

# THE COMPASS

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

VOL. VII, ISSUE I

SPRING, 2006

## South Park Clinic Update

by Michelle Stanislowsky, (D'07)

This year the South Park Dental Clinic has taken a new twist. We are putting a larger emphasis on prevention with an oral hygiene information session for the residents of South Park at each visit. During this time we have an interactive discussion with the residents about brushing and flossing techniques, diet, fluoride, and answer any questions they may have. We also use disclosing tablets at this time with table top mirrors to individualize their brushing instructions. Following this, we meet with people needing our attention and refer them to the appropriate facility for them to receive care.

**Michelle Stanislowsky, Keri Stucenski,** and the **South Park Board** would like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty members that volunteer their time on Monday nights to attend this clinic. It is a great service to the community which would not be able to occur without their continued support. Thank you especially to Dr. Sarita Arteaga, Dr. Reza Kazemi, Dr. David Newitter, Dr. Nancy Chang, Dr. Joseph D'Ambrosio, Dr. John Agar, Dr. Jennifer Diederich, Dr. Michael Goupil, Dr. Qiang Zhu, and Dr. Peter Robinson. Thank you so much for your continued efforts!

If you are interested in participating in this group please email:  
[mstanislowsky@student.uhc.edu](mailto:mstanislowsky@student.uhc.edu)



Top: Vincent Steniger (D'07) and Courtney Broughton (D'08) examining a patient. Bottom from left to right: Justin Clemow (D'07), Keri Stucenski (D'07), Matt Johanson (D'09), Courtney Broughton (D'08), and Vincent Steniger (D'07) leading an oral hygiene demonstration for the residents of the South Park Inn.



**Message from the Dean**

Peter Robinson, DDS, PhD

**A Highly Successful ADEA/AADR Meeting**

Our well attended, festive reception at the ADEA/AADR meeting in Orlando became a time for celebration. At the reception, the NIDCR training program manager approached me to congratulate our school on being such an outstanding source of future dental scholars. He noted that we lead all schools in currently enrolled DMD/PhD scholars (10 students or 6% of our student body). I was then informed that Bruce Havens, a graduate student of Mina Mina, received the Hatton Award in the AADR competition (our 3rd Hatton Award in the past five years) for his work entitled Loss-of-Function Analysis Reveals Novel Roles for FGFRs in Mandibular Osteogenesis. Following that great news, I found out that the School's major training grant, the T-32, had received the second best score of all the institutional applications submitted to the NIDCR. A team of our faculty headed by Alan Lurie was responsible for this significant achievement for the School. Yes, there was good reason to celebrate.

The next day I was stopped by a distinguished Professor from another school who pointed out to me that UConn was used as the model of achievement at the NIDCR meeting of the nations training grant directors. Shortly after that, the president of NDA congratulated me on how well our school had been doing in the recruitment of underrepresented minority students. It was indeed a pleasure to have the School receive so many compliments at the meeting for our achievements in training dental scholars, success in research activity and being successful in the recruitment of URM. I'm not a fan of Disneyworld, but it was close to being a dean's fantasy land from the accolades our school received in Orlando.

Also, Mina Mina will receive the 2006 IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Craniofacial Biology Research at the IADR meeting.

**Successful Charity Bowling Tournament**

by Nicholas Roy (D '07)

The second annual charity bowling tournament was held at Bowl-a-rama in Newington on February 25. It was a great success, with 82 people attending and 68 bowling. Over \$650 was raised for the third year dental class to go on various externships across the Americas this spring/summer. The money will be used to buy supplies greatly needed for treating the needy in the various underserved countries. Many prizes were passed out to the winning team, highest male/female scores, lowest male/female scores, and the random prize of the closest to 107. Grateful thanks go to **Dr. Michael Goupil, Ellen Eisenberg, and Douglas Peterson** for their contributions (gift certificate prizes and cash) to the event. Please stay posted for future charity events including charity poker and softball tournaments.



*News...*



**Dr. Marja M. Hurley**, Associate Dean and Director, Health Career Opportunity Programs, has been appointed as Chair of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Minority Affairs Advisory Committee.



Commencement for the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine is scheduled for Sunday, May 14. The keynote speaker will be **Francis S. Collins, MD**, Director of the Human Genome Project.

## 2006 Student Scientific Research Day

by Nicholas Roy (D '07)

On Monday, February 20 the annual Medical/ Dental Student Research Day was held in the Health Center's academic lobby with six poster sessions and five oral talks presented. The following were awarded by the School of Dental Medicine:

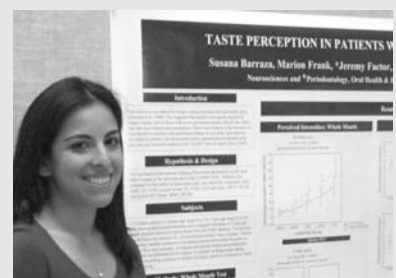
Courtney Broughton (Dean's Award); Erich Schmidt (ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinical Award); Raquel Capote (UConn Section, AAD Student Research Award); Hsung Lin (Gustave Perl Memorial Award); Masooma Bhatti (University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine Society of Alumni & Friends); Yolanda Kieser (Listerine Excellence Award); Amanda James (Dental Student Research Society); Andrea Bazos (Elsevier Science Research Award). Finally, in recognition of excellence in the art, science, and literature of dentistry, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the national dental honor society, presented \$25 gift certificates to the UCHC Bookstore to all students who participated in Research Day activities.



