy and expertise; and our own, particular research focus.

Over the past five years we have worked hard to achieve financial sustainability, and improve our administrative processes and relationships with our stakeholders. Furthermore we have overhauled our courses and developed a significantly focussed research strategy. The new organisational structure will help us further in all of these areas.

It is important to understand that this is not change for change’s sake; it is change essential to improving our education and training of the future workforce, providing development for dental practitioners and undertaking research that will benefit our community and influence Australia’s national policy.

I would like to introduce two key academic appointments in Dentistry this year: Professors Heiko Spallek and Jörg Eberhard.

Heiko takes on the Pro Dean role to work closely with me in progressing our academic activities, including working with key partners, such as the Australian Dental Association and NSW Health, as well as other universities.

Jörg’s appointment as Chair of Lifespan Oral Health will lead our integration of oral and systemic health education and research. This role is critical for dentistry to help solve questions relating to associations between oral diseases and the common systemic chronic diseases including diabetes, arthritis and cardiovascular disease (for details of this exciting venture go to sydney.edu.au/dentistry/lifespan-oral-health). Further, there are collaborative opportunities across health to develop new ways to help the many within our community who do not visit a dental practitioner regularly.

I feel very privileged to have these two internationally-renowned academics with us as we strive to improve the community’s oral health.

Chris Peck
SimMan simplifies hands-on treatment

After touring many locations, SimMan has finally taken up residence at the Westmead Centre for Oral Health for use by dental students in simulated training. This simulation equipment will enable interprofessional learning activity with other health students. Funded by a generous contribution from the Dental Council of New South Wales, SimMan has created significant community interest.

SimMan enables our students to practise ‘real life simulation’ – that is, how to safely deal with patients when things don’t go as expected. It is used by students undertaking the specialty program, Conscious Sedation, and our DMD students. The faculty is able to program SimMan to create scenarios and emergency situations requiring precise attention, such as low blood pressure, decreased heart rate, breathing difficulties, chest pain etc, so that students can practise hands-on treatment in a safe environment.

The presence of equipment with highly advanced technologies such as ‘SimMan’, the ‘MOOG’ simulator (funded by contributions from the graduating class of BDS 1988), and Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) is invaluable in providing students with maximum exposure to practise. This equipment was introduced into the curriculum and research activities through a partnership with Stoneglass Industries.

Faculty staffer swims into superb second place

On 24 January more than 1000 athletes of all ages dived into the harbour at Sydney’s Opera House for a 2km swim to join the Australia Day celebrations.

Although exhausted, an exultant Sandra Rogers, the Dean’s Executive Assistant, leapt to touch the finish at 32 minutes six seconds and come second of 45 women and fifth of 117 men and women in the 50-59 years age group. Sandra finished 70th out of 624 women of all ages. We congratulate her on an outstanding achievement.
Five minutes with Professor Heiko Spallek, Pro Dean

As a student, Professor Heiko Spallek wanted to do something with his hands. The combination of science with the hands-on treatment of dentistry attracted him.

Then, as an early-career dentist, he faced the difficult decision between a career in his specialty of periodontology and dental informatics. He felt he could revolutionise dental education, research and care delivery by employing the then-nascent discipline of dental informatics. With many excellent periodontists, he opted to combine dentistry with his passion for computer science.

1. What’s the contribution of oral health to overall human health?
As we now know, a strong link exists between oral and systemic health.

As Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Knowledge Management at the American Dental Association’s Standards Committee on Dental Informatics, and through my research on computer and information science principles supporting dental education, I explored various aspects of interoperability to strengthen the connection between medical and dental health data. By using the best available data, evidence-based systems may scientifically and safely support the clinician’s treatment planning.
2. If you had unlimited resources what would you suggest be done to improve oral health in Australia?
Access to care is one of the issues that each nation struggles with – and Australia is no exception.

We need to ensure that electronic repositories become valuable resources, rather than expensive data cemeteries.

