

THE COMPASS

Charting
New Directions
for the
University of
Connecticut
School of
Dental
Medicine

VOL. II, ISSUE I

SPRING, 2001

MATCH DAY 2001!

by Dr. Monty MacNeil, Associate
Dean for Academic Affairs

Members of the Class of 2001 and the School of Dental Medicine experienced a very successful Match Day on Monday, January 29. During the summer/fall of 2000, 36 (95%) of our 38 senior dental students applied for advanced training in various post-graduate programs. Twenty-nine of these students were registered in the Match Program, a formalized process where applicants from across the country compete with their peers for positions in programs such as Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry and General Dentistry. Attainment of positions, especially in top-ranked programs, is highly competitive and reflects well on both the student and his/her dental school.

Of the 29 School of Dental Medicine students in the 2001 Match Program, 28 (97%) were successfully matched to programs. Impressively, 24 (83%) of our students secured positions in programs they had ranked as one of their top three choices with 18 students (almost two-thirds of our applicants!) being offered their #1 choice. This outcome is all-the-more remarkable in that eight of our students were simultaneously seeking admission into Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, one of the most competitive programs in the Match; all eight students secured positions including two students in their top-ranked programs! In addition to students in the Match program, seven other



Above: Dental Student Match Day, Class of 2001.
Below: Dr. James Kennedy and
Tuyen Nguyen at Match Day reception.



students pursued non-match programs with six students securing their "first choice." Taken together (Match + Non-Match), 61% of all UConn applicants secured 1st choice positions with 78% of students securing positions of their 1st-to-3rd choice.

Next year, we will find 2001 UConn DMD grads in a diversity of programs and locations including Massachusetts General Hospital, University of Utah, University of Washington, University of California-San Francisco and Vanderbilt University. Specifically, the Class of 2001 will have:

- 11 students in Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) programs
- 5 students in General Practice Residencies (GPRs)
- 8 students in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- 6 students in Orthodontics
- 2 students in Periodontology
- 1 student in Endodontology
- 1 student in Pediatric Dentistry
- 1 student in Prosthodontics
- 3 students entering private practice directly.

The School of Dental Medicine congratulates all senior dental students and is confident that much success awaits them in their programs or practices. Credit and congratulations should also go to the many faculty and program directors who wrote letters of recommendation and helped our students prepare for interviews. Thank you to all those who made this remarkable outcome possible.



Message from the Dean

Peter Robinson, DDS, PhD

As noted in this issue of Compass the students are taking full opportunity of their value added experience at the School of Dental Medicine. Year in and year out a large percentage of the students participate in research culminating in their presentation at Student Research Day, a banquet and awards. Each year the number of students participating in outreach programs swells. Two years ago we made community service a part of our required curriculum, but independent of that our students find alternative ways to search out the underserved in need of dental care. This year 25 of the third year students traveled to Peru to provide care to natives in the Amazon jungle who would otherwise not receive any.

It's amazing! Our students have more than 40% more total clock hours of instruction than the average dental student and almost three times as much basic medical science instruction than the average dental student. With this intense curriculum they seem to find some way to fit in research projects and extensive volunteer community service. The question is whether or not there are any measurable positive outcomes for our students who demonstrate special scholarship and benevolence while taking on the rigors of our curriculum. An answer is quite evident in Dr. MacNeil's report on the Match for advanced programs. This class, 2001, had an exceptional Match with most every student matching up with their top choice of advanced programs. Program directors rank students high in the Match who excel in an excellent curriculum, demonstrate they can do research and are willing to help out in community service. Our students certainly meet this criteria and it's obvious a multitude of program directors agree with us. We can all take pride in the accomplishments of this class in meeting exceptional goals.

Student Scientific Day

by Dr. Susan Reisine

The annual Student Scientific Day took place on February 26, 2001 which is the capstone experience for dental and medical students participating in the summer research program at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Undergraduate dental students interested in research experiences compete for funding from the Health Center as well as from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to conduct focused research projects under the direction of faculty mentors. Students generally spend the summer between the first and second year of dental school on these research projects. Student Scientific Day provides a forum for students to present the findings of their research projects. The School of Dental Medicine was well represented with thirteen undergraduate dental students participating. There were six oral presentations and seven poster presentations covering the gamut of molecular, clinical and behavioral research. The poster and oral presentations were reviewed by a panel of judges for scientific merit, originality and quality of the presentation. Nine awards were presented:

- Dean's Award** - Matthew Kolesar: The effect of chlorhexadine on the taste of chloride salts: concentration dependence (Drs. J. Gent and M. Frank, Mentors);
- ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Award** - Fernando Meza: NaCl Taste induced c-fos

- expression in the parabrachial nucleus of hamsters following glossopharyngeal nerve section (Dr. M. Barry, Mentor);
- UCONN Section, AADR Student Research Award** - Craig Stasulis: Immunohistochemical identification of antigen presenting cells in rats salivary glands (Dr. A. Hand, Mentor);
- Gustave Perl Memorial Award** - Jason Raney: The Effect of masking odors on an odor identification test. (Drs. M. Frank, J. Gent, T. Hettinger, Mentors);
- Society of Alumni and Friends** - Mathew Jacobsen: Stability of surgical change at the gonial angle in sagittal split osteotomy (Dr. D. Shafer, Mentor);
- Listerine Excellence Award** - Jonah Cooper-Leavitt: *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* derived factors induce expression of proinflammatory cytokine interleukin 6 in gingival epithelial cells *in vitro*: Implications for human periodontal disease. (Drs. D. Kreutzer and A. Sfakianakis, Mentors);
- Department of Biostructure and Function Awards** - Rachael Carver: The presence of virulent endodontic pathogens in symptomatic patients versus non-symptomatic patients (Dr. A. Fouad, Mentor);
- Dental Student Research Society** - Paul Baldyga: Association between anterior tooth size discrepancies and Class III malocclusions (Dr. A. Kuhlberg, Mentor);
- Elsevier Science Research Award** - Kelly Morrison: A comparison of genioglossus electromyographic activities using wire and surface electrodes (Drs. E. Pae and J. Balsius, Mentors).



