The Vancouver & Richmond Health Board and the UBC Faculty of Dentistry have committed over $1 million to bring dental services to nearly 1,000 seniors in residential care, with UBC acting as the hub of the program.

In a unique partnership, the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, Providence Health Care (PHC) and the Health Board have joined forces to provide dental services in eight residential care centres. Additional financial support comes from the St. Vincent’s Hospitals Foundation and the UBC Foundation. Once established, the dental service is scheduled to expand to meet the needs of institutionalized seniors and those living at home within the Vancouver and Richmond health region.

The service will be established with UBC Dentistry Speciality Clinics as the organizing centre and satellite clinics will be established at other sites. If the care that is needed is too complex to handle at a satellite clinic, like oral surgery, the residents will be transported to the operating room at St. Vincent’s Heather or to the UBC Speciality Clinics.

Our own Dr. Chris Wyatt, assistant professor and a prosthodontist, will be the director of the new Geriatric Dentistry Program, UBC-PHC. Dr. Michele Williams, Director of Geriatric Dentistry, with the help of Dr. Chris Zed, Director of the UBC Speciality Clinics, was responsible for the development of this project. Dr. Akber Mithani, Vice President of Medicine at Providence Health Care, and Mr. Jack Altman, Vice President of Community Health Services for the Vancouver & Richmond Health region, complete the development team.

It can be a challenge for dental professionals to provide care for institutionalized residents. In fact, 85% of BC’s practicing dentists feel inadequately prepared to provide treatment for this segment of the population. “Without adequate dental services,” said Wyatt, “oral health worsens and affects the resident’s quality of life. People who can’t chew comfortably have a poor diet which makes them susceptible to more health problems.”

According to Chris Zed, this innovative initiative is in the tradition of the Faculty of Dentistry’s industry leadership and community involvement. The UBC-Providence geriatric program is just one of the many ongoing outreach programs.
Consultation with Stakeholders:
A Personal Invitation from Dean Ed Yen

By Dr. Ed Yen

Each of you has a vested interest in our faculty. You benefit from the existence of a vibrant, successful, quality academic centre of excellence. You are a stakeholder whose input, advice and support are needed. The faculty faces a daunting challenge. It is the conflict of ideas. As we embark upon a series of focus groups with our various stakeholder groups, we will have to make some choices as to the future of the faculty and our dental education program.

Discussions will have an impact on the future of:
- Preclinical and clinical skills training
- Screening and differential diagnostics systems
- Discipline and comprehensive treatment planning
- Digital and electronic patient records
- Hands-free infection control operatory
- Clinical decisions regarding traditional and new dental restorative materials
- Plus many other factors.

All of these elements must be considered as we engage our stakeholders to provide input, opinions and suggested solutions to the challenges facing our project management team that is planning for the new clinic (new building adjoining the J.B. Macdonald building) and renovations to the existing facility.

Some very interesting questions have already arisen:
- How many “breakout” seminar rooms do we need in the middle of the clinic?
- Will electronic patient records and digital imaging improve chart management?
- What technologies would be best for waterline infection control?
- How do we best design sterilization processes in the dispensary?
- Will voice activation of chair adjustments facilitate infection control?
- Will PDAs assist instructors with student evaluations?
- How should research space be allocated between clinical research, wet labs and graduate student carrels?
- Should clinics and seminar rooms be air-conditioned?

Each stakeholder group has a vested interest in the success and quality of the dental school. Please visit our website at www.dentistry.ubc.ca/spaceplanning to express your opinion. Make the most of this rare opportunity to significantly move the school forward academically and physically.

Overall receives funding for fabled MRC/CIHR Group

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) announced the funding of the CIHR Group in Matrix Dynamics, which UBC Dentistry’s Christopher Overall, is now a full member. This is the first time that UBC has had membership in the group, which evolved from University of Toronto’s former MRC (Medical Research Council of Canada) Group in Periodontal Physiology.