Any healthcare system that offers comprehensive healthcare needs to provide access to health records to each specific provider, regardless of physical storage location and ownership, thus enabling seamless collaboration between medical and dental professionals.

I envision a future in which every clinician can access any patient’s health record, including all relevant medical and dental data, family history, genetic information and oral microbiome data. An added bonus would be that these data would become a source for population-based research and outcomes assessments, helping us to determine the therapy approaches that work best for each patient.

3. What do you see as the current and future great challenges in the area of population oral health?
Humans, including dental providers, have limited time to learn new things. Computerised clinical decision support must be based on sound evidence and accurate health data about the individual patient at hand.

If both are available, computers can provide significant support to oral health care providers.

I believe that over the long term it will be impossible for clinicians to deal safely and efficiently with the combinatorial explosion that the results of clinical research will offer us without the aid of computerised clinical decision support.

4. What do we need to produce in our graduates?
Our goal is to ensure Sydney students are lifelong learners who have mastered the critical-thinking skills that will enable them to be part of the solutions and demands of modern health care. We need to instil them with a sense of duty to use current evidence available to always do the best for their patients.

The dying Steve Jobs said: “the biggest innovations of the 21st century will be at the intersection of biology and technology. A new era is beginning” and I believe that we will see this new era also in dentistry. Thus academic and professional staff will have to work together with students to ensure that we are not bystanders, but active participants of this new era.

5. How should the dental course reflect that?
While using technology is not the panacea for professional education, the thoughtful implementation of teaching and learning technology can greatly enhance the learning outcomes, increase the effectiveness of teaching and provide economical benefits.

6. What are your interests?
I am passionate about photography and have acquired moderate skills in travel photography:
- www.spallek.com/photo/galapagos/
- www.spallek.com/alaska/
- www.spallek.com/denali/
- www.spallek.com/peru/
Five minutes with Associate Professor Ky-Anh Nguyen, Lecturer and Researcher

Ky-Anh Nguyen has been described as a scientist, academic and clinician and was recently promoted to associate professorship. He has consistently shown academic and leadership qualities in his work for the faculty.

Along with his significant teaching, and his research commitments with the Westmead Institute, Ky-Anh has accepted the role of Postgraduate Coordinator and membership of the Senior Executive Group Research Committee, the Sydney Medical School Research Committee and Westmead Institute Career Development Committee.

“I’ve had an interest in science for as long as I can remember,” he says. “During my dental education at Sydney, I had the opportunity to undertake some summer vacation research experience with the Institute of Dental Research and have been hooked on research ever since. Now, I enjoy the mix of clinical work, research and sharing of that knowledge to our next generation of clinicians and researchers.”
1. What’s the contribution of oral health to overall human health?
I think the influence of oral health on general health is more important than most people realise. Aside from the obvious connection between missing teeth and the ability to maintain a good, healthy diet, the presence and type of oral microorganisms and presence of oral diseases may modify our immune response to various challenges, with resulting health consequences away from the mouth – both in health and in disease.

2. If you had unlimited resources what would you suggest be done to improve oral health in Australia?
I would emphasise primary oral health care in the first instance, including educating the community on the importance of maintaining good oral health and, of course, the right to, and availability of, appropriate provision of treatment for each individual, particularly in rural and remote regions of Australia.

Providing resources for research – from basic to clinical research – is also critical in devising better ways to treat and prevent oral diseases in our communities.

3. What do you see as the current and future great challenges in the area of population oral health?
While not my specific field of expertise, I would venture that a significant challenge is promoting the message that sound oral health is as significant a consideration as all other important lifestyle choices. The public should view having a dental checkup as routinely as getting a car serviced – we don’t allow our car to run until it breaks down and yet so many people do it to their mouths!

The Dean’s great initiative and collaboration with the Charles Perkins Centre into ‘Lifespan Oral Health’, and the work to be undertaken by Professor Jörg Eberhard as Chair of Lifespan Oral Health, have the potential to make significant inroads into this quest and hopefully bring about serious changes.

