

NYU Langone Dental Medicine  
Postdoctoral Residency Programs



SPECIAL EDITION

# THE BRIDGE

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**TUMOuh AL-ALLAQ, BDS, DDS, FGD**

Choptank Community Health System, Inc.  
Maryland



**PAMELA HARLAN-McSWAIN, MBA, CAP**

Christ Community Health Services  
Tennessee



**IMRAN AHMED, DDS**

Seventh Avenue Family Health Center  
at NYU Langone  
New York



# NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE POSTDOCTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

— OUR MISSION —

**To serve, to teach, and to discover**  
is achieved daily through our integrated academic culture devoted to  
excellence in patient care, education, and research.





MESSAGE FROM DR. GARY E. KALKUT  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, NETWORK INTEGRATION  
ASSOCIATE CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER



## DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS:

First and foremost, I want to congratulate everyone on a monumental year. It was truly heartwarming to be able to attend the first in-person Faculty Development Conference in three years. It was a pleasure to see familiar smiles, as well as welcome new members to the Dental Medicine team.

As we all know, the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected all of us. Case numbers in the U.S. continue at high levels, but notably hospitalization and mortality remain lower when compared to early days of the pandemic. I continue to praise Dr. Martin Lieberman and his team of resilient professionals who have continued Dr. Neal Demby's legacy in providing access to care in underserved communities and preparing the next generation of dental health providers. As we embark on the new year, I urge you all to have utmost confidence in evidence-based prevention strategies and authorized treatments.

A core mission for NYU Langone Dental Medicine is caring for the populations in our communities. We are proud of our departmental efforts to expand diversity and inclusion in our faculty and residency programs. This year, the annual Faculty Development Conference included lectures that had been geared towards diversity and inclusion. This is also presented in the health center spotlights that are highlighted in this issue of *The Bridge*.

This has been another remarkable year that will go down in the books. We are constantly inspired to improve our programs. One significant step taken by the Advanced Education in General Dentistry and Pediatric Dentistry Programs is conducting their first virtual Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for Associate Directors in collaboration with New York Simulation Center for Health Sciences (NYSIM). The OSCE was designed to provide the Associate Directors with resources to manage resident issues and provide constructive feedback to learners. NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs has become a national model in dental education.

My thanks to all of you for your dedication to serve, to teach, and to discover and wish you all continued success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary E. Kalkut, MD, MPH". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Gary E. Kalkut, MD, MPH**

Senior Vice President, Network Integration  
Associate Chief Clinical Officer

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## ABOUT NYU LANGONE HEALTH

# Leader in Quality

NYU Langone's emphasis on continuous improvement inspires teams to continually raise the bar on quality and safety across our growing network in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, Staten Island, and Florida. NYU Langone has achieved top rankings by Vizient, and is the only full-service health system in New York City with an "A" Leapfrog safety grade and a CMS 5-star rating in 2022. These accolades are reflective of a shared culture of quality that permeates our growing network. All of our sites are held to the highest quality standards set at an institutional level.



**#3**  
in the Nation

**#1**  
in the State

Ranked third by *U.S. News & World Report* for Best Hospitals 2022–2023; and ranked second for Best Medical Schools (Research).



NYU Langone Health remains #1 in New York State and #1 in New York Metro Area

Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone ranked #3 in New York State Children's Specialties



MESSAGE FROM DR. MARTIN LIEBERMAN  
VICE PRESIDENT, GRADUATE DENTAL EDUCATION



The past three years have taken us on a pathway different than we ever expected or planned for.

Through it all, we have been able to stay true to our mission, “to serve, to teach, and to discover.”

Thanks to all of you, our program is now larger than many dental schools, training more than 400 residents annually in health centers and other community service programs across the United States. Together, we continue to improve the lives of those who have little to no access to dental care as we train practitioners who are compassionate about correcting healthcare inequities and are exceptionally prepared to treat medically and orally complex cases.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine continues to be a workforce pipeline for safety net clinics, with many residents being employed by the health centers where they have trained. In this edition of “The Bridge”, I am particularly excited to share Dr. Imran Ahmed’s remarkable pathway to dentistry and his commendable choice to give back to his community. His story inspires me and I know it will inspire all of you. “The Bridge” features the compelling stories of residents, faculty, and health centers across the nation. I want to thank all who contributed and shared their journeys to become part of the NYU Langone Dental Medicine family.

While I know we have challenges ahead of us, I’m looking forward to the future of our programs and I thank you for all you do for our residents, faculty, patients, and staff to deliver the best possible care and educational experience.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Martin Lieberman".

**Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA**

Vice President, Graduate Dental Education

MESSAGE FROM DR. MARGARET MASON  
VICE PRESIDENT, DENTAL MEDICINE



This year, the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone celebrated 55 years of serving our community.

We completed nearly 600,000 patient visits of which over 100,000 were dental visits—and expanded our School Based Health Centers to 55 locations across the 5 boroughs.

An integral part of the success of the Family Health Centers is our dental residency training programs. Our residents, with the guidance and support of our attendings, provide high-quality care to our community and do so with compassion, curiosity, and respect for those whom they serve. We have accomplished much as a united team while maintaining our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We have faced many challenges post-COVID and because of our dedicated attendings, residents, and staff, we have emerged stronger and even more able to serve our neighbors.

We, in Brooklyn, are looking forward to continuing to provide an environment where our residents can learn and grow to excellence.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Margaret Mason".

**Margaret Mason, DMD, MA**

Vice President, Dental Medicine

# HEALTH CENTER SPOTLIGHT



◀ 2022 AEGD Residents  
Dr. Sharon Osakue (left)  
and Dr. Allison Bonsall (right)

## **Dientes Brings Nationwide Dental Residency Program to Santa Cruz**

**Another Offering in Dientes' Suite of Workforce Investment Programs that are Helping the Organization Grow serving Santa Cruz County, California**

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Dientes Community Dental Care's mission is to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. 96% of Dientes' patients live at or are below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients.

## BIG IMPACT ON ACCESS TO CARE

By partnering with NYU Langone Hospitals Postdoctoral Dental Residency Programs, Dientes was able to train their first dental residents this past fall. In their inaugural year, they are hosting AEGD residents **Dr. Allison Bonsall** and **Dr. Sharon Osakue**, who will meet high standards of quality, comprehensive dental care as they build an understanding of community health center service. They have already made a big impact, seeing 350 patients in their first 60 days. Executive VP, **Dr. Sepi Taghvaei** remarks, “We are excited about our new residency program, as well as all of the other opportunities we offer our staff to grow in their careers. At Dientes, it is about nurturing a passion for health center service and creating better oral health for our community.”

Both of the residents have a strong desire to serve those in need. When

asked about their experiences so far, Dr. Bonsall comments, “It has been rewarding to care for patients, while gaining professional growth through the mentorship of the Dientes attendings.” Both residents are enjoying their time in residency; “Dientes has such a great team atmosphere - I’m constantly surrounded by friendly faces who are always willing to help,” marvels Dr. Osakue.

Dientes already operates 3 full-time clinics and a 28-location Outreach Program serving 11,250 patients with over 40,600 visits. Because of the overwhelming need for access to oral healthcare in Santa Cruz County, Dientes has more plans in the works to expand in order to provide more comprehensive dental care for their community. ■

“

*We are excited about our new residency program and all the other opportunities we offer our staff to grow in their careers. At Dientes, it's about nurturing a passion for health center service and creating better oral health for our community.”*

– Sepi Taghvaei, DDS



▲  
1500 Capitola Road  
Health & Housing Campus



## HEALTH CENTER SPOTLIGHT

### Providing Access to Care in The Big Easy

#### EXCELth, Inc. Dental Clinic New Orleans Metropolitan Area

For over 45 years, EXCELth, Inc. Dental Clinic has provided affordable dental care to marginalized populations in the New Orleans metropolitan area. EXCELth, Inc. programs and clinics have been operating since the mid 70's as a branch of the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD). After Hurricane Katrina, EXCELth, Inc. took over operation of the clinics and hired Douglas W. Cross, DDS (Dental Director) and Celeste Terry, RDH who started with the NOHD in 1982 and 1976 respectively.



Left to right: AEGD residents Dr. Camilo Gomez, Dr. Stephanie Marrero, and Dr. Akeira Warner

#### FACING CHALLENGES, CONTINUING TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina left a lasting and devastating impact on New Orleans' clinics and mobile dental units, which were heavily damaged or destroyed. Although countless staff had homes destroyed and were unable to live in the area, they were still able to make significant contributions to the rebuilding effort. A few days after the disaster, **Dr. Douglas W. Cross** went to the Disaster Mortuary Response Team's [DMORT] morgue and volunteer to find records to help ID victims. Soon after, he became a lead dentist and worked tirelessly until operations ceased. Within weeks, a temporary clinic was operational in one of the few buildings that did not flood. This was made possible by Dr. Cross, who picked up, donated, and installed equipment from all over Mississippi. They were the first NOHD clinic to reopen and provide low-cost dental services to the community. This [EXCELth, Inc.] clinic as well as the mobile units are still in use today serving the needy populations of New Orleans.

#### RESIDENTS HELP PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO CARE

Access to care is a cornerstone in EXCELth, Inc.'s mission to help the community. They have been very active in changing state board regulations to provide further preventive services in the underserved rural areas. AEGD residents have made significant contributions to the community's residents by helping some of the approximately 40,000 undocumented workers who stayed after helping to rebuild New Orleans.

EXCELth, Inc. has an abundance of patients who need extensive dental work.

“

*The NYU Langone program has provided us with the opportunity to provide more comprehensive services to our patients, while helping to educate the next generation of dentists.”*

– Douglas W. Cross, DDS

The brand-new clinic and office spaces can accommodate doctors and patients for high quality comprehensive care with modern technology. Their doctors are enthusiastic about the residency program, and their patients are grateful for their continued services. They have a great team who are honored to be serving the community. AEGD resident **Dr. Akeira Warner** said, “Excelth, Inc. has an amazing dental team that truly treats you like a family. They go out of their way to make dentistry fun for the patients.”



▲ Dr. Cross (left) and Dr. Gomez (right) reviewing patient X-rays before treatment

Dr. Douglas W. Cross was awarded the 2022 LDA Humanitarian Award, and was recently named this year’s recipient of the Healthcare Provider of the Year Award at the 39th Annual Louisiana Primary Care Association Continuing Education Conference. This award recognizes an outstanding healthcare provider who has demonstrated dedication, expertise, and concern for patients in a compassionate and comprehensive manner. Dr. Cross has served over ten years as the dental director for EXCELth, Inc. ■



▲ AEGD resident Dr. Warner presenting oral health education during National Health Centers week



▲ AEGD resident Dr. Marrero providing patient care with dental assistant Zahira Nina, EDDA



## HEALTH CENTER SPOTLIGHT



### A Look Inside a Modern Dental Training Clinic in Iowa

#### Crescent Community Health Center serving Iowa tri-state communities

Crescent Community Health Center is a federally qualified health center providing primary and preventative medical and dental care, brain health services, and wellness and nutrition coaching. Crescent provides access to healthcare and wellness services in our tri-state communities that need them the most. Crescent serves nearly 6,500 patients with more than 18,000 clinic visits annually.

#### A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH FOR RESIDENTS

Residents at Crescent Community Health Center will learn to provide high-quality, respectful, and affordable dental care to improve the health and well-being of their community. They will have the opportunity to work with experienced and highly skilled faculty, while maintaining responsibility for their own cases from start to finish. Residents will be responsible for diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment of patients assigned to them under faculty guidance and supervision. By taking a multi-disciplinary approach with the CCHS' dental team, residents will learn how to incorporate the principles of evidence-based dentistry into their daily clinical activities.





“

*We are privileged to have a monumental impact on our communities by offering life-changing dental treatment solutions. It is extremely rewarding to give our patients a reason to smile.”*

– Marco Rouman, DDS

### **CRESCENT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER'S CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER**

**Dr. Marco Rouman** has over 20 years of experience in the dental field. After graduating from dental school, Dr. Rouman received his diploma in dental surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland. He received his graduate dental education and postdoctoral training at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, where he was awarded his certificate in Geriatric Dentistry. Dr. Rouman spent most of his dental career between academia and private practice. He has also held several professorship appointments at different academic institutions. At the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, he was the Co-Director of the Geriatric and Special Needs Program and the Director of the Geriatric Dentistry Graduate Program. He then moved to Cleveland, where he established and directed the Geriatric Dentistry Program at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Rouman has been the Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Community Partnerships at the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health in St. Louis, Missouri. He also served as a clinical dental board examiner for the Western Regional Examining Board. ■



## HEALTH CENTER SPOTLIGHT



Joshua Bullock, DMD  
pediatric dentist

### Setting Up a Training Site to Provide High Quality Pediatric Dentistry to Children of Kansas

#### Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC/SEK)

Southeast Kansas is one of the top ten poorest counties in all of Kansas. There are only two pediatric dentists to serve a population of 180,000. CHC/SEK pediatric dentist Joshua Bullock, DMD, in Pittsburg, serves as the Associate Director of Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry with NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs.

#### PREPARING A NEW TRAINING SITE

When Dr. Joshua Bullock first began looking for jobs after completing his pediatric residency training at NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Anchorage, Alaska site, he knew he wanted to work somewhere he could serve an underserved community. He found what he was looking for at the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC/SEK).

Board Certified Pediatric Dentist Amy

Gensweider, DDS, was one of the few pediatric dentists in the area for Medicaid patients before Dr. Bullock came along, an issue for many rural communities. A lot of rural communities also lack access to oral health providers due to geographic isolation. Many people who live in CHC/SEK's service area lack adequate transportation. Additionally, health literacy is lower among rural populations, resulting in poor oral hygiene.





▲ Pediatric dental residents (L to R) Dr. Vishal Patel, Dr. Matthew Stiles, Dr. Caileen Sylvester, and Dr. Cory McLeod, along side two of their supervisors, Dr. Joshua Bullock and Dr. Amy Gensweider

It quickly became apparent that the need for pediatric dental services exceeded what could be offered with just two pediatric dentists. The clinic's administration had previously contacted NYU Langone Hospitals about establishing the CHC/SEK Smiles as an affiliate training site. After hiring part-time and adjunct pediatric dentists, everything started to fall into order in preparing for their first class of residents.

This new site has two clinics with 21 chairs, operation room block time in two hospitals, one surgery center, and a rotation with a local orthodontist, as well as an administration team who are committed to ensuring the program is successful. CHC/SEK Smiles has the only specialized pediatric dentist in rural Kansas, serving all children, regardless of income or insurance. Dr. Bullock is extremely proud to push this mission and continue his dental career serving a community health center / Federally Qualified Health Center.

One of the unique aspects of the clinic is the hygiene outreach program. Under the use of an expanded care permit, hygienists in Kansas can work independently in community settings like schools and nursing homes. Their outreach team screens approximately 20,000 children a year, which facilitates getting them the highest forms of

“

*It has been amazing to see the growth of everyone who is part of this program. We have all had to stretch our comfort zones to prepare for this residency and improve our ability to care for patients. For the children of Southeast Kansas, this is exactly what is needed.”*

– Joshua Bullock, DMD



▲ Dr. Bullock shows his daughter and son the professional dentistry practice at CHC/SEK

care they desperately need.

The preparation for the residency program has been very labor intensive, but the fruits of their labor have been apparent through the community they serve. The pediatric dental program is

now the largest in the state of Kansas!

“The first class of residents has really hit the ground running and have been making strides in the community by providing care to children in need,” Dr. Bullock said. ■



## HEALTH CENTER SPOTLIGHT



Left to right:  
Dr. Kanisha Smith,  
Dr. Adil Moghul,  
Dr. Derek Smith,  
Dr. Brittney Reid  
of Jordan Valley  
Community Health  
Center, Missouri

### **Opportunities for Dental Residents at Jordan Valley Community Health Center**

**Jordan Valley Community Health Center (JVCHC)  
serving southwest Missouri**

Since 2016, AEGD residents have been an integral part of the team at Jordan Valley Community Health Center (JVCHC) throughout southwest Missouri. JVCHC provides care for approximately 68,000 patients of all ages each year. The organization employs an integrated model of care where providers from all disciplines work together to provide comprehensive care to patients. Patients have access to dental care, primary care, behavioral health, vision, speech, occupational, and physical therapy all in one space. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, JVCHC serves as a critical safety net provider for those who have been traditionally underserved: low-income households, residents living in rural areas, minority groups, migrants, refugees, and the uninsured.