As the reviewers pointed out, this group was the most successful of its kind in North America. Since its inception 1973, the MRC Group has housed 50 individuals as either Ph.D. or post-doctoral students or visiting scientists that have gone on to full time faculty positions—a unique and amazing record.

Overall will receive funding for the establishment of the protein expression and 3-D modelling node of the group that will be used to purchase automated equipment to facilitate the expression and purification of recombinant proteins. The CIHR received 31 applications for group funding and the CIHR Group in Matrix Dynamics was one of 14 funded in this highly competitive competition.

More funding

Besides the CIHR funding, Overall has been invited to be an associate member of the Vancouver General Hospital Prostate Centre following the success of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Group Grant to the Prostate Centre, of which Dr. Overall was an applicant. He is working with Dr. Colleen Nelson on the regulation of MMPs and TIMPs in prostate cancer progression and metastases. It is expected that students will be hired on this new grant to become involved in this work.
Oral squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the sixth most common human cancer. Its five-year survival rate has remained at less than 50% for the last four decades, one of the worst among major human cancers. Those who survive frequently have to endure serious cosmetic and/or functional compromise. Intervention of oral SCC development at the premalignant stages could be one of the keys to improving the dismal mortality and morbidity rates and that is precisely what we are working on.

An editorial in the April 26, 2001 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine summarized the latest advances in genetic studies of oral premalignant lesions. Besides reviewing papers, the editorial cited nine significant studies—two from our research team (mainly collaborations between Dr. Miriam Rosin at SFU and me.) The molecular progression model illustrated in the editorial is from a recent publication from our lab. Our achievements are mainly the result of three factors: unique sample sources, team effort and our choice of clinically important research topics.

**Unique sample sources**
The Provincial Oral Biopsy Service, where Dr. Priddy and I receive oral biopsies from all BC, provides us with easy access to premalignant samples which are not readily available in large U.S. research hospitals. The strong presence of oral medicine and pathology specialists in Vancouver (Drs. Joel Epstein, Michelle Williams, Robert Priddy, Allan Hovan, Bruce Blasberg and Burt Goldstein, all from this faculty) and their keen interest in premalignancy research, provides us with patients for longitudinal research.

**Team effort**
We have established a strong multi-disciplinary research team that includes oral medicine specialists, oncologists, surgeons, pathologists, molecular biologists, epidemiologists and biostatisticians. This allows us to conduct large clinical trials. With NIH funding, we are currently conducting one of the largest longitudinal studies to follow molecular changes in premalignant lesions over an extended period.

**Important clinical topics**
We have chosen topics that are important clinically as that is where our strength lies although we have recently started hunting for genes in oral cancer development with new collaborations. For example, there has been heated debate as to whether oral lichen planus, one of the most common oral mucosa lesions, is a premalignant lesion. Our research has helped to clarify some issues and suggest that these lesions should only be regarded premalignant when dysplasia occurs. Such study results saves patients with oral lichen planus from worrying about cancer (interestingly, the lesion tends to occur in high-strung people).

Our studies have included searching for molecular markers that could predict cancer risk of premalignancies; issues on staging of oral premalignancies; issues on management of oral premalignancies and new tools for the follow-up of molecular changes of oral lesions.
The faculty's new Associate Dean Academic, Dr. Joanne Walton, has been active in almost every conceivable aspect of dental practice: as a general dentist and as a specialist, in the military, in private practice and now, in academia. A graduate of the University of Alberta, she practiced general dentistry for four years in Ottawa as an officer in the Canadian Forces Dental Services (CFDS). From there, she attended the graduate prosthodontics program at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., followed by postings to Winnipeg and the CFDS School in Borden, where she completed her Fellowship in the Royal College of Dentists of Canada. Her military service was followed by full time private practice in prosthodontics in West Vancouver, with a switch to part-time practice when she began life as an academic at UBC.

