

# THE COMPASS

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

VOL. VII, ISSUE IV

WINTER, 2007

## MATCH DAY

*for the Class of 2007*

**M**atch Day for the School of Dental Medicine was held on Monday, January 29, 2007 and 37 fourth-year students are making plans for their professional future.

One student (Amy Proano) is joining the military and two students (Nishan Halim, Andrea Taliento) are entering private practice.

Six students (Liza Baranowski, Matthew Capalbo, Larissa Hammer, Padmapriya Hardi, Nicholas Roy, Jenna Triggiani) elected AEGD programs, and nine students (Timothy Goslee, Tulsi Lala, Jennifer Magee, Alison Nicholes, Carolyn Reamer, Kamilia Said, Monika Smielewska, Vincent Steniger, Lhamo Tsering) chose GPR as their postgraduate experience.

Franciso Carlos and Ivelina Jurkowski will join periodontology programs and five students (Justin Clemow, Lewis Jones, Chirag Patel, Tara Pimblett Valiquette, Hooman Adamous) will begin oral and maxillofacial surgery programs.

Deborah Munoz was matched to prosthodontics. Hameeda Hirani and Holly Maier chose Community Health Centers. Five students (Adam Cohen, Benjamin Murray, Robert Pesce, Priscilla Pickens-Larson, Michelle Stanislowsky) were matched to orthodontics residencies. Finally, Toni Hacek, Anna Haritos, Carol Onyango and Keri Stucenski chose pediatric dentistry residencies.

Our very best wishes go out to the class of 2007 for a full and productive future.



*Dr. MacNeil announces results of  
Match Day.*



Dean Robinson, daughter Emily and wife Tish.



Dean Robinson and Ravi Nanda.



Jon and Debbie Goldberg.

*Gala  
in honor of  
Dean Peter Robinson*

~

A reception was held on  
December 8, 2007 at the  
Hartford Golf Club in recognition  
of Dean Peter J. Robinson's  
contributions to the School of  
Dental Medicine.



Tish Robinson and Nancy Chang.



Susan Reisine and Dean Robinson.



Monty MacNeil, Effie Ioannido, Gail and Michael Brown.



Tish Robinson, Lee MacNeil and Catherine Nanda.



Tish Robinson, Leslie and Doug Peterson.

## Sponsored Programs Assistant Director Retires from Health Center



After close to 32 years at the Health Center working with faculty and staff on grant related issues from both the financial and programmatic side, **Ken Landorf** retired from the Health Center on December 31. Ken began his career in the grants and contracts business at the Health Center in early 1975 as a Career Trainee, and moved through the ranks on the fiscal side until 1986 when he was named the Manager-Grants and Contracts Office. In 1988 he was elected to become National Secretary for a two-year term of the National Council of University Research Administrators in Washington DC. In 2001 Ken made the switch from “bean counter” to Assistant Director of the Office for Research and Sponsored Programs.

During his years at the Health Center, Ken became one of the prime sources for information on the NIH and how it operates based upon his many contacts with Grants Management Officers and as a ad-hoc reviewer for Center and Program Project applications throughout the country.

## Endontology Resident Receives Award



**Dr. Takashi Komabayashi**, a resident in the Division of Endodontology, was unanimously selected as the recipient of the 2006 Alan J. Davis/SCADA Achievement Award for outstanding service to and dedication to organized dentistry and his continuing commitment to the Association as evidenced by his initiative and leadership.

Dr. Komabayashi earned his Ph.D. degree in Dental Materials at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Dr. Komabayashi is in a 36-month combined program leading to a Certificate of Proficiency in Endodontics and a Master of Dental Science degree with the Division of Endodontology at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Previously, he was enrolled in the International Dentist Program at the University of California at San Francisco, an advanced standing DDS program for foreign-trained dentists and graduated in June of 2005. During that time, he worked as a Research Associate for the Division of Biomaterials and Bioengineering in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences at the University of California at San Francisco. He is also an active volunteer in efforts to promote the benefits of preventive dentistry. A 1998 graduate of the Hiroshima University School of Dentistry, he represented the University in the 1997 JDA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Program where he won the Second Place Award. Dr. Komabayashi received the 2005 Henry M. Thornton/SCADA Fellowship Award and is a member of the American Dental Association, the California Dental Association, the American Dental Education Association, and the American Student Dental Association.

## 2006 P.J. Robinson Award to Rajesh Lalla



**Dr. Rajesh V. Lalla**, Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences, has been awarded the 2006 P.J. Robinson Award for Junior Faculty. The award recognizes a junior faculty member in the School of Dental Medicine who has demonstrated the most significant scholarly research and/or teaching accomplishments during the past academic year. In addition to didactic and clinical teaching activities, Dr. Lalla is Principal Investigator on multiple clinical research projects. His research grants include a Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) from the NIH focused on oral mucositis, a foundation grant to study recurrent aphthous stomatitis, and an industry-funded project on oropharyngeal candidiasis.

# Periodontal Disease May Negatively Affect the Success of Organ Transplant Survival

**Dr. Anna Dongari-Bagtzoglou**, Associate Professor, Department of Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences, was among researchers from the University of Connecticut Health Center first to report an interrelationship between periodontal and systemic inflammation in solid-organ-transplant recipients. This study appears in *Journal of Periodontology*. 2006, Vol. 77, No. 11, Pages 1871-1878.

For a long time researchers have known that inflammation plays a pivotal role in organ transplant rejection and that levels of serum interleukin-6 (IL-6) can identify individuals who are at

greater risk for transplant rejection. IL-6 is a protein that is secreted to stimulate the immune response to trauma, foreign antigens, or infections, such as periodontal infection. Once secreted, IL-6 can enter the bloodstream and circulate in an active form long enough to mediate distal effects in other tissues and organs.

“Our goal was to assess the periodontal status of solid organ transplant patients to quantify the IL-6 levels in bloodstream and gingival tissues and explore their possible association with chronic periodontitis,” explained Dr. Dongari. “We found that in transplant patients with chronic periodontitis, bloodstream IL-6 levels were elevated compared to those with no periodontitis, and were positively association with locally synthesized levels of IL-6 within periodontal tissue. This suggests that periodontal infections have the potential to affect systemic levels of IL-6 in this population.”

**Cristina Villar**, a Periodontology resident and PhD student in Anna Dongari-Bagtzoglou’s lab, has been selected as one of nine finalists in the senior Hatton award competition at the AADR in New Orleans this year. We are extremely proud of her accomplishment.



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)