4. What do we need to produce in our graduates?
Our emerging clinicians have to demonstrate professional attributes – that is, along with clinical competence they must be members of the community who are professionally and personally ethical. They must also possess a curiosity and yearning for enquiry and lifelong learning to ensure that the very best treatment option is available to their patients. Throughout their career they should contribute to the growing body of knowledge of our profession, now and into the future.

5. What are your interests?
When I was younger, I loved to travel and experience new places and cultures. It is such an eye-opener to live in distant lands and meet new people. Things are slightly more complex now with a young family but I hope to get some of that back when the kids are older and they can share this passion.
Five minutes with Professor Elizabeth Martin, Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching

Professor Elizabeth (Liz) Martin can’t remember if she chose dentistry or dentistry chose her.

As a member of the elite Martin family and cousin of fluoridation pioneer Noel D Martin AM, Liz was always aware of the importance of attending to the oral health needs of the community, particularly in rural and remote regions. However, just as importantly, she is keenly aware of a bond to impart knowledge and ethical responsibilities.

Her key commitments include Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching, Discipline Head for Tooth Conservation and Sub Dean for Clinical Affairs at the Westmead Centre for Oral Health. However, she is also responsible for the development and delivery of the Doctor of Dental Medicine program, which has seen our first students graduating in March 2016. Last, but not least of her allegiances, Liz has a regular commitment to provide dental services to the defence force.

Now, she has achieved a milestone in our 100-year old history – being appointed as the faculty’s first female full professor while steadfastly continuing her full commitment to the faculty and dental community.

1. What do we need to produce in our graduates?
We need to produce graduates who are knowledgeable, technically competent and familiar with new technology, techniques and materials. These graduates must also be trained to assess future changes in all aspects of dentistry. This enables them to discriminate between anecdotal information and evidence-based outcomes so they can provide the best possible care for their patients. The world is growing smaller as a result of technology and we expect our students to become lifelong learners and be part of the global dental community.

Other important elements of our program must include training the provision of holistic care to patients from a different culture and level of society, in the spirit of honourable ethics. While much of society has become somewhat materialistic, I hope that, in providing treatment, our graduates are not solely driven by financial remuneration. They need to seek reward in the privilege of delivering a valuable health care service and recognition as a respected member of the profession and community.
2. How should the dental course reflect that?
To reflect this, our dental program encourages input from general practitioners and specialists from practice and industry partners. We provide evidence-based training and access to new products, materials and techniques so that our graduates will be well equipped to enter the workforce on graduation.

To address the teaching of ethics in dentistry we have recently appointed a lecturer, Dr Alex Holden, to ensure that students are cognisant of some of the ethical dilemmas they may face, and trained in techniques to manage situations with the best outcomes for themselves, their patients and the profession.

Our students’ clinical training embeds a sense of understanding the different dental needs of society. Their training includes the treatment of socially disadvantaged patients through hospital clinics within Sydney’s Local Health Districts (LHDs), and providing patient care during rotations to rural NSW and Aboriginal communities in the Central Tablelands.

3. What are your interests?
Dentistry invades much of my free time through my involvement with the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons as Registrar General Dental Practice, and my commitment with the armed services.

However, away from dentistry, I am a busy mother to two daughters and grandmother of four grandchildren.