Dr. Walton has served on the Council of the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, as president of the BC Society of Prosthodontists, as a councillor to the Association of Prosthodontists of Canada, and as director of the UBC Oral Implant Clinic. She currently serves as an examiner and councillor in prosthodontics for the Royal College of Dentists of Canada.

The opportunities to conduct clinically relevant research in the area of implant prosthodontics and to work with world-renowned colleagues helped draw Dr. Walton to UBC, but her continuing passion for teaching and education keep her here. She has been recognized twice with the University Killam Teaching Award and twice with the W.W. Wood Teaching Award. "There are, I think, three main ingredients to being a good teacher," she says, "passion for your subject, respect for your students and a willingness to keep learning."

Her early involvement with the curriculum committee, combined with her own memories as a frustrated dental student, led her to work with other dedicated faculty members in the development of the new dental curriculum. She continues as chair of the curriculum and teaching effectiveness committee and sees her new role as another opportunity to help refine and support UBC's existing position as a leader in dental education.

"There should always be improvements in the way we educate future dentists," she says, "but the first class to graduate from our new program has shown us that students can take a different path to arrive at the goal of clinical excellence practiced with solid foundations of knowledge and professionalism. With the explosion of research and the ongoing challenges to existing practice, it is essential that our graduates be equipped with the tools to access and critically evaluate information; their learning in dentistry only begins with dental school. In order to treat the whole patient and the myriad of health problems that can manifest themselves first in the oral cavity, dentists must have a strong foundation in the medical sciences. Our new curriculum not only provides that, it encourages students to question and challenge the status quo, and that's sometimes challenging for faculty too.

If I can help provide support and structure to both students and faculty in achieving our goal of maintaining and improving on our reputation as a first class dental school, I'll feel that I'm doing my job-after all, I'm a prosthodontist, and bridging gaps is one of the things we do best."
The faculty wishes to thank Antrim Environmental Services for their generous assistance with our amalgam waste management. Since September, Antrim Environmental Services has disposed of all amalgam, lead and radiographic film waste, and photographic developer and fixer generated at UBC Dental Clinic—all for free. Antrim was inspected and recommended by the UBC’s department of health, safety and environment for its sound practices regarding waste disposal.

Part-time Faculty Spotlight: Dr. John Carpendale

It is hard not to fall in love with Vancouver. It seems like yesterday that after a short trip here in 1989 that my wife France and I made the decision to make our future happen in this beautiful part of the world. We had finished our respective graduate programs at Indiana University and there was some trepidation in making the move. It is a decision that we have never regretted.

I came to Vancouver at the invitation of prosthodontist Dr. Alex Bowman. Alex and I are alumni of Indiana University, where we had completed our certifications in prosthodontics and Masters degrees in dentistry.

The reception and support that I received from the dental community was warm and welcoming and has fostered lasting friendships. Since my arrival I have worked at the dental school as a part-time faculty member which has complimented my private practice in prosthodontics.

Dentistry is demanding and there is never a period in one’s professional life that there is an end to improving skills and mastering the knowledge base. From working with students I have found that being challenged in a clinical setting has encouraged me to keep up with the ever-changing developments in the field. Teaching has allowed me to share my practice experiences as well as to promote prosthodontics as the supportive and complimentary roles it plays to the general dental practitioner.

However dentistry is not a 24-hour a day job and living in Vancouver has allowed France and I to partake in the many available recreations. The proximity to Whistler fulfills our love for skiing in winter and in summer, hiking, biking and my constant attempts to improve my golf game dominate our outdoor activities. Some of my relatives question whether I work for BC Tourism or the practice of dentistry!
"I want to be a dentist so I can help people" is a common response from applicants during admission interviews to dental school. The UBC Faculty of Dentistry provides several opportunities for students to help people and to begin to take on the role they are assuming as health professionals in fulfilling the social contract.

