

NYU Langone Dental Medicine
Postdoctoral Residency Programs



SPECIAL EDITION

THE BRIDGE

Issue 14, Journal 1 • April 2025

50

Innovation
through the
years



NYU LANGONE DENTAL MEDICINE
POSTDOCTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Our Mission

To serve, to teach, and to discover

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:

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce and celebrate a remarkable journey through the pages of this year's edition of *The Bridge*. Our focus this year is dedicated to the history and legacy of NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Postdoctoral Residency programs.

As we reflect on our history, we can see how far we've come in shaping the future of dental medicine, education, and patient care. Our Postdoctoral Residency programs have been instrumental in this journey, training some of the finest dental professionals in the field. With each passing year, our commitment to excellence and innovation has only grown stronger, setting a high standard for dental education and practice.

In the pages of *The Bridge*, you will find stories of dedication, perseverance, and the pursuit of knowledge. We will walk through our timeline of history, revisiting the milestones and accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, and students. Their collective efforts have contributed significantly to the oral health and well-being of countless individuals.

I am deeply grateful to everyone, past and present, who has contributed to making our Postdoctoral Residency programs a model of excellence. I invite you to explore this issue for *The Bridge*, highlighting the history of our programs, with the same pride and enthusiasm that I feel.

Thank you for being a part of our NYU Langone family, and I look forward to continuing our journey towards excellence in dental medicine and education.

Sincerely,

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

Gary E. Kalkut, MD, MPH

Senior Vice President, Network Integration
Associate Chief Clinical Officer



Celebrating **50 Years of Excellence** in NYU Langone's Dental Residency Programs

As we mark the **50th anniversary** of NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Postdoctoral Training Programs, it's remarkable to reflect on how far we've come. Over the past five decades, we have consistently upheld our mission: "to serve, to teach, and to discover." This guiding principle has shaped the evolution of our programs and the lives of the countless residents, faculty, and patients who have been part of our journey.

What began in 1974 as a small residency initiative, thanks to the vision of Dr. Neal Demby, has since grown into one of the largest programs in the country, training more than 400 residents annually at health centers and community service programs across the United States. Through your dedication, we continue to provide essential care to underserved populations, while also preparing future practitioners who are deeply committed to healthcare equity and capable of treating both medically and orally complex cases.

This issue of *The Bridge* is a special celebration of those who laid the foundation of our programs, as well as those who continue to build upon that legacy today. Their dedication and contributions have been instrumental in making our programs what they are, and we are proud to honor their efforts.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine has become a vital workforce pipeline for safety-net clinics nationwide, with many of our residents going on to work at the very centers where they've trained. Our program's success is built on this strong foundation of service, education, and clinical excellence.

As we celebrate this milestone, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you—residents, faculty, patients, and staff—who have contributed to our legacy of innovation and care. While there are challenges ahead, I look forward to continuing to advance our programs and deliver the highest quality care to those who need it most.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Martin Lieberman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA

Vice President, Graduate Dental Education

MESSAGE FROM DR. MARGARET MASON
VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR,
DENTAL MEDICINE



Shaping the Future of Dentistry: The Legacy of Visionary Leaders in Residency Programs

The residency programs in dentistry at NYU Langone have undergone remarkable evolution over the years, thanks to the visionary leadership of influential figures who recognized their pivotal role in shaping the future of dental care. Among these leaders are [Dr. Neal A. Demby](#), [Dr. Anthony DiMango](#), and [Dr. Silvia Perez](#), whose dedication, expertise, and foresight have left an everlasting mark on the field. In this edition of *The Bridge*, we delve into their contributions and the profound impact they have had on residency programs and dental education.

Dr. Neal A. Demby: A Visionary Pioneer

Dr. Neal Demby's visionary approach to residency programs revolutionized the landscape of dentistry. Recognizing residents as the future workforce, he championed the development of specialized programs attractive to federally qualified health centers and aspiring attendings. Dr. Demby's strategic planning laid the foundation for comprehensive patient care and ensured a robust pipeline of dental professionals. His legacy lives on in the expansion of specialized programs into various specialties like pediatrics and periodontics, driven by his unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dr. Anthony DiMango: A Mentor and Trailblazer

Dr. Anthony DiMango's impact on oral surgery residency programs transcended mere mentorship; it embodied dedication, expertise, and compassion. Residents revered Dr. DiMango for his hands-on approach, treating them as equals and guiding them through challenging procedures. His legacy endures through the countless residents he mentored, instilling confidence and professionalism in each generation of dental professionals.

Dr. Silvia Perez: Fostering Excellence and Empathy

Dr. Silvia Perez's holistic approach to patient care and education epitomized excellence and empathy. Prioritizing fairness and support, she ensured residents received comprehensive training while fostering a nurturing learning environment. Dr. Perez's commitment to excellence and humanity left an unforgettable mark on the residency program, inspiring countless dental professionals to embody compassion and dedication in their practice.

Continuing Evolution: Integrating Innovation and Technology

The evolution of residency programs continues, fueled by a relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation. Integration of technology and data-driven approaches has enhanced program effectiveness, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation to changing needs. Leaders like Dr. Demby, Dr. DiMango, and Dr. Perez laid the groundwork for this ongoing evolution, leaving behind a legacy that continues to shape the future of dentistry.

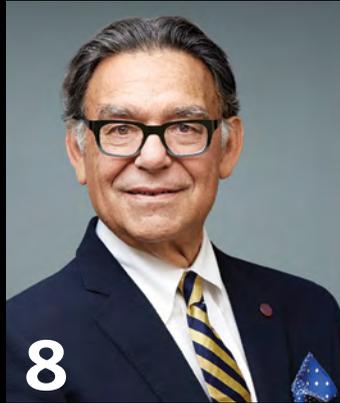
The **legacy** of visionary leaders in residency programs like Dr. Demby, Dr. DiMango, and Dr. Perez serves as a guiding beacon for future generations of dental professionals. Their dedication to patient care, education, and innovation has transformed the landscape of dentistry and inspired countless individuals to pursue excellence in their practice. As the field continues to evolve, their legacies will undoubtedly endure, leaving an indelible mark on the future of dental education and patient care.

Margaret Mason, DMD, MA

Vice President and Senior Administrator,
Dental Medicine

Table of Contents

Foundation



Dr. Neal A. Demby†



Dr. Silvia Perez†

Leadership



Dr. Larry McReynolds

12 Dr. Bernard Tolpin

13 Dr. Susan Dietrich

20 Dr. Anthony DiMango

Milestones

16 General Practice Residency / GPR

22 Advanced Education in General Dentistry / AEGD

30 Pediatric Dentistry

36 Endodontics

42 Dental Anesthesiology

48 Dental Medicine Curriculum

54 The Research Office

14 Dr. Martin Lieberman

15 Dr. Margaret Mason

18 Dr. Babak Bina

26 Dr. Anna D'Emilio

32 Dr. Daniel Kane

38 Dr. Marc Kunin

44 Dr. Charles D. Azzaretti

49 Dr. Barbara Ottenio

52 Dr. Philip J. Rinaudo

55 Dr. Mary Northridge

Our Rankings & Honors



Five-Star Quality Rating
by the Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid
Services (CMS)



**Thirteen Specialties
Ranked In the Top 20**
by *U.S. News &
World Report*



Magnet Designation
The Only Health System*
in New York to Earn
Magnet® Recognition
Across All Its Hospitals



**Grade A Leapfrog
Hospital Safety Grade**
Straight A's for Safety
at Our Hospitals in
Manhattan, Brooklyn,
and Long Island

*Refers to multi-specialty and
multi-site hospital organizations



**Vizient's Bernard A.
Birnbaum, MD, Quality
Leadership Award**
Ranked #1 out of 115
participating comprehensive
academic medical centers



The Gold Seal of Approval®
by The Joint Commission
Reflects a Commitment to
Continuous Improvement
and Delivering Safe, High-
Quality Care

Contents

- 21** Resident Story
Back to Where It All Began: A Resident's Unique Journey in Dentistry
- 34** Appointments
New Pediatric Dentistry Associate Directors
- 55** Commission On Dental Accreditation
Recent CODA Accreditations
- 56** Research Analysis
Triumph through Adversity: Inspiration from the Lived Experiences of Dental Faculty
- 58** Research
Could pursuing equity in oral health care lead to healthier communities?
- 60** Our Alumni turned Faculty
Drs. Rajesh Adhia, Linda Kotmel, Lynn Gargano
- 63** A Legacy of Smiles
Dr. Lynn Fujimoto Bids Farewell to NYU Langone Dental Medicine's AEPD Program in Hawaii
- 64** In Loving Memory
Dr. Ronald Scott Toepke
- 66** Getting to Know
Our Program Coordinators
- 67** Faculty Development Highlights
- 68** Graduation Highlights
- 69** Leadership & Credits

Milestones

1975

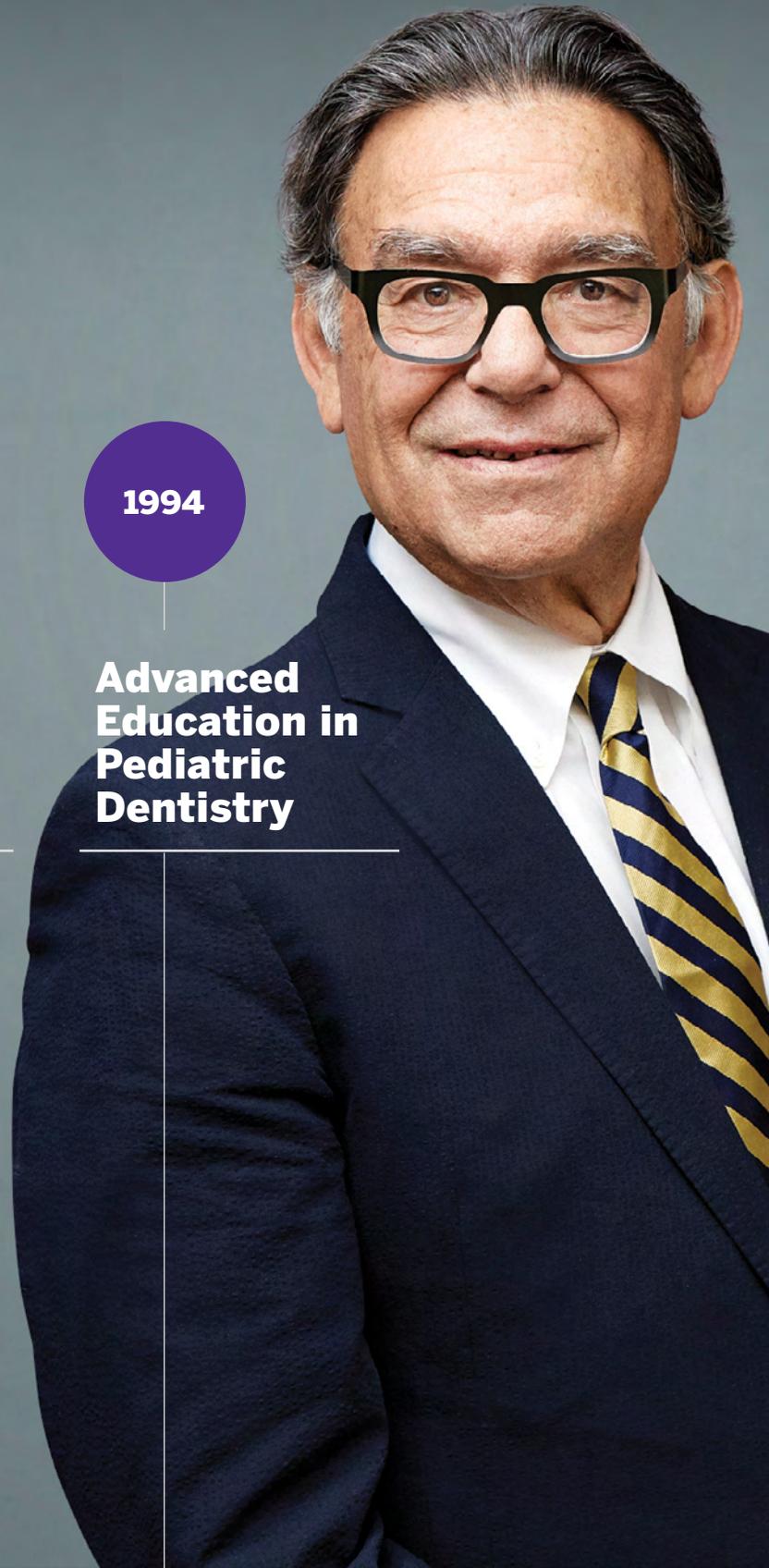
**General
Practice
Residency**

1988

**Advanced
Education in
General
Dentistry**

1994

**Advanced
Education in
Pediatric
Dentistry**



2005

**Advanced
Education in
Endodontics**

2008

**Advanced
Education in
Dental
Anesthesiology**

2015

**Lutheran Medical Center
merger with
NYU Langone Health**

2018

**Dental Research
Office**

Neal A. Demby, DMD, MPH, D-ABSCD

Past Senior Vice President and Past Senior Advisor for Graduate Dental Medicine
beg. 1969-2021

Specialty: Dentistry



Dr. Neal Demby, who began working in a community health center in 1969, devoted his career to improving the oral health of vulnerable populations at the local, state, and national levels.

In acknowledgement of the profound impact of the NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs, we pay tribute to the visionary

Dr. Neal A. Demby, a true trailblazer in the global dental community. Dr. Demby's pioneering approach was characterized by a dual focus on training dental residents and expanding access to affordable dental care. His concept of a "dental institution without walls" laid the groundwork for an extensive network of community-based dental residency programs, solidifying its status as the largest postgraduate dental program both nationally and globally.

Central to Dr. Demby's legacy is his revolutionary model of post-doctoral dental residency programs, which prioritized oral health equity. His steadfast commitment ensured that individuals facing financial hardships and marginalized communities in the United States and the Caribbean could access respectful and high-quality oral health care. Dr. Demby's impact is not limited to his professional achievements; we celebrate him for living his passion fully and for cultivating a sense of family among those he mentored, hired, and trained.



Dr. Demby's influence extends beyond individual lives, enriching the health and well-being of countless patients and colleagues. Today, as custodians of his remarkable legacy at NYU Langone Health, our mission remains deeply aligned with Dr. Demby's original vision — to serve, teach, and discover. This commitment is evident in our daily practices, reflecting an integrated academic culture dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, and research.

As we peer into the future of our programs, we believe that Dr. Demby would take pride in the achievements of our community members. We express gratitude for the unwavering dedication of our residents, faculty, and staff, acknowledging their collective efforts to deliver exceptional patient care and educational experiences. Together, we uphold Dr. Demby's visionary ideals, shaping a future that echoes his passion for excellence in dental medicine.

**FLASH
BACK**

2018

Dr. Demby was presented a special award for his dedication to eliminating health disparities, his commitment to dental education, service to the most vulnerable populations and his mentorship to dental professionals. His undimmed vision is an inspiration to his colleagues, residents and staff.



1998
Drs. Louis Siegelman and Neal Demby



2011
Dr. Demby is black tie ready for photo ops at a faculty function



2018

The Demby Award was established in honor of Dr. Neal Demby who has devoted his career to eliminating health disparities by training dentists to care for the most vulnerable in our communities. Each year, during the annual Faculty Development Conference, the award will be bestowed upon the dental professional who exhibits leadership, innovation, vision, and compassion in providing care to the underserved in a teaching environment.

The first annual Demby Award was presented to Dr. Ed Vigna, Associate Director, NYU Langone Dental Medicine, for his leadership, innovation, vision and compassion in providing care to the underserved in a teaching environment.



2019
Dr. Neal Demby was the only employee recognized for 50 years of service at NYU Langone Health held its annual 25 Year Club Celebration

Silvia Perez, DDS

Past Director of Pediatric Dentistry
beg. 1990-Nov 2011

Specialty: Pediatric Dentistry



Dr. Silvia Perez holds a special place in the history of NYU Langone Dental Medicine. Her remarkable journey, which began in 1990, exemplifies our commitment to exceptional patient care and dental education.

In 1994, she joined forces with Dr. Neal Demby, and together they launched the Pediatric Dental Residency program at NYU Langone Hospitals (formerly Lutheran Medical Center). This partnership established a legacy that continues to thrive and impact countless lives today.

Dr. Perez's vision for the dental pediatrics program emphasized paying it forward through rigorous resident training. She inspired residents to serve as role models and maintained high expectations for them. The program's expansion to other sites was driven by increased awareness of the lack of access to dental care and rising decay rates. Health centers experienced an influx of patients, particularly in need of pediatric dentists, and the program aimed to address this gap.

One of Dr. Perez's most significant accomplishments was assembling a team of dedicated attendings who shared her vision. Dr. John Celona and Dr. Linda Rosenberg, both outstanding professionals, joined the program, embodying the values of inclusivity and the unwavering commitment to treating all individuals equally, regardless of their ability to pay or their background. Through their collective efforts, the program became an example of excellence in dental education and patient care.

Dr. Silvia Perez's legacy is deeply ingrained in NYU Langone Dental Medicine. Her tireless dedication to pediatric dentistry and her commitment to inclusivity serve as an example of our program's core values. As we look to the future, we are inspired by her enduring legacy and remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence in dental education and patient care. Dr. Perez's remarkable spirit continues to guide and inspire us all.



A FLYING SAMARITAN

Dr. Perez traveled to El Rosario in Baja of Mexico along with fellow humanitarian Dr. Ken Reed, and the Flying Samaritans Arizona.

Larry K. McReynolds, DHA

Executive Director, NYU Langone Health System
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

Larry McReynolds joined Family Health Centers at NYU Langone (formerly Lutheran Medical Center) 21 years ago. As the Executive Director of the Health Center and Senior Vice President of Ambulatory Care for the hospital, he oversaw the dental clinics and dental education programs, driving significant growth and innovation in the organization's mission to serve underserved populations.

When Larry began his tenure, the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) and General Practice Residency (GPR) programs were already in place, while efforts to gain accreditation for the pediatric dental residency program were underway. Early in his first year, he attended the Faculty Development Conference and was deeply impressed by the faculty's expertise and dedication to serving underserved communities.

Larry envisioned distinguishing the health center from others by addressing a critical national issue: the shortage of safety-net dental providers. He championed partnerships with other health centers to expand dental residency programs. These programs became a cornerstone of safety-net dental education nationwide, improving access to care and reducing disparities.

