

THE COMPASS

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

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Connecticut Innovations Provides \$250,000 in Seed Funding to New Ortho Polymers Inc.



Charles Burstone, D.D.S.



A. Jon Goldberg, Ph.D.

Connecticut Innovations (CI), the state's quasi-public authority responsible for technology investing and innovation development, recently announced that it is providing seed funding of \$250,000 to New Ortho Polymers Inc. (NOP) of Farmington, Conn., through its Seed Investment Fund. This is the second CT company to receive assistance through this program. The funding will be used to help NOP develop innovative orthodontic systems that make use of proprietary shape memory polymer (SMP) technology developed at the University of Connecticut (UConn). The systems, including polymer-based self-ligating brackets, arch wires, hooks and modules, will make it easier for orthodontists to apply braces and will offer patients both greater comfort, through the use of lighter, more consistent forces, and a more aesthetic look compared with metal based systems.

This investment brings together two Connecticut organizations dedicated to creating new enterprises in Connecticut. NOP was started by UConn R & D Corporation, a for-profit subsidiary of the UConn Foundation that creates new business entities based on the research of the faculty and staff at the University of Connecticut. To date, it has developed four companies.

The NOP team consists of Eleanor Tandler, chief executive officer; **Charles Burstone, D.D.S.**, professor emeritus for the Department of Orthodontics at the UConn Health Center; Patrick Mather, Ph.D., Milton and Ann Stevenson Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering at Syracuse University and former associate professor of chemical engineering at UConn; and **A. Jon Goldberg, Ph.D.**, director of the Center of Biomaterials at the UConn Health Center and member of the University of Connecticut's Institute of Materials Science.

Governor M. Jodi Rell commented, "New Ortho Polymers and other entrepreneurial ventures are vital to the state in so many ways. They are spawning the next generation of high-tech products and creating high-quality jobs of the future for our citizens. We must continue to provide them with the resources they need to grow - both financial and advisory - through programs such as CI's Seed Investment Fund, aimed at assisting companies when they most need the support."

"CI is pleased to have the opportunity to support a company that has been established through a successful intra-university collaboration - between the world-renowned UConn School of Dentistry at the UConn Health Center, the University of Connecticut at Storrs and the University of Connecticut Research and Development Corporation," said Peter Longo, deputy director of CI. "NOP is an excellent example of the successful leveraging of one of our state's greatest assets - the intellectual capital residing in our research universities."



Message from the Dean

Monty MacNeil, DDS, MDS

If you ask any organization about a core process that could be improved, a topic that generally surfaces to the top is Communication. Whether it is industry, government, sports or academics, effective communication tends to elude many groups, even when it is identified as a priority. As George Bernard Shaw once said, "The problem with communication... is the illusion that it has been accomplished." I am under no such illusion, even in this small and friendly school of ours. I suspect we can do better in this area.

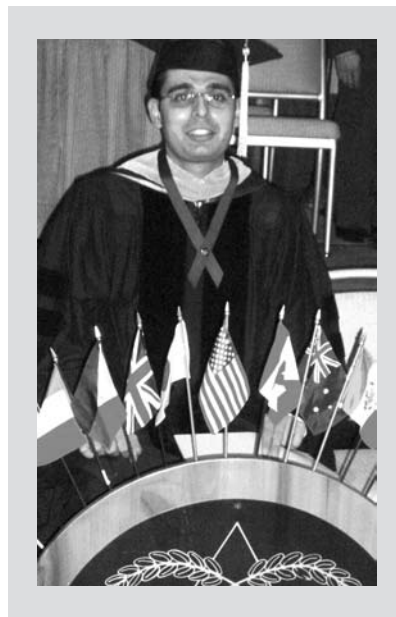
I'd like to propose a challenge: that each and every one of us in the School of Dental Medicine, in our own individual ways, do what we can this year to improve how we communicate. And I'm not talking about more e-mails, memos, or even dean's articles in the Compass! I personally think it all boils down to "basic" talking and listening (yes, the other part of communication!) to and with our colleagues. And we all have a stake and role in this. I'm asking faculty who have administrative roles or who serve on our many school committees to think a bit more about the constituencies they represent and how to keep those constituents informed on important topics...and to actively listen for questions from those who may feel somewhat isolated or "outside the loop." And, I'm asking all faculty who have questions about the School and its direction to just ask, but to also ask the right people: division chairs, department heads, associate deans, or me. We have processes in place (including numerous committees, councils and open hours) whereby a sizable cohort of faculty are very knowledgeable about School issues. With just a little better communication by all of us, that cohort can be all of us!

To better communication in 2008!

Resident Awarded Fellowship in the Academy of Dentistry International

Dr. Omaid K. Ahmad (Department of Reconstructive Sciences) was awarded Fellowship of Dentistry International during the convocation ceremonies held at the annual meeting of the USA section on September 26, 2007. The fellowship in the Academy in an honor bestowed upon dentists who have distinguished themselves in their profession and who were nominated for the award by an active Fellow of the Academy.

The Academy inducted 28 Fellows from the United States into its 2007 Honors Class at the convocation ceremony during its annual meeting. Currently the Academy has members in 64 different countries around the world. This year's fellows were inducted in convocations held in Manila, Philippines; Sydney, Australia; Jasper, Canada; and Lima, Peru.



The Academy of Dentistry International is an honor society for dentists dedicated to sharing knowledge through continuing education in order to elevate the standard of dental care, better serve dental health needs and improve the quality of life throughout the world. By the support and sponsorship of special educational and service projects, the Academy directly contributes to the improvement of dental health and to the well being of people worldwide.