Yolanda Kieser discussing her research with Dr. J. Robert Kelly and fellow student, Colin Kong.



Dr. Reza Kazemi looks over Masooma Bhatti's poster presentation.



Susana Barrata presents her work on taste perception.



**Dr. Bruce Havens** (Division of Orthodontics) was recently awarded 2nd place in the senior category of the AADR Pfizer

Hatton Awards Competition at the AADR meeting in Orlando, Florida. His research presentation entitled "Loss-of-Function Analysis Reveals Novel Roles for FGFRs in

Mandibular Osteogenesis" was a part of his PhD thesis work in the laboratory of Dr. Mina Mina. The overall goal of his thesis project is to understand the roles of fibroblast growth factor signaling during chick mandibular morphogenesis. Dr. Havens' research in Dr. Mina's laboratory has revealed novel roles for signaling through fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 during mandibular out-

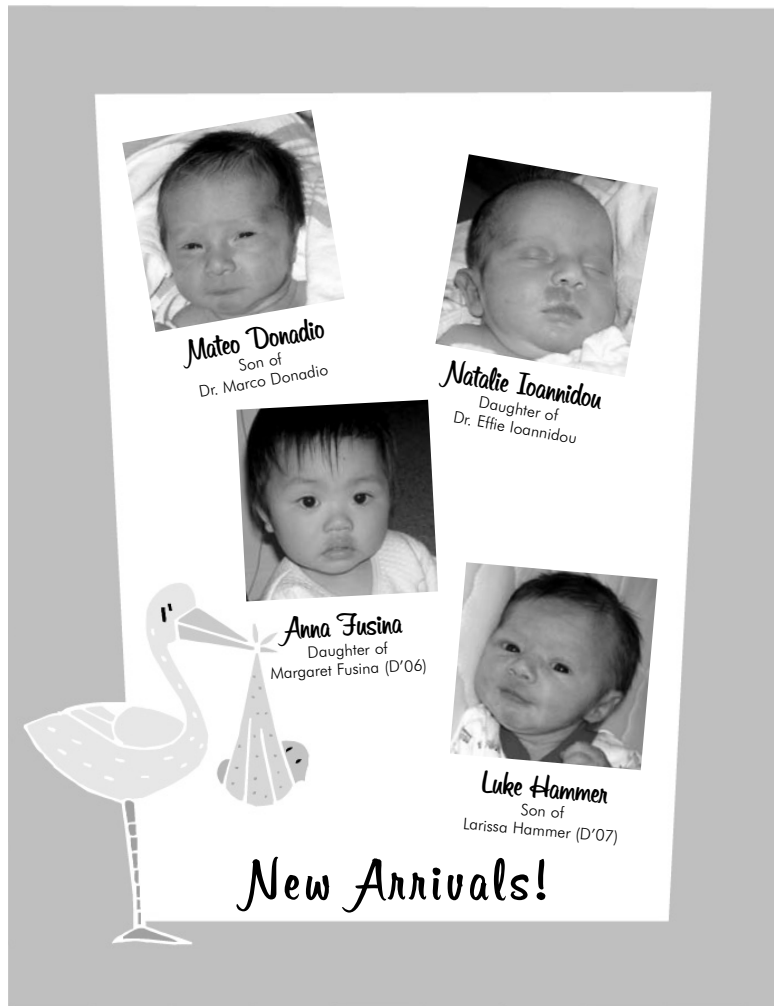
growth, development of Meckel's cartilage, and development of mandibular bone. As a winner of the AADR Award, he will compete in the IADR/Unilever Hatton Awards Competition in Brisbane, Australia in June 2006.



**Dr. Edward Rossomando,**

Director of the Center for Research and Education in Technology Evaluation (CRETE), Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry and Advanced

General Dentistry, was appointed to the National Oral Health Advocacy Committee. The committee is the joint legislative affairs body for the American Association for Dental Research and the American Dental Education Association. Committee members include the deans of UPenn School of Dental Medicine and Iowa College of Dentistry, and faculty members from Colorado Health Sciences Center, The Forsyth Institute in Boston, and UCLA School of Dentistry. The committee's mission will be to promote policies and programs that improve the nation's oral health; advance dental and craniofacial research and education; and increase access to dental care. Dr. Rossomando comments, "It is an honor and privilege to be selected to represent the UConn School of Dental Medicine on this important committee. I welcome suggestions from my colleagues for agenda items."



**UConn**  
SCHOOL OF  
DENTAL  
MEDICINE

*Editor:* Susan Reisine, Ph.D.  
*Co-Editor:* Monty MacNeil, D.D.S., M.Dent.Sc.  
*Editorial Staff:* Christine Moulis

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.

*Telephone:* (860) 679-3218  
*Fax:* (860) 679-1342  
*Mail Code:* 3910  
*E-mail:* [reisine@nso1.uhc.edu](mailto:reisine@nso1.uhc.edu)  
[moulis@nso1.uhc.edu](mailto:moulis@nso1.uhc.edu)