Under Larry's leadership, the

dental education programs expanded their reach and impact:

- **Addressing Provider Shortages:** Collaborated with Indian Health Services (IHS) clinics to provide care where patients had little to no access.
- **HIV Care and Training:** Partnered with organizations to train dentists in treating patients with HIV and pioneered the use of oral swab testing for HIV detection.
- **High-Quality, Low-Income Care:** Demonstrated that serving low-income patients does not equate to low-quality care, ensuring many patients achieved healthy smiles and better oral health.
- **Mission-Driven Expansion:** Growth was not confined to Brooklyn but extended across the country, uniquely positioned as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with a hospital-based program.

Through collaboration and a shared commitment to mission and vision, Larry McReynolds helped transform NYU Langone's postdoctoral dental residency programs into a national model for safety-net dental education and care. These partnerships continue to expand access, enhance quality, and integrate dental care into comprehensive health services.

Bernard Tolpin, DDS

Past Vice President for Dental Medicine

Specialty: Dentistry



During the formative years of the postdoctoral dental residency programs, **Dr. Bernard Tolpin**, alongside his colleague, Dr. Neal Demby, played an instrumental role in its evolution. Their dedication and vision helped shape the program into what it is today. For nearly half a century, from the early 1970s until 2017, Dr. Tolpin took on the pivotal responsibility of identifying and securing grants that provided vital support for the program's growth and development. His efforts ensured that the program had the resources it needed to thrive.

Dr. Tolpin's role extended far beyond grant-writing. He was a dynamic force in bringing the visionary goals of Dr. Demby to fruition. He transformed ideas into actions, and dreams into achievements.

As Dr. Tolpin reflects on his remarkable journey, he often highlights the profound joy he found in his interactions with patients and colleagues, both within the halls of our institution and in new, diverse locations. For him, the heart of dentistry lies not only in the care of patients' oral health but also in the human connections forged and the unique experiences shared. It is through these shared moments of laughter, learning, and camaraderie that Dr. Tolpin finds his deepest pride.

Susan Dietrich, DMD, MA

Past Vice President, NYU Lutheran Medical Center
Vice President, Dental Education and Distance Learning
beg. 2001-2016
Specialty: Dentistry



Susan L. Dietrich, DMD, MA joined the postdoctoral training programs in 2001 when it was then known as Lutheran Medical Center and became the Director of Graduate Dental Education and Distance Learning. At the time, most of the didactic curriculum was delivered to residents using video teleconferencing technology. With her team, Dr. Dietrich was responsible for transferring the didactic curriculum to a modern, web-based platform that integrated self-directed adult learning methodologies for resident education.

In 2012, Dr. Dietrich was promoted to Vice President of Graduate Dental Education and Distance Learning. In this capacity, Dr. Dietrich worked closely with the program directors to continue implementation of quality and process improvement initiatives that

helped to elevate the designs of the programs in addition to improving the programs' preparation for CODA site visits and assisting with the expansion endeavors of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry and Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry programs.

In 2013, Dr. Dietrich expanded upon her own knowledge base in education by achieving the Master of Arts in Education (with a focus in dental education) from the University of the Pacific and used those resources to further elevate dental education and the programs.

Dr. Dietrich retired from her position in 2016 and as a leader and trailblazer in postdoctoral dental education has left a legacy of performance excellence that continues to be embraced by the programs and to the benefit of all our residents.



Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA

Vice President, Graduate Dental Medicine

Specialty: Dentistry

Martin Lieberman, DDS, MA, joined NYU Langone Dental Medicine in 2013. A former Health Center Chief Dental Officer, he brought with him the perfect blend of clinical expertise, educational prowess, and a passion for providing care to communities that need it the most.

Dr. Lieberman is deeply committed to nurturing the academic and professional development of dental residents. He not only fosters a supportive learning environment but consistently conveys the importance of mentorship in shaping the next generation of dental professionals, providing guidance, constructive feedback, and opportunities for hands-on clinical experience. His dedication to continuous quality improvement, coupled with a genuine enthusiasm for the success of our residents, makes him an inspiring figure in the dental academic community.

Under Dr. Lieberman's leadership, the dental programs have witnessed remarkable advancements in teaching methodologies, emphasizing hands-on experiences and interactive learning, while at the same time increasing access to care to underserved communities.



JUNE 2016

NYU Langone Dental Medicine leadership team members (left to right), Drs. Shreekrishna Akilesh, Martin Lieberman, David Okuji, and Neal Demby attended the A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health 2016 ASDOH Founders' Ball to honor the 2016 graduating class held in Scottsdale, AZ

Margaret Mason, DMD, MA

Vice President and Senior Administrator, Dental Medicine

Specialty: Dentistry



Margaret Mason, DMD, MA, constantly offers positive remarks about the profound impact of the residency programs, how it has transformed the lives of both residents and patients, and the programs' unique emphasis on health equity and public health. The programs served as a platform for further career opportunities within the dental field, including herself. Initially, Dr. Mason was unsure about her career path while in dental school, and learned about an opportunity at NYU Langone Hospitals (formerly Lutheran Medical Center). She met with Dr. Michelle Ziegler, Program Director at the time, and decided to join the GPR program after careful consideration. She later became the chief resident. After graduation, she left the institution but returned; her decision was influenced by a colleague's battle with multiple myeloma and the

desire to help. She shared that her experience in the residency program allowed for greater understanding and continuous learning. Dr. Mason emphasized the importance of providing care to patients regardless of their ability to pay or immigration status. She mentioned that the residency programs provide an opportunity to make a real difference in patients' lives.

Dr. Mason underscores Dr. Demby's vision of the residency program as a pipeline for the future of dentistry, emphasizing its crucial role in shaping how patients receive dental care across the country and the world. She recalls that Dr. Demby made the program attractive to federally qualified health centers and created a model that would draw in attending dentists as well. This approach has allowed the program to flourish and contribute to a rich and collaborative learning environment.



2019 DR. MASON RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GEIGER AWARD

Margaret K. Mason, DMD, MA (center), vice president and senior administrator of dental medicine at the Family Health Centers at NYU Langone has been awarded the Jack Geiger, MD Award by the Community Health Care Association of New York State. The Jack Geiger Award was established in honor of Dr. Geiger, who has devoted his career to the problems of health, poverty, and human rights.

General Practice Residency

50 YEARS

EST. 1975

EARLY YEARS

In the early 1970s, Dr. Neal Demby's foresight and dedication to serving the needy and underserved populations paved the way for the creation of a groundbreaking dental residency program. The history of the General Practice Residency (GPR) program dates back several decades, beginning in 1975. The program was initially housed in Lutheran Medical Center (Brooklyn, NY) with its first medical residency in 1973. GPR has evolved in response to the changing landscape of dental education and practice. Residents often could work in hospital-based dental clinics, treating more severe cases and collaborating with medical professionals. The initiative began modestly with just one resident, [Phylis Detweiler](#), but quickly expanded as the program demonstrated its viability. [Dr. Bernard Tolpin](#) and [Dr. Michelle Ziegler](#) were the first program directors followed by the 1992 chief resident, [Dr. Babak Bina](#), who took over as program director in 1996.

1974



HOSPITAL NEW LOCATION 1974

In 1974 the hospital moved to 150 55th Street in Sunset Park in a former factory building.



GPR RESIDENT 1980

Gilbert Rubin, DDS, graduated from Columbia University in 1978 and completed a residency at Lutheran Medical Center 1980

1975-1977

INITIAL CODA APPROVAL 1975

Provisional Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Approval is granted to start a General Practice Residency program

FIRST SITE VISIT MAY 1976

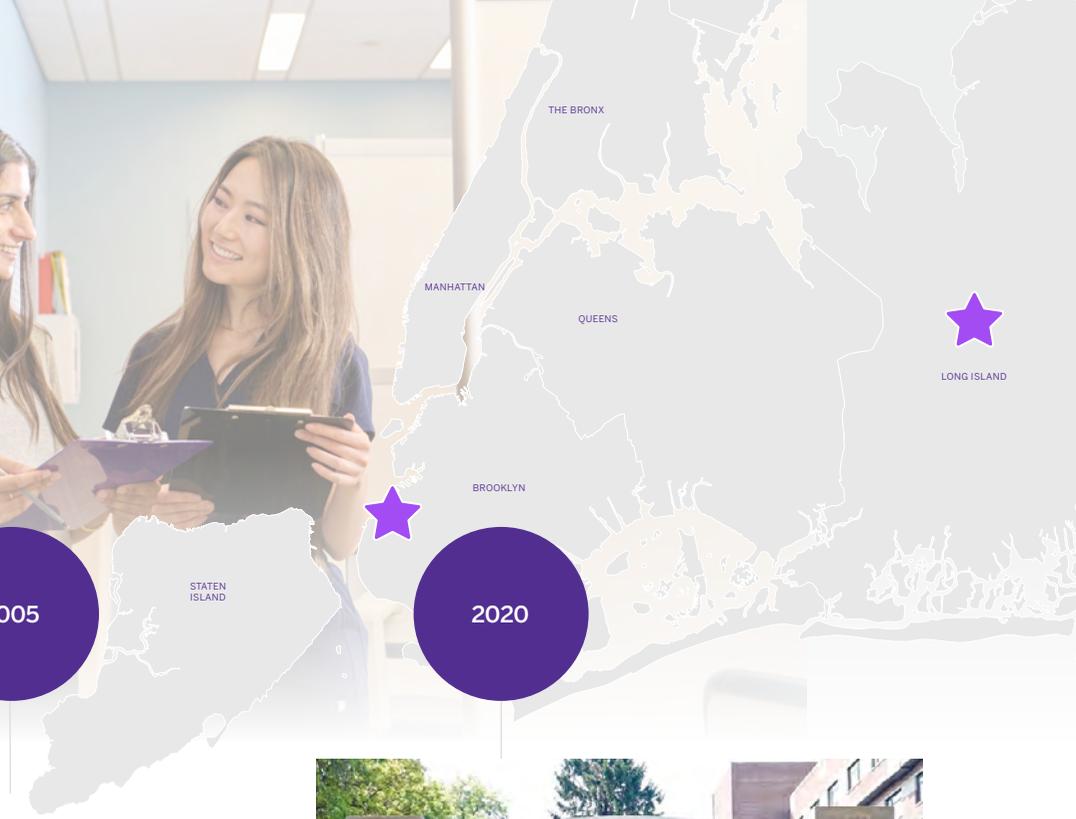
CODA grants conditional approval to the GPR program after conducting first site visit

APPROVAL GRANTED MAY 1977

CODA grants official approval to start the GPR program

WELCOME DR. BINA 1996

Dr. Babak Bina starts as an extern



1998

2005

2020



ROTATION 1998

GPR Residents begin to rotate to Park Ridge Family Health Center



GPR NEW DIRECTOR JUL 2005

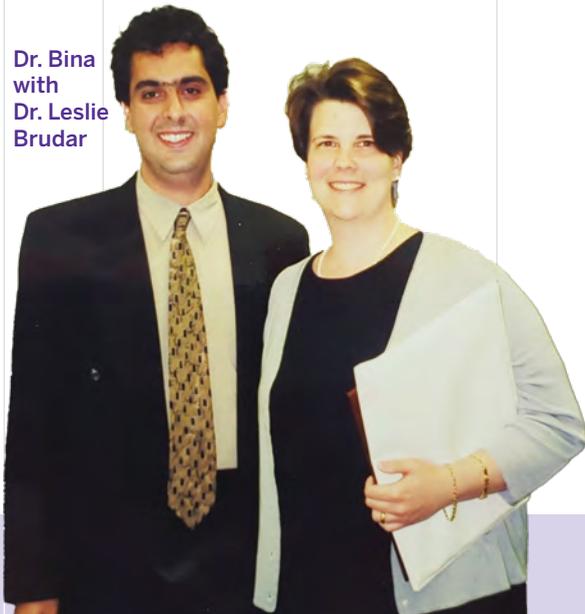
Dr. Babak Bina was appointed as Program Director of the GPR Program



RENAMING/EXPANSION NOV 2020

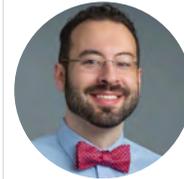
NYU Winthrop Hospital changes its name to NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island and the GPR program becomes part of NYU Langone Dental Medicine

Dr. Bina with Dr. Leslie Brudar



LICH MERGER 2010

Merged with Long Island Community Hospital (LICH) GPR program



NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR 2021

Dr. Eric Brotman was appointed as GPR Associate and Clinical Director for NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island

2025
Total of 36
GPR residents
24 Brooklyn / 12 LI-NY

Babak Bina, DMD, FACD, FICD, FPFA

Program Director, General Practice Residency
Appointed July 2005

Specialty: Dentistry

Education and Training:

Residency, Lutheran Medical Center,
General Practice Residency, 1999

Languages: English, Persian (Farsi)



Babak Bina, DMD, FACD, FICD, FPFA, serves as Program Director of the General Practice Residency (GPR) program at NYU Langone in Brooklyn, New York and the NYU Langone Hospitals, Long Island. Dr. Bina's educational journey began with early admission to dental school at SUNY at Stony Brook, School of Arts and Sciences, in 1993, where he specialized in Biochemistry. His passion for dentistry led him to the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, where he earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree in 1997, laying the foundation for his career.

Recognizing the importance of advanced training and patient care during his externship in 1996, Dr. Bina engaged to pursue a General Practice Residency (GPR) at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY; he completed his residency in 1998. Dr. Bina's dedication and leadership abilities soon led him to take on the

role of Chief Resident in the same program in 1999—showcasing his commitment to both learning and mentoring.

As the Program Director of the GPR program, Dr. Bina leverages his extensive educational background and clinical expertise to guide and educate the next generation of dental professionals. His leadership is instrumental in preparing residents to excel in providing comprehensive dental care to a diverse patient population. Dr. Bina's dedication to dental education and his commitment to delivering high-quality patient care make him an invaluable asset to the field of dentistry. His leadership at NYU Langone ensures that aspiring dental professionals receive top-notch training and mentorship, contributing to the continued advancement of dental healthcare in the Brooklyn and Long Island community and beyond.

“My journey at NYU Langone began 27 years ago when I had the honor of joining as a resident. I was fortunate to continue working in this extraordinary organization. Collaborating with colleagues and residents while serving the largest FQHC in New York, in one of Brooklyn’s most underserved communities, fills me with immense pride and a deep sense of purpose.”

Dr. Babak Bina, NYU Langone Dental Medicine’s Program Director in General Practice Residency



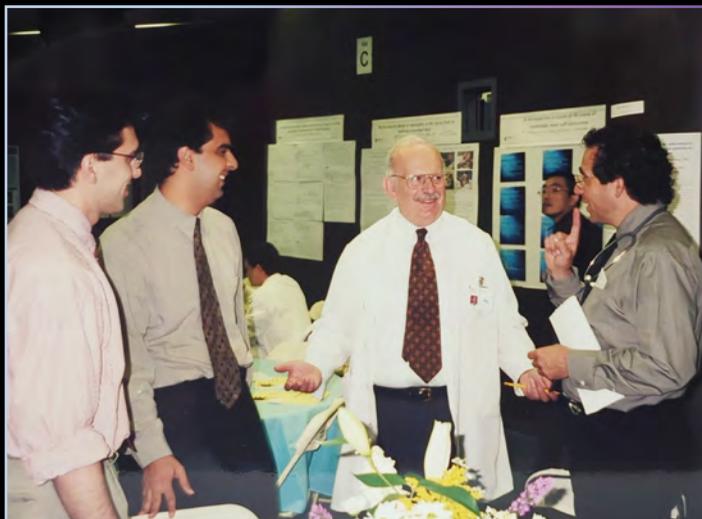
1998

Dr. Babak Bina presenting at the Second Annual Resident Research Fair



JULY 2011

Dr. Babak Bina with GPR Residents.



1998

Dr. Babak Bina and Dr. Bernand Tolpin at the Second Annual Resident Research Awards

Anthony DiMango, DDS

Former senior vice president, chief of dentistry, and co-director of oral and maxillofacial surgery at NYU Lutheran

Specialty: Dentistry

Anthony DiMango, DDS was a member of Lutheran Medical Center with a career of service and dedication to the dental profession and the community for more than 48 years.

Dr. DiMango graduated from Georgetown University's School of Dentistry and received his training in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery from Kings County Hospital. A year after establishing his private practice in Bay Ridge, he joined Lutheran Medical Center Department of Dental Medicine. Shortly after joining the staff, he was appointed as the Chief of Dentistry as well as Chief of Surgery. In his role, Dr. DiMango trained over 450 residents. He was honored as the *Attending of the Year* in the dental department more than any other attending.

Dr. DiMango was very active in

organized dentistry since the beginning of his career. He acted as the president of second district Dental Society and was the recipient of the highest honor in the organization, "the distinguished service award". He was also the recipient of this award from the Georgetown university, New York State Dental Association, and the Pierre Fauchad Academy. He acted as the Chair of the Greater New York Dental meeting, the largest dental meeting in the world. He was a delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) representing New York State and was the first vice president of the ADA. As chair of the ADA council of annual sessions and International Relations, he was involved in the development of health "Volunteers Overseas," a program that allows dentists to volunteer their services in underdeveloped countries.



Two research surveys

- ① First presented last year: A Survey sent was to all the residents in NY state about the value if residency and its effect in their development. Over 90 percent believed that residency had significant impact in the development of their skills
- ② Current research project: A Survey was sent to all the hospital dental directors in NYS and were asked about access of the care and what percentage of that access is provided by the residents, as well as the value of residents to the program.



GPR Team Building event adventures

- ① Ice Skating
- ② Broadway Show
- ③ Mets Game
- ④ Six Flags Great Adventure
- ⑤ Karaoke



BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: A RESIDENT'S UNIQUE JOURNEY IN DENTISTRY



GPR Resident
Dr. Ahmad Issman

On December 22, 1994, in Sunset Park, my mother urgently went to Lutheran Hospital to have her third child. I grew up in an Egyptian family that taught me to value culture and helping our community. We moved a lot, but I kept coming back to Sunset Park and Bay Ridge to see friends and family. After living in New York for eight years, my family made a sudden decision to return to Egypt. This change marked the beginning of my journey, from middle school in Egypt to dental school. Eventually, I decided to come back to the United States for further education.

