

### **New Curriculum to be Implemented in Fall**

**A** new curriculum will be implemented at the School of Dentistry starting in the summer and fall of 2004, according to Assistant Dean Dorothy Perry, who heads up curriculum reform.

Under the new curriculum, coursework for dental students and international dental students will be organized in thematic streams that emphasize the integration of basic and clinical sciences.

"The new curriculum will better prepare students as practitioners, educators, and researchers," Perry said. "The faculty feels that the more integrated approach of the new curriculum will help graduates to provide the best patient care, translate science into practice, and follow a variety of career paths. The new curriculum is comprised of an integrated educational approach, taking advantage of student-centered teaching modalities as well as technological advances," Perry added.

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### **Susan Fisher Named 2004 Research Winner**

Susan Fisher, Professor in the Division of Oral Biology, Department of Stomatology, has been named recipient of the 2004 School of Dentistry Faculty Research Lecturer Award for her outstanding research contributions. Fisher will deliver her presentation, "Salivating Over Reproduction" at the school's Research Day, Wednesday March 3.

Fisher's research spans several disciplines. With regard to chemistry, she and her group are studying the role of salivary carbohydrate units in

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### **Accreditation Site Visit Update**

#### **Site Visit: April 12-14, 2005**

The School of Dentistry's accreditation site visit by the Commission on Dental Accreditation is just over a year away.

According to Dr. Dorothy Perry, Assistant Dean for Curricular Affairs, who is heading up the accreditation process, the effort is

proceeding smoothly. "We have gotten a lot of faculty, staff and students involved in drafting the self-study documents required by the process," Perry said. "Our committee meets regularly, and self-study documents will be made available for review this fall."

## New Curriculum Themes

Streams for the Pre-doctoral and International Dentist Programs:

- **The Foundations of Biomedical Sciences Stream** incorporates the basic science disciplines that form the core knowledge for understanding human health and disease. It includes extensive basic scientific background in courses structured around organ systems and human pathophysiology.

- **The Foundations of Dental Sciences Stream** includes specifically oral-related disciplines. Students master the knowledge needed for dental diagnoses, understand the development and progression of dental diseases, and apply scientific understanding to dental problems.

- **The Scientific Methods in Clinical Dentistry Stream** provides reasoning tools for analyzing and solving problems related to the practice of dentistry. These include an understanding of research and knowledge of the dental literature.

- **Preventive and Restorative Dentistry Stream** incorporates the traditional preclinical courses in a seamless presentation of material, allowing students to develop skills necessary to provide the highest quality of dental care.

- **The Patient-Centered Care Stream** emphasizes comprehensive care for patients. It begins in the first year with skills in patient interviewing, examination, communica-

## Dean's Town Hall Meetings

These weekly meetings with Dean Bertolami are open to each of the dental and dental hygiene classes, postgraduate students, and staff.

There is no set agenda; the forum is designed for the discussion of broad issues. Here is the schedule for this quarter:

### Staff

Wed., February 18 Time: 12:30 - 1:30pm Room: D-3209

### D1/DH1

Fri., February 20 Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Room: D-2009

### D2/DH2

Wed., February 25 Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Room: D-3209

### Postgrads

Thurs., February 26 Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Room: D-3209

### D3/ID3

Mon., March 1 Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Room: S-159

### D4/ID4

Tue., March 16 Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm Room: D-3209

tion, and infection control. As students progress, they take on more demanding tasks and develop independence, judgment and skill in diagnosing and treating patients in Student Dental Practices and clinics.

In the coming months, the administration and faculty will hold a number of town hall meetings to more fully describe curricular change and answer questions. A new curriculum Owner's Manual will also be disseminated by the end of February, 2004, providing greater detail on the curriculum changes. For more information about the new curriculum, contact Dr. Dorothy Perry: [perryd@dentistry.ucsf.edu](mailto:perryd@dentistry.ucsf.edu).

## Faculty Members Lead by Example

In the summer of 2003, the School of Dentistry began a campaign to modernize its pre-clinical labs. The three-phase campaign will require \$1.2 million in private sources with the UC campus paying the balance of \$400,000. In an effort to raise these funds, Robert Ho, an Associate Clinical Professor in PRDS and graduate of the School of Dentistry Class of 1991, contacted his fellow classmates and asked for their support.

"I began calling them during the days and evenings. My classmates



Robert Ho

thought it was a great idea to put a pledge together as a class and present it to the Dean," Ho said. "It never occurred to me that we could raise nearly \$60,000 just

from our class alone. We are all grateful and forever indebted to the UCSF School of Dentistry which gave us the tools we needed to succeed in life, and taught us how to take good care of our patients."

To date, Ho has helped raise more than \$100,000 from fellow alums for the pre-clinical campaign. Previously, Ho helped to raise \$65,000 for the clinics modernization campaign using a similar approach.

### CMB Program Support

The recently formed Craniofacial and Mesenchymal Biology (CMB) program will also require private funding in order to complete renovation of the space where the program will reside – HSW 6 and HSE 15. The CMB program was initiated following a campus-wide competition for programmatic development. It combines basic and translational research and training in the areas of mesenchymal differentiation, skeletal

formation and remodeling, and craniofacial development. Rik Derynck directs the new program.

