CHAIR’S CORNER
Dr. Thomas B. Dodson

I think the Grateful Dead said it best: “What a long, strange trip it’s been.”

COVID-19 has affected us all, mostly in adverse ways, shutting down our clinics in mid-March and disrupting education activities from predocs to chief residents. To their credit, our OMS team remained on the front lines as we continued to provide essential, emergency, and on-call services.

We adapted well to our new normal, finding new ways to share information, to teach, and to interview patients through the magic of video-teleconferencing. I expect that our ability to Zoom! will be a feature of teaching and clinical practice for some time to come.

We used our quarantine time well. We learned all kinds of new stuff such as the filtering effectiveness of masks, the importance of air exchange rates, what a N95 mask looks like, what fit testing means, and terms like PAPRs and CAPRs (see Fig 1). The residents took a little time to enhance their physical appearance under the watchful supervision of Dr. Ort (Fig 2). We learned about the value of the UW Virology laboratory. And I am so thankful for our relationship with UW Medicine (UWM). UWM provided leading edge, data-driven (and sometimes hourly) guidelines for managing patient care in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“And the beat goes on.” We reopened the clinics on May 18th. We used our time to prepare several timely manuscripts on patient care guidelines, work-related risk of coronavirus exposure, and issues that are affecting resident education. We were invited to share (virtually) how we manage our OMS patients during COVID-19 and how our early experiences at Ground Zero could help others OMSs return to work. I think we played an important role in helping OMSs regionally, nationally, and internationally cope with COVID-19.
Due to mandates on physical distancing to mitigate disease spread, we cancelled the OMS and GPR resident graduations for this year. (see Figures 1 – OMS chief residents and Figure 2 – GPR resident) We are working on alternative plans and are planning to have the 2020 graduates join the 2021 graduates next year for a joint celebration at Colombia Tower. The 2020 chief residents have worked hard under unprecedented circumstances and deserve a celebration as good as any before them.

The third OMS certificate/MD degree cohort graduated from UW School of Medicine in May. This team is composed of Drs. Onyi Esonu, Rachel Lim, and Kanvar Panesar. After being away from OMS for 2 years, they returned to the OMS service for a few months this spring before starting for their general surgery residency experience in July.

The Department had four major accomplishments in the last six months:

1) Dr. Jas Dillon, OMS program director, and Susan Lael, OMS program manager emerged successfully from the department’s five-year CODA review. There were no recommendations or reporting requirements for our program! This is a major accomplishment and I grateful for their efforts and hard work.

2) Dr. Andrea Burke was awarded the 2020 Elaine A. Stuebner Scholars Award from the ACOMS. The award is given to the writer of the best essay prompted by the question: “How would you design a community outreach or marketing campaign to encourage females to consider a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery?” To read the winning essay and to learn more about Drs. Stuebner and Burke, go to https://www.acomsreview.com/january-2020/stuebner2020.

3) Dr. Melanie Lang was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

4) Dr. O. Ross Beirne served as the Sir Thomas K. Sidey Visiting Professor at University of Otago School of Dentistry, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Other highlights from the last six months include: 1) OMS faculty participating in the Seattle-King County Clinic in February, 2) introducing “Zoom” Grand Rounds which increased the number of participants and we hope to continue video-teleconferencing when we return to live meetings.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been equally challenging to our academic programs. How do you maintain a productive teaching environment for clinical residents when the clinics are shut down?! How do we structure the training program for next 12 months after missing out on almost 20% of the current academic year and amid lingering uncertainty of future incidence spikes? What does the shortened academic year mean for graduating dental students and their readiness for residency on July 1? And what does the shutdown of OMS practices nationally mean for the prospects of our graduating chief residents? I am proud of how our team rallied under adversity, continuing to provide the residents with an excellent training experience. We aim to be nimble, flexible and inventive about the training opportunities. Our residents have done their part by maintaining positive attitudes and by getting the most out of each opportunity to learn and provide excellent patient care.
Hello! My name is Sara Paul. I joined Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as the new Administrator on April 16th during the Stay-at-Home order. Despite the unusual orientation and onboarding, I am enjoying meeting team members, and I’m busy figuring out OMS operations and finances. I have a special affinity for NWCOFS, being the project manager for the Sand Point Dental Building remodel in 2010, while working in Pediatric Dentistry from 2006-2011. I have an undergraduate in Journalism & Mass Communication from the University of Iowa, and a Master’s degree in Organization and Management from the University of Antioch, Keene, NH. I have spent over 25 years leading various medical departments in Academic Medical Institutions, including Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University Medical Center, and Seattle Children’s Hospital. Fun facts about my dental history: I experienced 5 years of braces, including a headgear, starting in 3rd grade. This was somewhat traumatic as I was also the new kid at school. I no longer have my wisdom teeth, and have had only one filling in my whole life thus far. Speaking of trauma, my brother knocked out his permanent front teeth and damaged bone; tripping and denting the hard wood school floor. My daughter fell on a coffee table and knocked out her primary front tooth (root and all) at age 4 requiring lip repair. All these experiences have given me a personal appreciation for the dental profession. My husband and I enjoy riding our motorcycles, gardening which recently includes raising mason bees, hiking, sailing, and now Zooming with our two daughters. I can be reached at sarapaul@uw.edu. I will divide my time between the OMS office at the Dental School (206-543-3097) and at NWCOFS (206-543-0127).