Being a dentist trained abroad, my dream was to study in the United States, but it seemed complex and far-off. Many people discouraged me, but I was determined to prove them wrong. I spent my days studying for board exams and shadowing at a dental office in Brooklyn, New York. After meeting my board requirements, I took a chance and applied for advanced standing programs. As an international applicant, I constantly won-

dered how to stand out among many others. Unfortunately, my first attempt didn't work out as planned, so I decided to improve my qualifications by moving to California and getting a Master's in Public Health at Loma Linda. During that time, I learned about the healthcare system and the need for better oral healthcare. This strengthened my resolve to continue my studies at the same school.

In 2021, I got into the Loma Linda Advanced Standing program and joined other international dentists with similar goals. As May 2023 approached, I thought about my career after school. Should I start working in private dentistry, or should I use my knowledge of public health to improve my skills further? An opportunity arose when I learned about a residency program at NYU Langone's General Practice. I spoke to a friend who had completed the program and decided to stay on as a provider. Her experiences motivated me to apply. I quickly applied to the program, met Dr. Babak Bina, and everything fell into place. It felt like the right choice.

I moved from California to New York to start the next phase of my career. I was excited to be closer to my family in Queens, New York. When I told my family about my new program, my dad said, "Son, it's the same hospital where you were born in." Everything suddenly made sense.



Dr. Ahmad Issman (right) at Graduation with Dr. Babak Bina, and Daniel Krichavets, recipient of the Dr. Anthony L. DiMango Award honoring excellence in the field of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. June 2024

GPR Long Island residents



Advanced Education in General Dentistry 37 YEARS

EST. 1988

HISTORY

The AEGD Program was established in 1988 with its first CODA visit in 1989. The world's largest program of its kind, it focuses on developing expertise in diagnosing, treating, and managing patients' oral health needs in various settings such as community health centers, private practices, dental school campuses, dental public health programs, and more. The program was initially directed by **Dr. Marian Smeraldi (1988-1996)** and currently by **Dr. Anna D'Emilio (1996-present)**.

Over the years, thousands of practitioners have been successfully trained through this program, serving

diverse and underserved communities across the country. Residents contribute to a national public health initiative to improve access to quality oral healthcare services for these communities.

With Dr. Neal Demby's vision in mind, AEGD's first site outside of the NY region was in Tuscon, AZ. Numerous affiliated sites were added over the years and thankful to many pioneers for specific regions, such as **Dr. Gregory LeChance** (Dental director, El Rio CHC) in Arizona, **Dr. David Breese**, (Dental director, Kokua Kalihi Valley CHC) in Hawaii, and **Dr. Myrion Allukian** in Massachusetts.

May
1988

AEGD PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

Lutheran Medical Center receives approval to establish its first Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program

1988-1989

AEGD PROVISIONAL APPROVAL

Provisional CODA Approval is granted to start an Advanced Education in General Dentistry program

FIRST SITE VISIT *DEC 1989*

CODA grants conditional approval to the AEGD program after conducting first site visit

FIRST AEGD RESIDENT *1989*

Meena Jaiswal, DDS, graduated from N.Y.U. College of Dentistry in 1988 and did her Advanced Education Graduate Dentistry Program from Lutheran Medical Center/Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn in 1989.





1992

1996

2002

AEGD FIRST EXPANSION

First expansion outside the NYC area. The AEGD program receives approval for it's first location in Albany, NY.

US EXPANSION GROWS

2002 The AEGD Program established & expanded to the northern Arizona and Massachusetts regions



AEGD NEW DIRECTOR APR 1996

Dr. Anna D'Emilio is appointed as the program director for the AEGD program

FIRST INTERSTATE EXPANSION 1995

First expansion outside the state of NY. The AEGD program receives approval for it's first location in Tucson, AZ and established the southern Arizona region training site.



TRAINING SITE IN ARIZONA

El Rio has been an AEGD training site since 1995. El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson, Arizona, is an important residency training site for the AEGD, Dental Anesthesiology and Pediatric Dentistry programs. The center operates three very busy dental clinics in Tucson: Congress Dental Clinic, Northwest Dental Clinic and Southwest Dental Clinic.

April
2015



A MERGER PROVIDES BETTER ACCESS TO CARE

NYU Langone and Lutheran Medical Center Receive Final Approval to Affiliate, Expanding Access to High Quality Healthcare. "When your main concern is serving people to the best of your ability, it's your duty to come up with innovative ideas that are practicable and will allow you to get the job done efficiently. NYU Langone Medical and Lutheran Medical Centers are clear examples of that," said New York senator Diane J. Savino. "Thanks to their new partnership, thousands of people who may not have had the option to receive quality healthcare at a lower cost, now have an opportunity to do so."

2024



AEGD CORE TEAM 2024

Linda Kotmel, DDS, AEGD Senior Associate Director, Eastern Zone with Calix Ramos-Rodriguez, DMD, AEGD Senior Associate Director, Western Zone, and, Anna D'Emilio, DDS, MA, F-PFA, FICD, Vice President and Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry on right.

2018



RESIDENTS RECEIVE HANDS-ON TRAINING 2018

AEGD residents, faculty and alumni receive hands-on Invisalign training at APLA in Los Angeles, CA with Dr. Sonia Kohli from NYU Langone Dental Medicine - Brooklyn, Dr. Denise Frances, AEGD Associate Director, and Dr. Steven Vitero, AEGD Dental Director at APLA.



2025
Total of 212
AEGD residents
onboarded sites = 94
states = 31 US states
+ 2 US territories
(Puerto Rico & USVI)

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

Vice President and Program Director,
Advanced Education in General Dentistry
Appointed April 1996

Specialty: General Dentistry

Education and Training:

Residency, Lutheran Medical Center, Dentistry, 1992

Residency Lutheran Medical Center, GPR 1992

Residency Lutheran Medical Center, Chief resident, GPR 1993

Language: English, Italian



Anna D'Emilio, DDS, MA, F-PFA, FICD, is a highly accomplished dental professional with a remarkable educational background and a strong commitment to dental education and patient care. Dr. D'Emilio has been the Program Director for AEGD since 1996. Her passion for dentistry led her to Columbia University in New York City, where she completed her Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree in 1991. Dr. D'Emilio's commitment to advanced training and patient care then took her to Lutheran Medical Center (now NYU Langone Hospital - Brooklyn), where she completed two General Practice Residency (GPR) programs. In 1992, she received a PGY-1 GPR Certificate, followed by a PGY-2 GPR Certificate in 1993, solidifying her expertise in dentistry. Dr. D'Emilio's exceptional educational background, combined with her extensive teaching and leadership roles, makes her a respected figure in the field of dentistry and dental education. Her contributions continue to positively influence dental practice and education, ultimately benefiting patients and students alike.

“Every day can be a good day. Each day, choose one thing you can do or say that would be helpful or inspirational to someone, pass along the positivity and make that day a fabulous one.”

Dr. Anna D'Emilio, NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Vice President and Program Director in Advanced Education General Dentistry



DECEMBER 2018

Drs. Anna D'Emilio, Barbara Ottenio, Sonia Kohli, Calix Ramos, and Linda Kotmel



MARCH 6, 2014

Dr. Anna D'Emilio presented the Outstanding AEGD Program Assistant Director Award during the Endodontic Symposium to Dr. Sam Ishimira in recognition of over 10 years of leadership and dedication towards the development and enhancement of postdoctoral dental education programs in Hawaii. Dr. Ishimira retired in 2020.



APRIL 16, 2021

Dr. Anna D'Emilio celebrated her 25th Work Anniversary



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT 2019

Drs. Gary Kalkut, Margaret Mason, Linda Kotmel, Martin Lieberman, with Anna D'Emilio and Neal Demby at Faculty Development Dinner Gala in San Diego, CA.

AEGD Public Health Project

Sugar Sweetened Beverages and Oral Health

The **Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD)** program of New York University Langone Hospitals (NYULH) is a one-year program with an optional second year. Residents in the program receive their clinical training at ninety community health center sites affiliated with the program located in thirty-one states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Annually, approximately 5-10% of the first-year resident cohort elect to advance to the second-year level. As part of the program requirements for second-year residents, they are required to complete a public health project that would benefit the community of patients they treat at their clinical training sites. Traditionally, residents independently select and implement the project they would like to pursue. For the first time during the 2023 – 2024 academic year, the program offered second year residents the opportunity to pursue a single collective project suggested by the program, which was to create an educational tool for patients regarding the effects of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption on oral health. Although the residents provide their patients with nutritional counseling that may include this subject matter, most of the clinical training sites did not have an educational tool to provide to patients.

Of the twenty second-year residents in the 2023-2024 cohort, eleven (55%)

residents from four states and the U.S. Virgin Islands and seven clinical training sites participated in the collaborative project. The project team also included the Program Director, Dr. Anna D’Emilio, the Research Program Manager for Dental Medicine, Dr. David Okuji, Project Mentor, Dr. Melissa K. James, and faculty mentors at the seven clinical training sites. Dr. D’Emilio created a project design guide that assisted the residents towards project development and instructed residents to conduct a literature review on the subject matter, to present findings to the project team, to meet monthly with the project team, to meet frequently among themselves, and to eventually develop the educational tool. Ultimately, the residents worked collaboratively as a team to develop a single, standardized educational tool and their public health project paper. The residents created a pamphlet that not only provided written information and graphics on the effects of sugar sweetened beverage consumption on oral health, but they also embedded an instructional video that would appeal as a visual aid to the patients. This brochure is now available at their clinical training sites and can be provided to their patients as a dental public health service. Moreover, the outcomes and patient feedback gained from this project will be disseminated via peer-reviewed publications.

CE Event



Implant Dentistry

In 2023, the program collaborated with **BioHorizons** and the **Oral Reconstruction Foundation** to provide ten (10) additional one (1) hour lectures in Implant Dentistry that were formally scheduled and delivered to residents and faculty using virtual meeting platform. Residents and faculty were provided with continuing education credits and a certificate of course completion. The program will continue the collaboration with BioHorizons and the Oral Rehabilitation Foundation and the lectures will become incorporated into the core didactic curriculum for residents and will continue to be available to faculty.

In addition to the lectures, BioHorizons representatives worked with the clinical training sites to schedule and provide one 3-4 hour on-site hands-on implant workshop to residents and faculty. The program will continue the collaboration with BioHorizons to provide the hands-on implant workshops.



Oral Health Presentation

Dr. Tumouh Al-Allaq presents for the National Network of Oral Health Access (NNOHA) Annual Conference 2024 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Presentation addresses the “Key Strategies for Integrating Oral Health Care into Prenatal Care at Choptank Community Health”

This collaboration was with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resources Center, the University of Maryland, and Choptank Community Health Systems in Maryland.

AEGD PGY2 Public Health Project

Promoting Collaborative Public Health Initiatives: NYU Langone Dental AEGD Residents Lead the Way

As part of the PGY-2 curriculum requirements, NYU Langone Dental-AEGD residents are tasked with developing independent public health projects that benefit their clinical training site's community. In an exciting development for 2023, the program introduced a unique opportunity for PGY-2 residents to collaborate across states and clinical training sites on a single public health project. This initiative was met with great enthusiasm, leading to the creation of an educational tool addressing the oral health risks associated with sugar-sweetened beverage consumption.



AEGD PGY-2 Project Team

Building on this success, the 2024-2025 PGY-2 class embraced the same collaborative spirit. Out of 22 residents, 16 from 10 clinical training sites across northern Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia chose to work together on a project focused on the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. Their



Dr. David Reznik presents on the topic of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

goal was to develop a patient education tool highlighting the benefits and risks of receiving the HPV vaccine.

With guidance and support from faculty mentors, the residents conducted meetings to strategize and execute their project. They created and distributed a survey to assess patients' baseline knowledge about HPV and the vaccine. Following this, they developed an informative pamphlet featuring written and graphic content on the benefits of the HPV vaccine. A second survey was then distributed to measure the increase in patients' knowledge and their inclination to receive the vaccine.

The impact of this project has been significant. The educational pamphlet is now available to patients at the dental departments of the clinical sites, continuing to serve as a valuable resource. Additionally, many clinical training sites have seen their medical departments collaborate with dental departments, fostering an interdisciplinary approach to patient outreach and education about the HPV vaccine.

This initiative exemplifies the power of collaborative public health efforts led by postdoctoral program trainees. It not only provided essential healthcare information to patients across multiple primary care sites and states but also inspired a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach to patient care. The dedication and innovation of the NYU Langone Dental-AEGD residents continue to make a meaningful impact on public health and patient education.

Pediatric Dentistry

31 YEARS

EST. 1994

HISTORY

The Pediatric Dental Residency program's inception was driven by Dr. Sylvia Perez's vision to treat and provide excellent dental care for children. Dr. Perez was a visionary mentor, who embraced the idea of "paying it forward". She inspired her trainees to excel and many of them pursued careers in academics, a testament to her visionary leadership. Dr. Perez balanced warmth with high expectations, creating a unique teaching style.

Dr. Daniel Kane's teaching journey began in 1998 at University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. In 2010, Dr. Kane was appointed as the interim program director of pediatric dentistry during Dr. Perez's medical leave.

Through Dr. Demby, Dr. Kane was introduced to Dr. Perez, a dynamic figure deeply committed to providing excellent dental

care to children. Dr. Perez's mission aligned with Dr. Kane's vision. Together, they worked on a plan, even though it meant challenging organizations that were rigid in dental education. Their approach was ahead of its time, particularly in terms of distance learning. Their concerted efforts led to the submission of a proposal to the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), which ultimately received approval.

The first offsite training location for the program began with its two residents in Rhode Island, marking the beginning of a journey to address the crucial need for pediatric dental care in the Providence area. They continued to bring dental care nationwide to the largest gaps such as Alaska and Hawaii. They did not stop there and we have trained 763 residents since the start of the program in June 1994.



PEDS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

Provisional CODA Approval is granted to start an Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry program



FIRST CODA SITE VISIT 1997

CODA grants conditional approval for the Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry program after conducting its first site visit



PEDS ATTENDING 1998

Lauro Medrano-Saldaña, DDS, born and raised in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, Medrano-Saldaña moved to New York in 1991, and has been in private practice since 1995 in Brooklyn, where he runs Sunset Pediatric Dentistry. In 1997, he worked as faculty professor at the Metropolitan Hospital, and in 1998 was appointed attending doctor of Pediatric Dentistry at NYU Lutheran Medical Center





August
2003



PEDS FIRST EXPANSION

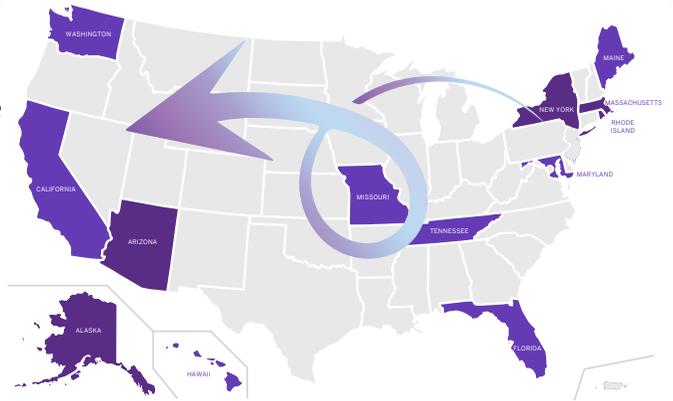
First Pediatric Program outside the state of NY. The program receives approval for it's first location in Providence, RI

2010-2018

U.S. EXPANSIONS BROADEN

The Pediatric Dentistry Program established and expanded

- 2010 AZ and MA new sites FEB
- 2011 ME MD AZ and MA new sites FEB
HI MD DC AZ NY new sites AUG
- 2012 NY CA WA new sites AUG
- 2013 CA MO MA new sites FEB
- 2014 AZ FL WA NY new sites FEB
AZ new sites AUG
- 2015 TN new site AUG
- 2017 AZ new sites FEB
- 2018 FL RI WA HI AZ new sites AUG



2008



SR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. David Okuji is promoted to senior associate director for the Pediatric Dentistry program



PEDS NEW DIRECTOR APR 2011

Dr. Daniel Kane is appointed as the program director for the Pediatric Dentistry program

2018



SR ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Dr. Shreekrishna Akilesh and Dr. Rajesh Adhia are promoted to senior associate directors for the Pediatric Dentistry program



2025
Total of 111 Pediatric Dentistry residents
14 onboarded sites
11 US states

Daniel J. Kane, DMD, MA

Program Director, Advanced Education in
Pediatric Dentistry

Specialty: Pediatric Dentistry

Board Certifications:

American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, 2010

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Kennedy Krieger Institute, 1982

Residency, University of Maryland, 1982

Language: English



Dr. Daniel Kane's career as a pediatric dentist highlights his dedication to increasing access to care and advancing excellence in dental education.

His academic journey began at Brown University, where he earned a BA in Biology in 1975, followed by a DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 1980. Dr. Kane pursued specialized training in pediatric dentistry at the University of Maryland, earning his certificate in 1982, and completed a Fellowship in Dentistry for Patients with Special Needs at Johns Hopkins Hospital the same year. In 2012, he furthered his dedication to education by earning a Fellowship in the Dental Educator Pathway Program from the Academy for Academic Leadership.

Dr. Kane began his career in dental education at Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry and the University of Pennsylvania. Returning to his home state of Rhode Island in 1996, he joined a hospital-based dental center serving underserved children. Observing a significant gap in pediatric dental care—particularly for Medicaid patients—he initiated efforts to expand access, launching NYU Langone Dental Medicine's first off-site training location in 2003.

In 2010, Dr. Kane achieved board certification from the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Inspired by his mentor Dr. Sylvia Perez, he became the Program Director for Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry in 2011. Under his leadership, NYU Langone Dental Medicine's program has grown to include 14 sites nationwide, from Hawaii to Florida, focused on providing high-quality care and training the next generation of pediatric dentists.

“As we reflect on this past year, let us celebrate the dedication and resilience of each member of our dental community- from our residents to our dedicated faculty and Associate and Senior Associate Directors. Despite the challenges we faced, we remained steadfast in our commitment to excellence in education, patient care, and research. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and overcome obstacles, demonstrating that with unity and determination, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. As we look ahead to the future, let us continue to innovate, inspire, and uplift one another, knowing that our collective efforts will continue to shape the future of pediatric dentistry and improve the lives of countless children we are treating in our affiliated health centers across the country.”

Dr. Daniel Kane, NYU Langone Dental Medicine’s Program Director in Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry



2003
Drs. Daniel Kane and Silvia Perez at the opening of the first off-site training location at St. Joseph Hospital in Providence, RI.