Dr. Omaid K. Ahmad graduated from Fatima Jinnah Dental College, University of Karachi, Pakistan as the "Best Graduate of the College" in 2001. He then worked as a faculty member at the same college. He completed his specialty certificate training in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology from the University of Connecticut School Of Dental Medicine in August 2007. Currently he is a resident of the Graduate Prosthodontics and Master of Dental Science program in the School of Dental Medicine. He also received the Radiology Centennial Award in 2006 from the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, which is a prestigious award given to one OMF radiology resident in North America each year. Dr. Ahmad is also a member of the American College of Prosthodontists, American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology and the American Dental Association. Currently he lives with his wife, Shiza Khan, who is also a dentist and they reside in West Hartford, Connecticut.

UConn ASDA Chapter Recognized at Annual Session in Fort Lauderdale, FL

The UConn chapter of the American Student Dental Association sent six students to ASDA's Annual Session in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from August 29 to September 2, 2007. During the five-day meeting, the UConn students met with representatives from all 56 US Dental Schools to discuss and vote on resolutions to set Association policies and guidance, elect national leadership, and network with their peers.

Two of UConn's students serve as national leaders for the 2007-08 school year: Contributing Editor for ASDA publications **Jim Heidenreich** (D'10) and Speaker of the House of Delegates **Tim Levine** (D'08), who was elected at the meeting. "It's a very proud moment for me," Levine said. "I am so glad I can represent UConn in such a position. Without UConn ASDA, my dental school experience would be significantly less valuable." UConn also shares the distinction with Stony Brook as the only dental school with multiple national leaders within ASDA.

Another key goal of the ASDA Annual Session is to address pressing issues in dentistry. Highlighting this was keynote speaker Dr. Jos Welie, a medical ethicist from Creighton University. Dr. Welie spoke about the ethos of the dental profession, sparking a great deal of discussion about professionalism among the attendees. This issue of establishing and maintaining professionalism prompted a number of the resolutions voted on in the ASDA House of Delegates, setting a trend of the organization leading its membership towards the highest standards of professionalism possible.



Left to right: Tim Levine, Alicia Munson, Emily Taylor, Maureen Wood, Milan Patel, Jim Heidenreich.

The ASDA Annual Session is not only a time to take care of association business for the upcoming school year, but also a time to reflect on the past year's accomplishments. Local ASDA chapters and their leaders are recognized at an awards luncheon for their hard work, and UConn was recognized several times. UConn received awards for Outstanding Advocacy, for successes in the political arena, Best Chapter Website, and Local Membership Market Share Increase. **Beth Cipes** (D'08) was recognized as Delegate of the Year in the New England district. UConn also was a finalist for several other awards, making UConn the most honored Chapter at the meeting. "It was exciting for our hard work to be recognized nationally," said **Emily Taylor** (D'09). "We worked hard to improve our local chapter and it definitely paid off. It's an inspiration to keep up our excitement about ASDA."

OKU Awarded to Dr. Jacqueline Duncan

Dr. Jacqueline Duncan (Department of Reconstructive Sciences) was presented the OKU Award from the Phi Chi Chapter at the 2007 "Fall Celebration" by **Christopher Benton** (D'09).

The awardee is selected by students in the second year dental class at the end of the second year curriculum. It is awarded annually to the dental faculty member who teaches in the first two years of the pre-clinical dental science curriculum



Dr. Jacqueline Duncan surrounded by the Class of 2009.

who by their excellence in teaching have exerted the greatest influence upon, and contributed in the most outstanding manner to, the intellectual and professional growth of students. Recipients of the awards are selected for their commitment to teaching and for their success in demonstrating this commitment either by their effectiveness in various teaching settings or by their leadership in the development and administration of innovative teaching programs.

University of Connecticut Dental Student Wins Research Award

The 2007 Hinman Student Research Symposium was held November 2-4 at the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. The Symposium features oral and poster presentations of research projects by dental students and graduate students from across North America. At this year's Symposium, 85 students represented 52 educational institutions in 30 states, the District of Columbia, and three provinces of Canada.

This year, one of the awards in basic science research was won by University of Connecticut student **Maureen Wood** (D '09). Maureen's research project "Effects of Phosphoregulation of the Type 1 Inositol 1,4,5-Trisphosphate Receptor on Apoptosis" was performed at the University of Rochester and was directed by Dr. David I. Yule, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, based in the Department of Medicine and the Center for Oral Biology.

The Symposium is organized by Dr. Mustafa Dabbous, Associate Dean for Research in the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Dentistry, with the help of the faculty

and staff of the Dental Research Center. The keynote speaker at the Welcoming Banquet was Dr. Richard W. Valachovic, Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). Dr. Albert Avila, Extramural Training Officer of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), also attended the Symposium and addressed the students about opportunities to advance their careers with training in research and dental education.

Cosponsors of the Symposium are the UTHSC College of Dentistry and the Hinman Dental Society. The Symposium is supported in part by grants from the NIDCR, the Procter & Gamble Company, the ADEA Gies Foundation, and Meridian Life Sciences, Inc.

Six awards are made for the most outstanding presentations, three in clinical research and three in basic science research, in addition to an award from the National Student Research Group (NSRG) of the American Association for Dental Research. Awards were presented by Dr. Mark R. Patters, Interim Dean and



Dr. P. Edward Pafford, President of the Hinman Dental Society, presented Maureen Wood with the award in basic science research at the 2007 Hinman Student Research Symposium.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the UTHSC College of Dentistry, Dr. Avila representing NIDCR, Dr. Robert Spears, National Faculty Advisor to the NSRG, and Dr. P. Edward Pafford, President of the Hinman Dental Society.



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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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