Onward to the next challenge,

Thomas B. Dodson, DMD, MPH, FACS

New Departmental Administrator
Sara Paul

I think we all agree that this has been a remarkable few months! I wish all our alumni a smooth and productive return to clinical life. We remain a resource to any who wish to discuss our experiences in battling COVID-19. While I fear these heightened risk factors will be with us for some time, I am confident that as OMSs our training and experiences have equipped us well to provide safe and excellent patient care. May you all be well and safe. I look forward to the day when we can come together again for Grand Rounds and to drink an overdue toast to our accomplished graduates.

Onward to the next challenge,
OMS RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Dr. Jasjit Dillon

Well... it’s hard to know where to begin. 2020 has been a truly horrid year on so many levels and I for one look forward to it being over. As I sit in my office at Harborview the sun is shining, Joey is in the operating room plating one of his few last remaining mandibles as a chief resident and my text pager goes off with an alert; "UW advisory Seattle possible protest in U Village area this afternoon... Curfew 6pm (6/12/2020 2.28pm).

COVID-19 struck just before our 5-year Commission on dental accreditation (CODA) site visit. This year was to be a join endeavor with Oral Radiology but their site visitor withdrew at the 11th hour citing concern regarding travelling to at that time the epicenter in the USA–King County, WA. That did not deter our two OMS site visitors who were thoroughly impressed and gave us a gold star rating. (The best thing to happen this far this year) That was the last in person CODA visit in the country and then the sky fell down and everything started to close. For the residency, this meant a cessation of all elective cases mid-March 2020. Given the residents have strict graduation requirements there followed a bustle of activity between OMS programs, AAOMS and CODA for temporary lifting of requirements... once the disease started hitting other states and it was a national not just WA problem. Ensuring patient care along with resident and provider safety and social distancing took up most of March and April.

The residents have been champions in all of this and I am so proud of them. There has been stress and many days of uncertainty. They have volunteered to take additional shifts for GS on acute care floors and continued to see emergency patients before we understood what we were dealing with and how at risk we could be. I arranged for a series of rotations of residents to limits the numbers gathering and also to rotate out those who could get sick.

During this time the volume of trauma and infection decreased but the severity of each exploded. We had 3 frontal sinus fractures in a night, multiple gunshot wounds and 2 Ludwigs infections in a week to name a few oddities. May 18th we reopened for elective surgeries. It’s been a month and the volume of cases is increasing... but along with the stress of social distancing we now have racial tension and rioting. (There is as I write looting with windows smashed around U Village 6/1/2020 4.37pm text alert... the sun is still shining). These new mass gatherings could hasten the second wave of COVID-19, but it’s too early to know yet.

As you should all be aware by now all these changes have also meant we have postponed graduation for this year. And in the spirit of deciding we are not fans of 2020, graduation has been moved to 2021! So save the date. We will be having double celebrations for Joey Garcia, Lucas Lai and Michael Tsai with the upcoming chiefs David Ludwig, Rodney Nishimoto and Karen Zemplenyi. It seems like the perfect cycle. The end of the 4-year program celebrating graduation with the first 6-year class.

Of our three-current chief residents, Drs.; Michael Tsai and Joey Garcia are staying in the WA region and finalizing jobs... and Lucas Lai is moving on. Initially back to California and then will see what the world post- COVID looks like. We will be welcoming Drs. Thomas Beckstrom, Aaron Hui and Charlie Smith as our categorical residents. Our non-categoricals trainees will be Drs. Daniel Bandary, Stevie Lustofin, Da Min Park and Jardin Yousef. We look forward to seeing them and working with them.

Drs. Jesse Han, Philip Hurst and Nicholas Smiley are on the GS home stretch and will be returning to service. Onyi, Rachael and Kanvar will be joining GS and sleepless nights... they had their medical school graduation via Zoom. I will leave it to them to tell you how ‘great’ it was... another thing to celebrate soon. Despite COVID-19 the School of Medicine worked hard to make sure our medical students (Bobby, Leena, Stuart) will graduate on time given the suspension of medical school rotations.
Our first years Aparna, Brian and Gaby passed Step 1 USMLE and their selective III research projects. Of our non-cats, Liz matched to Augusta GA and Raphi to Temple in Philadelphia – we wish them well. Hanna and Xing will stay in the area and maintain close ties to us. They will apply to OMS residency in the next cycle.