JANUARY 2016
NYU Lutheran Dental Medicine Pediatric Dentistry Faculty and Residents Participate in the 2016 AAPD (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry) Public Policy Advocacy Congress in Washington DC to lobby their congressman and senators’ on oral health issues. Pictured: Hans Gray (HI), Dr. Rajesh Adhia (BK), Dr. Daniel Kane (RI) Erica Damante (BK) Ryne Paulson (HI), Arceila Gonzalez and Dr. Lynn Fujimoto (HI).

AAPD advocacy conference recap

Residents and pediatric dentists from across the country attended the AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 3-6. NYU Langone Health residents and faculty from five states, along with residents and faculty from across the country, spent the day learning about national advocacy. They also met with members of congress and their teams to advocate for Title VII (HRSA) funding for pediatric dentistry, The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA), and The Resident Education Deferral Interest (REDI) Act. NYU Langone sponsored a networking dinner for faculty and staff that attended. Residents gained the experience and lifelong skills to carry forward advocacy efforts and leadership in the future.



Appointments

New Pediatric Dentistry Associate Directors



DR. HADEEL ALHASSANI
Assistant Director,
Maryland



DR. RUTH BOL
Assistant Director,
California



DR. LISA BIENSTOCK
Assistant Director,
Arizona



DR. AUDREY RAWSON
Assistant Director,
Hawaii



DR. CYNTHIA THOMAS
Assistant Director,
Massachusetts



DR. FATIMA KHAN
Co-Assistant Director,
Florida



DR. EVA DUPAY
Co-Assistant Director,
Florida



PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY POSTER ACHIEVEMENT APRIL 2023

Congratulations to PEDS PGY1 team for their Case Presentation Poster Competition at CSPD 2023 Annual Meeting.

PGY1s Sarah (So Hyeon) Park, Cindy Lee and Shivam Patel presented "Dental Management for a Patient with CHARGE Syndrome."

Dr. Yasmina Wright featured Alumna

NYU Langone Dental Medicine Pediatric Dentistry alumna **Dr. Yasmina Wright** recently opened her own private practice to serve the community that she grew up in!

Dr. Wright was recently featured in the local newspaper.



Dr. Yasmina Wright has opened her pediatric dentistry practice on West Highland Avenue in Chestnut Hill (Philadelphia, PA).

In a follow-up Q&A we asked her...

What is your favorite memory from your time with the program?

“I worked with 2 other co-residents and we were often called the 3 musketeers. Broadly speaking, I really enjoyed how we were able to bring our varied experiences together to further enhance each other’s learning. We always helped one another, within the set guidelines- but in different ways. I think we all learned a lot from each other, and I really appreciated that.

“I maintained a great relationship with them, and the attendings as well! I actually just sent over a case to the attending from my residency. It’s great to keep in touch and help each other out.”



Congratulations to the Seventh Annual Halloween Throw-Down Competition Champions (2023). Brooklyn Residents (above) Most likes on Instagram (Theme: Mario Bros)



Rhode Island Residents Most likes on Facebook (Theme: The Addams Family)



Congratulations to the champions of the 2024 Annual Pediatric Dentistry Halloween Throw-Down! Thank you to all the amazing participants and the creative video and photo submissions!

Brooklyn Residents: Most likes on Instagram (Theme: Monsters, Inc.)



Rhode Island Residents: Most likes on Facebook (Theme: Peter Pan)



Holyoke Residents: voted Most Creative (Theme: the Battle of healthy vs unhealthy foods) ... it was fun and creative!

Endodontics 20 YEARS

EST. 2005

HISTORY

The Postgraduate Program in Endodontics was established in July 2005 under the leadership of [Dr. Robert Goldberger](#) as Program Director and [Dr. Marc Kunin](#) as Associate Program Director. From a handful of applicants the first few years, last year saw over 300 applicants apply to the program, a testament to the outstanding reputation the program enjoys. The addition of part-time attendings, some of whom are graduates of the endo program, greatly enhances the clinical training the residents receive.

The program added an additional endodontic training site in 2009 in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine (UPR), with [Dr. Francisco Ramirez Brunet](#) serving as Associate Program Director. The addition of the training site in Puerto Rico made the Endodontic Program the first to have multiple training sites. Each site has six residents, with three first year residents and three second year residents.

First year residents participate in a core curriculum that is shared with all other dental residents. This is done both synchronously and asynchronously. In addition to the core curriculum, the residents participate in the endodontic didactic curriculum. The endodontic literature reviews, textbook reviews, case presentations and guest lectures are presented via innovative video

conferencing with our residents in Puerto Rico. Over the years, the program saw an increasing number of residents becoming board certified in Endodontics, thanks to the program's enhanced preparation and commitment.

NYU Langone's endodontic program has a very strong clinical component. Residents are expected to complete 250-300 cases in addition to 25-35 surgical cases and are able to take advantage of utilize modern state-of-the-art technologies, including surgical operating microscopes, cone beam computed tomography, ultrasonics, a variety of rotary instruments and various techniques in our everyday practice, in addition to the endodontic laser.

With a large and ethnically diverse patient population unique to NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Advanced Education in Endodontics Program training sites, residents experience diverse procedures, work with specialists in orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics, oral surgery, oral pathology, endodontics, orofacial pain and periodontics. Residents also learn techniques to treat patients with special needs and medically complex conditions in the operating room. The program ensures excellent dental care for underserved communities and produces skilled endodontists who give back to the field and the community.

January
2005

ENDODONTICS PROGRAM ACCREDITED

CODA grants conditional approval to the Endodontics program after conducting its first site visit

January
2009



ENDODONTICS DIRECTOR

[Dr. Robert Goldberger](#) is appointed as the program director for the Endodontics program

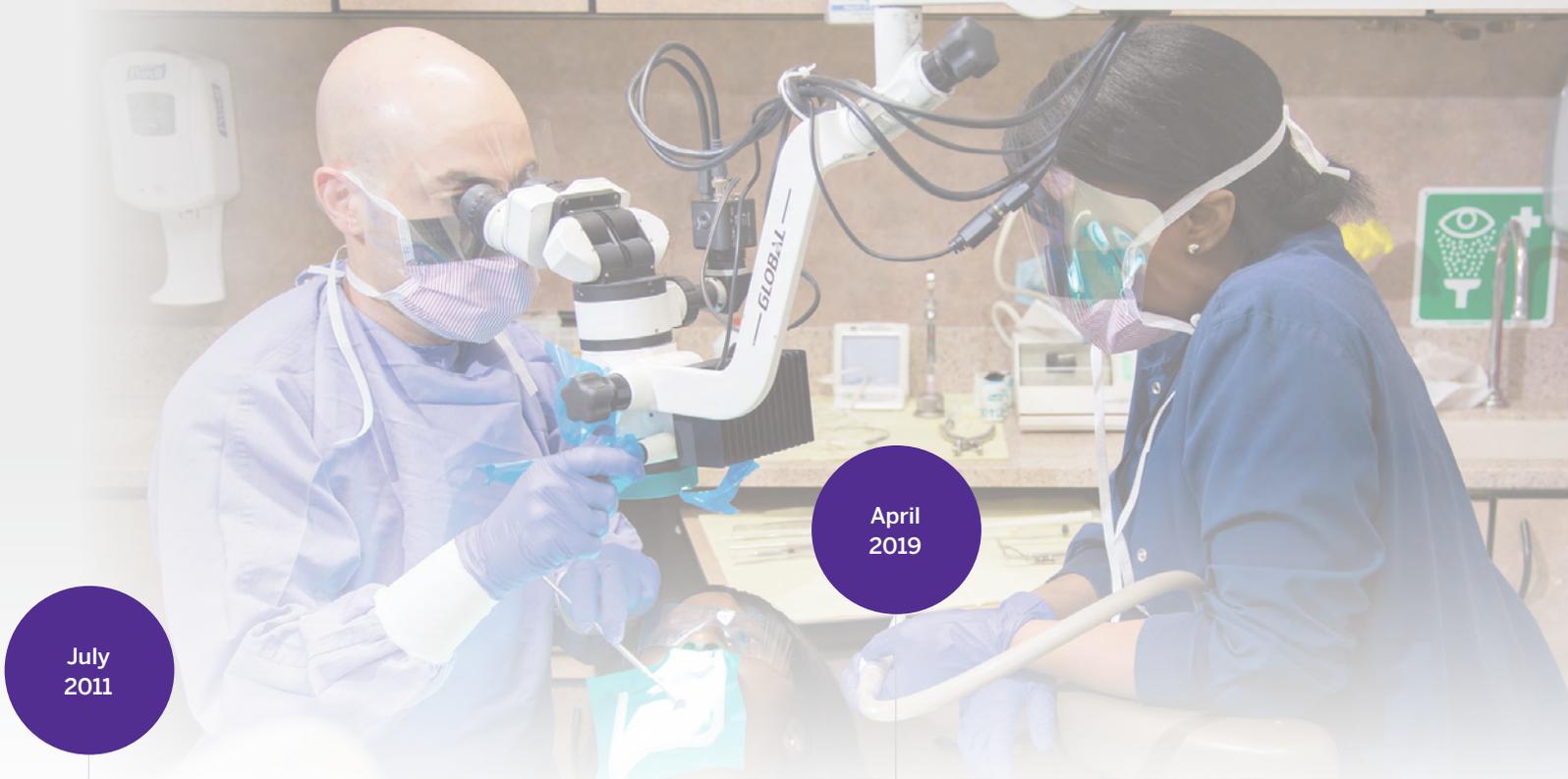


NEW SITE IN PUERTO RICO

The Endodontic program receives approval for University of Puerto Rico- San Juan

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

[Dr. Marc Kunin](#) becomes Associate Director, Brooklyn



July
2011

April
2019



ENDODONTIC PROCEDURE

Resident in training during an endodontic procedure



AAOE MEETING CANADA

Endodontic Program leaders Drs. Robert Goldberger, Program Director, Marc Kunin, Associate Director, and Jonathan Kamen with alumni, current and prospective residents at the American Association of Endodontists Annual Meeting on April 2019 in Montreal, Canada.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PR 2012

Dr. Francisco Brunet-Ramirez becomes Associate Director, Puerto Rico

TOTAL RESIDENTS 2013

Total of 11 Endodontic residents (PGY 1 & PGY2 combined)

INTERIM PROGRAM DIRECTOR 2025

Dr. Marc Kunin takes over as interim Program Director for Endodontics

2025
Total of 12
Endodontic residents
for NY and PR
(6 PGY1 + 6 PGY2)

Marc Kunin, DDS, MA, FICD

Interim Program Director, Endodontics

Specialty: Dentistry

Board Certifications:

American Board of Endodontics, 2014

Language: English

Dr. Marc Kunin's remarkable journey began in 1992, with a simple ad he answered in *The New York Times*, seeking a part-time endodontist for Lutheran Medical Center's Dental Department (now NYU Langone Dental Medicine). What started as a two-day-a-week role quickly expanded into a full-time commitment, reflecting his growing influence and dedication. Thirty years later, he remains a cornerstone of the dental residency programs.

From the outset, Dr. Kunin's enthusiasm for teaching was evident. He began delivering lectures to both General Practice Residency (GPR) and Endodontic residents, sharing his expertise and igniting a passion for Endodontics among his students.

To enhance his teaching abilities, Dr. Kunin pursued a Master's in Education from the University of the Pacific. This experience further honed his skills, enabling him to connect with residents on an individual level and tailor his teaching to meet their unique needs.

Today, Dr. Kunin serves as the Interim Program Director for the Endodontic Residency Program, where he continues to inspire and mentor residents. One of his most

significant contributions is his comprehensive Board preparation program, which has been instrumental in many residents achieving Diplomate status. Residents consistently credit Dr. Kunin's guidance for their success.

Dr. Kunin takes immense pride in seeing many of his former residents return to NYU Langone Dental Medicine as faculty members. Their commitment to teaching and giving back exemplifies the enduring impact of his mentorship and the supportive community he has helped cultivate.

Dr. Kunin earned his DDS degree from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1986 and his Certificate in Endodontics from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1988. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics and a member of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics. He was honored as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, a prestigious acknowledgment of his dedication and service. In addition to his teaching and clinical work, Dr. Kunin has lectured extensively and has been published in the *Journal of Endodontics* and the *Journal of Dental Education*.



“I have seen many changes in the Dental Department over the past 32 years. What hasn't changed is the dedication of our residents, attendings, and staff to provide world class care to our neighbors who would otherwise have no access to dental care. Working alongside coworkers at NYU Langone who have become like family has been the experience of a lifetime.”

Dr. Marc Kunin, NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Program Director in Advanced Education in Endodontics



MARCH 2014

Drs. Joseph Chu, Farid Brian Shaikh, Robert Goldberger, and Howard Kang presented during the Endodontic Symposium held in Honolulu, HI. The successful continuing education symposium was coordinated by Dr. Sam Ishimura (center), AEGD Assistant Program Director, Hawaii Region.



APRIL 2019

Congratulations to NYU Langone Dental Medicine Endodontic Program graduates, Drs. Wendy Rosen, Cristina Martinez, and Savita Singh with Drs. Robert Goldberger and Marc Kunin, who had recently become board certified by the American Board of Endodontics.



JULY 2021

Dr. Robert Goldberger with a few of the Endodontic Program graduates.

Accolades

Maria Maranga, DDS

Affiliated Provider at Sunset Park Family Health Center at NYU Langone – Dental Medicine, and Faculty, Endodontics

Specialty: Dentistry



Maria C. Maranga, DDS was the 2024 recipient of the American Association of Endodontists AAE Spirit of Service Award (Career Dental Community Volunteer) at the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) 2024 Meeting in Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Maria Maranga received her DDS degree and her endodontic specialty degree from NYU College of Dentistry. Besides private practice, she has served as a consultant to the V.A.M.C. and is an attending to 4 GPR residency programs, post grad endodontic program and has been on the dental faculty of both NYU and Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine and on the medical staff at NYU Langone. She is a past president of the Suffolk County Dental Society, A twice past President of the AAE-NYS Association, and a past Vice President of the American Dental Association. She also held a three-year term as a board trustee of the AAE and a four-year term as a board trustee for the AAE Foundation. She is a past chair of the ADA's Council on Membership. She is a current board member of EDPAC, ADPAC, ADA's Give Vets A Smile Committee, NYSDA Council on Dental Health Planning and Hospital



Dr. Maranga was honored with a lifetime service award during the annual AAE meeting, graciously supported by Endodontics program director Dr. Robert Goldberger, alongside the attendance of our esteemed current residents and numerous alumni. The event was a splendid affair, commemorating Dr. Maranga's remarkable contributions to the field.

Dentistry and the current Chairperson of the NYS Dental Foundation. She was twice honored as "Top 50 Businesswomen on Long Island", the Mentorship Award by the Lucy Hobbs Project and Dental Products Magazine's as one of Dentistry's TOP 25 women across the country. She has also been the recipient of the Bernard Tillis Literary Excellence Award in the NYS Dental Journal. She is a graduate of the ADA's Institute on Diversity and Inclusion and then Academic Affairs Director and the Membership Director of the American Association of Women Dentists. Most notably, she is the co-founder of the double award-winning SCRUBS AND STILETTOS, a 15-year annual women's C.E. and networking event.

The Spirit of Service Award (Career Dental Community Volunteer) recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the true spirit of leadership through the following criteria:

- devoted time and expertise
- created effective partnerships in the dental community
- impacted dental organizations
- benefited patients by volunteering their time and expertise in treating the underserved.



Excellence in Endodontics: NYU Langone Residents Shine at Symposium



We're thrilled to share a moment of pride as our accomplished Endodontics residents took the stage at the Louis M. Lin Tri-State Postgraduate Student Symposium.

Presenting their groundbreaking research were:

Dr. Julian Johnson, DMD

Dr. Kade Bartschi, DDS

Dr. Christina Kim, DDS

The focus of their presentation? To delve into the current protocol for performing regenerative endodontics and evaluate the long-term success rates of cases performed at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn from 2018 to 2023.

Their dedication, research, and expertise illuminated the symposium, showcasing the impactful contributions of our residents to the field of endodontics.

Congratulations to these outstanding professionals for their commitment to advancing dental knowledge and excellence. The future of endodontics is brighter thanks to their hard work and passion!

Dental Anesthesiology

17 YEARS

EST. 2008

HISTORY

The beginning of the NYU Langone (formerly LMC) Dental Anesthesiology Residency is entwined with the NYU Langone (formerly LMC) Residency in Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Neal Demby had the foresight to seek out dental anesthesiologists as mentors to pediatric dental residents during their two-month rotations in anesthesia. Dr. Louis Siegelman and Dr. Charles Azzaretti both trained in dental anesthesiology at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in the 1980s. They were recruited by the Dental Department at Lutheran Medical Center as anesthesia attendings to mentor pediatric dental residents in anesthesia. This was of dual benefit for the Pediatric Dental Program: pediatric patients under general anesthesia, provided by dental anesthesiologists mentoring the pediatric dental residents on anesthesia rotation, received comprehensive dental treatment provided by pediatric dental residents and pediatric dental attendings.

In 2008 the Dental Department at LMC received initial CODA approval for a two-year residency program in Dental Anesthesiology and accepted four residents to begin training on July 1, 2008. The original

Program Director was Dr. Edward Fayans. Dr. Azzaretti and Dr. Siegelman expanded their roles as anesthesia attendings for pediatric dental residents to include dental anesthesiology residents as well. In 2010 Dr. Fayans left his position as PD and Dr. Azzaretti was appointed PD in March 2010. On June 30, 2010 the LMC DA Program celebrated its first four graduates.

Now, 15 years later the NYU Langone DA Program is going strong (with the Class of 2025 there will be over 80 alumni). Dr. Azzaretti remains the program director and Dr. Louis Siegelman maintains his role as attending dental anesthesiologist. Dr. Siegelman mentors DA residents in the main OR as well as in his Manhattan office which is fully equipped for GA support of Dental treatment. Dr. Nicholas Katchen (2012 graduate of the DA Program and also Pediatric Dentist [Stony Brook 2014]) has been a DA attending with the NYU Langone DA Program since 2015. As a dual trained DA/ Pediatric Dentist he is uniquely oriented to mentoring DA resident's providing anesthesia for pediatric dental cases both in the OR and Dental Clinic.