Walking provides me with a sanity break – away from emails and the demands of students – and I have been on annual walking tours for the past decade, travelling not only within Australia, but to different countries across Europe, the UK and, most recently, walking the magical Camino de Santiago in Spain.
# Prize awards honour roll 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anthony P Martin Prize</strong></td>
<td>Darren Zomar</td>
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<td><strong>Associate Professor Geoffrey McKellar Prize</strong></td>
<td>Darren Zomar</td>
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<td><strong>Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association New South Wales Prize</strong></td>
<td>Darpana Hasji</td>
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<td><strong>Brigadier Gordon Rowell Prize</strong></td>
<td>Sally Hirunvivat</td>
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<td><strong>Campbell Harry Graham Prize</strong></td>
<td>Wen Chao Liu</td>
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<td><strong>Colgate Cariology Award</strong></td>
<td>Michelle Chong</td>
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<td><strong>Colgate Oral Care Award</strong></td>
<td>Rachel Inglis</td>
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<td><strong>DClinDent Research Prize</strong></td>
<td>Braydon Patterson</td>
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<td><strong>Dean's Recognition Prize</strong></td>
<td>Prize shared by Matthew El Azzi, Thaer Skaf, Charanjit Shokar, Simon Khalil</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dental Alumni Society Prize No 1</strong></td>
<td>Vincent Cheung</td>
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<td><strong>Dental Alumni Society Prize No II</strong></td>
<td>Vi Tuyet Pham</td>
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<td><strong>Dental Alumni Society Award No III</strong></td>
<td>Vivek Kumar</td>
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<td><strong>Dental Alumni Society Prize No V</strong></td>
<td>Priyanka Ponna</td>
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<td><strong>Dental Hygiene Association Of Australia Prize</strong></td>
<td>Alannah Flegg</td>
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<td><strong>Dr E John Wilkinson AO Prize</strong></td>
<td>Brent Parks</td>
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<td><strong>Dr John H Wilson Prize</strong></td>
<td>Luca Pomare</td>
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<td><strong>Dr John Mayne Prize</strong></td>
<td>Shane Gock</td>
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<td><strong>Faculty Research Award – Bachelor Of Oral Health</strong></td>
<td>Julie Tran</td>
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<td>Prize</td>
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<td>Faculty Research Award – Bachelor of Oral Health</td>
<td>Vivek Kumar</td>
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<td>GS Caird Scholarship in Prosthetic Dentistry</td>
<td>Merel Jacobs</td>
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<td>Goldsworthy-Sullivan Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Sara Bahnam</td>
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<td>HJV Cusack Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Mary Rose Hatem</td>
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<td>Hu Friedy Golden Scaler Award</td>
<td>Darpana Hasji</td>
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<td>John Stephen Hill Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Anna Li</td>
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<td>Peter Kaleski Prize</td>
<td>Joel Teodoro Pangalilingan</td>
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<td>Richard Belitho Bush Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Kara Everingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Australasian College Of Dental Surgeons Prize</td>
<td>Prize shared by Chi-I Chang, Vincent Cheung, Yunyang Wu, Dale Do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rudolf Gunz Medal</td>
<td>Nilakshi Galagoda</td>
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<td>Stephen Maxwell O’Henley Prize</td>
<td>Sarah Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Martin Halas Prize No I</td>
<td>Miles Somers</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Martin Halas Prize No II</td>
<td>Vincent Cheung</td>
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<tr>
<td>WJD Partridge Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Jae Young Ahn</td>
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Alumni notebook: reunions

BDS Class of 1985 returns
An impressive turnout of 70 members of the graduating class of 1985 assembled in the Refectory in September 2015 to relive student years, recount anecdotes and review 30 years of professional life following their accreditation as dentists. At the end of the evening, the group generously donated $1300 to the Dean’s Priority Fund, a contribution that helped to ensure the evening’s success.

The BDS class of 1985 – then and now

Events

Join the Dental Alumni Society
The society will be holding alumni events throughout 2016. You can ensure that you receive your invites to join fellow graduates, academics and faculty staff at this year’s activities by keeping your details up to date with the University’s alumni office. Please go to alumni.sydney.edu.au/update and update your details today.

Women in Dentistry
Please check for further details of upcoming events with Faculty of Dentistry Alumni Engagement team by email alumni.dentistry@sydney.edu.au

For more information

Faculty of Dentistry
dentistry.alumni@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/dentistry