## GAINING REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Residents carry out the mission of Jordan Valley Community Health Center (JVCHC) to improve the community's health through access and relationships everyday in the clinic. Residents have their own patient panel, which increases the number of patients who can receive care while building relationships within the community. JVCHC relies on those relationships to help see beyond the dental or medical needs of each patient. Residents and staff acknowledge that by addressing patients' social determinates of health, they can help shift the focus and prioritize health needs first. Interdisciplinary teams review cases together regularly, including monthly didactics with residents to ensure a holistic approach to treating patients.

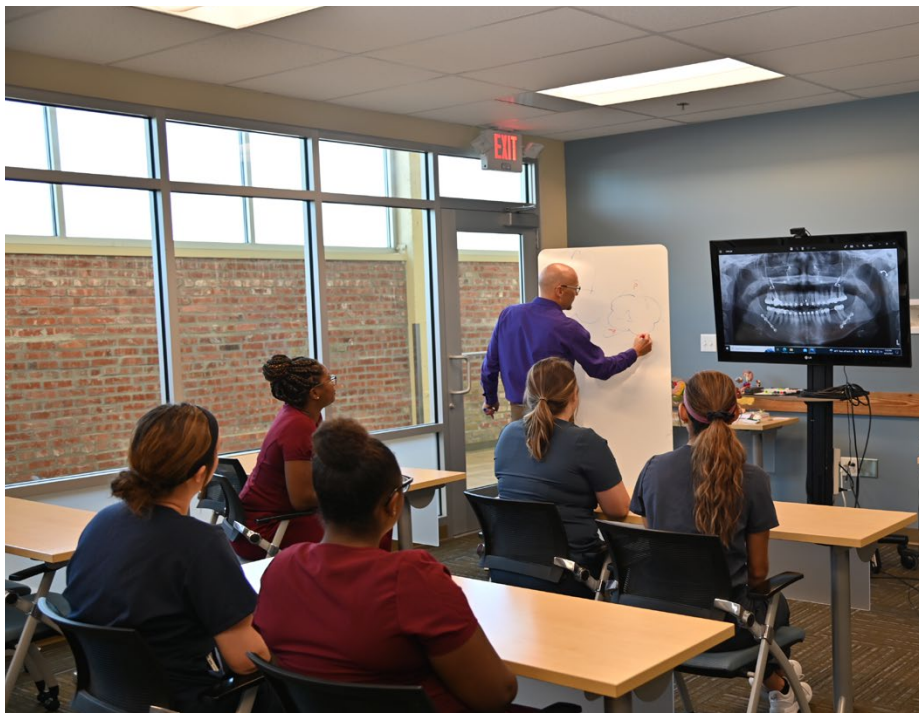
A 2021 AEGD graduate at JVCHC, and now new hire, **Dr. Roxana Vargas** comments, "My experience was very fulfilling both personally and

professionally. I had the opportunity to bond and connect with amazing staff, colleagues, and patients. JVCHC is one of the largest FQHCs in Missouri, so it provided me with tons of opportunities to learn from the best and care for our population. I stayed at JVCHC because I feel like I make a difference in the lives of our patients by working here and I want to continue to grow those relationships."

In 2022, JVCHC opened a new Procedure Clinic, featuring 16 pre-op and post-op rooms and 4 operating suites equipped with cutting-edge technology. "We strive to meet residents where they are when they arrive, knowing that they've had different experiences in school, and then give them the tools and opportunity to grow as dental providers. One of those opportunities is the experience of working in our new Procedure Clinic," said **Dr. Derek Smith**, Dental Director.

As one of the few Medicaid

providers with OR capability to handle complex cases, JVCHC receives referrals for patients from all over Missouri and the surrounding states; this clinic greatly expanded access to oral surgery services and provides invaluable OR experience to AEGD residents. "Working in the OR really impacted me", said **Dr. Adil Moghul**, AEGD Resident, "we had a patient with special needs who had decay on pretty much every single tooth in his mouth. It was one of those cases where it would have taken multiple appointments to get everything done, but we have a nice OR suite that just opened, and we were able to knock out all of the treatment in one visit. It was a really good experience for me to do multiple procedures on one patient and it was a great experience for the patient because they were under general anesthesia, and they weren't awake for the dental procedures." ■



“

*We strive to meet residents where they are when they arrive, knowing that they've had different experiences in school, and then give them the tools and opportunity to grow as dental providers.”*

– **Derek T. Smith, DDS**



Dr. Derek Smith reviewing a case with current AEGD residents, Dr. Brittney Reid, Dr. Kanisha Smith, former AEGD resident, Dr. Roxana Vargas (now faculty) and support staff.

## HEALTH CENTER SPOTLIGHT



### **A New Dental Center Meets the Needs of Cape Cod Residents with High-Performance Dental Equipment for Improved Health and Enhanced Efficiency**

**Harbor Health Services, Inc.**  
**serving Boston neighborhoods, the South Shore  
and Cape Cod communities, Massachusetts**

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A truly diversified experience.

Harbor Health Services, Inc. – Harbor Community Health Center Hyannis is a nonprofit, public health agency providing quality, comprehensive health care in urban Boston neighborhoods, the South Shore and Cape Cod communities. They own and operate four community health centers, three locations which provide dental care: Ellen Jones Community Dental Center in Harwich, Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center in Dorchester and Harbor Community Health Center-Hyannis. Our Cape Cod resident rotates between Hyannis and Ellen Jones.



## FOCUS ON THE PATIENT'S WHOLE HEALTH NEEDS

**Dr. Caitlin Coleman**, Dental Director of Harbor Health, graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2013. Her journey with the residency program began with completing an AEGD residency through NYU Langone in 2014 at Codman Square Health Center in Dorchester. Shortly after, Dr. Coleman was formally hired to work at affiliate health center, Harbor Health in 2017. After being promoted to Associate Director in 2019, she was then promoted again to Dental Director in February 2022.

Before completing her AEGD program, Dr. Coleman did not have a lot of exposure to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). After she completed her residency at Codman Square, her experience in this setting opened her eyes to the immense needs of patients in the underserved communities. She reflects, "Being able to provide access to high quality dental services to patients that may not be able to receive care anywhere else was so important to me. The feeling of making a difference in the community was one of the most important things I gained from my AEGD experience, and is a big reason as to why I continue to work in FQHCs today."

As a Dental Director, Dr. Coleman is able to work with other departments such as primary care, pediatrics, pharmacy, and behavioral health. This has allowed her to focus on patients' overall health needs.

Dr. Coleman believes that FQHCs play an important role in training our future clinicians and being able to work with and train residents and externs that rotate through sites is another way that she is giving back to the community. ■



“

*The feeling of making a difference in the community was one of the most important things I gained from my AEGD and is a big reason as to why I continue to work in FQHCs today.”*

– Caitlin Coleman, DMD



◀ CAD/CAM and mill at our Ellen Jones site.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### A Director's Experience



Dr. Tumouh Al-Allaq has a Passion for Education and is Recognized as a Top Woman Leader

### TUMOUH AL-ALLAQ, BDS, DDS, FGD

Clinical Director – Dentistry  
Choptank Community Health System, Inc.  
Site Director – NYU Langone Dental Medicine  
Postdoctoral Residency Programs, AEGD



At Choptank Community Health System, Inc. (CCHS), our faculty and staff come from diverse clinical and academic backgrounds. Intensive clinical and didactic training in comprehensive care of dental patients, complex medical issues, critical thinking, and treatment planning are the top priorities of our program.

**Dr. Tumouh Al-Allaq** is the Site Director for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency program at CCHS, Preceptorship Program Director for internationally trained dentists, Adjunct Faculty at Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health,

and Director of Continuing Education Department. Her passion for dental education and love for her residents is endless. The most rewarding part of her career is the success of her residents, when they continue on to be specialists or well-known dental figures in society. She has organized many certified continuing education courses focused around Implants, Oral Surgery, Invisalign, Endodontics, and other various workshops for residents, faculty, international and local dentists in Maryland.

“

My success is the success of my residents and that I am immensely proud of my previous and current residents,” says Dr. Al-Allaq.



Dr. Al-Allaq started her academic background at University of Southern California (USC) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as an Assistant Professor. She followed with a Fellowship in Geriatric Dentistry with UCLA Hospital, Harbor View, and West LA VA Hospital in Los Angeles. She continued her postgraduate dental education in AEGD for two years at Eastman Institute for Oral Health before completing another two years of General Practice Residency (GPR) at University of Rochester- Strong Hospital.

Her journey with NYU Langone's AEGD residency program began in 2017 at Chesapeake Community Health Clinics in Maryland. As the Site Director, Dr. Al-Allaq expanded the program from three to five residents within the first year. Soon after, she transitioned into the Site Director position at Choptank Community Health Systems in 2019 and expanded the residency program as well by adding a series of lectures, mini workshops, and lunch and learns to residents and faculty. Additionally, Dr. Al-Allaq has arranged both national and international speakers and educators to NYU Langone Hospitals' AEGD Regional Days, making them more diverse and unique.

Dr. Al-Allaq was recognized by NYU Langone Dental Medicine as a top woman leader in their Women's History Month in March 2022. Because of her belief that access to care never stops—virtually or in-person, she has led teledentistry in Maryland. Beyond that, Dr. Al-Allaq is leading the pre-natal dental program in

Choptank, where she wants to ensure oral health care for pregnant women. Dr. Al-Allaq has developed a hands-on workshop demonstrating ICON (resin infiltration) by DMG America use, during which each AEGD resident treats patients. She has established the Preceptorship Program for internationally trained dentists coming from Canada, Dubai, Iraq, Jordan, India, Israel, and Sudan.

Because she believes in the competency, excellence, and professionalism of her graduates, many of Dr. Al-Allaq's previous AEGD residents have stayed on her team and transitioned into AEGD faculty. Dr. Al-Allaq states, "Every day is a new opportunity to grow and succeed together as one big team."

#### About Choptank Community Health System, Inc.

Located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Choptank Health System, Inc. (CCHS) is a private, non-profit community health center providing primary health care services in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties and the surrounding areas. CCHS dental sites are equipped with the state-of-the-art dental equipment including, but not limited to, digital x-rays, intra-oral cameras, Cone-Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT), and nitrous oxide sedation. CCHS also conducts a hospital based OR program in collaboration with a local hospital in Dorchester County to provide comprehensive dental treatment to children under general anesthesia. ■



▲ Dr. Tumouh Al-Allaq with 2022 AEGD Residents in training



▲ Dr. Al-Allaq with CCHS AEGD Residents



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

NYU Langone Dental Medicine proudly recognizes **Imran Ahmed, DDS** for his remarkable path to dentistry and his commendable choice to give back to his community, to teach, and to inspire our next generation of dentists.

### Pathway to Dentistry: From a Young Patient to a Resident and now, Dental Clinical Director

An inspiring  
interview with  
Dr. Imran Ahmed



### IMRAN AHMED, DDS

Clinical Director – Dentistry  
Seventh Avenue Family Health Center  
at NYU Langone



I actually started out as a patient at NYU Langone (Sunset Park Family Health Center) when I was a child. I didn't mind going to the dentist. I was never scared of going to the dentist as a child due to my experiences as a patient. It wasn't until high school when I started to gain interest in dentistry. I was interested in the sciences, but I didn't have the stomach to deal with blood. My initial thought was that dentistry wouldn't have as much blood, but I was clearly wrong about that assessment. I started volunteering at Sunset Park Family Health Center with **Dr. Margaret Mason** in the

Dental Department. Over time, Dr. Mason would become my mentor, and I was given the opportunity to shadow many different dentists and became very interested in special needs dentistry. I started to realize that dentistry was more than just "drill and fill". I was very fortunate with this experience. I was also very fortunate to be accepted into the Sophie Davis School, which was a 7 year program including Undergrad (at CUNY) and Dental School (Columbia University College of Dental Medicine). I then returned to conduct a research project with Dr. Mason while I was in my undergrad program. During this time, Dr. Mason told me that there would be a residency position available if I was interested once I graduated dental school. From there, I finished dental school and became a GPR Resident at NYU Langone and decided to stay on as a direct patient care provider upon completion of the program."

**Q: Once you were in dental school, what options were you considering when you graduated?**

**A:** “When I was in dental school, I wasn't sure if I wanted to stay in general dentistry or if I wanted to specialize, so I tried to explore all aspects of dentistry. I realized that I enjoyed many different areas of dentistry and didn't want to be limited to a certain specialty (endodontics, oral surgery, pediatrics). By the time I started my 3rd year of dental school, I knew that I was planning to pursue general dentistry and started to apply to GPR programs. I applied to 4 different programs in the New York City area, one of which was NYU Langone. I interviewed with **Dr. Babak Bina** (GPR Program Director) and **Dr. Bethany Harris** (GPR Associate Program Director). During the interview, I was able to speak with many of the residents who only had great things to say about the program. I knew this would be a good option because I wanted to be prepared for the next part of my career. I try to tell dental students and incoming residents that this is the one year where you essentially get paid to learn. During the time as a resident, you get to see your mistakes and have someone guide you through them. I think it is very difficult for someone to come right out of dental school and thrive in a private practice unless they have a mentor. I feel that my residency training prepared me for my future dental career.”

**Q: What do you feel the value was from doing a residency program versus going into private practice right out of dental school?**

**A:** “Dental school limits you to the amount of complex procedures you are able to do. When I was in dental school, we were not allowed to do molar endo cases unless we received special approval. I didn't build most of my clinical skills until I attended the GPR Program. Someone who goes right into private practice after dental school is going to be doing a lot of exams, prophys, drilling, filling, and maybe a few crowns. The reimbursements for these procedures don't pay as much as the more complex cases such as molar endodontics, implant dentistry, and surgical procedures. The one to two year trade off of doing a residency program will pay off so much more in the long term because of the scope of services you will be able to provide.”

**Q: After working in direct patient care for a few years, how did you decide that you wanted to start mentoring and training our AEGD Dental Residents?**

**A:** “When I was working in direct patient care in the clinic, I would sometimes help supervise some of the

residents if we were short on attendings at a given time. I have always known that I wanted to be involved in the academic side of things and within the last year, I started to transition into that role. I had such a great experience in my residency program and I knew that I wanted to be involved in mentoring residents while still having some time to do direct patient care. It has also been a great learning experience for me as the residents also come up with their own ideas on how to do things, and I have had to learn how to help them navigate through that. I remember when I was working with my attendings during residency, each person had their own way of doing things and I learned to take small pieces from all that they taught me into the way that I practice dentistry today.”

**Q: What are your long term career goals as a dentist?**

**A:** “I really would like to stay at NYU Langone Brooklyn in the long term. I have always thought about doing private practice but I have not decided to pursue that seriously at this time. I grew up in this community and started as a patient. The system serves such a wide array of people from different countries and cultures and I find it very rewarding that I am able to work in the same community that I grew up in.”

**Q: What is one thing that you would say to a dental school student who is trying to make a decision about their next steps after dental school?**

**A:** “I would tell them to look for a program that is going to give them the most exposure. You want to be involved in a busy program. I have encountered some people who have chosen to participate in much more laid back residency programs. If you choose a more laid back program, you aren't going to be as prepared as a clinician. At the end of the day, a busier program will build a much stronger foundation for you long term.”

**Q: You graduated from our GPR program but now serve as a Site Director for our AEGD program. Could you explain some of the benefits of both programs?**

**A:** “I would say that overall, the dentistry is the same in both programs. The main difference is that you are on-call in the GPR program. In the GPR program, we saw more cases that involved the intervention of a physician (jaw fractures). Outside of that, you will see the core procedures of dentistry in both programs: endodontics, fixed prosthodontics, removable prosthodontics, and surgical periodontics.” ■

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### A Director's Commitment to Education, to Service, and to the Community

### Journey to Christ Community Health Services



#### PAMELA HARLAN-McSWAIN, MBA, CAP

Director of Post Graduate Education  
Christ Community Health Services  
Memphis Metropolitan Area, Tennessee

“

There was not a specific age when I decided that I wanted to serve an underserved community, yet giving back and helping others was instilled within me as I grew up in a small Mississippi town (Macon) and graduated from an underfunded all-black high school.

As an economically disadvantaged, minority student who ventured out of a small, closed-minded town, I have developed a passion to serve the underserved. Throughout my life, I have been associated with and witnessed the consequences of being a minority. From attending an all-black school, to graduating at the top

of my business class at Mississippi State University, a predominantly white institution, to soon completing my doctoral degree and being called Dr. Pamela Harlan-McSwain.

