CHAIR’S CORNER
Dr. Thomas B. Dodson

2020 was a year for the record books. By any measure, a pandemic crisis, an economic collapse, a protracted and contested election cycle, or an assault on our democracy would be considered enough to upend life as we know it. Yet here we are, facing all of these at once.

In particular, the pandemic has caused us to rethink and reinvent our daily lives. We now conduct daily health checks and attestations of faculty and staff, screen patients online, greet patients with masked faces, confine patient escorts to their cars, and conduct conferences and meetings remotely. It is a lot to bear. As we move into 2021, we are adopting a narrative of hope and positivity yet the toll of 2020 remains like a great hangover on all of us. How do we recover—personally and professionally—from these unprecedented events? I have found that if you keep your eyes on the big picture, the details manage to fall into place. Sometimes, great challenges become great opportunities.

As orders from the Governor last March caused us to shut down large gatherings, our popular Grand Rounds lectures were resurrected as an online, virtual series. The normally intimate bi-monthly gatherings now regularly attract online participants from New York and Boston as well as internationally, with participants as far away as Venezuela and Honduras.

We were similarly barred from hosting in-person resident interviews. With no choice but to host interviews on a virtual platform, our residents stepped-up and produced and distributed compelling videos that capture the essence of our program, including the opportunities of living in Seattle and the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. And because online interviewing does not require candidates to foot the bill for expensive travel to our faraway destination (a common barrier to applying to our program), we were able to expand our applicant pool from 20-25 to a record 40 stellar applicants.

Despite the hurdles, this year’s graduating residents remain on target to be our first class to graduate from the UW OMS program in over 30 years with both MD degrees and OMS certificates. We look forward to the opportunity of celebrating with them, live, in June, 2021.

OMS Grand Rounds Lectures

The Grand Rounds Lecture Series takes place on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The lectures are held from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Grand Rounds will be held via Zoom.

To participate, use this Zoom link: https://uw-phi.zoom.us/j/91831238000
Meeting ID: 918 3123 8000

Visit our website listed in the appendix of our newsletter, or click here for the OMS Grand Rounds calendar.

Wednesday, February 3, 2021
What is the role of Coronectomy in managing impacted third molars?
Thomas Dodson, DMD, MPH, FACS

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Ocular Trauma and Eyelid Reconstruction
Christopher Chambers, MD

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
Thinking ahead- managing facial burns across the injury-span
Barclay Stewart, MD, PhD, MPH

SAVE THE DATE

The AAOMS 2021 Scientific Meeting is scheduled to be held in Nashville, TN September 27 – October 2, 2021.
On a sad note, I received a phone call from Dr. Tom Hohl informing me that Dr. Andy Tolas passed away on December 10, 2020. We all knew Dr. Tolas for his intelligence and wit as well as his dedication to teaching and patient care. Condolences to Carolyn Tolas and the family. His obituary and a memory book that you may read and add to are available on Andy’s obituary (Andrew Tolas Obituary - Seattle, WA (dignitymemorial.com)

Kudos to our clinical faculty and staff on adapting smoothly to all the new PPE standards. We have expanded our working vocabulary to include things like mask filtration effectiveness, N95 and KN95 respirators, false negative test results, and air flow exchange rates. Fashion statements have given way to industrial eye protection and face shields. We sing Happy Birthday many times a day as we dutifully wash our hands. A lot of these changes will become good habits, and that is probably a good thing.

We are now in the early stages of COVID-19 vaccine distribution with our faculty, residents, and clinical staff among the first in the state to receive the new vaccines. Amidst this activity, our residents have learned the difference between vaccine effectiveness and efficacy. I lament that the din of this moment is overshadowing the importance of this new vaccine’s mRNA delivery mechanism, which is an important scientific milestone that should shorten our response to future disease by many research and development cycles.

I am proud of our OMS faculty’s leadership locally, nationally, and internationally in developing “ground zero” COVID-19 patient care, PPE, and testing parameters. We hosted or participated in numerous Zoom conferences where we shared our experience on safely returning to OMS practice. We published new research on effects of the coronavirus pandemic on patient care and resident education. Dr. Jess Han, current OMS junior resident, got a project funded by the Osteoscience Foundation. One of our active OMS affiliate faculty, Dr. Layla Yassin, received the William Hungate Award for teaching excellence in recognition of her outstanding commitment to education and service to the School.