Caroline Damsky, interim co-chair of the Stomatology and Growth & Development departments, made an initial donation of \$28,000 to fund the development of the CMB program, in hopes of attracting similar donations from colleagues.

"We need to raise about \$75,000 to furnish and otherwise complete HSW 6," Damsky said. "That is only the first phase. We will need a large infusion of funds to renovate HSE 15, if the CMB Program is truly to succeed. Finally, we will need funds to support program activities, such as an annual symposium."

"We cannot do it all ourselves, but we have to make the first move," she continued. "I think we can raise this initial \$100,000 to complete Phase I and to develop program activities."

To contribute to the CMB fund, email Caroline Damsky at [damskyc@dentistry.ucsf.edu](mailto:damskyc@dentistry.ucsf.edu).

### Awards

Jim Anderson, Assistant Dean for Community Relations & Continuing Education, was inducted as a Fellow into the Academy of Dental and Facial Esthetics for his work in Continuing Education. The presentation was made in conjunction with the Greater New York Dental meeting in December, 2003.

### Guralnick to Speak at Commencement

Peter Guralnick, widely regarded as the nation's preeminent writer on twentieth-century American popular music, will be the speaker for the School of Dentistry Class of 2004's Commencement on June 12, 2004.

Guralnick's books include *Feel Like Going Home*, *Sweet Soul Music*, *Searching for Robert Johnson*, and a highly acclaimed two-volume biography of Elvis Presley, *Last Train to Memphis* and *Careless Love*.

### Budget Update

Recent proposals from Governor Schwarzenegger's office call for system-wide cuts for the University of California that could have significant impact on School of Dentistry students, faculty and staff.

While the Governor's proposal calls for substantial increases of student fees and no cost-of-living increases for staff or faculty, the full impact of the state's budget crisis will not be known until the results of the March 2 ballot are received.

Proposition 55, a \$12.5 billion bond measure to fix aging school buildings and construct new classrooms across the state, and Proposition 57, the proposed \$15 billion bond measure that would borrow money to pay off the state's debt, are both on the ballot. UC officials are hoping that California voters will approve both measures.

## **Dr. Susan Fisher to be Honored with Faculty Research Lecturer Award at Second Annual School of Dentistry Research Day, March 3, 2004**

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bacterial adherence by solving their structures using mass spectrometry approaches. During the last decade, principal findings have included their discovery that a subset of these oligosaccharides also mediate leukocyte tethering.

In biology, the work of the Fisher lab has been instrumental in furthering the understanding of mechanisms of placentation in normal pregnancy and in pregnancy complications such as preeclampsia. Principal findings include the group's discovery that trophoblasts are a novel endothelial cell type, the development of which is regulated by oxygen tension.

Finally, recent studies by the Fisher Lab joined the chemical and biological methodologies of the group as they showed that the same carbohydrate-based mechanisms that coordinate bacterial and leukocyte adhesion in the oral cavity play an important role in initiating embryo implantation.

"Susan is an extraordinarily versatile scientist, the theme of whose work (carbohydrate biology) is applied in diverse areas of science that cross traditional boundaries," said John Greenspan, dean for research. "She is a mentor and role model, and we in the school are enormously proud of her contributions," Greenspan continued.

### **World-Class Presenters**

Dean David Kessler of the UCSF School of Medicine and Associate Professor David Relman of Stanford University will join Susan Fisher as the featured speakers at Research Day, Wednesday, March 3, 2004.

As commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (1990 to 1997), Kessler became well known for taking on the tobacco industry. He instituted a program to regulate the marketing and sale of tobacco products to children, and spearheaded a major investigation that led to the revelation that the tobacco companies not only had known for 50 years that nicotine was an addictive drug but that the companies had manipulated the levels of nicotine in cigarettes.

Relman's laboratory research focuses on the development and application of molecular methods to identify previously unrecognized microbial pathogens. Relman, in a collaborative study at UCSF with Gary Armitage, Professor in the Stomatology department, is using the results of this research to study the oral microflora in periodontally diseased pockets for the presence of previously unidentified pathogenic microorganisms.

Research Day will include oral and poster presentations by postdocs, graduate students, dental students and faculty, highlighting

some of the school's latest research results. According to Mark Jacobs, Director of the Office of Graduate and Research Affairs, who is coordinating Research Day, faculty reviewers have received roughly the same number of abstract submissions as in 2003.

Research Day organizers expect a large turnout. "In 2003, poster presentations took place in classrooms near Cole Hall, but that proved too crowded," Jacobs said. "This year, poster presentations will be made in Millberry Union, and we think that will make for a more enjoyable experience for participants, judges and attendees alike."

Classes will be cancelled, and most clinics and laboratories in the school will close for the day. D1 and D2 students will receive unit credit for attendance at Research Day, and D3, D4 and dental hygiene students will receive RVU credit.

For more information on Research Day, go to: <http://dentistry.ucsf.edu/research/researchday.html>.

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