I believe that every citizen deserves access to quality healthcare services regardless of his or her geographical area, income, or race. An underserved community is a community in which people are unable to obtain health care or have limited access to the health.

Through continued education and my passion for high quality health care in my community, I have continued to progress in my career while making an impact in the lives of the populations I serve. Currently, I am completing my EdD at the University of Memphis, focusing on “Exploring the perceptions of African American students in various medical fields and how important embracing diversity is in underserved communities.”



I have seen research indicating that physicians of color are more likely to treat minority patients and practice in underserved communities, whereas it has been argued that sharing a racial or cultural background with one's doctor helps promote communication and trust.

CCHS is a faith-based organization that provides high quality healthcare to all, including the underserved and uninsured. We serve moms, dads, guardians, grandparents, and children. It's a comprehensive program that we have here at Christ community.

At CCHS, I was able to further find my "Why", why serve the underserved, why work hard, why promote health care in its entirety. My reason being "a healthier community promotes healthy families which in turn live longer and happier lives making the world a much better place!"

The dental residency program has become a fundamental part of the CCHS family. It has become a model for health centers on producing highly trained dental leaders who are committed to providing oral health care services, especially to vulnerable populations and individuals located in rural areas. To date, all eleven of CCHS AEGD residents have remained here for at least one year after graduation. This shows the continued efforts to help the communities of western Tennessee.

I love CCHS, Memphis, and the people we serve! Helping our communities break barriers, thrive, and overcome adversity. We are Better Together!" ■



Christ Community Health Services 2022 AEGD Residents, left to right: Dr. Hillary Gore, Dr. Maya White, Dr. Taylyn Padgett, Dr. Toni-Ann McLeod

## From Resident to Faculty

# Transitions to Practice

NYU Langone Dental Medicine is nationally recognized for its high quality postdoctoral dental programs with locations across the US. That's just one reason so many of our alumni return to work in the health centers where they trained. The paths they took after graduation are diverse. Some of our alumni accepted positions with us immediately following graduation and some returned years later. As for what brought them back, we asked our alumni.



### JOSEPH BENSON, DDS

AEGD, Class of 2021

Current: General Practice Dentist  
Christ Community Health Services, Inc.  
Memphis Metropolitan Area, Tennessee



When I was considering my postgraduate plans, I thought that I had two primary options: either work for a private practice, or work for corporate. Asking

several of my colleagues about their postgraduate plans, I found that many were considering an AEGD or GPR residency. Why not get paid to have someone teach me to do dentistry well without the restrictions associated with dental school? I couldn't have made a better decision. I was trained in molar endo, quadrant dentistry, and performed surgical extractions of many impacted third molars. I more than doubled my clinical dental school experience during the first half of my residency program and gained incredible experience and training in removable and fixed prosthodontics. Additionally, I was hired by the same federally qualified health center, noting they were impressed with my training and expertise with the patient population that I had the opportunity to serve.

What I value the most about the AEGD program was getting the opportunity to be coached by knowledgeable faculty in a controlled setting. I was able to try out challenging cases and care for patients without the pressure of rushing through treatment. I quickly learned what types of treatment I was confident in doing and what kinds of treatment I needed to refer out in order to care for my patients well. Beyond that, I learned the value I can have to the local community by serving our patients in a public health setting. I think that choosing a post-graduate dental program is the right decision for many dental students whose education has been negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and can lay the foundation for a successful career."



## LAUREN VIEIRA, DMD

AEGD, Class of 2022

Current: General Practice Dentist  
Christ Community Health Services, Inc. –  
Broad Avenue Dental Center  
Memphis, Tennessee



As a New York native, I have been pursuing NYU education post high school. When given the opportunity to apply and be interviewed for the AEGD Program at NYU Langone, I was fulfilling my dream of being an NYU student and was excited about the opportunity to expand my dental knowledge and experience. I chose to stay on as faculty because my experience as a resident was invaluable and rewarding. I want other recent dental students to experience what I experienced and challenge themselves to get the most of this year full of continued learning. I have had many positive and rewarding experiences throughout my residency year. Even when I had difficult times during my year, they turned into a positive experience. I had a few challenging cases but I was able to learn from each one of them. I learned to share my experience with my faculty and have them coach and mentor me through my difficult moments as a resident. They have encouraged and motivated me as I jumped over hurdles and became more passionate about my career choice.

For new residents, I would recommend being open to new experiences and procedures. I would advise them to take on a challenging case, discuss them with your faculty, and think outside of the box. In addition to your textbook knowledge, use your knowledge gained in dental school and be creative with your treatment. Another word of advice is to remember that you do not know everything about being a health care professional. It is important to let patients know that you may not have all the answers, it is perfectly acceptable to tell patients that you will do more research or get a second opinion before promising to deliver a procedure or specific results that you are uncertain of or unfamiliar with. Be confident and do not be afraid to ask for help. Enjoy your residency year!"



## ROXANA G. VARGAS LEMUS, DDS

AEGD, Class of 2022

Current: General Practice Dentist  
Jordan Valley Community Health Center (JVCHC)  
Springfield, Missouri



The NYU Langone AEGD residency provided me with the didactic and clinical experiences I sought for after graduating dental school. I appreciate being part of an organization that encourages learning, cares for the community, and increases access to care for



underserved populations. I wanted a program focused on both advanced restorative and hospital dentistry and this AEGD program was the perfect fit. I decided to stay on as faculty to continue to expand the connections I have made with staff, colleagues, and the patient community. Jordan Valley is Missouri's largest Federally Qualified Health Center, offering healthcare services to underserved populations all over the state. All of our patients face barriers when it comes to accessing oral care, and it has been very rewarding to be part of bridging that gap. I aim to provide quality dental care to each patient, taking into consideration their unique needs in terms of medical and socioeconomic circumstances. My goal as faculty is to share what I have learned and motivate learning and growth in the dental public health field."



## MEGHAN BASTIN, DMD, MPH

AEGD, Class of 2016  
Dental Center of Northwest Ohio, Findlay Smiles  
Current: Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dentistry  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, West Virginia

“

I was committed to my journey to become a pediatric dentist. Although I did not match to a pediatric residency immediately out of dental school, I did have

the best of both worlds in an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency program where I was able to also gain experience working with pediatric patients.

In 2015, I felt extremely lucky to be accepted as one of the first two residents at the Dental Center of Northwest Ohio's (DCNWO) AEGD Program affiliated with, then named, Lutheran Medical Center (LMC). I was most excited for the year of advanced education at this dental safety net clinic in Toledo, Ohio because ten of their almost two dozen chairs were dedicated to pediatric dental care! I knew this would be the perfect location to transition my learning between dental school and a pediatric dental residency program. During my year of training, NYU Langone became the parent entity for all former LMC residency programs and grew to the largest postdoctoral dental residency programs in the United States.

I remember enjoying our monthly didactic meetings with regional program directors and the other residents across Ohio. The collaboration didn't stop there! We were also connected to the central program in New York for webinars and other virtual learning opportunities. Thanks to the infrastructure and resources of the partnership between NYU Langone and the DCNWO, I was able to finish my requirements for the AEGD and focus on my passion for pediatric dental care. That year of experience prepared me for acceptance into a pediatric dental residency program.

I wasn't the only one! Two other residents from my AEGD year went on to become pediatric dentists as well! One person was working at the DCNWO as a general dentist who only treated children, and the other was a co-resident at a sister site in Findlay, OH. I suspect that many more residents that came after me, and desired a career in pediatric dentistry, have found similar success pursuing this pathway. I am grateful to NYU Langone and the Dental Center of Northwest Ohio for continuing their mission to provide care and education in the way that they do." ■

## Residency Experiences

# Invaluable Learning & Advice

Dr. Doantrang Nguyen is part of the first graduating Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) class from The Wright Center for Community Health in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Congratulations on a great year!



### DOANTRANG NGUYEN, DDS

AEGD, Class of 2022

Current: Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
The Wright Center for Community Health  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

“

I chose NYU Langone because of their curriculum and requirements that ensure residents will experience a variety of dental procedures, as well as a full scope of general dentistry. Doing an AEGD residency has been helping me develop my clinical abilities, patient management skills, and confidence so that I can be fully prepared for working either in public health or private office.”

#### **Q: What was your favorite part of the AEGD residency?**

**A:** “Besides doing a variety of procedures, increasing speed, feeling more comfortable with diagnosis and treatment, and gaining more confidence as a clinician, I have been developing friendships with people I am working with! I have also had chances to discover northeast PA, experience NEPA foliage, and many outdoor activities, including hiking, rail biking, and the most recently, a Mudgirl run with the dental team.”

#### **Q: Do you have any tips and advice for future residents?**

**A:** “Be open to learning. Do not be afraid to ask for help and make mistakes, because that is how you learn — from experiences, and how you grow as a clinician. The site director and faculty are always there to help and guide you.”

#### **Q: What was the most rewarding moment?**

**A:** “I realized that not only do I improve someone’s oral health, but I also help them gain more confidence and/or make some kind of impact on their lives. One of my patients used to be shy and did not like to discuss his home care, but he is now taking an initiative in asking for dental products to improve his oral health.”

#### **Q: What was the most valuable thing you've learned?**

**A:** “Make mistakes, accept failures, learn from experiences, and allow room for growth. As cliché as this sounds, every expert was once a beginner. It takes time, effort, dedication, and failure to learn how to do something well. I have been improving and expanding patient management and clinical abilities, especially with molar endo, surgical extractions, perio surgeries (crown lengthening, GBR), soft tissue laser, and other complex cases in prosthodontics. Indeed, having an attending faculty around to help out when I need, point out my mistakes, and show me what I should have done to have a better outcome has allowed me to learn and grow.”

#### **Q: What are you most looking forward to after graduation?**

**A:** “Dentistry is a life-long career, in which every appointment is an opportunity to grow and improve someone’s health and/or life. My goal is continuing to learn, improve, and grow as a competent clinician while providing quality dental care for people in need.” ■

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## Residency Experiences

# Dr. Joseph Lenz Shares his Dental Anesthesiology Experience

Dr. Joseph M. Lenz, PGY-3 Co-Chief Resident, Dental Anesthesiology, Class of 2022, shares his thoughts on his residency experience.





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## JOSEPH M. LENZ, DDS

PGY-3 Co-Chief Resident,  
Dental Anesthesiology, Class of 2022  
Brooklyn, New York



“

My path into dental anesthesiology residency was not a direct one. I graduated from dental school in 2014, and practice as a general dentist for many years. During all of dental school, and even during my first couple years of private practice, I never came across the phrase "dentist anesthesiologist", nor did I have the slightest inkling as to how one practiced on a day-to-day basis. Once I discovered the specialty, my career as a dentist was forever changed. I quickly realized the enormous void there was for dentists, and more importantly, dental patients to have access to proper anesthesia services; especially the underserved. Not only that, I was captivated by the field of anesthesiology, and the required mastery of anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology, some of my favorite subjects in school.”

**Q: What drew you into doing your residency with NYU Langone?**

**A:** “I chose NYU Langone – Brooklyn for my dental anesthesiology residency because I felt it provided the most well-rounded experience, and would ultimately best prepare me to one day practice as a dental anesthesiologist. I wanted to be immersed in hospital operation rooms from the start, have a strong didactic background, and spend ample time performing real-world, private practice mobile office-based anesthesia, all of which NYU Langone – Brooklyn provided.”

**Q: What future aspirations do you have for your dental career?**

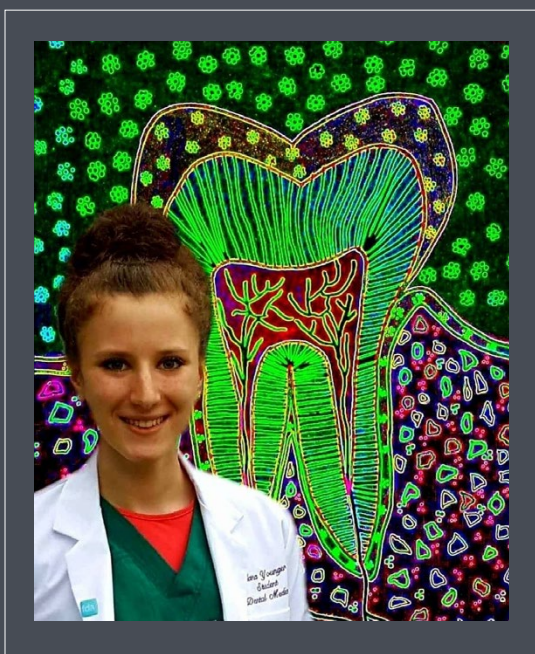
**A:** “After completing my residency, I will be starting my own ambulatory dental anesthesia practice in my home state. There are so many nuances to safely and competently performing office-based anesthesia, which you truly do not appreciate until you gain adequate experience doing so. This, in my opinion, is what sets our program apart; during residency, I spent over eight months on rotation, performing solely ambulatory office-based dental anesthesia, and I learned more doing it than I ever thought I would. Although starting my own solo practice is a large undertaking, I feel very confident and comfortable doing so due to the real-world training that I have received.”

**Q: After three years with the program, what will you miss the most?**

**A:** “Excited as I am to complete a residency, I am going to miss New York City! The pizza, the incredible world cuisines, the parks, the biking, the bridges, the skyline, the endless social scene, and all the wonderful people I have met during my three years, I will miss it all. It has given me some of the best memories of my life, and I will be back to visit often.” ■

## Residency Experiences

# Art in Dentistry



### ELANA YOUNGER, DMD

AEGD, Class of 2022

Harlem United's The Nest  
Community Health Center  
Harlem, New York, New York



Dr. Elana Younger is a recent 2022 graduate from our AEGD Program! When she's not busy dedicating her time to dentistry, she is also an artist specializing in medical, anatomy, judaica, and fantasy art!

“

Hello, my name is Elana Younger. I am an orthodox Jewish dentist and artist. I spent the past year at NYU Langone's AEGD program at "The Nest" in Harlem, New York. I chose NYU Langone for a variety of reasons. The first and most obvious reason is NYU Langone's reputation for being one of the highest in quality of education. I am not from New York and Covid was very influential in the decision-making process of choosing a residency. NYU Langone, and more specifically, Upper Room AIDS Ministry, Inc Harlem United's "The Nests" mission to provide affordable quality care to the underserved regardless of gender, race, religion, or health status is a vision that I personally resonate with. During my time in dental school at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine, we would have a variety of rotations including rotations through our Cypress Creek Clinic. This clinic provided a variety of free dental services to those with HIV. Although a sad reality, many today still feel a sense of embarrassment or shame due to their HIV status and prefer going to a clinic where they feel welcome. The warmth and encouragement of the faculty, in addition to the feelings of gratitude from these patients, heightened my sense of duty and pride for my profession as a doctor/healer. The faculty and patients at The Nest were no different. Dr. Carter, Dr. Frankel, and Dr. Greenspan all deserve special mentions for their continued support on my continued journey in the art of dentistry.”

**Q: Why did you pursue dentistry?**

**A:** “I always knew I wanted to work in the medical field/healthcare. Ever since I was young, I've loved the sciences (biology being an old favorite). I was always good with my hands and enjoyed the arts, so dentistry seemed like a natural fit.”



Elana Younger



Elana Younger



Elana Younger



Elana Younger

**Q: What are some of your favorite dental procedures?**

**A:** "My favorite procedure is probably dentures. I love how one can completely change another's physical appearance, as well as simultaneously restore function whilst being a mostly noninvasive procedure. Seeing the way most patients react on their denture delivery day is one of the most rewarding jobs of a dentist."

**Q: As an artist, where do you take inspiration from?**

**A:** "I take inspiration from a variety of sources. I am truly inspired by the work of Kentaro Miura (manga artist), Gustav Klimt (art nouveau), William-Adolphe Bouguereau (Neoclassicism). I also take inspiration from science, music, philosophy, psychology, and religion. Beauty and artistic inspiration can truly be found anywhere if you are open to searching for it. The world around us is full of nothing but miraculous phenomena, exploring and coming to understand it at any capacity can be existentially cathartic and spiritually fulfilling."

**Q: What medium of art do you like to utilize?**

**A:** "I enjoy a variety of mediums – acrylic, watercolor, colored pencil, digital, collage, and mixed media being a few of my favorites. I also enjoy quilling, jewelry making, and costume design. I also enjoy experimenting in the kitchen and sharing my concoctions with my family and friends."