July
2008



DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY PROGRAM ACCREDITED

CODA grants conditional approval to the Dental Anesthesiology program after conducting first site visit in Brooklyn

2011

GOING MOBILE 2009

Arizona Mobile Office Based Anesthesia Rotation (AMOBAR)

CLASS SIZE INCREASED

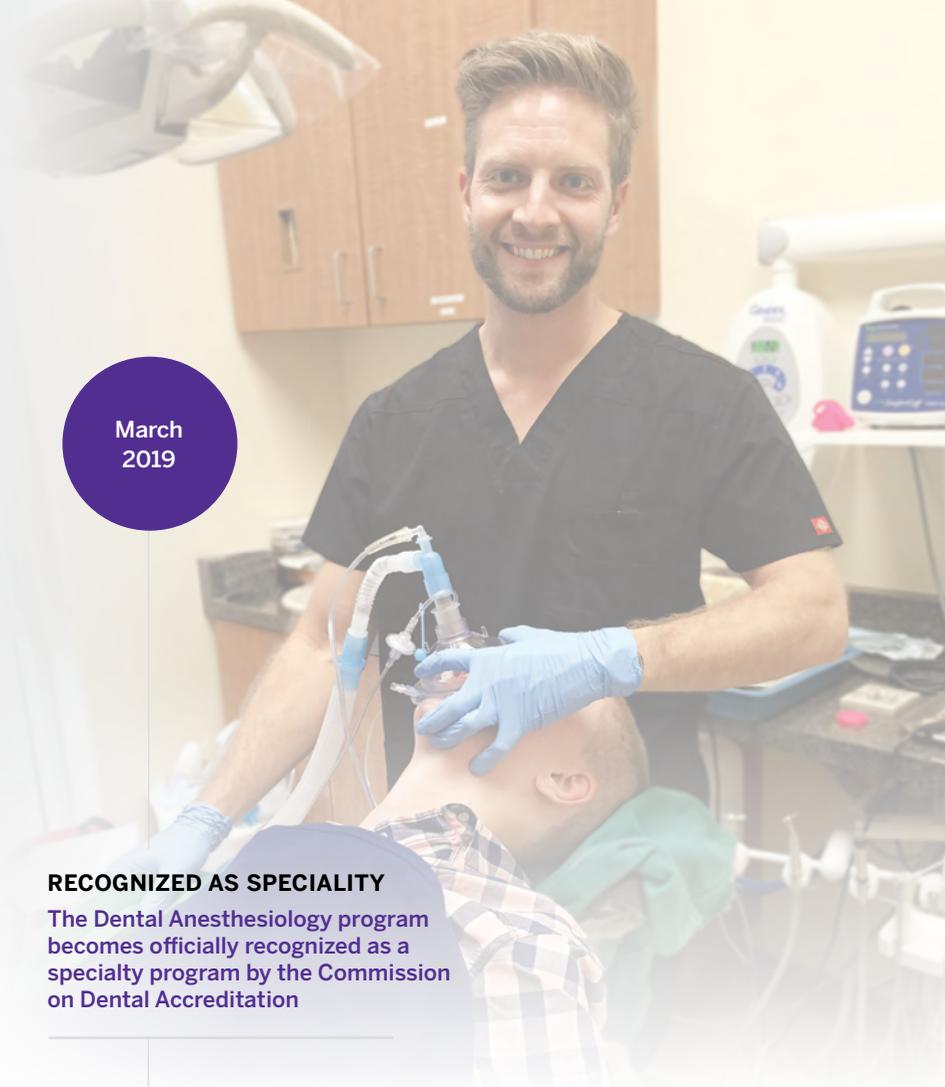
The Dental Anesthesiology program received approval to increase the PGY1 class size to 6 residents

March
2010



NEW DA PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Dr. Charles Azzaretti appointed
program director for the
Dental Anesthesiology program

March
2019



RECOGNIZED AS SPECIALITY

The Dental Anesthesiology program
becomes officially recognized as a
specialty program by the Commission
on Dental Accreditation

2015

MORE EXPERIENCE JUL 2015

The Dental Anesthesiology
program transitions from a
2 year to a 3 year program



NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kenneth Reed was appointed
Associate Program Director

**SOLIS ADULT SPECIAL NEEDS
ROTATION**

Located in Los Angeles, CA,
Solis is a Dental Only certified
SurgiCenter that treats many
Adult Special Needs/Syndromic
Patients in two state of the art
ambulatory operating rooms.



CLINICAL ANESTHESIA TRAINING

Image from the DA Forum

www.nyulangonedental.org/programs/anesthesiology

2025
Total of 18
Dental Anesthesiology
residents
(6 PGY1 + 6PGY2
+ 6 PGY3)

Charles D. Azzaretti, DDS

Program Director, Dental Anesthesiology

Specialty: Dentistry

Board Certifications:

American Board of American Dental
Board of Anesthesiology, 1996

Language: English



Charles D. Azzaretti, DDS, currently serves as the Program Director for the Dental Anesthesiology Residency program. Dr. Azzaretti attended Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, obtaining his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1981. Following dental school Dr. Azzaretti completed a General Practice Residency (GPR) at the Bronx Veterans Hospital in Bronx, NY, in 1982. Exposure to anesthesia practice during the GPR led him to pursue specialized training in Dental Anesthesiology. In 1985, he earned a Certificate in Dental Anesthesiology from Long Island Jewish - Hillside Medical Center in New Hyde Park, NY, which opened doors to anesthesia practice in both the hospital and dental office based settings.

Dr. Azzaretti has achieved board certifications in the field of Dental Anesthesiology. He is certified by both the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology 1996 and the National Dental Board of Anesthesiology 2002. Dr. Azzaretti joined NYU Langone, formerly Lutheran, in 1996 as a Dental Anesthesiology attending. He was appointed the Dental Anesthesiology Program Director in 2010. Dr. Azzaretti's extensive education, certifications, and dedication to resident training and patient care make him a respected and trusted professional in the field of dentistry and dental anesthesiology.

“Within the NYU Langone Brooklyn Hospital the NYU DA residents continue to function as an integral part of the anesthesia service for the Main OR and Endoscopy/Cystoscopy Suites. As part of their training they regularly cover in-house overnight on-call shifts for the OR. They perform so well that the Department of Anesthesiology routinely employs PGY-2 and PGY-3 DA residents to work overtime shifts in the OR.”

Dr. Charles Azzaretti, NYU Langone Dental Medicine’s Program Director in Dental Anesthesiology



2014 HOLIDAY PARTY

Drs. Charles Azzaretti and Bernard Tolpin at the holiday party, Dyker Beach Golf Course, Brooklyn. Dr. Tolpin included Dr. Azzaretti in one of the songs he was singing to regale the attendees at this function.



APRIL 2023

Dental Anesthesiology Team Attends Annual ASDA Conference: Dr. Kenneth Reed, Associate Program Director; Dr. Charles Azzaretti, Program Director; Dr. Louis Siegelman, Attending.

Dental Anesthesiology residents give successful presentations



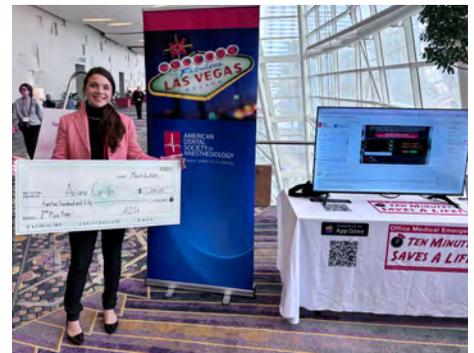
The American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA) convened its 2024 Annual Scientific Session and General Assembly of Members Meeting at the Bat Cave, Embassy Suites Austin Downtown, from April 17th to 20th. The event included a dinner and social mixer.

Captured in the group photo are alumni, attendings, directors, and residents gathered during the group dinner, featuring Dr. Charles Azzaretti, our esteemed program director.

Among the participants were Dr. Eric Chen and Dr. Ariana Carillo, both second-year dental anesthesia residents, actively involved in the conference. Dr. Chen delivered a podium presentation titled “Considerations for Selecting Cuffed and Uncuffed Endotracheal Tubes in Ambulatory and Mobile Dental Office Settings,” while Dr. Carillo presented a poster on “Cerebral Oximetry: A Novel Approach to Resuscitation.”



Dr. Eric Chen (then a PGY-2 DA resident) giving a podium presentation titled “Considerations for selecting cuffed and uncuffed endotracheal tubes in ambulatory and mobile dental office settings” at the ASDA Meeting April 2024.



Dr. Ariana Carillo (then a PGY-2 resident) holding an award for her presentation “Cerebral Oximetry: A novel approach to resuscitation” at the ASDA Meeting March 2024.



Drs. Jason Brady, Charles Azzaretti, and Ken Reed at the 2024 ASDA meeting in Austin, Texas.



The second-year dental anesthesia class in attendance.

Dental Anesthesiology program gatherings



NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Dental Anesthesiology team attends their annual American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists Conference in April 2023.



Celebrating and incredible evening in Brooklyn, New York with Dr. Azzaretti, our 2024 graduates and new incoming residents as they embark on this exciting journey in dental anesthesia. Here's to a promising future!

Accolades

Top tier presentation



Dr. Ariana Carillo, a valued member of our team, recently participated in the International Federation of Dental Anesthesiology Societies (IFDAS) conference held at the Aria in Las Vegas from March 14th-16th, 2024. This prestigious event draws submissions from esteemed professionals across Japan, Israel, Canada, and the US. Among the 21 submissions, the top 5 were selected for presentation, with the top 3 earning accolades.

Dr. Carillo proudly achieved 2nd place, reflecting her dedication and expertise. She expressed her gratitude for the invaluable learning experience, affirming that attending and presenting at this conference was a milestone she eagerly pursued during her residency and extended sincere appreciation for the opportunity provided.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine Curriculum

Innovating Education for the Future of Dentistry

FOREWARD

NYU Langone Dental Medicine is leading the way in dental education with a dynamic and comprehensive curriculum designed to meet the evolving needs of its residents. Today, the program features an impressive array of forty-eight online courses, totaling 217 hours of material. The curriculum leverages cutting-edge technology, including videos, case studies, clinical scenarios, knowledge checks, and quizzes, to create an engaging and effective learning environment.

Working with [Dr. Barbara Ottenio](#), Director of Curriculum and Continuing Education, our instructional designer, [Joanne Tzanis](#), has standardized course content and learning activities to ensure consistent and impactful educational experiences. These efforts enable greater access for the program's diverse group of learners and provide relevant, up-to-date knowledge for their professional development. The commitment to lifelong learning is evident in this innovative and accessible online curriculum.

2013



NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

[Dr. Barbara Ottenio](#) joined Graduate Dental Education as the Curriculum and Continuing Education Director

2021



NEW PROJECT MANAGER/ INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

[Joanne Tzanis](#) hired to improve the online course development process and online curriculum user learning experience

Barbara M. Ottenio, DDS, MA, CADL, FICD

Director of Curriculum and Continuing Education
Graduate Dental Education

Specialty: Dental Education, Community Health Dentistry,
Patient Education, and Curriculum and Instruction

Education and Training:
Residency, Lutheran Medical Center, Dentistry, 1997

Language: English, Italian, Spanish



Dr. Barbara Ottenio began her journey at NYU Dental School, graduating in 1997. She joined NYU Langone Dental Medicine's (formerly Lutheran Medical Center) Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program under the mentorship of Dr. D'Emilio, who was then the Program Director. In 1998, her passion for pediatrics and her desire for broader experience led her to transition to the General Practice Residency (GPR) program. Although her initial plan was to enter private practice, the program directors recognized her leadership potential and invited her to stay on as chief resident.

Dr. Ottenio's career took a pivotal turn when she was encouraged to take on the role of Curriculum Director. Embracing this opportunity, she furthered her education by earning a Master's degree in education and pursuing advanced leadership certifications.

This marked the beginning of her transition from clinical practice to a focus on curriculum development and continuing education.

Dr. Ottenio takes immense pride in her work behind the scenes, where she has developed an innovative dental curriculum that emphasizes patient-centered care over simply meeting requirements. This philosophy has instilled a sense of purpose in residents, shaping their approach to dentistry and leaving a lasting impact on their careers.

CE Events Recap

Guest speaker Dr. Matthew Allen presented on Motivational Interviewing

Dental Medicine welcomed **Matthew Allen, DDS**, CEO and co-founder of DifferentKind and a leading expert on person-centered care, motivational interviewing, and shared decision making in dentistry as a guest speaker.

NYU Langone Dental Medicine faculty and leadership teams participated in their foundational motivational interviewing (MI) workshop. MI is one method of client-centered communication that is designed to motivate people for change by helping them recognize and resolve the discrepancy between their present behavior, and their future personal goals and values.

Dr. Matt Allen showed participants to understand and experience the ‘what’ and the ‘why’ of MI in oral health settings. Through role-playing scenarios, realplaying situations, and small group discussions, participants experienced both the spirit and the core skills of MI, setting the table for future growth in person-centered communication skills necessary for improved patient outcomes and experiences.



Guest speaker Dr. Douglas Young presented on Caries Risk Management

In September 2024, Dental Medicine welcomed **Douglas Young, DDS, EdD, MS, MBA**, a renowned expert in minimally invasive dentistry, cariology and caries risk management as a guest speaker. With his extensive research background, Dr. Young educated us with his engaging presentation on Treating Caries Chemically: Caries Risk Management, Silver Diamine Fluoride and Glass Ionomer. With a captivated audience of 38 faculty members, Dr. Young delivered on performing caries risk assessments and gave present science-based treatment options for clinical scenarios. The lecture fostered a lively Q&A session where attendees eagerly posed questions and were left inspired to tackle today’s approach on minimal invasive dentistry. Dr. Young’s visit prompted engaging discussions and new approaches in tackling today’s challenges.





Etienne Franck, MS, MA

Systems Director, NYU Langone Dental Medicine
Specialty: Computer Science

Etienne Franck is the Systems Director at NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs. In this role, he oversees the program's information systems but is also involved in other areas, including marketing, recruitment, research support, grant management, program efficiency, and quality improvement.

Etienne holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Paris 8 and a Master's in Education from Pacific University. Before joining NYU Langone, he worked at Microsoft and AT&T, where he gained valuable experience in Information technology systems and large-scale project management. His diverse background helps him handle the wide range of responsibilities he manages today.

He has two no-longer little girls born and raised in Manhattan. Now, young adults, none of them live in New York, nor would they want to. He wonders why. Is it their parents, Manhattan, or both?



Loreina Tam, MPA

Director, Graduate Dental Education
Specialty: Public Administration

Loreina Tam, Director, Graduate Dental Education (GDE) Programs in the Department of Dental Medicine at the Family Health Center at NYU Langone, including Brooklyn and remote training sites, has overall administrative and financial responsibility to its programs. Other essential responsibilities include onboarding and life cycle management for staff, faculty and trainees, financial planning and reporting, consolidated GDE budget oversight, management of contracts within GDE and quality improvement activities. Loreina holds a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Health Administration. She just celebrated her 10th year anniversary with NYU Langone Health in 2024. She brings with her her experience from Graduate Medical Education with Emergency Medicine, medical residency program.



Eric Malone

Recruitment Manager, NYU Langone Dental Medicine
Postdoctoral Residency Programs
Specialty: Management

Eric Malone earned his undergraduate degree in Management from the University of Central Florida in 2010. He began his career at Lutheran Medical Center in 2011 as a project coordinator for the school-based dental clinics. Since 2013, Eric has been an integral part of Graduate Dental Education and now serves as the Recruitment Manager for the Postdoctoral Residency Program at NYU Langone. In his role, Eric manages the programs recruitment and marketing initiatives including registering and attending vendor fairs, school lunch and learns, application vetting, upkeeping of the program website and managing the social media accounts for Graduate Dental Education.

Eric recently celebrated a decade of marriage with his wife, Crystal, and they joyfully welcomed their new baby, Lillian, in August. Eric, Crystal, and Lillian currently reside in Bayonne, NJ.



Chandni Pipaliya, MHA, MPM

Assistant Director, Graduate Dental Education
Specialty: Healthcare Administration and
Project Management

Chandni Pipaliya completed her bachelor's in dental surgery from Mumbai India. She holds a master's degree in healthcare administration and a master's degree in project management. She began her journey as a project manager with Graduate Dental Education in 2022. In her role, she oversees the program coordinators and assists with marketing, recruitment, Advanced certificate in public health grant activities, organizing and managing Faculty Development. Chandni and her husband are expecting their first child in June.

Philip J. Rinaudo, DDS, MSD, FICD, FACD, FPFA

Director of Accreditation, Graduate Dental Education
NYU Langone Dental Medicine

Specialty: Dentistry, Dental Education

Education and Training:

Louisiana State University School of Dentistry, 1979
Masters, Indiana University School of Dentistry, 1996

Language: English



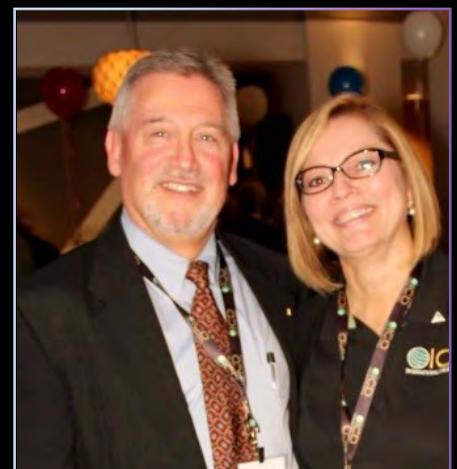
As Director of Accreditation, **Dr. Philip Rinaudo** oversees the accreditation process at NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs, ensuring full compliance with the rigorous standards of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). His leadership has led to multiple successful accreditation visits, all achieving the highest possible outcome of “accredited with no reporting requirements.”

As a core member of the Graduate Dental Education Leadership Team, he plays a pivotal part in strategic initiatives such as recruitment, site assessment, marketing, and compliance. His contributions directly enhance the professional development of postdoctoral dental residents, preparing them to become the next generation of leaders in the field of dentistry.

Dr. Rinaudo’s career spans more than 40 years, with experience in military service, academia, and private practice. A proud Louisiana native, he earned his DDS from the Louisiana

State University School of Dentistry and an MSD in Operative Dentistry from Indiana University School of Dentistry. He joined NYU Langone Dental Medicine in 2015, initially recruited by Dr. Demby to work on special projects for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program. Recognizing his expertise and deep familiarity with CODA standards, his role evolved to focus on accreditation, culminating in his appointment as Director of Accreditation in 2016.