While the faculty is currently developing a number of new initiatives for students to work with people who normally are unable to access dental care, such as the rotation for senior students to the Sunrise Hotel Clinic on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, for the last 27 years UBC students have provided dental care to Lower Mainland children who otherwise would not receive necessary dental treatment through the "bussing" program.

The UBC Children's Dental program, often simply referred to as the "bussing" program, operates by virtue of an annual grant from the provincial Ministry of Children and Families. Over the years, the name of the responsible ministry has changed, and, more recently, the program itself has changed its schedule and one of its venues to accommodate the new curriculum, but the fundamental goal of providing care to children with unmet dental needs still remains.

Third year students continue to see children who are bussed in from the surrounding health regions at twice-weekly clinics at
UBC, scheduled from March to June. However, for the past two years, fourth year students have traveled to Douglas College in New Westminster from September to March for their pediatric dentistry clinical experience. On four afternoons each week, eight senior students, on a rotational basis, and their instructor provide comprehensive care to children in an eight-chair clinic at Douglas College that, for the rest of the week, is home to the Certified Dental Assisting program at Douglas College. These CDA students have the opportunity to work with the UBC dental students in this clinic during the spring term. Two certified dental assistants, hired specifically for the UBC program, work with the dental students providing reception, dispensary and chair-side assisting duties.

While it is a lengthy commute from UBC to Douglas College for the dental students, providing care for these children closer to their home community is a great benefit to the families. Except for the children who come from some distance away in the Fraser Valley, children and their accompanying parent arrive at the clinic by car, or take advantage of Douglas College’s close proximity to the Sky Train. Students have the opportunity to work closely with parents in treatment planning decisions and preventive counseling.

This “new” dental program at Douglas College came about as a result of the willingness of all the involved stakeholders to explore a model that was somewhat different from the previous program. Community dental staff appreciate this opportunity for children from their communities to receive care at a clinic that for some, is almost in the neighborhood, and certainly is closer to home than UBC. It is often forgotten how much time and effort the community dental staff expend to ensure that each child arrives at Douglas College for their appointments. The dental staff’s support and enthusiasm for this program continues to ensure its success. The Ministry of Children and Families has continued to support this new version of the “bussing” program because, despite the existence of other funding programs, children often do not receive dental care for a variety of reasons.

The Douglas College administration has willingly provided the facilities and staff to support the program, despite the fact that often the pediatric clinic patrons are a little noisier than the regular clinic clientele! Part-time instructors in the division of pediatric dentistry have been more than willing to provide their teaching services at this satellite venue. For many faculty, it avoids a long commute to UBC, plus the bright, open plan clinic at Douglas College is an excellent clinical facility.

And most importantly, dental students have supported the new Douglas College program enthusiastically with their dedicated efforts to make sure that each child who attends receives the quality dental care that he or she deserves.

Rosamund Harrison is associate professor and chair of the division of pediatric dentistry at UBC. Her research interests include early childhood tooth decay interventions and community-based oral health promotion.
As we look ahead to building the new clinic and renovating the J.B. Macdonald building, it is worthwhile to read the memoirs of an important figure in the history of UBC Dentistry and one of the most influential agents of change in higher education and research in dentistry in 20th century North America: the memoirs of John B. Macdonald himself.

A young J.B. Macdonald of Toronto had been invited by the president of UBC to lead a task force to determine if UBC should have a dental school. The impression he made, combined with his insight when invited six years later to re-evaluate his study’s findings, translated into the provincial government’s go-ahead for a Faculty of Dentistry at UBC and an invitation to assume the university’s presidency (1962-1967). Macdonald left UBC by the time the building in his name was built.

Chances and Choices covers Macdonald’s life from his origins in Toronto to, to his academic dentistry career at the University of Toronto and Harvard, his years at UBC, and his subsequent career.

When Macdonald was at UBC, the time was the tumultuous ‘60s, made exciting by student activism, faculty struggles for reform, and crises in government relations. Students were involved in the “Back Mac” campaign in which Macdonald confronted the W.A.C. Bennett government. In his earliest months at UBC, he spearheaded a report that charted the future of post secondary education in BC, resulting in the creation of Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and a system of two-year colleges.