Fernando Meza and Robert Francouer, Dentsply representative.



Dr. Peter Robinson and Michael Connelly.



Kelly Morrison and Dr. Alan Lurie

UConn Garners Two AADR Hatton Award Finalists



Craig Stasulis

Two UCONN students, **Dr. Raj Lalla** and **Craig Stasulis**, were selected as Hatton Award finalists at the AADR meeting in Chicago in March. They will travel to compete in the 2001

IADR/Unilever Hatton Awards Competition for Junior Investigators in Chiba, Japan, June 27-30, 2001. This prestigious national-level competition is designed for junior investigators who exhibit potential for a productive career in dental research. This year, out of 90 plus abstracts received for the competition, 30 were selected to participate across three categories:

Junior: candidates are those who have carried out their research as part of undergraduate professional training.

Senior: entrants for this category are presently engaged in research as part of a higher degree, either a Master's or PhD, or as part of dental specialty training.

Postdoctoral: entrants for this category are candidates whose research was performed within three years of their earning the award of PhD.

The American Association for Dental Research (AADR) is entitled to send nine individuals to compete in the 2001

IADR/Unilever Hatton Awards Competition for Junior Investigators in Chiba, Japan. Six winners, the first two from each category, received cash prizes and commemorative plaques in each category: 1st prize, pre- and postdoctoral categories: \$1000; 2nd prize, pre- and postdoctoral categories: \$500. The prizes were sponsored by a generous donation from the Warner-Lambert Company.

Dr. Raj Lalla competed in the senior competition and was awarded first place. His presentation was: Soluble Fibrin-Related Factors Induce Angiogenic Factor Expression in Oral Tumors. His major advisors on this project were Dr. Donald Kreuzer and Dr. Marvin Tanzer. Mr. Craig Stasulis, a second year dental student received third place in the junior category and presented Immunohistochemical Identification of Antigen Presenting Cells in Rats Salivary Glands. Dr. Arthur Hand was his mentor.

Dr. Raj Lalla



Dental Dean's Seminar Series

April 19, 2001

Aggrecon, Intracellular Trafficking, and Serendipity

Marvin Tanzer, MD

*Department of BioStructure and Function
University of Connecticut
School of Dental Medicine*

April 26, 2001

Regulation of Limb Skeletal Development

Robert Kosher, PhD

*Department of BioStructure and Function
University of Connecticut
School of Dental Medicine*

May 10, 2001

Periodontal Disease and Heart Disease: Are We Better Off Flossing or Drinking Red Wine?

James D. Beck, Ph.D.

*Department of Dental Ecology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry*

May 17, 2001

Epidemiology of Early Childhood Caries

Walter J. Psoter, D.D.S.

*New York University College of Dentistry
Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion*

May 31, 2001

Fluoride Use Today:

Recent Findings, Recommendations and Research Implications

David G. Pendrys, D.D.S., Ph.D.

*Department of Behavioral Sciences & Community Health
University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine*

The School of Dental Medicine has been notified that the Class of 2001 ranks Number One in the nation in Part II of the National Dental Board examination results. This class ranked No. 2 in their results on Part I of the National Board examination.

Former Graduates Return to School of Dental Medicine

The School of Dental Medicine is pleased to welcome **Dr. Richard Skinner** as Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Operations for the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Skinner, a 1977 graduate of UConn SODM, completed his residency in 1979 at Indiana University and served in the US Navy Dental Corps for four years before transferring to the US Air Force for another 17 years. After serving most of his 21-year career in the Philippines, England, Italy, California, Washington DC, and South Carolina, he returned to Connecticut in July.

In addition to his responsibilities here, Dr. Skinner is Director of the Dental Department at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, which includes the divisions of Pediatric dentistry (division head),

Craniofacial Anomalies and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

His professional interests include developing and expanding the existing network of clinical outreach programs that provide dental care to low income and underserved children. Graduating pediatric residents have been recruited into fellowship/clinical instructor positions and hired to practice in these clinics.

In his free time, Dr. Skinner enjoys fishing, boating, and mountain biking. He lives in Kensington and is married with three children.

Diane Bastiani, D.M.D. is another graduate of the School of Dental Medicine who returned here during the summer of 1999. After graduation in 1996, she enrolled in

the AEGD program at SUNY Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine and then went into private practice in Islip and Carle Place, New York. After another six months of private practice in Connecticut she accepted an opportunity to return to the Health Center as a clinical instructor.

As a student she always thought she would like to teach and was pleased to accept the position she currently holds as Team Leader in Clinic 3 (Team B). She states that "the team approach works well here. Students learn better in a fostering, nurturing environment than in an adversarial one." She believes the administration did a superb job setting up the team approach to undergraduate dental education. Apart from her teaching responsibilities she is also a member of the ADA Accreditation Self Study Standard Two Committee on Educational Programs.

Dr. Bastiani and her husband live in Farmington with their collection of African cichlid fish.

Check out our new website at: <http://sdm.uchc.edu>



UConn
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The Compass is written for the dental school. We strongly encourage everyone to participate by submitting articles, events, milestones, etc. If you have any suggestions, please drop us a line.

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