Through all this, we recognize and appreciate the continuous chain of service that our alumni bring to all our programs. Paying it forward to the next generation of OMSs is the best way to give thanks to those of the past who have gifted you with their expertise. Thank you to those of you who take call, teach in our resident and predoctoral clinics, and provide vital and continued financial support.

Here’s to a remarkable 2021.

Tom Dodson

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**Support Our OMS Department**

Use this link [https://dental.washington.edu/alumni-friends/give/make-a-gift/](https://dental.washington.edu/alumni-friends/give/make-a-gift/) to contribute to UW OMS. You may direct your tax-deductible contribution to the Worthington Endowment, the Chair’s Fund for Excellence, or the OMS Resident Fund. Are you among the “young alumni?” If you completed your OMS training in the last 10 years, you can qualify as a Major Donor for a $25,000 pledge (may be spread over 5 years) to the Worthington Fund.
A brief spring update: This past year has brought with it many challenges but we have done the best possible and prevailed. Our 3 first year residents Thomas Beckstrom, Aaron Hui and Charlie Smith all passed their OSCE exams. They are now in their final preparations for Step 1 USMLE and joined their medical school class January 1st.

Our first double degree cohort Karen Zempleyni, Rodney Nishimoto and David Ludwig are now back as chief residents. They did a phenomenal job getting the juniors up to speed despite COVID-19. The R5’s Philip Hurst, Jesse Han and Nicholas Smiley are doing a combination of being on the OMS service and general surgery. Karen is still looking for a job in the WWAMI region, Rodney will be returning to Hawaii and David will likely be moving back to Tacoma. David will also become a father in 2021 and we wish him the best.

Three ‘residents’ got engaged – Mike Tsai a few months after graduating... he’ll always be our resident. Rachel Lim and Stevie Lustofin are also walking around with big rocks on their wedding fingers. Congratulations!! Andrea Burke welcomed a new addition to the family – Elias and we look forward to seeing him in person. Andrea will be returning back from maternity leave this month ...hooray! An extra special THANK YOU to Austin Gaal who has covered Andrea Burke’s OR while she has been away and taken on some really challenging cases. We look forward to continuing to work with him and benefitting from his cleft and craniofacial fellowship in Oklahoma.

This year’s social distancing meant all interviews were held virtually. Given we have not had externs for some time – the importance of making some kind of connection with the candidates was even more important. Susan Lael did a superb job organizing the two days which went off without a hitch. We had well over 100 applicants and hosted several virtual events including a virtual ‘social’ sponsored by Dr Bloomquist (big thanks!!) where the candidates were sent money – I think PayPal... to get a drink/meal and hang out with our residents. Having received feedback from other programs and the candidates we hosted this after the interviews and kept it short and sweet to avoid the long awkward silences that can occur when you are virtual hosting. We interviewed 43 exceptional individuals. Virtual interviews meant that we had more East coast applicants than ever before and many of these students were really taken by Seattle and the program. I am looking forward to ‘Match day’ later this month to see who will be joining us. As always thanks to the UW School of Medicine for supporting the program and Dr LeeAnna Muzquiz, Assistant Dean for Admissions for participating in these two long but rewarding days.

We published several COVID-19 papers and I believe - set the standards for the rest of the OMS community throughout the country. Our WSSOMS resident night is January 26th at 6pm and the program will highlight our Covid experience and research. Please join us.

As always thank you all for the tireless support. To the affiliate faculty who take call for us and all the donors – thank you!! I look forward to updating you all about further progress at the end of the year.
GPR PROGRAM
Dr. Ryan O'Connor

There have been many unanticipated positive outcomes of this year's pandemic. Zoom service meetings definitely seem more cozy. Everyone, save the HMC-located resident, is comfortably sitting on their couches sipping from warm mugs of coffee. Also, behind an N95, level 1 overmask, and a face-shield, new residents can not tell if you are smiling or scowling. That uncertainty keeps them on their toes for just a little while longer.