This book will provide graduates who were at UBC during this time a clear understanding of what really happened and will give dentists in sight into one of the profession’s greats. It is an articulate, personal and fascinating account. Call the UBC Alumni Association at 604-822-3313 or 1-800-883-3088 for purchase information or visit the publisher at www.gordonsoules.com.
This past June marked the end of an era as Dr. Marcia Boyd retired from the faculty after 29 years. To honour Dr. Boyd and thank her for her tireless efforts, a joint celebration was held by UBC and the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry.

It was a fabulous evening of celebration and fun that was enjoyed by everyone. Dr. Boyd was especially thankful to the "roastees" that she was not too badly burned—and certainly not overcooked!

Dr. Boyd received a series of wonderful parting gifts including a beautiful "festival boat" done in raku by Inna Uitto, which will undoubtedly find a special place in her home.

The emotional highlight of the evening was the announcement that a new endowed scholarship fund for students had been created through the generosity of faculty, staff, alumni and friends in her honour. The scholarship description has been left for Dr. Boyd to create so that her own special area of interest is recognized through this award.

"I couldn’t have asked for a better evening or swan song. My years here have been a real delight for me. Not just a job, but a place where I have loved and enjoyed the people so much. You’ve made the difference for me," said Dr. Boyd.

A special Gift in Honour of Dr. Marcia Boyd

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For more information on the Marcia Boyd Scholarship Fund, or if you wish to contribute, please send your contribution to the attention of:

Michelle Bernard, The UBC Fund
6253 N.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Phone: 604-822-8920  Fax: 604-822-8151
I gazed at the large, ominous-looking crater...no, it wasn't a giant occlusal caries engulfing a molar, it was one of many volcanoes surrounding Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. I had come to this Central American nation to spend two weeks working in a dental clinic in San Lucas Toliman. It was a small clinic run by the local Catholic mission organized by Father Greg and affiliated with a medical clinic, reforestation project, and various agricultural projects, among other things.

The clinic has been equipped with supplies donated by visiting dentists from both the U.S. and Canada. There are three full-time local assistants who provide dental education, pit and fissure sealants and staff the clinic along with volunteer dentists who travel in for anything from a few days to several months at a time.

During the time I was there, I worked at the clinic daily doing everything from fillings and check-ups to extractions and more complicated reconstructions. One highlight of my trip was going with a dentist and medical team from the U.S. to a remote area to conduct a clinic for the day. We set up a makeshift medical/dental clinic in an area sheltered from the rain. We worked from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a two minute break in between extractions (see photo). With people seated in normal household chairs we did our best to treat their dental problems, and did over 60 extractions. We also referred many whom we could not treat by means of extraction to the dental clinic.

Overall, it was an intense but exciting time experiencing the culture as well as dental work, but I was quite happy to return home to my lovesick fiancé, as our wedding was to take place the week after I returned!

I recommend this experience to dental students and dentists alike; it is very satisfying to provide dental care to those who have limited access to dental services.
Elected
Sandy Harrison, CDA with the division of orthodontics and clinical trials and co-ordinator for the sleep apnea clinic is president of The Chain Gang Study Club for orthodontic CDAs.

Awarded
Dr. Christopher Chung, Dr. Ron Corber and Dr. Kevin Phillips received clinical faculty part-time teaching awards at the graduation luncheon last spring. Dr. Ian Matthew received the W.W. Wood teaching prize.

Part-time faculty member doing the emergency rotation on Monday afternoons, Dr. Majid Sherkat, was awarded the Academy of General Dentistry’s prestigious fellowship award during the annual meeting in August in New York.