Under Dr. Rinaudo’s leadership, NYU Langone Dental Medicine’s accreditation processes have undergone significant advancements. Communication has improved across the organization—between training sites, team members, program directors, and leadership—ensuring seamless preparation and sustained compliance with CODA standards. His philosophy emphasizes maintaining readiness for accreditation year-round, fostering a culture where compliance and excellence are ingrained into daily operations.



Dr. Phil Rinaudo and wife Paula

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.



Commission on Dental Accreditation

AEGD Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Winter 2024 Meeting

Maryland Region

Choptank Community Health Systems
 Federalsburg Medical and Dental Center
 Cambridge Dental Center
 Goldsboro Medical and Dental Center
 Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc.
 Baltimore
 Columbia
 Security Square Center

USVI Region

Frederiksted Health Care, Inc. North Shore

REVISIT* A revisit was required for all sites who had a virtual site visit in 2021 to complete their site visit.

Montana Region*

Riverstone Health
 Rubicon - Montana Center for Implants and Dentures

Upstate NY Region*

Hometown Health Center
 Shatkin Dental Health

Florida Region*

Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc.
 27th
 22nd

Family Health Centers of SW FL, Inc.
 Bonita Springs Family Dental
 Estero Family Dental
 Downtown Fort Myers Family Dental
 Labelle Family Dental
 Lehigh Acres Family Dental
 LECOM School of Dental Medicine

AEGD Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Summer 2024 Meeting

Puerto Rico Region

University of Puerto Rico, School of Dental Medicine
 Concilio de Salud Integral de Loiza
 Consejo de Salud de Puerto Rico Inc. Med Centro
 Correctional Medical Complex
 Bayamon 1072
 Bayamon 501

COSSMA

Cidra
 Las Piedras
 San Lorenzo

Central Arizona Region

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
 St. Vincent de Paul Dental Clinic

Louisiana Region

DePaul Community Health Center
 Carrollton
 Gentilly

Virginia Region

Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems
 Eastville Community Health Center

North Arizona Region

North Country Healthcare - Flagstaff

Iowa Region

Crescent Community Health Center

Nevada (Utah) Region

Roseman University of Health Sciences College of
 Dental Medicine - Summerlin Campus

San Francisco/Oakland, California Region

Gardner Family Services - St. James Health Center
 Dientes Community Dental Care

AEGD Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Winter 2023 Meeting

Georgia Region

Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.
 West Albany Dental and Medical Center
 Glover Dental Center

Grady Health System

Ben Massell Dental Clinic

Good Samaritan Health Center Atlanta

Ohio Region

Family Health Services of Darke County

Primary Health Solutions, Inc.

Middletown Health Center

Family Tree Dental

AEGD Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Summer 2023 Meeting

New Jersey Region

Zufall Health - Dover Dental

Southern California Region

La Maestra Community Health Centers

Lemon Grove

Fairmount 1st Floor

Fairmount 3rd Floor

City Heights, Main Suite 120

National City

El Cajon Broadway

El Cajon Main

North California Region

Elica Health Centers

Halyard

North Highlands

Mack Road

Franklin

Hawaii Region

Waimānalo Health Center

Central East California Region

Family HealthCare Network

Visalia Bridge

Visalia School

Woodlake

Goshen

San Francisco/Oakland, California Region

Dientes Community Dental Care

Montana Region

Rubicon Dental Associates

Montana Center for Implants and Dentures

Hardin Family Dental

Midtown Dental

Louisiana Region

EXCELth, Inc.

New Orleans East Family Health and Dental

Pediatric Dentistry Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Winter 2024 Meeting

REVISIT* As with AEGD, a revisit was required for all sites who had a virtual site visit in 2021 to complete their site visit.

Washington Region*

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Lincoln Ave Medical-Dental Clinic - Viewcrest

Children Village

Columbia, Missouri Region*

Compass Health

Portland

Broadway Bluffs

California Region*

San Ysidro Health - Children's Dental Care Center

at Rady Children's Hospital

Pediatric Dentistry had no approved sites at the Summer 2024 Meeting.

Pediatric Dentistry had no approved sites at the Winter 2023 Meeting.

Pediatric Dentistry Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Summer 2023 Meeting

Casa Grande, Arizona Region

Sun Life Family Dentistry - Pediatric Dental Clinic

Kansas Region

Community Health Centers of Southeast Kansas

Pittsburg

Parsons

Endodontic Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Winter 2023 Meeting

Brooklyn, New York

Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

Puerto Rico

University of Puerto, School of Dental Medicine

GPR Clinical Training Sites Approved at the Winter 2023 Meeting

Brooklyn, New York

Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

Long Island, New York

Center for Family Dental Medicine

Research Office 6 YEARS

EST. 2018

HISTORY

Since its reorganization in 2018, the Research Office has played a pivotal role in enhancing the quality and impact of research, quality improvement, and public health projects at NYU Langone Health. With the ongoing commitment of Tina C. Littlejohn, MSW, Research Program Coordinator, Melissa K. James, PhD, Research Program Manager, and Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH, Director of Dental Research and the active engagement of the five dental residency program leaders, plans are underway to conduct more qualitative and patient-centered research.

One of the key achievements has been the successful management and coordination of externally funded training and demonstration projects, providing dental faculty and residents with valuable opportunities to engage in

collaborative and published research studies. These projects have contributed to improving patient care while providing team members with hands-on experience designing and implementing projects and analyzing findings.

Furthermore, the Research Office has actively partnered across NYU Langone Health entities, notably the NYU Grossman School of Medicine Hansjörg Wyss Department of Plastic Surgery and the Department of Population Health Division of Biostatistics, the NYU School of Global Public Health, and Family Health Centers at NYU Langone Behavioral Health Program, WIC Program, and HIV Network. These collaborations have fostered whole-person care and advanced integrated dental, medical, behavioral health, and social service delivery.

June
2018



NEW DIRECTOR OF DENTAL RESEARCH

Dr. Mary Northridge, newly hired Director of Dental Research for NYU Langone Dental Medicine. Dr. Northridge is pictured receiving her speaker's certificate from Dr. Stuart Gansky, UCSF.

1ST ANNUAL RESEARCH FAIR JUNE 2018

NYU Langone Dental Medicine hosts the 1st annual Dental Medicine Research Fair

Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH

Research Associate Professor,
Hansjorg Wyss Department of Plastic Surgery
Director of Dental Research



The personal and professional converge in our career journeys. This past year, two science writers independently contacted me about my stepfather William (Bill) Northover, a Black scientist who worked at Bell Laboratories when he married my mother, Mary F. Northover, who are pictured together in the accompanying photograph. The reason they were able to connect with me is because I mentioned Bill's mentorship in this tribute published in the American Journal of Public: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4504309/>. Also, this past year, my older daughter Jennifer L. Northridge, MD and her medical students conducted an integrative review using a social ecological approach toward improving healthcare for LGBTQIA+ youths.

In reading the findings of their impressive project, I was struck by how far the field has advanced since I first published on the topic several decades ago: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1446105/>.

In moving forward with our mission at NYU Langone Dental Medicine to serve, teach, and discover through excellence in patient care, education, and research, it is clear to me that disseminating our findings in open access venues is critical to improving oral health equity so that other dental educators may benefit from our experiences. After the shared trauma of the COVID pandemic, reconnecting with our purpose and one another will be essential in forming partnerships with our patients to deliver compassionate care based on the best available science.



Triumph through Adversity: Inspiration from the Lived Experiences of Dental Faculty

On September 1, 2016, the **Dental Faculty Development and Loan Repayment Program (DFDLRP) grant # T93HP30391** was awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to what was then termed NYU Lutheran Dentistry (Project Director: the late Neal A. Demby, DMD, MPH). Seven years later (August 31, 2023), this grant was formally closed after being extended an additional year by a supplement to New York University (NYU) to cover a fifth year of loan repayment to one dental faculty member who was enrolled in the DFDLRP a year after it began. This extra time was also essential in distributing the final educational loan disbursement to another enrolled dental faculty member who was furloughed for five months in Year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but was permitted to remain eligible for these funds through the generosity of HRSA in the face of the historic public health emergency of the past three years.

The seven-year length of the DFDLRP grant comprised a remarkable period of leadership transition and institutional evolution for the NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Training Programs overlaid with the unprecedented upheaval in oral health care delivery and the extraordinary setbacks to dental education that were accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding universally shared adversity, including fear, uncertainty, and loss, four NYU Langone Health dental faculty members earned a master's degree tuition-free and received full educational loan repayment minus tax liability through this HRSA award. The current grant team (Project Director: Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH; Program Coordinator: Tina C. Littlejohn, MSW) reflected

upon these remarkable achievements by interviewing the four loan repayment recipients who served all five years of their terms in Summer 2023 and analyzing the findings of these key informant interviews. Details regarding the qualitative methods employed and faculty recommendations for building capacity and assuring patient interests in resident research are available in an accompanying quality report. Presented below are the themes derived with illustrative quotations regarding positive aspects of their lived experiences that resulted in individual, program, and community health center benefits that tell the story of the DFDLRP. The following four dental faculty members offered genuine encouragement and constructive advice as generous participants in this quality improvement project:

- ✦ **Jessica Webb, DDS, MSD, MA, MSRT, CTRS** at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic in Yakima, WA, and faculty member with the NYU Langone Health Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Program;
- ✦ **Bethany P. Harris, DDS, MPH** at Family Health Centers at NYU Langone in Brooklyn, NY, and Associate Director with the NYU Langone Health General Practice Residency Program;
- ✦ **Fadra Whyte, DMD, MPH** at San Ysidro Health Center in San Diego, CA, and faculty member with the NYU Langone Health Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Program; and
- ✦ **Kristin Compton, DMD, MHA, FAADD** at Lee Specialty Clinic in Louisville, KY, and faculty member with the NYU Langone Health Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program.



Dr. Jessica Webb



Dr. Bethany P. Harris



Dr. Fadra Whyte



Dr. Kristin Compton

Among the positive aspects of the DFDLRP mentioned were those directly related to the major goals of the program, namely, earning a master's degree and reducing educational debt.

"I think that reimbursement is huge and facilitating the ability to stay in academics financially, especially working for a community health center where reimbursement is not what it is in private practice... And I think the master's program was also very helpful, not only in, obviously [gaining] the didactic knowledge earned in the master's, but also doing it at this stage when you're already faculty."

"I have a lot of positives from the program. I mean... just taking out that burden of debt has been huge. And then second, for me, was really going on and being given the ability to complete my MPH, which I don't think I would have done if this program hadn't allowed me to do."

Other positive aspects of the DFDLRP were the flexibility of the selected master's programs and the opportunities the degrees afforded for greater involvement in research.

"Just from a simple scheduling aspect that I was able to still be working while doing the program remotely and kind of at my own pace when I first started the program. I mean, just being able to work on the practicum, which was something totally new for me. Getting to do some writing, getting to have more experience with Dr. Northridge, which was so helpful and hopefully, like I said, being able to continue some of this research with the residents... I find a lot of our residents are interested in doing some research."

"Most beneficial in the long run [was] to help do research and involve residents."

Several respondents volunteered that earning their master's degree led to promotions and career advances.

"Through this program [I] was able to obtain my master's in health care administration, and that allowed me to actually obtain a promotion [and eventually be appointed as] the CEO of the specialty clinic."

"Completing the program has just furthered my career... I moved on to a different role since then, but it's all because getting my master's degree... allowed me to do something different."

In terms of benefits to the NYU Langone Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Programs, respondents mentioned improving patient flow and promoting faculty retention.

"It really helped me to think a lot more about like, patient flow and efficiency and how all of those types of things can impact your ability to see more patients."

"It definitely promoted retention in staying with the program... having that financial assistance allows you to stay in an academic position longer."

Finally, among the benefits of the DFDLRP to the community health centers where they worked that the key informants mentioned were collaboration with other sites and applying evaluation tools to improve patient care.

"So, for the community health center, I mean, getting more involved with other sites and ... just having the experience with the focus group. Finding out [about] resources that you don't know... are there."

"And once I started learning some of these tools like efficiency [evaluations] and different things like that... I started applying those to our dental department. I was actually able to carve that waiting list down to about a year and a half. So I was able to open up additional spots for patients by just looking at little things like making sure the assistant has what they need [by] your side so they're not running back and forth for supplies."

The respondents were willing to be vulnerable in relating their personal and professional challenges during the interviews, and how they triumphed through adversity. In closing, the hope is that these final words from the lived experiences of the four key informants offer inspiration to the broader dental education and community health center communities.

"My life... [had] some late nights. Usually to get an assignment [submitted], the deadline was midnight. Well, I should say it was midnight Mountain time, so I had until 2:00 am to finish it sometimes. But it definitely it made you prioritize and organize your day..."

"[I] completed [the master's] during COVID, but I actually called the advisor when we shut down and was like, 'There's no way I can complete this program. I have two kids at home and I'm trying to home school them, and there's absolutely no way that I'm going to be able to continue' and she was, like, 'Just take a week, take a deep breath' and, you know, actually, that was huge motivation for me to continue and complete the program..."

"I have [a] very strong belief that kids should get the same level of care whether they... live in a rural community and are [covered] by Medicaid or not. The more that we can bring... that expertise to local communities instead of expecting our families to go to Seattle, the better. Having the training program here, adding academic... resources and research experience and... all of those types of things [such as] specialty care, even just with the residency alone, I think it's really powerful."

"I've always been a clinician, kind of a diehard clinician, but once I started learning things through my [master's], it really helped me to think a lot more about... patient flow and efficiency and how all of those types of things can impact your ability to see more patients, right? But also making sure you're keeping that quality piece. There's a lot that I learned in that program that I was able to directly apply, not just to the residency program, but... to the clinic as a whole... and it still impacts a lot of the things that I plan and do... I now run compliance and all kinds of things that I don't think I would have been able to do if it weren't for my [involvement] in this program."

COULD PURSUING EQUITY IN ORAL HEALTH CARE LEAD TO HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES?

ISAAC P. DAPKINS, MD, FAAP, AAHIVS,
MARGARET K. MASON, DMD, MA,
MARY E. NORTHRIDGE, PHD, MPH

Abstract

Poor oral health serves as a visible marker of health inequities among racial/ethnic and immigrant communities and underserved geographic regions across the life course. Despite consensus that oral health is critical to overall health, the continued separation of the U.S. medical and dental service provision systems creates structural barriers to care and exacerbates health disparities. When the cost of oral health care is out of reach due to underinsurance or the scarcity of dentists who accept Medicaid, people seek dental relief in expensive emergency department settings, straining hospital capacity. Nearly 1 in 6 children have untreated caries, impeding school success and healthy development. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) have historically been the prime sponsor of demonstration projects that integrate oral health and primary care services using a variety of collaborative models and tools that, if sufficiently scaled up, hold promise for improving the oral and general health of disadvantaged populations.

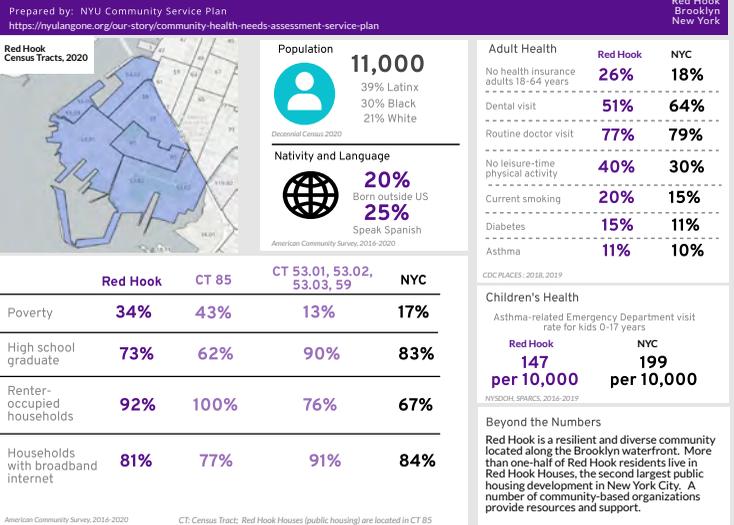
Keywords

Oral health, dental clinics, interprofessional education, health equity, vaccination, prevention

As the Chief Medical Officer (Isaac P. Dapkins, MD, FAAP, AAHIVS) and Vice President of Dental Medicine (Margaret K. Mason, DMD, MA) for Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, one of the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) networks in the nation, we recently hosted the New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at our new site located along the Brooklyn waterfront in Red Hook. Of the 11,000 residents living in this racially/ethnically diverse and immigrant community, more than half live in Red Hook Houses, the second largest NYC public housing development.¹ In the months leading up to the visit we reviewed the community health profile and realized that while 77% of Red Hook adults had visited a doctor in the past year for a routine check-up vs. 79% of NYC adults, only 51% of Red Hook adults had visited a dentist or dental clinic in the past year vs. 64% of NYC adults (please see Table 1).

Finding ways to improve the health of the populations we serve is a shared priority. A critical component of our FQHC mission is ensuring equitable health outcomes for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay for services or

Red Hook: Data at a Glance



citizenship status.² We have both worked for decades in the public sector to provide quality primary care services and have iteratively improved health outcomes focusing on school and community health. What we are newly proposing across our FQHC network is to elevate dental care access to meaningfully tackle the unequal opportunities to be healthy in our catchment area. Since oral diseases (dental caries, periodontal disease) and general health conditions (diabetes, cardiovascular disease) share common determinants (excess sugar consumption, tobacco use) along with underlying infection and inflammatory pathways,³ our hope is that pursuing oral health care equity may ultimately promote health for all. In other words, if access to dental care is a leading driver of health care disparities, could pursuing equity in oral health care lead to healthier communities?

Barriers to dental care access have been historically patterned by uniquely U.S. policies and practices, and cost is chief among them.⁴ Fee-for-service dental care for adults, especially, can be economically prohibitive and often pushes people to seek urgent care in emergency departments for untreated oral diseases. Private dental insur-

ance is increasingly expensive even as it fails to cover the full cost of services provided, especially as patients age. Medicaid enrollees often have difficulty finding Medicaid-contracted dental providers because only 20% of dentists nationwide accept Medicaid.³ Families with incomes that are higher may fall into the underinsured category, in that they are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion plans yet are unable to afford dental coverage or out-of-pocket costs.⁵

Attaining a shared culture of excellence across services is a theoretically compelling way to enhance access to quality care, as we are striving to achieve in our FQHC network. Moreover, patient-centered care was the motivation behind recently completed and ongoing capital improvement projects to co-locate medical, dental, behavioral health, and social services and implement an integrated electronic health record (EHR) platform. In truth, however, medical and dental services remain largely siloed. Renewed emphasis on seizing opportunities to collaborate despite the reimbursement and workflow challenges is essential to overcome the status quo.