**Q: What do you hope to achieve with your art?**

**A:** "I hope my art can spark curiosity in those with inquisitive minds to go out and explore. I hope that my art can resonate with people on a personal level and allow them to come to a form of self-actualization. I hope that my art allows those with predetermined narrow-minded viewpoints to stop and reassess their ideas through an unprejudiced lens. I hope that my art can make a difference, and that difference is for a positive one."

As a Jew, I believe strongly in the importance of the "tikkun olam" which roughly translates to "repairing the world". This fundamental concept of one's responsibility to improve the world and try to be a positive role model that shines a light upon it for the betterment of society is something I believe everyone should strive for, to allow us as the individual to make the world a better place."

\_\_\_\_\_  
 "Thank you for taking the time to read my interview and experience my work, and thank you to NYU Langone for the honor and privilege of the opportunity. I hope that you all enjoy it." ■



## ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY



ANNA D'EMILIO, DDS, MA, F-PFA, FICD,  
Vice President and Program Director,  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry

# Reflections



### Continuing Our Commitment Towards Achieving Excellence

If we reflect on the past year, we can't dismiss the impact upon us by disasters, natural and human-generated, and the residual effects of a pandemic that began three years ago, and today, still affect us in so many ways personally and professionally. Although these situations and conditions may have been tough to overcome and we still may be experiencing after-effects, our spirits were never crushed. Instead, we became closer knit as a unified team working together to lift our spirits. Through immense inner resolve and determination, we persevered through the tough times and maintained our optimism by looking forward to the better times ahead of us. Each new day has become a gift to unwrap with anticipation of what is to come. The program is constantly re-evaluating how it can better serve the needs of its residents, faculty, clinical training sites, and patients. The clinical training sites are doing the same with high level of success by utilizing resources to improve upon and facilitate operations and service with the continued commitment towards achieving excellence in all realms. We realized the importance of work-life balance and are taking advantage of the opportunities presented to us. They contribute to

To learn more about NYU Langone  
Dental Medicine's AEGD Program visit:  
<https://www.nyulangonedental.org/programs/aegd>

For questions, please contact  
[dentalresidency@nyulangone.org](mailto:dentalresidency@nyulangone.org).







preserving our overall health and well-being, while we continue to manage our responsibilities and maintain our gold-standard of proficiency and producing great outcomes.

If we looked into a mirror, what would be reflected to us? Well, we're another year older 😊, but seriously, we're still bold and beautiful, caring and compassionate, perseverant and prolific. However, I feel what is also reflected to us is a smarter, wiser, stronger, and more resilient and sensitive version of ourselves. This is reflected in how we continue to work together, support one another, and share our knowledge and experience with those we inspire towards achieving exceptional outcomes. Our professional and personal bonds have strengthened and brought us closer together not only as peers and colleagues, but as friends. Everything we overcome, resolve and accomplish reflects how extraordinary we are.

So, you can thoughtfully reflect on the past to reminisce, learn, share, and grow.

When you take a good look at yourself, what will be reflected to you is a phenom *smiling back at you* with immense satisfaction and pride of what was acquired today, and what you can look forward to as the thrill of tomorrow. ■



## AEGD Program Accomplishments

### PRESENTATIONS & PUBLISHED WORKS

- **Dr. Anna D'Emilio** had an article published in the January 2022 edition of the ADEA Clinic Administration newsletter. The article discussed "Organizational Resilience in Pandemic Times".
- **Dr. Ram Vaderhobli** received the Clinical Excellence Award during the University of California - San Francisco Research and Clinical Excellence Day held on October 12.
- **Dr. Amy Kim**
  - Presented "Innovations in Methodology and Delivery for Effective and Equitable Training" with Dr. Martin Lieberman and Dr. Barbara Ottenio at the 2022 ADEA fall meeting, Business and Financial Administration and Clinical Administration section held in St. Louis, Missouri on October 24.
  - Was elected to the office of Secretary of the ADEA Section on Clinic Administration in recognition of her ability to effectively represent the Clinic Administration Section as demonstrated by her involvement in its mission, goals, and meetings.
- **Dr. Barbara Ottenio, Dr. Amy Kim, Mr. Etienne Franck, Mr. Kyle Moore, Dr. Dan Kane, Dr. Anna D'Emilio, and Dr. Martin Lieberman** submitted a poster presentation for the ADEA section of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion during the meeting session held in St. Louis, Missouri on October 26 that highlighted "Faculty and Resident/Alumni Panels - Insights on Impact of Race and other Identities in Oral Health Training Programs."
- **Dr. James Rodriguez** and **Dr. Amy Kim** each received The Demby Award for leadership, innovation, vision, and compassion at the Faculty Development Conference held in New Orleans, LA, in December 2022.

### EVENTS

- The AEGD program continues to hold its Annual AEGD Alumni CE Event. This year the event occurred on October 20 and the topic focused on Periodontal Disease and the Systemic Connection.

### CLINICAL TRAINING SITES

- Apple Tree Dental:
  - Pediatric Dentist and AEGD program faculty member, **Dr. Quentin Knutson**, has recently achieved board certification and Diplomate status with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.
- Arizona School of Dental and Oral Health
  - **Dr. Maureen Perry** and **Dr. Azfar Siddiqui** were inducted into the American College of Dentists.
  - **Dr. Joseph "Rich" Cohen** was inducted into the International College of Dentists.
  - **Dr. Robert Roda** and **Dr. Mai-ly Duong** were inducted into the Pierre Fauchard Academy.
  - **Dr. Scott Howell** and **ATSU-ASDOH Public Health Dentistry and Teledentistry** received award for Dental Program for Justice-Involved Youth from the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County for their contribution towards the Smiles of Hope program.

- Dientes Community Health Center:
  - **Dr. Sepideh Taghvaei** was selected for the inaugural Richard Ferraro Award by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD). The award is in honor of Dr. Richard Ferraro who was the founding Dental Director in the first community health center in the United States, now known as the Geiger-Gibson Health Center.
  - Pediatric Dentist and AEGD program faculty member, **Dr. Sean Silverio**, achieved board certification. Dr. Silverio is also an AEGD program alumnus.
- Ravenswood Health Center:
  - **Dr. Yogita Thakur** was selected by the Governor of California and to become a member of the California Board of Dentistry.

### ADMINISTRATORS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Dr. David Brajdic** and **Dr. Linda Kotmel** were invited to attend a meeting of the Iowa state dental board in October, and present on behalf of the AEGD program. They presented to the board a request to develop a pathway where AEGD residents can apply for a temporary license or limited permit (in lieu of the unrestricted, full license) to practice within the scope of the program. The Iowa state dental board approved the request.

### CODA SITE VISITS

- 13 CODA comprehensive and special focused site visits occurred during the year.
  - No recommendations and no suggestions received for all the special focused and comprehensive site visits that occurred.
- The program continues to conduct site visits using the hybrid model.
- Congratulations to our affiliated clinical training sites that maintain their status of approved AEGD clinical training sites of the NYU Langone Hospitals CODA accredited program:
  - Arizona: El Rio Health Center - Cherrybell
  - California: La Maestra Community Health Center  
Santa Barbara Neighborhood Health Clinics
  - Florida: Health Center Network of SW Florida  
Tampa Family Health Center
  - New Jersey: Zufall Health Center
  - Ohio: Dental Centers of NW Ohio  
Family Health of Darke County  
Family Tree Dental  
Primary Health Solutions
  - Pennsylvania: The Wright Center
  - Washington: Peninsula Community Health Center
  - West Virginia: Valley Health Systems



# ADVANCED EDUCATION IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

## *Greetings to Alumni, Faculty, Residents, and Friends*

I hope you and your families are staying safe and doing well. We have endured such resilience among our staff, faculty, and residents over the past 2.5 years. As we are now in a post-pandemic world, I have seen many positive changes in the Pediatric Dentistry Program. We were able to adapt with open-minded optimism to the many challenges that teaching and practicing pediatric dentistry in a pre- and post-pandemic world presented. In keeping with the trifold mission of NYU Langone, the Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Program strives to **serve, teach, and discover** and to achieve these goals daily through an integrated academic culture devoted to excellence in patient care, education, and research. Our residents continue to pass the boards successfully and some to even achieve highest scores in the top 3% nationally. We continue to serve the most vulnerable and underserved populations that benefit from the high quality pediatric dental care the residents provide under the supervision of expert faculty. With the help of the new research team at NYU Langone, many of our residents' research projects have been accepted in renowned and highly respected scientific journals.

I am also happy to report that our program maintains "Accredited without Reporting Requirements" with The Commission on Dental Education (CODA) as we have undergone many major CODA site visits both virtually and in-person, and some even as a hybrid using the latest technology. As one CODA examiner stated, "There was not another pediatric dentistry program in the galaxy that was as ready as NYU Langone when the pandemic hit and shut everyone down." I am proud that we continue to innovate with the latest technology and new teaching methods that address our new generation of learners. I could not do this job without the support of my excellent team of Senior Associate Directors and Associate Directors who strive every day for excellence and accountability, as we keep the legacy of our Founder, Dr. Silvia Perez-Spiess, in our thoughts. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual AAPD meeting in Orlando and connecting with everyone in person at the AAPD annual alumni reception. Please keep your eyes open for further information as we finalize plans.

I hope that you are all thriving and living the values we instilled in you during training by serving those that need your skills and expertise the most.

See you in Orlando! ■

DANIEL J. KANE, D.M.D., M.A.,  
Program Director, Advanced Education  
in Pediatric Dentistry



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! MAY 25-28, 2023

Visit us at the AAPD Annual Session 2023 at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, FL! More details to come on our in-person reception.

To learn more about the NYU Langone Dental Medicine Pediatric Dentistry Program visit:

<https://www.nyulangonedental.org/programs/pediatric>

For questions, please contact

[dentalresidency@nyulangone.org](mailto:dentalresidency@nyulangone.org).



## What is a School-Based Dental Program?

### **Full-Service Dental Care for Children**

The Family Health Centers at NYU Langone has provided Brooklyn's children with school-based health care since 1984.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine Department can provide comprehensive dental care right in the school.

School-based dental services are available to students enrolled at the participating school. Appointments are scheduled during the school day. A parental consent form is required for all children receiving care.

**To keep your child smiling and for more information, call 718.630.7493.**



▶  
**ELIOT GEORGE,**  
Director, Business Operations,  
Dental Medicine, Family Health  
Centers at NYU Langone Health



▶  
**DR. LYNN GARGANO,**  
Director of Dental School  
Health Program



## The Family Health Centers at NYU Langone Expands School Dental Program to Four Queens Sites

Middle and elementary public school children in Queens now have access to high-quality dental care with the launch of four school-based clinics in underserved areas where many families have low incomes and have lacked access to quality dental care. The [Family Health Centers at NYU Langone](#) is bringing pediatric dental specialists to three new school-based clinics in the Rockaways this month. A [fifth] Queens site in Corona also opened earlier this year. Together, these in-school clinics mark the dental program's first move into Queens.

"We'll be working with kids who need convenient access to dental care right in their schools," says [Lynn Gargano, DDS](#), Clinical Director of the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone's Dental School Health Program. "For many of these children, this will be their first and only opportunity for comprehensive dental care including preventive, restorative, and referrals for specialty care when indicated."

For many parents of children in the program, taking time off work to bring a child to the dentist is a challenge, as is the potential cost of care. "Children with dental pain, or even mild discomfort, lose school time too," adds Dr. Gargano. "They can't focus or they miss class entirely."

### About the New Dental Clinics

The new Rockaway clinics are opening at MS 319, PS/IS 333, PS/MS 43, [and PS 197] serving over 500 public school children through an estimated 1,500 visits in the 2022–23 school year, and this number is expected to grow annually. The Corona-based program at PS 19 will provide another 1,000 or more visits to students in the borough.

The clinics operate in schools from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday, providing comprehensive care, including exams, X-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatment, dental sealants, restorative care (fillings), extractions, and emergency dental care.

Additionally, through screening events held earlier this year, the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone found more

than a third of the 559 children they screened had clinical decay. Risk factors like poor nutrition and obesity contribute to children's oral health status. An important goal of the program is to teach young children good habits to care for their teeth.

The clinics are run in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education. Funding for the new dental program comes via federal and philanthropic support, including a \$1.3 million, 2-year grant from the [Mother Cabrini Health Foundation](#) that sought to assist the especially high-need, high-risk population in Queens.

Another goal of the clinics' Queens expansion is dental workforce development. It includes training opportunities for dental assistants from diverse and historically underrepresented communities.

### About the School-Based Health Program at the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

The new in-school dental clinics are among 44 in-school dental programs within 51 school buildings citywide. They are part of the larger [School Health Program—Family Health Centers at NYU Langone](#), which operates in 56 schools, providing children access to medical, vision care, and behavioral health services.

Staffed by licensed attending dentists, the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone dental clinics provide care to 25,000 elementary and middle students in all 5 boroughs who are uninsured or underinsured. Students pay no out-of-pocket fees for services.

"We are a resource for families striving for a better life and provide health education, referrals, and access," says [Larry K. McReynolds](#), Executive Director of the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone. "Oral health is often just a starting point for these children. We may see them first for dental care, and that can then lead us to other health issues that we will help address." ■

Available at: <https://nyulangone.org/news/dental-clinics-launch-rockaway-schools-improve-underserved-students-oral-health>; updated April 2023.



# ACCREDITATION

## COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) employs a nationwide collaborative peer-review accreditation process to evaluate the quality of dental education programs. Every seven (7) years, CODA visits the institution's clinical training sites to verify that the programs meet accreditation standards. Additionally, when new clinical sites are approved, a special-focused site visit is scheduled before the graduation of the first class of residents.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine Residency Postdoctoral Residency Programs comprises of five programs – AEGD, Dental Anesthesiology, GPR, Endodontics, and Pediatric Dentistry; they are all accredited and follow this process.

### ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY (AEGD) APPROVED SITES

#### AEGD Sites approved at Summer Meeting 2020 (addendum)

##### Texas – November 19, 2019

Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc. - Central Dental Clinic, El Paso, TX  
Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc. - Westway Dental Clinic, Canutillo, TX  
Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc. - San Elizario Dental Clinic, San Elizario, TX  
Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc. - Child and Adolescent Wellness Center, El Paso, TX

#### AEGD Sites approved at Winter Meeting 2022

##### Florida Region – May 4-5, 2021

Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. - Downtown Fort Myers Family Dental, Fort Myers, FL  
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. - Lehigh Acres, Lehigh, FL  
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. - Labelle Family Dental, LaBelle, FL  
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. - Bonita Springs Family Dental, Bonita Springs, FL  
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. - Estero Family Dental, Fort Myers, FL  
Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc. - 27 Ave., Miami, FL  
Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc. - 22 Ave., Miami, FL  
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) School of Dental Medicine, Bradenton, FL

##### Georgia Region – May 17, 2021

Albany Area Primary Health Care (AAPHC) - West Albany Dental and Medical Center, Albany, GA

##### Central Arizona Region – May 19, 2021

New Horizon Institute, Tempe, FL

##### Upstate New York Region – May 20, 2021

Hometown Health Center, Schenectady, NY  
Shatkin Dental Clinic, Amherst, NY

##### Alaska Region – September 21-22, 2021

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) – Juneau Dental Clinic, Juneau, AK  
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) – Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center Dental Clinic, Sitka, AK

#### AEGD Sites approved at Summer Meeting 2022

##### Tennessee Region – November 4-5, 2021

Interfaith Dental Clinic – Nashville, Nashville, TN  
Interfaith Dental Clinic – Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro, TN  
Christ Community Health Center – Broad Avenue Dental Center, Memphis, TN  
Christ Community Health Center – Hickory Hill Dental Center, Memphis, TN

##### South Arizona Region – January 12, 2022

El Rio Community Health Center – Cherrybell Health Center, Tucson, AZ

##### Central California Region – February 9-11, 2022

Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics – Eastside Family Dental, Santa Barbara, CA  
Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics – Goleta Neighborhood Dental, Goleta, CA  
We Care Dental – Western University of Health Sciences, Rancho Mirage, CA  
APLA Health Dental Clinic, Downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Gleicher/Chen Health Center, Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles, CA  
APLA Health Center- Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

##### Florida Region – March 29-30, 2022

Health Care Network – Dental Care Immokalee, Immokalee, FL  
Health Care Network – Dental Care East, Naples, FL  
Tampa Family Health Centers – Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL  
Tampa Family Health Centers – Charles Bottoms, Tampa, FL  
Tampa Family Health Centers – Fletcher Ave, Tampa, FL