Promoted
The following have been promoted to associate professor with tenure: Bonnie Craig, Director of the BDS program in dental hygiene, Dr. Ed Putnins, periodontist, Dr. Joy Richman, pediatric dentist, and Clive Roberts, PhD, connective tissue biochemist.

Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs, Dr. Lex MacNeil has been promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Joanne Walton was promoted to associate dean of academic and student affairs (see article.)

Comings
Dr. Ira Sy is clinical associate professor, and head of the division of periodontics. His research interest is in guide bone regeneration and oral implant therapy. Originally from San Francisco, he joins us from the Perkins Dental Clinic at Fort Hood, Texas where he was chief of periodontics. His wife Tammy will move to Vancouver in December.

Dr. Elaine Orpe joins us as clinical assistant professor, working in radiology.

UBC Dentistry grad (’92) Dr. Karen Gardner is clinical assistant professor, and course coordinator for Operative Dentistry 430/431. She’s very familiar with her surroundings as she has been a clinical bay instructor for about five years. When she graduated she bought a practice at Metrotown where she continues to practice. Karen and her husband of 25 years have recently taken up ballroom dancing.

CDAs Saron Feng, Dena Mullin, and Karalyn de Wit have joined the main clinic dispensary.

Orthodontist Dr. Jiaping Su, visiting from Suzhou, China, is doing research in the sleep apnea clinic and teaching undergraduate students.

Goings
Orland Hoeber, web application architect with UBC Dentistry’s TST Group, moves to Regina where he’ll continue to design and develop web-based applications for UBC. His wife Larena has a faculty appointment in the Faculty of Physical Activity Studies at the University of Regina.

Passings
Dr. Claude Gardner, former part-timer and dedicated friend of UBC Dentistry passed away on September 10. Jinjin Wu, wife of orthodontics teacher Bing Wu passed away in Taiwan.

Our Growing Family
Pommy Hallen, fourth year, and his wife Jas have a new baby daughter named Jaya Tasha.

Wedding Bells
On August 7, fourth year Ewa Lesinska married Tim Kostamo, a classmate from first year medicine.

Congratulations to all!

The UBC Faculty of Dentistry extends our sympathies to those in the dental community and around the world who have suffered a great loss in the recent tragedies associated with the terrorist strikes in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.
Join Us

Do you have any news?
Send it to us!

October
4 CDE: Paediatric Dentistry: Behaviour management techniques and treating pulpally involved teeth, Edward Chin (evening lecture).
13 CDE: Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office, Daniel Haas.
19 CDE: Interpersonal Skills for Dentists: A practical approach to communicating with your clients, your staff, and your professional colleagues, John Noonan.*
22 UBC President’s Tour alumni reception in Ottawa.
27 CDE: A Team Approach to Periodontal and Restorative Procedures for Gingival Esthetics, Robert David and Frederick Muroff.
29 UBC President’s Tour alumni reception in Calgary.

November
3 CDE: Carter’s Oyster: Radiographic pearls, Laurie Carter.
5 CDE: Undergraduate Students Dean’s Night
6 CDE: Graduate Students Dean’s Night
17 CDE: Current Concepts in Endodontics: Rotary NiTi, Prosystem GT, Thermoplastized GP, MTA and advanced anaesthesia, Robert Augsburger and Jeff Coil.*
20 UBC President’s Tour alumni reception in Toronto.
24 CDE: Periodontics for the Next Millennium: hygiene, regeneration, esthetics and implants, Henry Takei.
30 CDE: Opening Windows to the World: An introduction to the Windows operating system with an eye to the Internet, Les Ennis, Kathy Hornby.*

December
1 CDE: Harmonizing Shape, Contour and Form: A hands-on clinical participation course for dental technicians, Ken Chizick.*

March
9-10 CDE: Annual Vernon Ski Seminar at Silverstar. The Steps to Managing the Five Primary Practice Drivers, Dale Tucci and Paediatric Dentistry: Behaviour management techniques and treating pulpally involved teeth, Edward Chin.*

* Limited enrollment.

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