Rather than feeling immobilized in trying to bridge the medical-dental divide, we

started with successful, evidence-based interventions of special interest to leaders and faculty in our FQHC and strengthened connections across services by adopting the know-how of our clinical and support staff. For instance, our pediatric medical providers apply fluoride varnish to children's teeth, a service that is recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and universally reimbursed by Medicaid.⁶ Clearly, this intervention in isolation is insufficient to prevent dental caries (a bio-film-mediated, diet-modulated, dynamic disease resulting in a net mineral loss of dental hard tissues⁷) and dental cavities (a collapse in the integrity of the outer enamel, exposing the inner dentine⁷). Yet, by better integrating pediatric primary care with the New York State-administered Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program (providing nutrition education and supplemental foods) and referrals to dentistry as a specialty (beginning when the first tooth erupts and for all patients needing a dental home) reinforced by inter-professionally trained and committed providers and staff, the pain, suffering, and costs of dental caries for our pediatric patients and their families will be minimized.⁷

How will we know whether we have been successful? First, by taking to heart the results of the exit interviews our patients complete; and second, by collecting, analyzing, and reporting key statistics over time. For instance, our FQHC network operates a Dental School Health Program for children and adolescents that encompasses 44 school-based dental clinics at 51 NYC public schools that offer on-site access to comprehensive oral health care for any student whose parent/guardian opts in.

In "dental desert" communities with limited access to dental care, this program creates patient-centered dental

homes in schools for enrolled students regardless of dental insurance coverage. Using the same integrated EHR platform that is in use throughout the organization, we track the caries-free (no detected carious lesions⁷) rate of the population of enrolled children as a percentage of the entire population of each school served annually.

The mouth is an essential part of the body and the relationship between oral health and general health is bidirectional.⁶ For instance, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as gonorrhea and syphilis have oral manifestations that



Lynn Gargano, DDS, Director of the Dental School Health Program, instructs a student on how to brush his teeth at a newly opened school-based dental clinic in Queens, NY.

may assist in diagnosing these STIs and connecting patients to medical care to receive effective systemic treatment that alleviates both medical and oral sequelae.⁸ Occlusal disease (misalignment of the upper and lower teeth) may result in severe headaches, neck aches, and tooth pain, and has been linked to obstructive sleep apnea which increases the risk of hypertension.⁶ Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections can be transmitted orally, vaginally, and anally and cause cancers of the oropharynx, cervix, anus, vulva, penis, and vagina, listed in descending order of cancer incidence per year.⁹

Fortunately, our FQHC network has achieved an HPV vaccination series completion prevalence of over 70% vs. 54%

for the United States overall, defined as completion of 2 or 3 doses by age 13 years.¹⁰ This success is due to a comprehensive implementation strategy that incorporated an opt-out model during primary care visits and leveraged nurses to administer the vaccine. We adapted the workflow for the dental clinic setting and are poised to work with the General Practice Residency Program to pilot test an HPV vaccination screening and referral protocol for dental patients aged 9-15 years in the coming months. We also demonstrated the feasibility and acceptability of social de-

terminants of health screening and referral by dentists in the pediatric dental clinics of our FQHC network, an effort that gained precedence due to the substantial health, economic, and social burdens the COVID-19 pandemic placed on our families and communities.¹¹

terminants of health screening and referral by dentists in the pediatric dental clinics of our FQHC network, an effort that gained precedence due to the substantial health, economic, and social burdens the COVID-19 pandemic placed on our families and communities.¹¹ Much remains to be accomplished in our FQHC network to meet the myriad challenges faced by our patients. Two areas in particular—orthodontics and virtual dentistry—merit increased attention for populations underreached by our current practice, notably adolescents. Nonetheless, we contend that pursuing equity in oral health care not only in NYC but nationwide holds the potential to reverse the significant recent decline in U.S. life

expectancy particularly impacting our children and impoverished populations.¹²

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The authors thank Lynn Gargano, DDS for school-based dental clinic information. The integrative projects discussed in this paper are supported in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS) as part of award # D88HP37549 totaling \$929,224 in Year 3 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of nor an endorsement by HRSA, US DHHS, or the US Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.

References:

1. NYU Langone Health. Red Hook: data at a glance. Brooklyn, NY: NYU Community Service Plan, 2022. Available at: <https://nyulangone.org/files/community-reference-red-hook-11-22.pdf>
2. McReynolds LK. Lived experiences of federally qualified health center board members during a period of rapid change in New York City (2010-2020). *J Ambul Care Manage.* 2021 Oct-Dec 01;44(4):281-292.
3. Northridge ME, Kumar A, Kaur R. Disparities in access to oral health care. *Annu Rev Public Health* 2020 Apr 2;41:513-535.
4. Vujicic M, Buchmueller T, Klein R. Dental care presents the highest level of financial barriers, compared to other types of health care services. *Health Aff* 2016 Dec 1;35(12):2176-2182.
5. Rosenbaum S. One nation, underinsured. *Milbank Q.* 2015 Sep;93(3):463-466.
6. National Institutes of Health. Oral health in America: advances and challenges. Bethesda, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, 2021.
7. Pitts N, Mayne C. A Global Consensus for achieving a dental cavity-free future. London, UK: King's College, 2021. Available at: [https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/a-global-consensus-for-achieving-a-dental-cavityfree-future\(c3b4777e-f615-4a5e-934d-e47a11843183\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/a-global-consensus-for-achieving-a-dental-cavityfree-future(c3b4777e-f615-4a5e-934d-e47a11843183).html)
8. Mastrolorenzo A, Giomi B, Tiradritti L, Zuccati G. Oral manifestations of sexually transmitted infections. *G Ital Dermatol Venereol.* 2012 Aug;147(4):373-388.
9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. HPV and cancer. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2022. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm>
10. Kaiser Family Foundation. Women's Health Policy. The HPV vaccine: access and use in the US. San Francisco, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2021. Available at: <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/factsheet/the-hpv-vaccine-access-and-use-in-the-u-s/>
11. Kaur R, Lieberman M, Mason MK, Dapkins IP, Gallagher 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 Feasibility Stud.* 2023 Mar 9;9(1):36.
12. Burn-Murdoch J. Why are Americans dying so young? London, UK: Financial Times, 2023. Available at: <https://www.ft.com/content/653bbb26-8a22-4db3-b43d-c34a0b774303>

Our alumni turned faculty

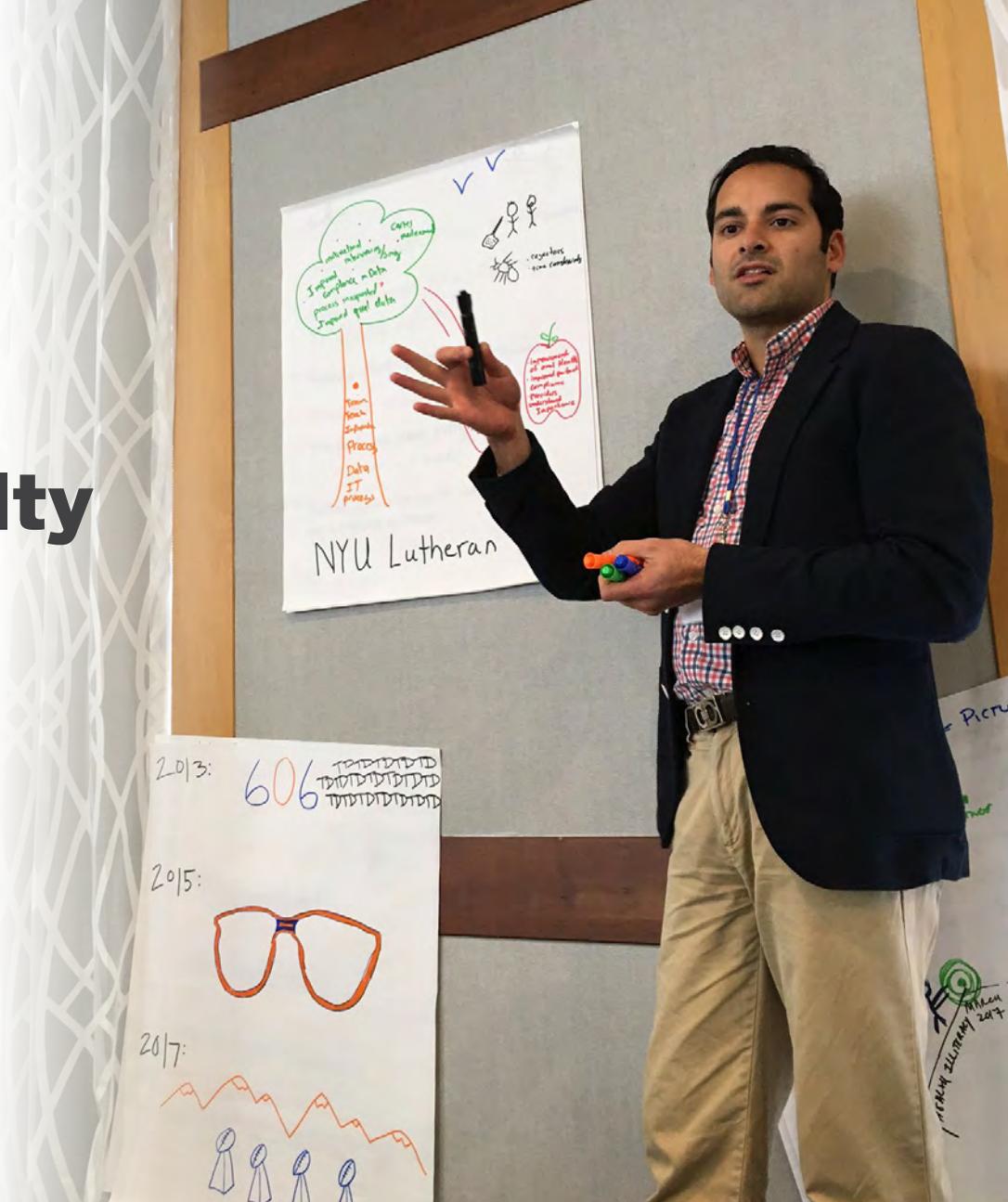
Rajesh Adhia, DMD, MPH, MA

Senior Associate Director, Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program

Specialty: Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Rajesh Adhia, Senior Associate Director of the Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program, has had a remarkable journey since his graduation from the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program in 2007. He initially entered private practice but took a turn in his career from 2008 to 2010 when he pursued a pediatric program, guided by Dr. Silvia Perez. Dr. Perez, renowned for her compassionate approach to patient care, encouraged Dr. Adhia to join the program's faculty full-time. This shift in his career path has seen him remain dedicated to the program for 15 years.

Dr. Perez's influence was transformative, as she not only demonstrated profound knowledge but also treated each patient as if they were her own child. Her leadership was instrumental in expanding the program's outreach, venturing into underserved areas beyond the hospital, which was an innovative approach initiated in 2003. She, along with other mentors like Dr. Cernigliaro, played a pivotal role in shaping the program's mission, which is centered on serving neighbors and training the next generation of pediatric dentists.



Throughout his tenure, Dr. Adhia has witnessed significant advancements and innovations within the program. They were early adopters of virtual training through VTC and were a model for other programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were among the first to utilize Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) and consistently stay at the forefront of dental materials and technologies. The merger with NYU Langone has also positively impacted the program, particularly through the integration of EPIC for health records.

Dr. Perez's legacy continued under the leadership of Dr. Kane, who adapted to the changing environment for teaching. The program's patient-centric approach remains essential, as it caters to a population often underserved by traditional

dental practices. Residents are not only educated but also provide crucial care to these patients, making the program the last stop for many in need of dental services.

The program's commitment to education and patient care extends beyond its clinics. Residents benefit from lectures by professionals from across the country and gain exposure to diverse patient populations. Many residents move to other pediatric sites within the program, illustrating its positive impact and success. The support from NYU, including grant opportunities, further enhances the program's value, with faculty members like Dr. Cernigliaro, Dr. Kane, and Dr. Rosenberg contributing significantly to its longevity and success.

IMAGE CREDIT: X. @BRIANNOVI1 (2016)

Linda Kotmel, DDS

AEGD Senior Associate Director,
Advanced Education in General
Dentistry, East Zone

Specialty: Dentistry



Dr. Linda Kotmel's journey in dentistry was indeed marked by a planned pursuit of growth and experience. Residency was always part of her post-dental school plan, as she felt the need for more hands-on learning and experience. She applied to two residencies, one in Brooklyn (BK) and the other at what is now VCU. Fortunately, she was accepted into the Brooklyn

program, aligning with her desire to return to her hometown of New York City.

Her residency experience was described as intense, providing her with valuable training and instilling confidence in her clinical skills and patient interactions. Dr. Kotmel credits her residency for shaping her into the dentist she is today, emphasizing the importance of the experience in her career development.

After completing her residency, Dr. Kotmel initially worked as an associate in private practices while also harboring an interest in public health dentistry. However, her experiences in residency led her to prioritize working in public health settings, where she could give back to her community.

Dr. Kotmel's career trajectory shifted from her initial vision of owning a private practice due to the transformative experiences during her residency. She found fulfillment in serving the community through public health dentistry, ultimately choos-

ing a different path from what she had initially planned.

Reflecting on the changes in dentistry over the years, Dr. Kotmel highlights the significant technological advancements, from handwritten notes and manual record-keeping to digital radiography and electronic medical records. Despite these changes, she remains committed to continuous learning and adaptation, recognizing the importance of staying abreast of technological developments in the field.

Overall, Dr. Kotmel's journey in dentistry has been characterized by adaptability, growth, and a steadfast commitment to serving her community through her profession. Her story underscores the transformative power of residency training and the importance of remaining flexible in one's career path, embracing new opportunities for learning and service along the way.

Lynn Gargano, DDS

Director, Dental School Health,
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

Specialty: Pediatric Dentistry



Dr. Lynn Gargano knew that she wanted to pursue a residency, still being relatively inexperienced after dental school. She completed an externship at Lutheran, where Dr. Linda Kotmel was the first-year resident. This experience felt like a family environment and was very welcoming to her. Lutheran became her first choice for a residency match, and she started her residency there immediately after graduating from dental school in 1990. She graduated from the General Practice Residency (GPR) in 1991.

After completing her residency, she was asked to stay on as the chief resident but declined the offer due to the lower pay. Around 1993/94, she returned as an attending and continued in that role on and off for the next 10 years. The pediatric

residency program was initiated in 1994, and she applied in 1995, successfully entering the program. She served as a PGY-1 from 1996-1997 and then as the chief pediatric dental resident from 1997-1998. Upon graduating from the pediatric program, she became a pediatric dental attending for a couple of years.

Around 2002, she was recruited by Catholic Medical Centers to work in the operating room, primarily with their general practice residents. She spent most of her days in the OR and was there one day a week. She performed many pediatric OR cases during this period, continuing for two years.

Due to her position, Dr. Gargano was approached by Interfaith Medical Center and offered the role of Director of Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry from 2004 to 2012. In 2012, the hospital threatened to shut down the program entirely, leading to discussions with Lutheran about absorbing the residents to prevent their displacement. Dr. Demby directed her to Dr. Mason, who not only agreed to absorb the residents but also invited her to join Lutheran. She was suggested to run the dental school health program, and in 2012, she became its director. Over the past 11 years, she has worked closely with Dr. Mason to expand the program.

She mentioned, "The big draw was

the family-type unit. There was always a unique camaraderie that is hard to explain—a family-like atmosphere that is culturally appealing and draws you back. I am very fond of the people I work with."

"Dr. Sylvia [Perez] was very nice and highly educated, running a tight ship with high expectations for all residents. Her goal, as is mine now, is to provide the highest quality of care to the community's children."

"She was a great mentor, having a lot to teach and give. She was passionate about her work and educating future pediatric dentists while also addressing immediate needs."

In 2012, Dr. Gargano took over the school health program from Dr. Mason. Initially, it consisted of 16 sites, but it has since expanded to 47 physical sites, encompassing 57 schools, with plans to expand to six more by the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, making it approximately 53 sites and 65 schools. The program has also become computerized.

"When we had to shut down due to COVID, we completely revamped the program and transitioned to a fully electronic system when we reopened after the pandemic."

"Dr. Kotmel was an amazing chief resident, extremely dedicated and hands-on."