##### Pennsylvania Region – Apr 5, 2022

The Wright Center for Community Health – Mid Valley Practice, Jermyn, PA  
The Wright Center for Community Health – Scranton Clinical Practice, Scranton, PA

##### Washington Region – Apr 7, 2022

Peninsula Community Health Services - Sixth Street Bremerton Dental Clinic, Bremerton, WA

##### West Virginia Region – Apr 12, 2022

Valley Health – Westmoreland, Huntington, WV  
Valley Health – Wayne, Wayne, WV

### ADVANCED EDUCATION IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY APPROVED SITES

#### PEDS Sites approved at Winter Meeting 2022

##### California Region – May 18, 2021

San Ysidro Health - Children's Dental Center at Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego, CA  
San Ysidro Health - Chula Vista Clinic (Dental Clinic), Chula Vista, CA

#### PEDS Sites approved at Summer Meeting 2022

##### Washington Region – November 2, 2021

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic – Children's Village, Yakima, WA  
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic - Lincoln Ave Medical-Dental Clinic, Yakima, WA

##### Florida Region – February 17-18, 2022

Suncoast Community Health Center - Brandon Community Health Center, Brandon, FL  
Suncoast Community Health Center - Plant City Family Care, Plant City, FL

# CURRICULUM NEWS

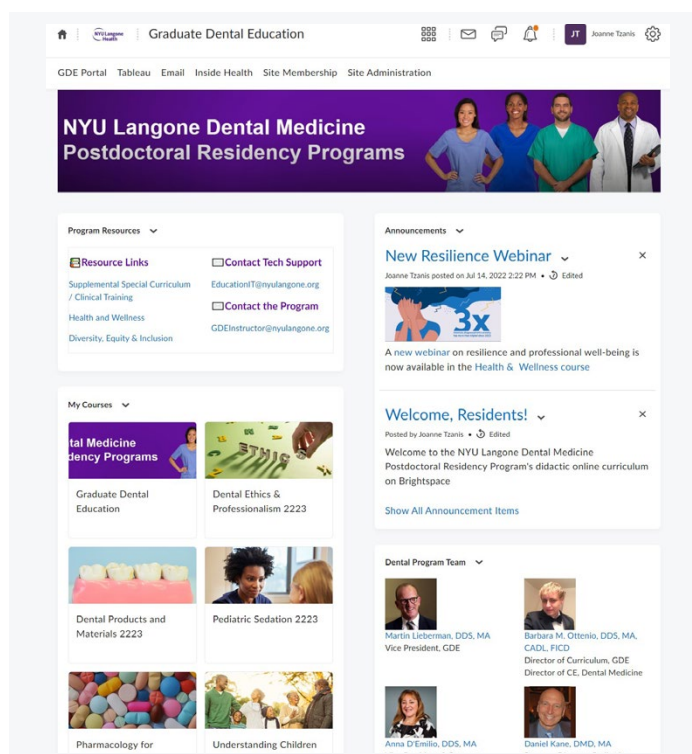
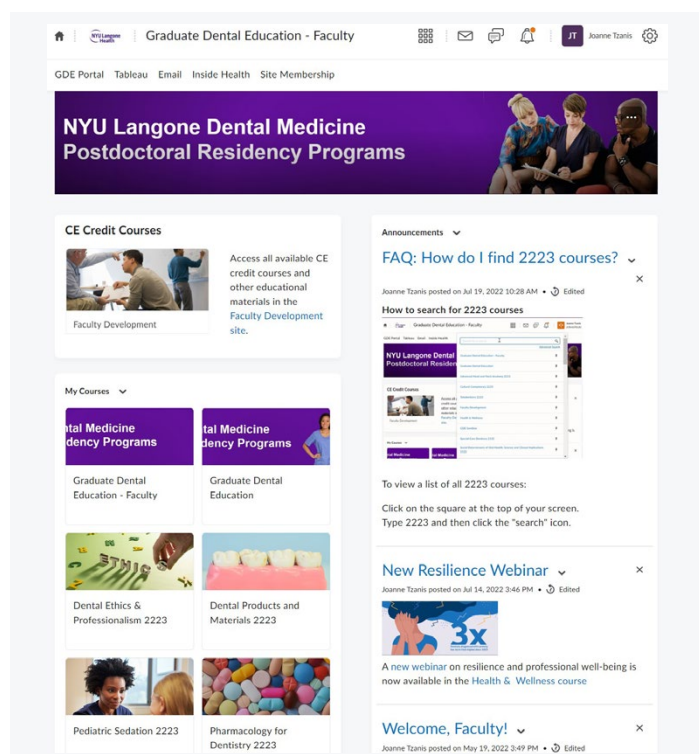
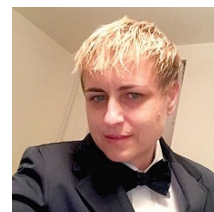
## NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE POSTDOCTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAMS CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS

The Graduate Dental Education (GDE) team led by Vice President, Dr. Martin Lieberman, developed new educational courses and events for residents and faculty.

### NEW LANDING PAGES ON BRIGHTSPACE PLATFORM

NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs launched new and updated dental landing pages for both faculty (shown on left) and residents (on right) on our Brightspace platform.

BARBARA M. OTTENIO, DDS, MA, CADL, FICD, Director of Curriculum and Continuing Education



### CE CREDIT COURSES FOR FACULTY-ONLINE

The Graduate Dental Education team announced four new on-demand Continuing Education (CE) credit courses for NYU Langone Dental Medicine faculty. To access: Log into Brightspace and search for Faculty Development. Titles for the new courses are:

- 1 Working Effectively with Residents Facing Challenges
- 2 Giving and Receiving Feedback
- 3 Promoting Residents' Critical Thinking Skills
- 4 Clinical Teaching and Learning Best Practices

\*Funding for these courses was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the project titled, Dental Faculty Development and Loan Repayment Program (grant # T93HP30391).

### NEW COURSE OFFERINGS FOR RESIDENTS

- 1 Teledentistry  
\*Funding for this course was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the project titled, Improving access to and delivery of oral health care services for vulnerable and rural populations across the life course (grant # D88HP37549)
- 2 Advanced Prosthodontics
- 3 Dental Ethics and Professionalism
- 4 Pharmacology for Dentistry
- 5 Behavior Guidance for the Pediatric Dental Patient
- 6 Medical Management of Dental Disease
- 7 Course updates: Updated modules for the Periodontics course, Digital Dentures module added to the Removable Prosthodontics course.

# CURRICULUM NEWS

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS

NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs has partnered with the NYU School of Global Public Health (GPH) to offer scholarships to Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD), General Practice Residency (GPR), and Pediatric Dentistry (PEDS) residents to participate in the Advanced Certificate in Public Health Program. The certificate program consists of 6 core courses worth a total of 15 credits, which can be completed within 3 years. The courses include Global Issues in Social & Behavioral Health, Global Environmental Health, Health Care Policy, Public Health Management and Leadership, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics for Public Health.

The certificate program is fully supported by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through grant #D88HP37549 to NYU Langone Hospitals. 22 scholarships are available each year for 4 years, for a total of 88 scholarships—a tuition free program (\$30,000 value). After completion of the program, residents may be eligible to take the Certified Public Health (CPH) exam. Learn more at <https://publichealth.nyu.edu/programs/advanced-certificate-public-health>.

Congratulations to the following residents on their acceptance!

- Dr. Ahmed Abrar – Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry
- Dr. Aishleen Scully – Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry
- Dr. Andre Changa – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Jeremy Coble – Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry
- Dr. Kinja Patell – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. LaShonda Shepherd – General Practice Residency
- Dr. Michelle Katz – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Mojtaba Kazemian
- Dr. Nancy Trang – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Nicole Molnar
- Dr. Rana Sadeghi – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Rebecka Haats – Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry
- Dr. Rina Yom – General Practice Residency
- Dr. Roxana Vargas – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Seyyed Mahmoud Jafari – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Virginia Perez-Torrealba – Advanced Education in General Dentistry
- Dr. Wan Ting Tsai – General Practice Residency
- Dr. Yelizaveta Heron – Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry

## CE CREDIT WORKSHOPS

March 24: FACULTY DEVELOPMENT EVENT “What in the World is Digital Dentistry for the Dental Office of Today?”–Virtual by **Dr. Jonathan A. Ng**

*Learning objectives:*

- What is digital treatment planning and why it is essential?
- See digital dentistry workflow and the critical steps in the treatment planning for everyday practice.
- Compare and contrast conventional and digital impressions.
- Understand the simple tools of digital dentistry today that help your practice immediately.
- See the advancements and the future of digital dentistry for 2022 and beyond.

May 12: GPR ALUMNI EVENT “Smile Makeovers: Treatment Planning to Final Cementation”–Virtual by **Dr. Nada Albatish**

*Learning objectives:*

- Treatment plan using key smile design concepts for predictable aesthetics.
- Understand the required laboratory records for a successful wax up.
- Identify problems with mock ups and know how to proceed to complete the case successfully.
- Prepare teeth using fundamental concepts of preparation design in aesthetic cases.
- Recognize appropriate use of analog vs digital records.
- Understand how to efficiently temporize aesthetic cases and how it differs from conventional temporization techniques.
- Understand materials and cementation procedures for aesthetic cases.

October 21: AEGD ALUMNI EVENT “Periodontal Disease & The Systemic Connection”–Virtual by **Dr. Eric Bornstein**

*Learning objectives:*

- List the common risk factors for periodontal disease.
- Discuss the role of inflammation and infection in periodontal disease.
- Describe the relationship between gum disease and conditions including diabetes, heart disease, and autoimmune disorders.
- List the neurodegenerative illnesses associated with periodontal disease.
- Discuss the key components of counseling and treating patients with periodontal disease.
- Discuss Laser treatment as an option for Periodontal Disease.
- Outline how the information in this course can be used to improve patient care outcomes.
- Describe, based on the information presented, the implications for dentistry.

## FACULTY TRAININGS

Our Motivational Interviewing trainings have given faculty additional tools to support our residents and our patient outcomes. It is an effective behavior change method, used in the dental practice setting. This patient-centered method provides a collaborative approach to behavior change in a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment.

April 27: “Motivational Interviewing”–Virtual by **Franzenith De La Calle**

*Learning objectives:*

- Define Motivational Interviewing and its use in dental health
- Describe the spirit of MI and connect it to real-life applications for enhanced dental health
- Describe the MI method and impact on patient care

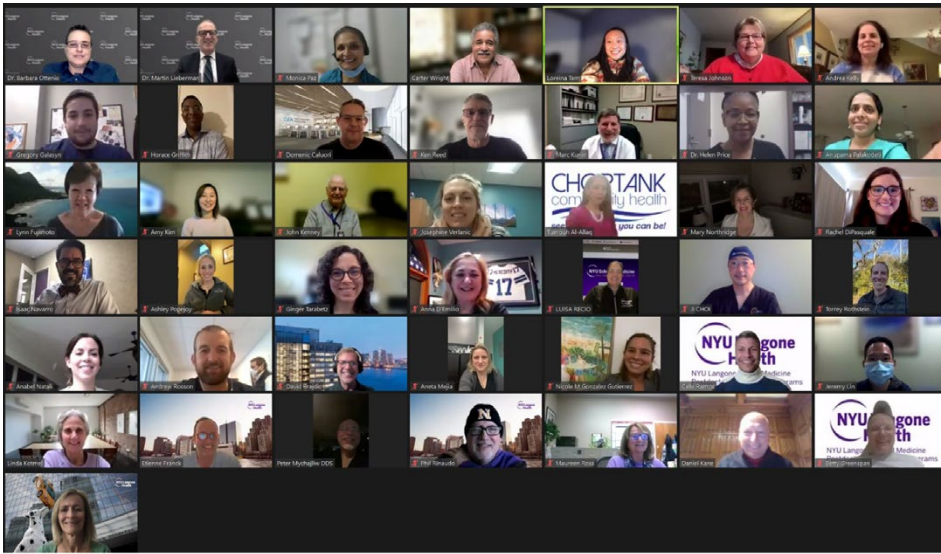
April 29: “Intermediate Motivational Interviewing”–Virtual by

**Dr. Matthew Allen**

*Learning objectives:*

- Evoking Change Talk
- MI in resident training settings
- A Feedback Framework





“

Continuing our legacy of excellence in education... to serve, to teach, and to discover. Thank you all for a wonderful Faculty Development!”

– Dr. Anna D’Emilio

January 2022 Virtual Faculty Development Conference screenshare

November 2: “Motivational Interviewing for Oral Health Professionals” –Virtual by **Dr. Matthew Allen**

*Learning objectives:*

- Understand what motivational interviewing is and why dental professionals and patients benefit from it
- Reimagine common dental workflows using the style and skills of MI
- Practice the skills of MI in real-play and role-play exercises

Our Feedback Simulation with standardized participants gave faculty an opportunity to encourage collaborative learning and focus on actions and behaviors in developing their skill set. The experience allowed the faculty to practice giving feedback to various type of learners, which included a peer debriefing session, as well as a group debriefing session.

May 16 & October 19: “Feedback OSCE” –Virtual by **GDE Leadership and NYSIM (New York Simulation Center for the Health Sciences)**

*Learning objectives:*

- Apply and practice feedback-giving model with different types of learners
- Provide a framework for peer discussion of feedback
- Identify areas for improvement and needs

### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

January 19, 2022: We hosted our second Virtual Faculty Development conference, a continuing education program with faculty, program leadership, and staff from all over the country! Keynote speaker, **Dr. Charles N. Bertolami**, presented on “Merging Dental Education and Practice”. Some of the main topics he discussed were the impacts of the Flexner and Gies Reports and differences between Transactional and Relational Medicine.

December 5 & 6, 2022: Annual Faculty Development Conference. Faculty from all over the country gathered in-person in New Orleans, LA at Higgins Hotel & Conference Center. **Dr. Karen P. West** addressed the audience with Keynote: “Characterizing, Communicating and Cultivating Dental Residents and Post Graduate Students” — leading off a series of Continuing Education course presentations totaling 11 credit hours over the 2-day conference. Some of the main topics she discussed were the challenges

postdoctoral faculty face in the current environment, and how generational characteristics of dental school graduates may impact communication within the residency program and affect teaching methodologies..

*NYU Langone Hospitals has demonstrated compliance with ADA CERP standards and procedures with no findings.*

### OFFICE OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Graduate Medical Education (GME) office is committed to supporting residents and program leadership through the onboarding process and as well as the academic year.

The GME Office also supports and guides programs through resident issues, disciplinary actions, leaves of absence, policy changes, and institutional requirements.

We are grateful to be part of the dental team, and will continue to partner with our programs to overcome any obstacle and show resilience that comes our way.

Contact us at: 212-263-5506, [gme.support@nyulangone.org](mailto:gme.support@nyulangone.org).

# RESEARCH NEWS

## THE RESEARCH OFFICE AT NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE

### Greetings from Tina C. Littlejohn, MSW, Research Program Coordinator



It is my distinct privilege to introduce the Research Office updates this year. Of course, our team members are integral to many of the ongoing grants and projects of the Department of Dental Medicine, so our contributions are celebrated throughout this publication. This year has been one of transition, growth, and accomplishment for the Research Office.

**Human Participant Protection.** As a part of their NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Program requirements, residents, and their faculty mentors conduct research and practice projects centered on patient care. Following strict rules set by the US Department of Health and Human Services and NYU Langone Health, all projects that involve people must undergo self-certification by the Project Directors (PDs) / Principal Investigators (PIs) with either of 2 NYU Grossman School of Medicine Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved forms or be submitted to the IRB for review and approval. I serve as the IRB-designated liaison between the dental residents and their faculty mentors in all 5 programs and the IRB staff for submission through to closure of all research studies. In this role, I strive to ensure that all research is executed as per good clinical practice, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements, and IRB and Hansjörg Wyss Department of Plastic Surgery expectations. Good communication and adherence to established policies and protocols better ensure that research participants are treated safely and that their rights, integrity, and confidentiality are protected.

### Welcome Melissa K. James, PhD, Research Program Manager.

Dr. Melissa K. James joins the Research Office at Family Health Centers at NYU Langone as the new Research Program Manager. In this role, she will provide research and project management support to the residents and faculty in all 5 of the NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs. Dr. James will also contribute to existing and planned externally funded projects led by the Department of Dental Medicine faculty and staff, and will meaningfully enhance the scientific writing and oral presentation portfolio of the research team. She has over 10 years of experience in biomedical research in both academic and healthcare settings. Dr. James will work closely with the leadership of NYU Langone Dental Medicine and report directly to **Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH**, Director of Dental Research and Research Associate Professor at NYU Langone Health. Please join us in welcoming Dr. James by contacting her at [Melissa.James2@nyulangone.org](mailto:Melissa.James2@nyulangone.org) or e-mailing the Research Office at [Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org](mailto:Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org). We look forward to collaborating with and learning from you.