In all seriousness, the GPR group remotely hosted almost 40 applicants with great success. Many thanks to all of the residents as well as the faculty involved: John Evans, Paige Moorhead, Adam Kennedy, and Simon Prior. We had a bevy of high caliber talent, and I am expecting excellent results on Match Day.

I can't begin to say how impressed I have been with this group of GPR residents as well as the clinical and administrative staff (Susan Lael!). I keep trying to imagine having the experience of my first year of dental practice in hospital-based clinics in the middle of an airborne viral pandemic. I appreciate how adaptive the residents have been to learning in a new environment. Their clinical experiences have been affected, but they have remained positive.

There are always unanticipated challenges in the practice of medicine and dentistry. The best clinicians learn from and learn how to navigate through these challenges. I know that the experiences from this year will guide each of us for the rest of our careers.

Best,
Ryan O'Connor

PRE-DOCTORAL ACTIVITIES
Dr. John Evans

The pre-doctoral surgery program continues to move forward in spite of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We re-opened our clinics last July and got students back in seeing patients.

The Dental School requires that any patient having non-emergent surgery that will likely involve the production of aerosols present with a negative COVID test result within seventy-two hours of surgery. Patients requiring emergent surgery are treated with full PPE coverage of providers.

As many of you know, we have an open clinical environment to work with so Plexiglas barriers have been installed along with HEPPA filters. Students have been educated as have the faculty with regard to infection control.

Our efforts have been successful in that we have continued to provide surgical care for patients without evidence of spread of the virus within the School of Dentistry. Our patient flow has been reduced, as you might expect, for obvious reasons. But we are providing surgical education and patient care.

Most all of our students and full-time faculty will have been vaccinated by the end of January. Further, as you all know, dentists are likely to be administering COVID vaccines soon. We have trained many of our students and faculty to help with this effort.

We have learned a lot about instructing students online and teaching in clinics with constant attention to infection control. It has become clear that we can educate our students and deliver patient care with COVID precautions in place. Some of the many changes we have made will be incorporated into our instructional methods in the future. If there is anything like a silver lining it is here. We will be more efficient and equally effective in fulfilling our mission coming out of the pandemic.
The oral pathology biopsy service continues to provide an active, vigorous service to the dental community. For more information please go to https://dental.washington.edu/oral-pathology/.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

5. Dr. Susarla. “Subcranial and Orthognathic Surgery for Airway Expansion in Obstructive Sleep Apnea.” American Society of Plastic Surgeons Annual Meeting, October 16, 2020 [Virtual Meeting]
9. Dr. Dodson. "How to write and appraise a scientific manuscript." University of Illinois – Chicago, Department of OMS, Chicago, IL, October 1, 2020. Webinar format.


LETTERS, INTERVIEWS, EDITORIALS

1. Dr. Yassin. Hungate Awards for Teaching Excellence (August 2020)
2. Dr. Susarla. Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Surgeons
3. Dr. Egbert. Candidate for AAOMS Vice President
4. Dr. Burke. University of Washington School of Dentistry Dental Alumni Faculty Award (June 2020)

ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

1. Dr. Susarla. Co-Editor-in-Chief, Craniomaxillofacial Trauma and Reconstruction; Associate Editor, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Global Open; Editorial Board, Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Journal of Craniofacial Surgery, and Journal of Cleft Lip-Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies

HONORS & AWARDS

1. Dr. Yassin. Hungate Awards for Teaching Excellence (August 2020)
2. Dr. Susarla. Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Surgeons
3. Dr. Egbert. Candidate for AAOMS Vice President
4. Dr. Burke. University of Washington School of Dentistry Dental Alumni Faculty Award (June 2020)

2020 American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Annual Meeting Poster Award
Make a Gift

Let us know your thoughts:

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Seattle, WA 98195-7134
(206) 543-7722

Email us at:

nwcofs@uw.edu

Visit the University of Washington Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department homepage

December 2020 Volume 5, Issue 2
# 2020 Honor Roll of Donors  
*(January 1 - December 31, 2020)*

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*Major Donor to the Philip Worthington Lectureship in OMS  
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