Alumni Faculty: From Students to Mentors

Dr. Alison Adachi
Dr. Rajesh Adhia
Dr. Ivey Agee Wainwright
Dr. Imran Ahmed
Dr. Elizabeth A Alabi
Dr. Ricardo Alchini
Dr. John Dillon Alsteen
Dr. Andres M Alvarez Deal
Dr. Nacef Bahri
Dr. James Barber
Dr. Pejman Behin
Dr. Denisha Marie Berrios-Miranda
Dr. Babak Bina
Dr. Darrin Blackman
Dr. Sarah Brobeck
Dr. Issa Esinam Bryant
Dr. Peggy Budhu
Dr. Tung Bui
Dr. Joshua Bullock
Dr. Rochell Burke
Dr. Travis Burnham
Dr. Hallie Christine Casteel
Dr. Nina Sanjay Chachad
Dr. Christine Choi
Dr. Melody Chou
Dr. Paul Chung
Dr. Edward Jacob Clemons
Dr. Desiree Jasmine Conton
Dr. Spencer Austin Cromwell
Dr. Danielle Culpepper
Dr. Anna D'Emilio
Dr. Michael De Coro
Dr. Javier De La Cruz
Dr. Michelle Dempsey
Dr. Camila Reis Pereira Di Giorgio
Dr. Christie Duong
Dr. Mai-Ly Duong
Dr. Heydi Karolina Dutan
Dr. Amanda Effat
Dr. Daniel Egbert
Dr. Samira Ehteshami
Dr. Michael Erhard
Dr. Chanel Laray Farmer
Dr. Alan Feldstein
Dr. Nebyat Felix
Dr. William Fontaine
Dr. Sarah Frampton
Dr. Lynn Gargano
Dr. Robb Garni
Dr. Hillary Elizabeth Gore
Dr. Betty Greenspan
Dr. Philip Griggs
Dr. Erin Guttormson
Dr. Rebecka Haats
Dr. Steve Han
Dr. Anya Harris
Dr. Bethany Harris
Dr. Nina Hernando
Dr. Alyssa Dene Holmes

Dr. Brett Ken Honda
Dr. Joshua Hong
Dr. Ehab Jabah
Dr. Sarah Beth Jackson
Dr. Areege Jendi
Dr. Joshua Jih
Dr. Trent Johnson
Dr. Mehreen Kassoo
Dr. Nicholas Katchen
Dr. Andrew Kawasaki
Dr. John Kiang
Dr. Spencer Kim
Dr. William T King
Dr. Michael Kleeman
Dr. Runit Kochhar
Dr. Sonia Kohli
Dr. Supriya Koirala
Dr. Nicole Akemi Koochi
Dr. Linda Kotmel
Dr. Erik Kuhlman
Dr. Van Anh La
Dr. Christie Le
Dr. Vanessa Lebron
Dr. Ann Lee
Dr. Brian Lee
Dr. Peter A Lee
Dr. Betzanahy Leyva Ruiz
Dr. Jeremy Lin
Dr. Kyle Lin
Dr. Andrea Lochan
Dr. Erica Alexandra Lopez
Dr. Tiffany Lue
Dr. Ignacio Madrid
Dr. Guadalupe Madrigal
Dr. Malik Tarick Mahmood
Dr. Morgan Scott Marin
Dr. Aaron Maslia
Dr. Margaret Mason
Dr. Hilary Dianne Mazzone
Dr. Tessa McGregor
Dr. Toni-Ann Ayeisha McLeod
Dr. Kamy Mehta
Dr. Maria Melo
Dr. Christina Mendoza
Dr. Kimberly Allin Meyers
Dr. Stanley Michel
Dr. Casey Miller
Dr. Ritsuko Mizoguchi
Dr. Melissa Morales Soto
Dr. Chalise Morgan
Dr. Lauren Moses
Dr. Gavin Mundy
Dr. Jonathan D Munns
Dr. Yuree Namkung
Dr. Cody Negrete
Dr. Regina Nguyen
Dr. Vien Nguyen
Dr. Luke Nicholson
Dr. Alice Nunes

Dr. Olutayo Odusanwo
Dr. Alex John Olson
Dr. Amira Omar
Dr. Barbara Ottenio
Dr. Taylyn Jaye Wilson Padgett
Dr. Raisa Padilla Mirabal
Dr. Gustavo Pardo
Dr. Sunil Patel
Dr. Catherine A Piaskowski
Dr. Amanda Pinder Hynes
Dr. James David Purcell
Dr. Marcela Quintero
Dr. Kellie Anne Ramsey
Dr. Kristal D Raya
Dr. Kenneth Reed
Dr. Michael Joseph Regan
Dr. Kristen Nichole Robbins
Dr. Yandy Rodriguez Orozco
Dr. Amaury Roque Gonzalez
Dr. Anthony Ross
Dr. Nataly Salazar
Dr. Jeremy Sant
Dr. Kevin Arthur Schlang
Dr. Julien Sciuk
Dr. Sagar Shah
Dr. Aia Hamdy Shalan
Dr. Jared Shatkin
Dr. Neelu Sherpa
Dr. Cheryle Singer
Dr. Melody Sitlin
Dr. Sujatha Sivaraman
Dr. Mandie Smith
Dr. Thomas Spulecki
Dr. Kent Strickman
Dr. Sho Taniguchi
Dr. Cindy Tomomi Tashiro
Dr. Cynthia Thomas
Dr. Alexander Topor
Dr. Kamille Torres
Dr. Anne Tran
Dr. Anita Trieu
Dr. Keone Tyau
Dr. Roxana Vargas Lemus
Dr. Lauren Vieira
Dr. Dana T Walker
Dr. Fadra Whyte
Dr. Jarell Lamonz Wilson
Dr. Yvonne Wolny
Dr. Jessica Woodson
Dr. Nadiene Oh Wu
Dr. Megan Katsuko Yamaguchi
Dr. Kathleen Yau
Dr. Amir Yavari
Dr. Samantha Jo Yineman
Dr. Ryan Takao Yokota
Dr. Jaclyn Young
Dr. Leila Zadeh
Dr. Jason Gong Zhang
Dr. Takish Ziad

“Mahalo”

A Legacy of Smiles:

Dr. Lynn Fujimoto Bids Farewell to NYU Langone Dental Medicine’s AEPD Program in Hawaii



After dedicating 14 years to nurturing the next generation of pediatric dentists, **Lynn Fujimoto, DMD** is retiring as the Associate Director of the NYU Langone Dental-AEPD/Hawaii residency training location. Her retirement marks the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy of smiles and a thriving program that touches countless children across the islands.

Born and bred in Hawaii, Dr. Fujimoto’s journey began in 1979 when she earned her D.M.D. from Washington University School of Dental Medicine. Driven by a passion for caring for children, she completed a postdoctoral residency in pediatric dentistry at UCLA in 1981. This laid the foundation for a remarkable career, first in private practice at Pediatric Dentistry Associates in Pearl City, Hawaii, where she honed her skills and nurtured a deep connection with the community.

In 2009, Dr. Fujimoto’s dedication to education led her to NYU Langone Dental-AEPD/Hawaii. As Associate Director, she played a pivotal role in shaping the program into a unique and enriching experience for residents. She championed a decentralized approach, offering rotations across various community health centers on four islands, immersing residents in diverse cultural and clinical settings and fostering a true understanding of the unique needs of Hawaii’s children.

Beyond clinical expertise, Dr. Fujimoto instilled in her residents a spirit of compassion and cultural sensitivity. She understood the importance of building trust with young patients and families, often navigating language barriers and cultural nuances with grace and empathy. Her dedication to mentorship extended beyond the program, as she actively participated in

the leadership of professional organizations and volunteered her time to various community initiatives and international outreach.

Dr. Fujimoto’s impact reaches far beyond the walls of the program. Her tireless efforts have ensured access to quality pediatric dental care for thousands of underserved children across Hawaii. Her legacy lives on in the generations of pediatric dentists she has trained, who carry her passion and dedication forward, ensuring smiles continue to brighten the islands for years to come.

As Dr. Fujimoto embarks on this next chapter, the NYU Langone Dental-AEPD/Hawaii community celebrates her remarkable contributions and wishes her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. Her dedication to the program and the well-being of Hawaii’s children has left an indelible mark, and her absence will be

deeply felt. Yet, the seeds she has sown will continue to blossom, ensuring that the future of pediatric dentistry in Hawaii remains bright, thanks to the unwavering spirit of Dr. Lynn Fujimoto.



Dr. Kane and Dr. Fujimoto-Ertel

In Loving Memory of

Dr. Ronald Scott Toepke



Dr. Ronald Scott Toepke, the AEGD Site Director at Pascua Yaqui Tribal Dental Center in Tucson, AZ peacefully passed away at his home on May 16, 2023. Dr. Toepke made the desert Southwest his home, embarking on a long career in dentistry that left an indelible mark on the community.

In 2003, Ron dedicated himself to developing the dental center for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, where he proudly served as the dental director until the end of his journey. Dr. Toepke instrumental in

the expansion of the AEGD program to Arizona. Pascua Yaqui Tribal Dental Center was the first Lutheran Medical Center (now NYU Langone Dental Medicine) residency location outside the state of New York. Dr. Toepke's heart was deeply rooted in Tucson and the surrounding regions. Ron's commitment extended beyond the dentist's chair as he actively contributed to the Tucson Rodeo Committee and the Centurions. But above all, Ron's true passion was people. He was a person who never knew a stranger, cherishing

the vast and diverse circle of lifelong friends he cultivated over the years.

Ron's infectious laughter, his extraordinary gift for bringing laughter to those around him, his easy-going nature, and his boundless generosity continue to resonate in the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and colleagues.

Dr. Ronald Scott Toepke's legacy lives on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him, and his dedication to the well-being of his community will always be remembered.



Dr. Toepke with Dr. Alyssa Holmes

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FROM DR. ANTHONY CAPUTO

I met Ron when I returned to Tucson in 1997. He was one of the first dentists I met when I was working at Kino Community Hospital where there was a dental clinic and a GPR had just started. As anyone who ever met Ron knows, he was unique! Despite being cliché, when it's said they broke the mold after making someone, it is literally true with Ron. There was no one else like him in so many ways! He is genuinely missed!! In addition to having a gregarious personality, tremendous (and acerbic!) sense of humor and very colorful world view, he genuinely and deeply cared for others and, in particular, the Pascua Yaqui community. It was a tremendous sense of pride and achievement to start the dental service and develop it at Pascua Yaqui serving the community successfully for many years. Taking what he knew from his time at El Rio, he started accepting residents and

exposed them to an incredible training opportunity as well as many life lessons. He touched the lives of all his residents with many of them returning to work at the clinic in different capacities as they developed their private practices or other practice opportunities including working at other public health service dental clinics. He helped residents with decisions about residency, jobs, relationships, and life. He always was ready to offer his insights and support his residents as they continued their journeys after residency. He was a loving father who was dedicated and committed to his daughter. He was a friend, colleague and fiercely loyal to those of us who shared in his vision and purpose. A hearty and solemn farewell to a wonderful person and dentist who I was able to work with for 25 years.



Getting to Know Our Program Coordinators



Jennifer Hernandez
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry

For Jennifer being a part of this team has been full circle. She was born in Lutheran Medical Center, now NYU Langone Health and has been working in this organization for 11 years. She started as an Administrative Assistant to Dr. Demby, in addition to being the Admin assistant to the AEGD, OFP & GPR programs as well assisting in the Marketing and Recruitment vendor events. After a short time, she was fully integrated as the AEGD Program Coordinator. Process improvement is what she enjoys most about this position and being able to see the solution before the problem may arise is what brings her most joy.

FUN FACT 🎤💎

Jennifer has been singing since she was a child and owns a jewelry business that has been successful since 2020.



Diane Reeves
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry

Diane has been employed by Family Health Centers at NYU Langone (formerly Lutheran Medical Center) for a little over 12 years. During that time, she has worked with many of the dental residency programs. For the past two years, she has been working with the AEGD Program as one of three PCs. She is

responsible for managing PTO requests, timecards in MyTime, completion of residency verification letters, loan deferments, and other administrative tasks for the residents in the East Zone. Managing such a large-scale operation requires unparalleled organizational skills, attention to detail, and the ability to address challenges promptly.

FUN FACT 🧊✈️

Diane likes to collect refrigerator magnets from the states and countries that she visits.



Sergio Dominguez
Advanced Education in
General Dentistry

Sergio has been with NYU Langone Health for the past 5 years. He started as a Credentialing Assistant for the Medical Staff Services Department in 2018 and later joined the Dental Medicine Department in August 2022. Sergio works with Dr. Calix Ramos to coordinate and manage the West Zone for the Advanced Educated in General Dentistry Residency Program. He works closely with the residents to ensure they are onboarded on time while serving as their timekeeper, investigating payroll discrepancies, process reimbursements, and assisting with faculty onboarding, among many other tasks.

FUN FACT 🚗🍷

Sergio lived in London for six months.



Ilesha Liverpool
Advanced Education in
Pediatric Dentistry

Ilesha started working for Family Health Centers at NYU Langone (formerly Lutheran Medical Center) as an Administrative Assistant. She was approached by Dr. Silvia Perez, (Program Director in the Advanced Education of Pediatric Dentistry). To help with the Residency Program in addition to her role as an administrative assistant. Ilesha saw this as an opportunity for growth within the department and was happy to help with this new role. By 2012 the Dental Pediatric Residency Program had grown significantly prompting Ilesha to work full time with the Residency Program becoming their Program Coordinator.

FUN FACT 🛍️🗺️

Ilesha loves online shopping; she likes to travel and often creates travel itineraries for friends and family.



Klementyna Potoma
General Practice Residency
and Endodontics

Klementyna has been a Program Coordinator (PC) at NYU Langone Hospital in Brooklyn for over 8 years. She started in 2015 as an Administrative Assistant/PC and was later fully transitioned into a PC role. In her current role, she overlooks the administrative tasks for two residency programs – General Practice

Residency and Advanced Education in Endodontics. She manages various aspects including onboarding of residents, synchronizing interview process, maintaining residents' credentialing, On-call schedule, and administrative support for all program related matters. She plays a crucial role in fostering a positive learning environment for residents, addressing logistical challenges, and facilitating collaboration among faculty and residents.

FUN FACT 🌍📷🍞

In her spare time, Klementyna enjoys hiking, traveling, landscape photography and baking sourdough bread.



Kayla Mercer
Advanced Education in
Dental Anesthesiology/
Recruitment and Marketing

Prior to joining NYU Langone, Kayla earned her B.B.A. degree from Baruch College with a focus on Marketing Management. In her role as a Program Coordinator at NYU Langone, Kayla assists Dr. Charles Azzaretti with the administrative tasks for the Advanced Education in Dental Anesthesia program. Leveraging her marketing skills, Kayla assists Eric Malone in promoting programs and events on social media, reviewing applications and other tasks for Graduate Dental education.

FUN FACT 🎵🗺️🕯️

Kayla loves to sing and travel. "I participate in my church choir, I enjoy traveling to see new cultures, environments, and experiences, and I have a massive candle collection!"



Sheena Thomas
CODA Program Coordinator

Sheena started working at Family Health Centers at NYU Langone in November 2022 as a PSA at the Dental Clinic (Sunset Park). In her role as a PSA she was responsible for scheduling appointments, insurance verification and billing. After about a year of working in the clinic, Sheena transferred to Program Coordinator role. In her current role as a Program Coordinator she works with the accreditation team (CODA) to assure that all programs (AEGD, PEDS, GPR, ENDO, DA) continue to stay accredited programs. Sheena works closely with all dental sites on the East and West Coast to assure they have all proper documentation needed to prepare for their CODA site visits. With this role she has been given the opportunity to grow within the dental program.

FUN FACT 🌿🏃‍♀️

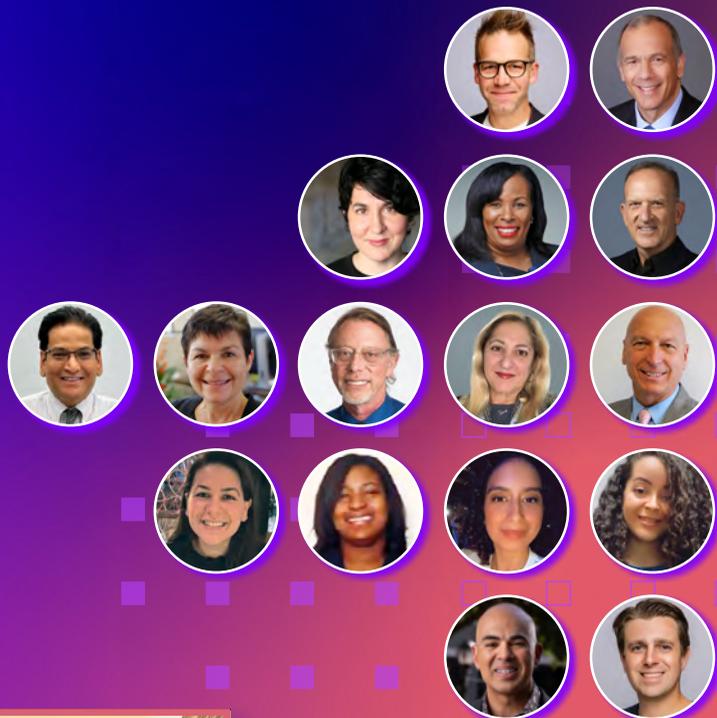
In her spare time, Sheena tends to her 2 greenhouses that has over 30 plants. She enjoys working out, kickboxing and recently ran her first 5k.

Highlights

Faculty Development Conference

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa
San Antonio, Texas
December 8-10, 2024

NYU Langone faculty gathered for a transformative event filled with professional training, coaching, and collaboration in San Antonio, TX. We wrapped it up Texas-style at our Showdown Party—complete with cowboy boots and endless fun! #facultydevelopment #professionalgrowth #nyulangonedentalmedicine



Graduation Celebrations

"My goal is to take you successfully across the finishing line."



"During residency, you will be in these 'rough waters' but NOT alone. You will be guided, instructed, supported, and experienced faculty will stand by you, while you are navigating these rough waters."



"Throughout the year, I have watched you with admiration as you were honing your skills, expanding your knowledge, facing challenges head-on, embracing them as opportunities for growth..."



"You have prevailed through all of this and exhibited the commitment, passion and what it takes to excel in this noble profession."

"I want to congratulate you on your hard work, dedication, perseverance and for finding the courage, strength and resiliency in you (something that you probably did not know you had in you) to navigate successfully through these 'rough waters.'"

"Yes, indeed, this was a rigorous, challenging and intense year; a year like you will never experience in your future professional life."



"Today is a day of celebration; you have reached the finish line and reached a significant milestone in your professional and personal life."

"Never settle for the status quo or mediocrity; strive for EXCELLENCE in all that you do!"



"As you step out into the real world, the large ocean with its rough waters, please continue to: (1) stay true to the principles of ethics, professionalism, compassion and lifelong learning, (2) embrace the challenges that lie ahead of you with courage, determination and grace, (3) draw strength from the knowledge and experience you have gained during your residency..."



"Trust in your skills, judgment, and instincts, and have full confidence in your abilities to overcome these challenges, and to make a profound impact on the field of dentistry and the surrounding world around you."

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)

Marc Kunin, DDS

Interim Program Director, Endodontics

Daniel Kane, DMD, MA

Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry

Nathalie Mohadjeri-Franck, DMD, MA

Senior Director, Quality and Patient Care

Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH

Director, Dental Research

Philip Rinaudo, DDS, MSD

Director, Graduate Dental Education

Barbara M. Ottenio, DDS, MA, CADL, FICD

Director, Curriculum and Continuing Education

Etienne Franck, MS, MA

Systems Director

Loreina Tam, MPA

Director, Graduate Dental Education

Rajesh Adhia, DMD, MPH, MA

Senior Associate Director, Pediatric Dentistry

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 or email dentalresidency@nyulangone.org.

CREDITS FOR THE BRIDGE

Published by NYU Langone Dental Medicine's Marketing Office

Editors: Eric Malone, Eric.Malone@nyulangone.org

Chandni Pipaliya, Chandni.Pipaliya@nyulangone.org

Loreina Tam, Loreina.Tam@nyulangone.org

Design Layout: Jill M. Brown, CP Print + Promo, jill@cpprint.com

Printing: CP Print + Promo, cpprint.com

Contributing Photographers: Eric Malone, eric.malone@nyulangone.org



NYU Langone Dental Medicine
Postdoctoral Residency Programs
5800 3rd Ave, 3rd Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11220
dentalresidency@nyulangone.org
WWW.NYULANGONEDENTAL.ORG

50