MARY E. NORTHRIDGE, PHD, MPH,  
Director of Dental Research,  
Research Associate Professor



### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH is the PD/PI of a new award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) titled, *Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program* (grant # D8746111; total costs \$972,099).

Tina C. Littlejohn, MSW was honored to be nominated by **Raghibir Kaur, DMD, MPH, MS**, Associate Director of the Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry (AEPD) Program, and excited to receive the Research Support Award from the AEPD Program at their Year 2022 graduation. The award was bestowed in recognition of the contributions of Ms. Littlejohn in supporting the AEPD residents and faculty with the pre-review of their research protocols before formal IRB submission, including by providing them with detailed feedback and guidance regarding the standards for the IRB process. Finally, Ms. Littlejohn was selected to be a participant of the NYU Langone 2022 Team Member Leadership Development Program.

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The Research Office is happy to upload any publications forwarded to us in the apt Research and Practice folders maintained by program through the Graduate Dental Education portal available through the Inside Health homepage for NYU Langone employees and affiliates. Below is a selection of recent oral health and health care publications by our team members, residents, and colleagues.

Kaur R, Lieberman M, Mason MK, Dapkins IP, Gallager R, Hopkins K, Wu Y, Troxel AB, Rashwan A, Hope C, Kane DJ, Northridge ME. A feasibility and acceptability study of screening the parents/guardians of pediatric dental patients for the social determinants of health. *Pilot and Feasibility Studies*. 9(1):36, 2023. PMID: PMC9996555. Available at: <https://pilotfeasibilitystudies.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40814-023-01269-3>

Northridge ME, Weiserbs KF, Seyedzadeh Sabounchi S, Torroni A, Mohadjeri-Franck NS, Gargano S, George E, Littlejohn T, Troxel AB, Wu Y, Testa PA, Wismer J, Zaremba K, Tylawsky P, Bina B. A feasibility and acceptability study of using an intra-oral camera and an asynchronous tele-mentoring protocol to detect and identify oral lesions. *Journal of Public Health Research*. 11(3): 22799036221115778, 2022. PMID: PMC9445478. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9445478/>

Qi X, Northridge ME, Hu M, Wu B. Oral health conditions and COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the current evidence. *Aging and Health Research*. 2(1):100064, 2022. PMID: PMC8896863. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8896863/>

Zhang Q, Metcalf SS, Palmer HD, Northridge ME. Spatial analysis of Chinese American ethnic enclaves and community health indicators in New York City. *Frontiers in Public Health*. 10:815169, 2022. PMID: PMC8831844. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>

articles/PMC8831844/

Zhang Q, Metcalf SS, Palmer HD, Northridge ME. Developing an agent-based model of oral healthcare utilization by Chinese Americans in New York City. *Health & Place*. 73:102740, 2022. PMID: PMC8819704. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8819704/>

Kaur R, Shea A, Chopra J, Lee M, Northridge ME, Mason MK. Barriers and facilitators to dental care access for WIC Program participants. Improving the Quality of Patient Care Series. 2(1):1, 2022. Available at: [Quality Series Volume 2 Issue 1.pdf](#)

**In Closing.** We look forward to working alongside our colleagues, residents, faculty members, and staff as we continue to uplift and support our mission in service to our patients and communities across programs and geographic regions. Please reach out to us at [Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org](mailto:Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org) for research and practice support and [Dentalstats@nyulangone.org](mailto:Dentalstats@nyulangone.org) for statistical support.

#### DENTAL FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

NYU Langone Hospitals is pleased to announce a new Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP) recently awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide educational loan repayment to 5 qualifying full-time pediatric dentistry faculty in the Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry (AEPD) Program (grant # D87HP46111). The **program purpose** is to increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce by assisting dental and dental hygiene training programs to attract and retain dental and dental hygiene faculty through the operation of a loan repayment program. The **program goals** are to: 1) reduce the faculty burden of qualified educational debt payments; 2) encourage long-term employment in a dental academic setting; and 3) develop a mechanism for evidence-based evaluation to improve program performance and assess program impact. The **clinical priority** addressed by the program is health equity, as 5 pediatric dentistry faculty who are from rural or underserved backgrounds or underrepresented minorities will receive loan repayment preference. Nearly \$1 million was awarded by HRSA to cover the costs of educational loan disbursements over a 5-year period for 5 selected AEPD faculty. Development of the recruitment survey is underway and information on applying will be forthcoming. Please contact [Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org](mailto:Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org) for more information.

#### NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE RESEARCH FAIR

Dr. Martin Lieberman, NYU Langone Dental Medicine, Vice President of Graduate Dental Education, welcomed presenters, mentors, faculty, and staff during the 5th Annual Dental Medicine Research Fair held on Thursday, June 16, 2022. Congratulations to the following residents who were selected to present their research:

**AEGD: Abd Hammoudeh, DMD**

Mentor: Dale Manuel, DDS; and Horace Griffith, DDS  
Title: Creation of an Evidence-based Educational Brochure on Cannabis Use and its Effects on Periodontal Health for Patients at Frederiksted Health Care, USVI  
Site: Frederiksted Health Care, Inc., US Virgin Islands

**Dental Anesthesiology: Michael Aglietti, DMD**

Mentor: Charles D. Azzaretti, DDS  
Title: Awake Intubation and Identification of the Difficult Airway  
Site: Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, Brooklyn, NY

**Clinical Research Team: Aaron Shea, DDS; and Jasmine Chopra, DDS**

Mentor: Raghbir Kaur, DMD, MPH, MS; Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH; and Margaret K. Mason, DMD, MA  
Title: Barriers and Facilitators to Dental Care for Participants of the Women, Infants and Children Program at Family Health Centers at NYU Langone  
Site: Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, Brooklyn, NY

**Endodontics: Ilana Dashut, DDS; Allison Mark, DDS; and Tiffany Wang, DDS**

Mentor: Marc Kunin, DDS, MA  
Title: Factors Influencing Outcomes of Vital Pulp Therapy in a Hospital Dental Clinic  
Site: Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, Brooklyn, NY

**GPR: Kristen Watts, DDS; Mary Salama, DDS; Tonya Ozbeki, DDS; and Youn Ju Lee, DMD**

Mentor: Bethany P. Harris, DDS; and Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA  
Title: Rethink Your Drink  
Site: Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, Brooklyn, NY

**Pediatric Dentistry I: Naheed Ahmad, DMD**

Mentor: Fadra Whyte, DMD, MPH; and Wai-Yin Chan, DMD, MS, MPH  
Title: Comparison of Pressure, Formocresol, and MTA Pulpotomies in Primary Molars with or without Antimicrobial Irrigation at a California Community Health Center Dental Clinic  
Site: San Ysidro Health Center, San Diego, CA

**Pediatric Dentistry II: Laura Cantrell, DDS**

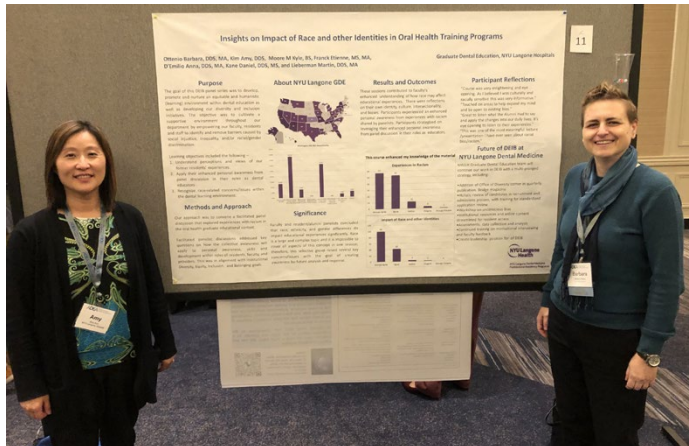
Mentor: James Singleton, DDS  
Title: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Pediatric Emergency Dental Clinic Visits  
Site: Southcentral Foundation Children's Dental Clinic, Anchorage, AK



# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## Insights on Impact of Race and other Identities in Oral Health Training Programs

Authors: Barbara Ottenio, DDS, MA, Amy Kim, DDS, Kyle M. Moore, BS, Etienne Franck, MS, MA, Anna D’Emilio, DDS, MA, Daniel Kane, DDS, MS, and Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA  
 Graduate Dental Education, NYU Langone Hospitals



**D**r. Barbara Ottenio, Director of Curriculum and Continuing Education, and Dr. Amy Kim, AEGD Associate Director, presented at the ADEA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Workshop Poster Session (ADEA DEIB) Conference on October 26, 2022, titled “Faculty and Resident/ Alumni Panels – Insights on Impact of Race and other Identities in Oral Health Training Programs.” This poster highlights and results are noted in the following:

### Purpose

The goal of this DEIB panel series was to develop, promote, and nurture an equitable and humanistic (learning) environment within dental education as well as developing our diversity and inclusion initiatives. The objective was to cultivate a supportive environment throughout our department by empowering our faculty, residents, and staff to identify and remove barriers caused by social injustice, inequality, and/or racial/gender discrimination.

Learning objectives included the following:

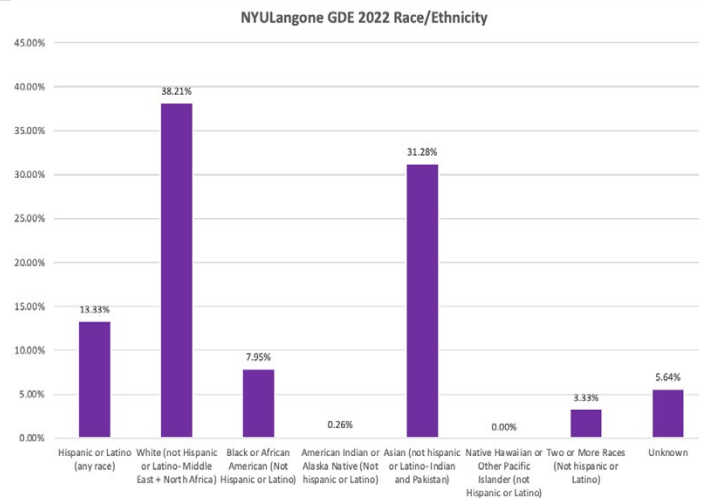
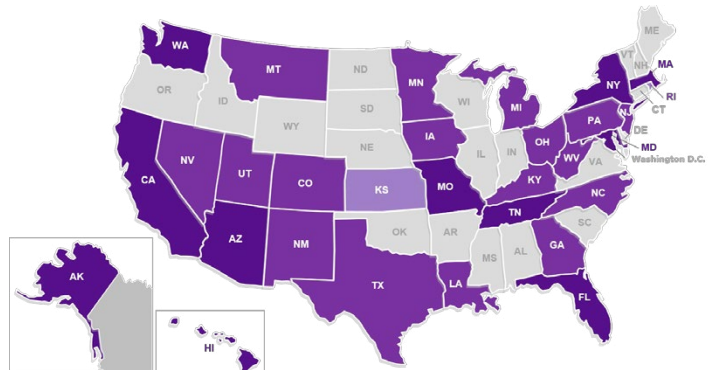
- Understand perceptions and views of our former residents’ experiences.
- Apply their enhanced personal awareness from panel discussion in their roles as dental educators.
- Recognize race-related concerns/issues within the dental learning environment.

### Methods and Approach

Our approach was to convene a facilitated panel discussion that explored experiences with racism in the oral health graduate educational context.

Facilitated panelist discussions addressed key questions on how the collective awareness will apply to personal awareness, skills and development within roles of residents, faculty, and providers. This was in alignment with institutional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging goals.

### About NYU Langone GDE



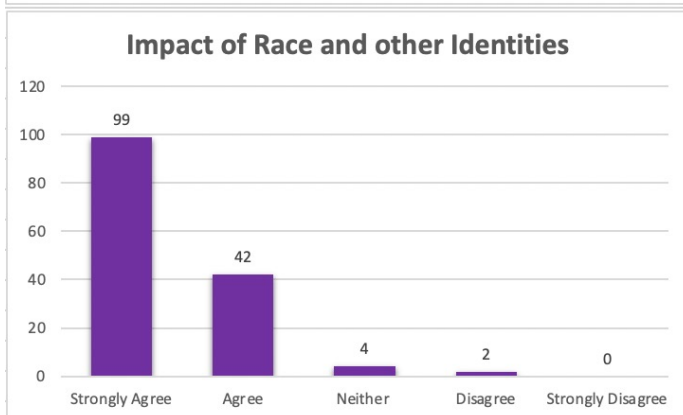
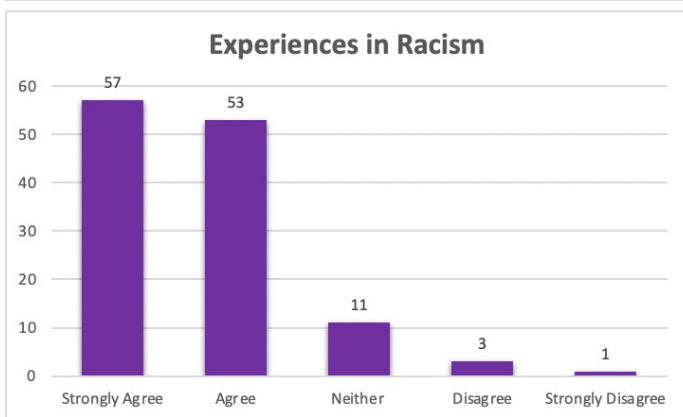
## Significance

Faculty and resident/alumni panelists concluded that race, ethnicity, and gender differences do impact educational experiences significantly. Race is a large and complex topic and it is impossible to cover all aspects of this concept in one session; therefore, this selective group raised several key concerns/ issues with the goal of creating awareness for future analysis and response.

## Results and Outcomes

These sessions contributed to faculty's enhanced understanding of how race may affect educational experiences. There were reflections on their own identity, culture, intersectionality, and biases. Participants experienced an enhanced personal awareness from experiences with racism shared by panelists. Participants strategized on leveraging their enhanced personal awareness from panel discussion in their roles as educators.

### This course enhanced my knowledge of the material



“

*This was one of the most meaningful lecture/presentation I have ever seen about racial bias/racism.”*

– Participant

## Participant Reflections

“Course was very enlightening and eye opening. As I believed I was culturally and racially sensitive this was very informative.”

“Touched on areas to help expand my mind and be open to existing bias.”

“Great to listen what the alumni had to say and apply the changes into our daily lives. It's eye opening to listen to their experiences.”

## Conclusions

Faculty and resident/alumni panelists concluded that race, ethnicity, and gender differences do impact educational experiences significantly. Race is a large and complex topic and it is impossible to cover all aspects of this concept in one session; therefore, this selective group raised several key concerns/ issues with the goal of creating awareness for future analysis and response.

## Future of DEIB at NYU Langone Dental Medicine

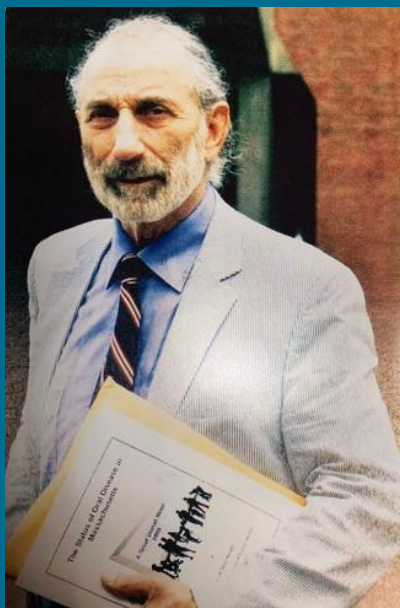
NYULH Graduate Dental Education team will continue our work in DEIB with a multi-pronged strategy, including:

- Addition of Office of Diversity corner in quarterly publication, Bridge magazine
- Holistic review of candidates in recruitment and admissions process, with training for standardized application review
- Workshop on unconscious bias
- Institutional resources and online content streamlined for resident and faculty access
- Assessments, data collection and analysis
- Continued training on motivational interviewing and faculty feedback
- Create leadership position for DEIB ■

For questions and more information on diversity and inclusion at NYU Langone Health, please contact [diversity@nyulangone.org](mailto:diversity@nyulangone.org).

## AWARDS & HONORS

### DR. MYRON ALLUKIAN, JR. HONORED WITH PAUL REVERE AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH



On November 7, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) announced that it has presented its highest honor, the Paul Revere Award for Lifetime Achievement, to **Myron Allukian, Jr., DDS, MPH**, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to public health. The award was presented last night at a reception as part of the American Public Health Association's 150th Anniversary Meeting and Expo in Boston. Dr. Allukian is a past President of both the Massachusetts Public Health Association and the American Public Health Association. He is the first dentist to receive the Paul Revere Award.

"Dr. Myron Allukian, Jr. has been a true luminary in the field of public health," said MPHA Executive Director Carlene Pavlos. "He has worked tirelessly throughout his professional life to advance the importance of oral health as a public health priority. Millions of Massachusetts residents, and millions in other states, have better oral health as a result of his leadership for community water fluoridation, a safe and effective public health measure."

"I am delighted to accept this honor from the Massachusetts Public Health Association," said Dr. Allukian. "The challenge of promoting community health and health equity – particularly when we take seriously the challenges faced by underserved populations, including people of color, people who are low income, or may not speak English, people with disabilities, and others – are complex and evolving. There is no magic pill. It takes commitment and the 3 Ps: patience, perseverance, and persistence. It also takes data so that we can better understand the challenges we face, and it takes education and organizing to build a vigorous, community-based constituency to make an impact on the health of a community."

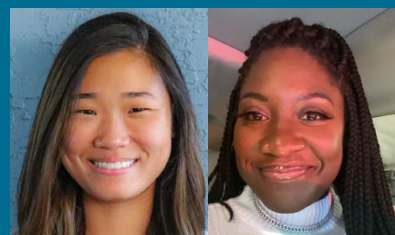
Dr. Allukian is a widely respected public health expert who served as Dental Director for the City of Boston for 34 years. He has worked in municipal, state, national, and international venues to advance the importance of oral health as a critical public health priority.

A Boston Latin School graduate, Dr. Allukian received his BS in Psychology from Tufts University, a DDS from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. He is also a Vietnam veteran, having served in the 3rd Marine Division during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Allukian is a faculty member at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Tufts University, and Boston University's School of Dental Medicine. He is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine and a Consultant to NYU Langone Health, Dental Medicine. He served as Chairman of the U.S. Surgeon General's Work Group on Fluoridation and Dental Health for the 1990 Prevention Objectives for the Nation, and the Dental Advisory Committees for Healthy People 2000, 2010, and 2020, as part of the development of the National Health Objectives. In addition, Dr. Allukian serves on the Executive Committee of the Oral Health Working Group within the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a nonprofit organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, community organizing, and coalition building. We are leaders in the movement to create health equity by addressing the root causes of health and wellness. We promote policies that impact the major drivers of health outcomes, such as access to healthy food, safe affordable housing, and transportation. We also advocate for equitable public health services throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit [www.mapublichealth.org](http://www.mapublichealth.org).

### DR. VERONICA BRANDLEY AND DR. KRISTINE OLADIPO RECEIVE ABPD 2021 PUGH AWARD



Congratulations to the 2021 Richard C. Pugh Achievement Award Recipients! This award honors the top 3% of scores on the 2021 Qualifying Examination.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine is proud to recognize and announce two 2021 Richard C. Pugh Recipients awarded by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (see link, <https://www.abpd.org/about-abpd/blog/congratulations-2021-pugh-awardees>).

**Veronica Brandley**, Glenside, PA | NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Pennsylvania

**Kristine Oladipo**, Upper Marlboro, MD | NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Maryland

Thank you for your hard work and for representing the program at the highest level.



## AWARDS & HONORS

### DR. MARC KUNIN AND DR. NATHALIE MOHADJERI INDUCTED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS



Congratulations to **Dr. Marc Kunin**, Endodontics Associate Director, and **Dr. Nathalie Mohadjeri**, Senior Director of Quality Management and Patient Care, on their recent induction into the International College of Dentists!

International College of Dentists-USA Section presented a local dental practitioner, Dr. Marc Kunin with a membership plaque, a gold lapel pin and an engraved gold key symbolic of this Fellowship for conspicuous service rendered in the art and science of Dentistry.

The International College of Dentists (ICD) is the preeminent honor society of the world's outstanding dentists involved in "Serving Others." The ICD is dedicated to the recognition of outstanding professional achievement, meritorious service and the continued progress in the profession of dentistry for the benefit of all humankind.

Dr. Marc Kunin, exemplifies the core values of integrity, leadership, and service and was inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists at its 88th Annual Convocation held on October 14, 2022.

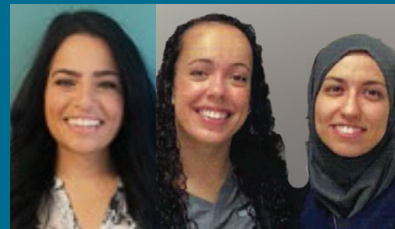
Over 335 dentists from the United States were inducted into the College at this year's ceremony. The College, with representative chapters in more than 123 countries, has over 12,000 members, including about 6,000 in the United States.

### DR. JUSTIN TULLIS AWARDED 2022 COLORADO SPRINGS TOP DENTIST



Alumnus **Dr. Justin Tullis**, of Southern Colorado Periodontics & Implants, has been named a winner of the "Colorado Springs Top Dentists (Periodontists)" award in recognition for providing top dental care to his community! Dr. Tullis completed an AEGD Residency with us at Jordan Valley Community Health Center from 2016-2017. <https://markets.financialcontent.com/stocks/article/marketersmedia-2022-9-2-periodontics-provider-awarded-2022-colorado-springs-top-dentist>

### DR. AMANDA EFFAT, DR. ABRAR AHMED, AND DR. AISHLEEN SCULLY RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE



Congratulations to Drs. Effat, Ahmed, and Scully! 3 Class of 2023 PEDS/CA residents, Doctors Amanda Effat, Abrar Ahmed, and Aishleen Scully have respectively been recognized as California Society Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD) resident-leaders as a "Warren Brandli Leadership Intern" and CSPD "Post-Doc Liaisons". They are exemplars of the program's culture of excellence and accountability! <https://www.nyulangonedental.org/news/2023-cspd-resident-leaders>

### DR. ALEXANDRA OTTO RECEIVES MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC VAN



**Dr. Alexandra Otto**, 2020 Pediatric Dentistry Alumna, and her private practice Kids Tooth Team, was chosen to receive one of St. David's Dental Programs' fleet of 9 mobile dental clinics. The donation, a mobile dental van is going to allow Dr. Otto to expand dental care to underserved children in Texas. Read the full story by American Dental Association at <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2021/november/van-donation-expands-access-to-care-for-underserved-children-in-lone-star-state>.

# AWARDS & HONORS

## DR. DOUGLAS CROSS AWARDED 2022 LDA HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Douglas Cross, Site Director of EXCELth, Inc. in New Orleans, LA who was awarded by The Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) with The 2022 LDA Humanitarian Award for his outstanding dental service activities in the USA or aboard.

Dr. Douglas Cross of New Orleans, LA, was named this year's recipient of the Humanitarian Award that was awarded during the 141st House of Delegates of the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) on April 9, 2022.

The LDA's Humanitarian Award recognizes dentists who have distinguished themselves through outstanding dental service activities in the United States or abroad. This dentist is selected because he/she embraces common moral decencies such as altruism, integrity, freedom, justice, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility, and compassion, he respects and embraces human diversity, and he works to improve the lives of those in need through selflessness, courageous, creative, and compassionate acts.

Dr. Cross has been a member of the LDA, the American Dental Association (ADA), and the New Orleans Dental Association (NODA) for 39 years and is very deserving of this award.

Serving the community has always been at the forefront of his 39-year dental career. He served as the dental triage lead for all 4 of Louisiana Mission of Mercy (LaMOM), providing free dental care to the underserved population of the state. He has been a committee member for numerous community events, including the Back-to-School Cavity Free Program. He is an active member of the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition, where he serves as the chairman of the policy and workforce committees. His leadership has been instrumental in improving access to oral health services in Louisiana.

For nine years, he has been serving as the dental director of EXCELth, Inc., where he works to improve the health of the underserved New Orleans communities by bringing high-quality, affordable primary care to everyone who needs it regardless of their ability to pay for services. He is also a clinical faculty member of NYU Langone and has worked to establish their first dental residency program in Louisiana.

After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Cross served his community by becoming a lead dentist for the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) and worked to rebuild the health department clinics and mobile units. He was successful in being the first clinic to restore low-cost dental services to the city, specifically for the elderly and less fortunate.

He is married to Patricia Cross.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 BOARD CERTIFIED DIPLOMATES



Congratulations to The American Board of Pediatric Dentistry 2022 Board Certified Diplomates. Fifty-six of the pediatric dentists who achieved board certification in 2022 are graduates of our NYU Langone Dental Medicine Pediatric Dentistry Program.

- Alexander Akbari
- Morgan Barron
- Tyler Beninati
- Abby Boschert
- Veronica Brandley
- Joshua Bullock
- Summer Ceraolo-O'Donnell
- Jeffrey Chang
- Ji Ni Chung
- Elena Ciciolla
- Kelsey Coria
- Joseph Cucolo
- Roseann Dameron
- Matthew Davidson
- Allison Davis
- Joseph DiBenedetto
- Christopher Fall
- Margaret Floor
- Victoria Gill
- Daniel Gonzalez
- Erin Guttormson
- Emily Johnson
- Tara Johnson
- Scott Kennel
- Amrita Khemka
- Scarlet Kim
- Kevin King
- Catherine Kolasny
- Nikita Kuppanda
- Kolby Lance
- Hayley Lofquist
- Blake McDonald
- Kyim Mung
- Ariel Murray
- Kristine Oladipo
- Matthew Parisek
- Davina Patel
- Leslie Pence
- Therese Pham
- Alex Piedra
- Stephen Prieve
- Richa Rashmi
- Harold Robinson
- Benjamin Robinson
- Muhammed Saif
- Matthew Scribbins
- Sakshi Sharma
- Chelsea Shellhart
- Nancy Singh
- Alexander Snyder
- Marc Soelberg
- Jacqueline St. Pierre
- Cynthia Thomas
- Tate Trujillo
- Jennifer Wilson
- Stephanie Woolsey

# PRESENTATIONS • PUBLICATIONS

## DR. MARTIN LIEBERMAN AND DR. AMY KIM PRESENT POSTER



Dr. Martin Lieberman, Vice President, Graduate Dental Education and Dr. Amy Kim, Associate Director, AEGD, presented their poster, “Academia and Community Health Partnerships – A Model for Access to Oral Health Care in Underserved Communities” at ADEA Annual Session 2022 (March) in Philadelphia!

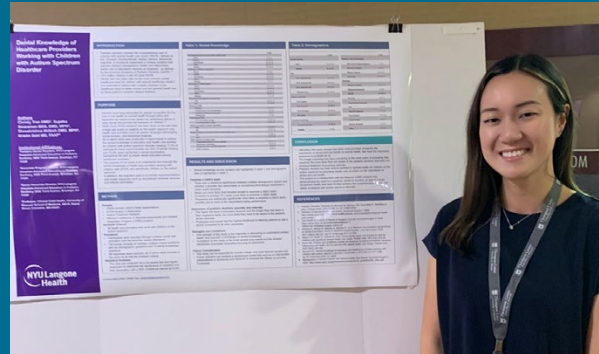
## DR. MARTIN LIEBERMAN AND DR. AMY KIM PRESENT AT ADEA

Dr. Martin Lieberman, Vice President, Graduate Dental Education and Dr. Amy Kim, Associate Director, AEGD, gave a successful joint presentation at the ADEA BFAA meeting on October 24th, titled “Innovations in Methodology and Delivery for Effective and Equitable Training”.

The presentation focused on an innovative method for delivery of training that applies to multiple audiences, including students/residents, staff, and faculty. They presented on use of the Virtual Objective Structured Clinical Examination (V-OSCE). The traditional OSCE model for learning was adapted and made more accessible through a virtual platform delivery vehicle. Training was provided beforehand to moderators, and standardized participants (actors) were used for engaging faculty in an interactive training session designed to train them to better manage challenging resident scenarios and provide appropriate feedback.

Learning Objectives: Identify learning priorities and needs of institution / department. Discuss examples of use of training and calibration tool. Recognize possible uses for a tailored V-OSCE training approach to meet specific needs of institution / department.

## DR. CHRISTY TRAN RESEARCH POSTER SELECTED AT ANNUAL THOMPSON CENTER AUTISM CONFERENCE



PGY-2 Pediatric Dentistry Resident, Dr. Christy Tran had her research poster selected for the 16th Annual Thompson Center Autism Conference on October 14, 2021.

“Dental Knowledge of Healthcare Providers Working with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder” with Christy Tran DMD, Sujatha Sivaraman BDS, DMD, MPH, Shreekrishna Akilesh DMD, MPH, Kristin Sohl MD, FAAP.

The purpose of the study is to understand and evaluate the dental knowledge providers such as SLPs, PTs, pediatricians, psychiatrists, and other health care providers working with children with special health care needs to help increase access to care and provide recommendations and create resources such as educational materials, lectures, and referral information.

Our conclusion: This project in collaboration with the LEND Program of Columbia, Missouri, demonstrates the need for a pediatric dentist functioning as part of a multi-disciplinary health care team to help meet the comprehensive health care needs of patients with autism spectrum disorder, as well as educate healthcare providers on the importance of oral health.

## DR. DAVID REZNIK SPEAKS ON ORAL HEALTH CARE AT WORLD AIDS DAY

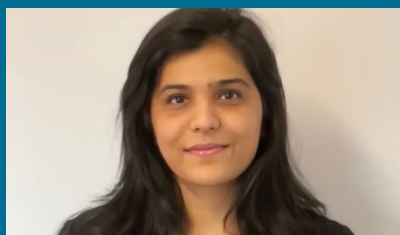


At World AIDS Day, Dr. David Reznik, NYU Langone Dental Medicine AEGD Associate Director, and HIV Dental Alliance President and Founder, discussed oral health care for HIV patients with Maria Ryan, Colgate’s Chief Clinical Officer.



# NEW APPOINTMENTS

*NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs welcomed the following individuals to our team in 2022*



**Chandni Pipaliya**  
*Project Manager*

NYU Langone Health Dental Medicine would like to welcome our new member, Chandni Pipaliya, Project Manager!

Prior to joining NYU Langone Hospitals, Chandni was a Business Analyst for the Centers Plan for Health Living, a managed long-term care plan for New York. She also worked as an Intake Coordinator Supervisor and as a Business Planning Analyst. She received her Bachelor's in Dental Surgery, after which she completed a Master's in Healthcare Administration and a Master's in Project Management.

In her new role as Project Manager, Chandni will coordinate, plan, implement, and finalize projects. She will be responsible for providing a wide variety of support to Graduate Dental Education (GDE) while supervising a team of Program Coordinators. Her other essential responsibilities include onboarding and life cycle management for trainees and quality improvement activities.

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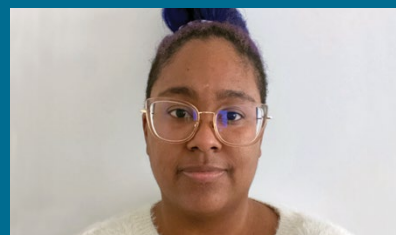


**Dr. Melissa K. James**  
*Research Program Manager*

Dr. Melissa K. James joins the Research Office at Family Health Centers at NYU Langone as the new Research Program Manager. In this role, she will provide research and project management support to the residents and faculty in all five of the NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs. Dr. James will also contribute to existing and planned externally funded projects led by the Department of Dental Medicine faculty and staff and meaningfully enhance the scientific writing and oral presentation portfolio of the research team. She has over 10 years of experience in biomedical research in both academic and healthcare settings. Dr. James will work closely with the leadership of NYU Langone Dental Medicine and report directly to Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH, Director of Dental Research and Research Associate Professor at NYU Langone Health.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. James by contacting her at [Melissa.James@nyulangone.org](mailto:Melissa.James@nyulangone.org) or e-mailing the Research Office at [Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org](mailto:Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org).

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**Adrienne Scott, MS**  
*Grants Specialist Department of Dental Medicine*

Ms. Scott joins the Department of Dental Medicine at Family Health Centers at NYU Langone in the newly created position of Grants Specialist. In this role, she will provide grant and project management support to Margaret K. Mason, DMD, MA, Vice President and Senior Administrator of Dental Medicine. Ms. Scott will contribute to existing and plan externally funded projects led by the department while also meaningfully enhance the financial management and requisite report submissions to funding agencies and foundations. She has over 6 years of experience in grant and project management positions at the Legal Aid Society and Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, both of which are broadly relevant to our patient population and efforts to address the social determinants of health. Ms. Scott will work closely with the leadership of NYU Langone Dental Medicine and collaborate directly with Eliot George, MBA, Director of Business Operations for the Department of Dental Medicine and Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH, Director of Dental Research, in leveling up our pre- and post-award activities and expanding our efforts to promote oral health equity and improve patient satisfaction.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Scott by contacting her at [Adrienne.Scott@nyulangone.org](mailto:Adrienne.Scott@nyulangone.org) or e-mailing the Research Office at [Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org](mailto:Dentalresearch@nyulangone.org). Thanks for enhancing our mission with your talents and skills.

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## NEW APPOINTMENTS



### **Dr. Candice White**

*Associate Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Southern CA*

Dr. Candice White has joined NYU Langone Dental Medicine as an Associate Director for the AEGD Program. Based out of Southern California. She will have oversight of the regions of California and Southern Arizona. Dr. White received her dental training in Johannesburg, South Africa. She owned and managed a large group practice for 12 years before relocating to the United States. She continued her studies with the University of Cape Town where she received an MBA in 2016. Dr. White previously spent 4 years as a Dental Director with NYU Langone and brings 16 years of clinical and management experience to her new role.

In her new role as Associate Director in our AEGD Program, she will be managing and working with a cohort of residents as they work towards obtaining their certificate in the AEGD Program, and will be taking part in the recruitment of new residents and sites in her region - Southern California. She's responsible for the overall program management of the training sites, which includes overseeing their compliance with NYU Langone and CODA standards.

Dr. White co-authored "Advancing women, parity and gender equity", an article that formed part of ADEA's *Journal of Dental Education* special edition that focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jdd.13018>

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### **Dr. Sheila Y. Chang**

*Associate Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, KY/MI/MN/MO/OH/TN*

NYU Langone Health Dental Medicine would like to welcome a new faculty member, Dr. Sheila Y. Chang, AEGD Associate Director, KY/MI/MN/MO/OH/TN regions!

Prior to joining NYU Langone, Dr. Chang spent most of her dental career practicing in a community dentistry outreach program with a focus on children in underserved areas of Michigan. She completed a General Practice Residency Program at University of Illinois / Michael Reese Hospital and obtained her Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine.

In her new role as Associate Director in our AEGD Program, she will be managing and working with a cohort of residents as they work towards obtaining their certificate in the AEGD Program, and will be taking part in the recruitment of new residents and sites in her region - KY/MI/MN/MO/OH/TN. She's responsible for the overall program management of the training sites, which includes overseeing their compliance with NYU Langone and CODA standards.

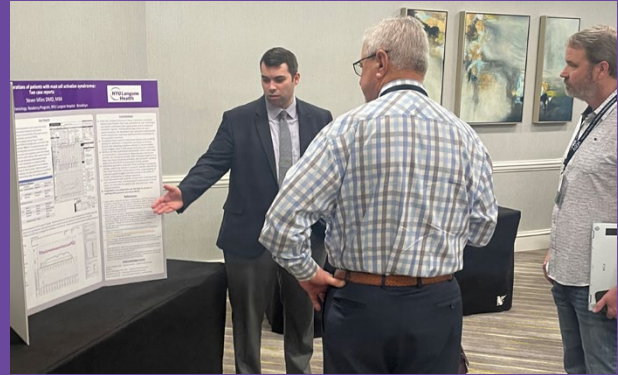
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# MEETINGS & EVENTS

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGISTS CONFERENCE



NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Dental Anesthesiology Program attended the annual American Society of Dental Anesthesiologists Conference on April 28-30, 2022.



Additionally, PGY2 residents **Dr. Steven Miles** and **Dr. Michael Aglietti** had their poster presentation and podium presentation, representing NYU Langone Dental Medicine.



“The meeting was successful, productive and a reaffirmation of the ties that bind us. NYU Langon Dental Anesthesiology Program residents, attendings, and alumni joined together for several days and nights of education and camaraderie,” said **Dr. Charles Azzaretti**, Dental Anesthesiology Program Director (center).

At the meeting, **Dr. Kenneth Reed**, Dental Anesthesiology Associate Director, gave a lecture titled: “Demystifying Parliamentary Procedure - Be More Effective In Meetings Today.”



The group also attended a dinner at Silom Thai & Sushi hosted by the Dental Anesthesiology program.



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY ADVOCACY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON DC



NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Program was represented at the AAPD Advocacy Conference held in Washington DC from March 13-16, 2022.



Faculty and Residents from across the country lobbied for Title VII funding for pediatric dentistry. Title VII would make pediatric dentistry tax exempt, support for coverage for congenital abnormalities, and ask CMS to add specific dental codes for operating rooms and surgery centers.

The event exemplified the importance and need to advocate for pediatric oral health. Residents also gathered for a NYU Langone sponsored dinner.

### ANNUAL AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENDODONTISTS CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX, AZ



NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Endodontics team of faculty and residents out in Phoenix, AZ for their annual American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Conference in April 2022.

### CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY / WESTERN SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY ANNUAL MEETING IN SCOTTSDALE, AZ



NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Program gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona at the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry / Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD/WSPD) Annual Meeting on April 2, 2022.



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 HALLOWEEN THROW-DOWN HEALTH CENTER CHAMPIONS OF FACEBOOK!

NYU Langone Dental Medicine-PEDS training site and the PEDS alumni practice with the most "Likes" recorded by 8pm (ET) November 1st, are declared the "winner" of the NYU Langone Dental Medicine-PEDS Halloween Throw-Down and win "bragging" rights in their respective category for one year. This is a friendly competition and we always look forward to health centers sharing their creative ideas through photos and/or videos. Congratulations to NYU Langone Dental Medicine Pediatric Dentistry- Columbia Missouri dressed as characters from Encanto!

Missouri - Columbia | Encanto ▶

From left to right: Jaskaran B., Soumya I., Matthew F, Sujatha S., Amanda P., Arik A., Anita J., Ambica M., Kristal R., Judy N.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 HALLOWEEN THROW-DOWN CHAMPIONS OF INSTAGRAM

New York - Brooklyn | Encanto ▼

From left to right: Manuela (Delores- orange dress; assistant), Matthew F. (Dad-blue suit; PGY-1), Patricia (Pepa-Yellow dress; Assistant), Jessica L. (Bruno-Green pullover; PGY-1), Julian P. (Antonio-Orange shirt; PGY-1), Saida (cheetah- yellow; assistant), James S. (Mariano Guzman-white shirt; PGY-2), Hilary (black bear; Assistant), Liana A. (Maribel; PGY-1), John C. (Bruno-green pullover; attending), Jenny L. (Abuela - purple; PGY-1), Nicholas E. (Candle; PGY-1), Thucdan N. (Isabella -purple dress; PGY-2), Anny (Face paint, Black shirt; assistant), Carolina (Face paint, Coral shirt; assistant)





# 2022 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Residents, faculty, staff, and leadership from five postdoctoral dental residency programs recognized graduates at Brooklyn's Graduation Celebration held in June 2022.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE, GPR-BROOKLYN GRADUATES



GPR Residents and Attendings gathered together to celebrate. Three awards were presented during their graduation celebration.

- ① *Residents of the Year:*  
Dr. Ami Desai and Dr. Nazli Abhari with PD Dr. Babak Bina
- ② *Anthony DiMango Award:*  
Dr. Ihan Chou, Dr. Mary Salama with PD Dr. Babak Bina
- ③ *Attendings of the Year:*  
Dr. Siyan Lin stands with Dr. Omar Saurez



## CONGRATULATIONS TO NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE, ENDODONTICS GRADUATES



NYU Langone Dental Medicine Endodontic Program - Brooklyn graduates, faculty, and residents gathered to celebrate on Monday, July 11, 2022. Congratulations on an amazing 2 years with the program- can't wait to see what's in store for your futures!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ENDODONTICS GRADUATES IN PUERTO RICO



Drs. Joanna McPherson, Karina Leiva-Lopez, and Karimar Rosa Diaz pictured with faculty, Dr. Francisco Ramirez and Dr. Evelyn Abreu



# 2022 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Congratulations to all our Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD)  
Class of 2022 graduates—across the nation.

We held our virtual celebratory graduation on Friday, June 17, 2022.

**A message to all our graduates from Vice President  
and Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Program Director, Dr. Anna D’Emilio:**

“All of you residents have been symbolic in your own way of professionalism, competency, compassion, and caregiving. I hope that you’ll all value and maintain a long lasting relationship with your peers, colleagues, faculty, and with the program as alumni. I’m very proud that you chose our program to further your professional career and all that you’ve achieved in one short, fast-moving year to hopefully carry on the legacy and mission of our program. I’m even more proud that you’ll continue on your pathway to success and broaden your horizons. So, congratulations and best wishes to the AEGD Residents, Graduating Class of 2022!”

**NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE, AEGD GRADUATES**



NYU Langone Dental Medicine AEGD Program - Brooklyn graduates, staff, and faculty gathered together to celebrate.

Congratulations to all our Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry  
Class of 2022 graduates—across the nation.

We held our virtual celebratory graduation on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

**A message from Advanced Education in Pediatric  
Dentistry Program Director, Dr. Daniel Kane:**

“I want to extend my congratulations to all the members of this class as they move forward to the next stage of their dental careers in Pediatric Dentistry.

Their adaptability and resilience had been phenomenal. I’m confident the qualities they have demonstrated during their training will continue to support their ongoing success.

I trust you will always carry the heart, the mission, and the essence of NYU Langone with you for the rest of your lives.”



Congratulations to **Yu Jeong Kim, DDS**, NYU Langone Dental Medicine Pediatric Dentistry Program—Sunset Park Family Health Center site. Dr. Kim is the recipient of the 2022 Dr. Silvia Perez-Spiess Award, given annually to a graduating resident in recognition of excellence in patient care and advocacy.

# 2022 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Congratulations to all our Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD)  
Class of 2022 graduates—across the nation.

ARIZONA - EL RIO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



MARYLAND - CHOPTANK COMMUNITY HEALTH



COLORADO - SALUD FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS



MASSACHUSETTS - WHITTIER STREET HEALTH CENTER



HAWAII - BAY CLINIC INC.



OHIO - FAMILY TREE DENTAL, MARIETTA





NYU Langone Dental Medicine  
Postdoctoral Residency Programs

# FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Two days of networking, leadership development,  
team building, education, and fun.

December 5-6, 2022



Faculty from all over the country gathered in-person for the first time since 2019 in New Orleans, LA at Higgins Hotel & Conference Center.

**Dr. Gary E. Kalkut**, Senior Vice President, Network Integration Associate Chief Clinical Officer welcomed everyone to the conference along with **Dr. Martin Lieberman**, Vice President, Graduate Dental Education, remarking “The goal of our Faculty Development Conference is for us to gain insight and knowledge from our own faculty experts, as well as national leaders in the field about topics that are relevant to the work we do.”

Following morning registration and an enthusiastic welcoming, faculty, regional and associate directors took to their seats. Dr. Karen P. West addressed the general audience with Keynote: “Characterizing, Communicating and Cultivating Dental Residents and Post Graduate Students” — leading off a series of Continuing Education (CE) course presentations totaling 11 credit hours over the 2-day conference.

**Congratulations to James Rodriguez, DDS, Dental Director, and Amy Kim, DDS, Associate Director, AEGD, recipients of The Demby Award** for leadership, innovation, vision, and compassion. The award was presented by **Drs. Margaret Mason and Martin Lieberman**. **Dr. Neal Demby**, former Senior Advisor for Graduate Dental Education whom the award is named after, was posthumously celebrated during the awards dinner ceremony at Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, World War II Museum.





Courses and Presenters



**Keynote: Characterizing, Communicating and Cultivating Dental Residents and Post Graduate Students**  
Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.



**208 Seconds: Medical Emergencies**  
Kenneth L. Reed, DMD



**Inclusive Teaching Strategies in Dental Residency Education**  
Carlos Stringer Smith, DDS, M.Div., F.A.C.D.



**Motivational Interviewing for Oral Health Professionals**  
Matthew Allen, DDS



**Influencing Factors on Associations of Student Self-Assessment Skills and Performance in Operative Dentistry**  
Hiroe Ohyama, DDS, MMSc, PhD, DMD



**Standard of Care and the Dental Implant**  
D. Kevin Moore, DDS  
**PANELISTS:** Dr. Tumouh Al-Allaq, Dr. Carmela Ambrosio, Dr. Betzanahy Leyva, Dr. Quynh Nguyen, Dr. Todd Shatkin



**Professional Well-being: Barriers and Approaches**  
Annie Robinson, MS, CHWC



**NYU LANGONE HOSPITALS** designates this activity for 11 hours of continuing education credits. NYU Langone Hospitals Division of Dental Medicine, Continuing Dental Education is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. This continuing education activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the standards of the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP). ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry.

ADA CERP provider contact: Dr. Barbara M. Ottenio, Director of Curriculum and Continuing Education, [BarbaraM.Ottenio@nyulangone.org](mailto:BarbaraM.Ottenio@nyulangone.org)



# NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE

## LEADERSHIP

### **Gary E. Kalkut, MD, MPH**

Senior Vice President for Network Integration  
Associate Chief Clinical Officer

### **Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA**

Vice President, Graduate Dental Education

### **Margaret Mason, DMD, MA**

Vice President and Senior Administrator

### **Anna D'Emilio, DDS, MA, F-PFA, FICD**

Vice President & Program Director,  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD)

### **Charles D. Azzaretti, DDS**

Program Director, Dental Anesthesiology

### **Babak Bina, DMD**

Program Director, General Practice Residency (GPR)

### **Robert Goldberger, DDS**

Program Director, Endodontics

### **Daniel Kane, DMD, MA**

Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry

### **Nathalie Mohadjeri-Franck, DMD, MA**

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### **Shreekrishna Akilesh, DMD, MPH**

Senior Associate Director, Pediatric Dentistry

### **David Okuji, DDS, MBA, MS**

Senior Associate Director, Extramural & Special Projects

### **Linda Kotmel, DDS**

AEGD Senior Associate Director  
Eastern Zone

### **Calix Ramos-Rodriguez, DMD**

AEGD Senior Associate Director  
Western Zone

## Learn More

For more information about the doctors and programs featured in this issue, please visit [www.nyulangonedental.org](http://www.nyulangonedental.org) or email [dentalresidency@nyulangone.org](mailto:dentalresidency@nyulangone.org).

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# A Heartfelt Experience with Resident Ayush Mathur, DDS Through the Eyes of a Patient

**Dr. Ayush Mathur** is currently a GPR resident at NYU Langone Family Health Center Park Slope. Dr. Mathur feels privileged to be in the field of dentistry. The dental team creates a bond with whomever they are taking care of.



"We all work together at the Family Health Center. It's a team approach and we deliver the best care possible," stated **Luzmarina Coffey, DDS**, Dental Director. **Dr. Margaret Mason**, VP and Senior Administrator, shared that Dr. Mathur provided Mr. Martinez with a life-changing experience. His care for this patient transcends satisfactory and lands directly on excellence. One of our key results/values is that we care for our patients as individuals. It is clear that Dr. Mathur "saw" Mr. Martinez and he will never forget that.

Mr. Martinez is a patient of Dr. Mathur and has had an inspiring journey of dental care, in which he agreed to share as part of Dr. Mathur's residency experience. Prior to receiving care from Dr. Mathur, Mr. Martinez had to overcome some challenges in order to take care of his teeth. Feeling a bit discouraged and thinking he could never smile again, there was a glimmer of hope when he met Dr. Mathur. Mr. Martinez instantly felt a level of trust and comfort with Dr. Mathur. "Dr. Mathur looked at me as a human, and not just a patient, and I was grateful for that. They engaged in conversations with me to make me feel comfortable. Since I was missing my two front teeth, I have never seen myself smile for so long and felt embarrassed talking to people. I had to cover my face when talking to people or look down at the floor. Now, I don't have a reason to hide my smile anymore. I am grateful for the staff that made sure everything went smoothly and feel like I am part of their family." Mr. Martinez created a special bond with Dr. Mathur and hopes that he can be a mentor or inspiration for other patients that may have gone through the challenges he endured early on. ■









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**TO SERVE, TO TEACH, AND TO DISCOVER**