The residents used the additional time to have some hands on cosmetic classes with Drs Melanie Lang and Yirae Ort and there has been a flurry of research with several publications.

As always thank you all for the tireless support. To the affiliate faculty to take call for us and all the donors – thank you!! I wish you all good health and please stay safe for the rest of the year.

Check out the UW OMS Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/uw.oms/. We have this thing called followers!!

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**GPR PROGRAM**

**Dr. Ryan O’Connor**

All of us are aware of the impact of Covid-19 has had on our personal and professional lives. These have been challenging times. The current class of GPR residents have been impacted greatly, but I am proud of their response to the challenge.

At a time when the majority of the Main Campus of the School of Dentistry was closed, the GPR group were the sole providers of emergency dental care. Our group was well positioned and trained to navigate providing dental care, ordering Covid tests, and dealing with daily changes to policies and procedures.

Along with so many other medical providers and surgeons, the GPR group provided patient care in a setting with the unknown possibility of illness and death. The care they provided demonstrates their willingness to risk personal safety in order to reduce pain and suffering of their patients. They also reduced the burden of patients on an overwhelmed emergency medical system. Each one of the GPR residents did their part to help with this crisis.
It is unlikely we will be able to hold a graduation ceremony for this group, so I would like to recognize them here:

Jordan Ha  
Sam Rahbar  
Sam Best  
Meg Bryck  
Marla Fleming  
Ryan Olson  
Gabbi Williamson  
Corey Bornstein

No one can predict how Covid-19 will affect the future of dentistry, but our success will rely on an ability to continue to evolve and adapt. This class of GPRs have proven themselves to be capable and willing to do just that. I want to thank them for their hard work and wish them the best of success for their future endeavors!

PRE-DOCTORAL ACTIVITIES  
Dr. John Evans

Starting in early March, pre-doctoral clinical activities were suspended at the recommendation of public health authorities and University of Washington Administration. As of this writing, June 13, we are still not back in the student clinics. Returning to student clinics will take place later this month. We will, of course, be implementing the same "new normal" protocols recommended for dental facilities across the country.

The effects of the loss of clinical practice on the pre-doctoral program have been profound. We have done and will continue to do our best to compensate for the lost clinical opportunity as soon as we are back in the clinics. Much will depend on state and local health care authorities and the public’s confidence in us with regard to keeping them safe in our clinics.
Then there is the financial loss associated with the suspended clinical operations. The estimate is that the School of Dentistry has lost in the neighborhood of $55K per day since early March. This deficit will need to be made-up somehow. Non-essential staff are now on furlough until later this month. Faculty have been asked to voluntarily reduce their compensation where possible and contribute monetarily to the School to make up for the lost income. We were, before the closure of our clinics, on schedule to break even with regard to the student clinics for the first time in recent memory. The latest report from the Dean actually has the School breaking even at this time in spite of the lock down. The University will be cutting budgets in the next fiscal year and we will be asked to participate.

There is good news also. We were, as a faculty, able to compensate for lost, in-person didactic time. As classrooms closed and buildings locked, we shifted the entire didactic curriculum to online educational platforms. This difficult task required faculty to invest hundreds of hours adapting and coordinating instructional materials for use in new, virtual classrooms. For at least the next year, classroom instruction will occur largely online. The School of Dentistry has or soon will re-open our student’s clinics and laboratories. In-person activities that we cannot duplicate electronically, will resume.

For at least the next year, we are planning to conduct all classroom activities online. Because not every student's access to the internet is reliable from their living spaces, we have adopted credit/no credit grading. This has further required modification of testing methods and grading criteria. Maintaining professional standards in the face of this level of change in our pedagogy is a bit of a challenge. What will not change are the clinical standards we require students to meet prior to graduation.

We were able to graduate, on time, the Class of 2020. Our best wishes go with them as they take revised board examinations, and enter practice or specialty programs across the nation. The Class of 2021 will be as well-trained as ever, barring further limitations in the clinical activities of the School. We have made plans to compensate for the loss of three months of clinical educational opportunity.

So, we are still here educating students in spite of circumstances none of us could have imagined just six months ago. We do appreciate, as always, your kind assistance as we move forward. With regard to the surgical education of our students, we can always use more affiliate faculty to share their expertise. Let me know if you want to help.

Oral Pathology
Dr. Dolphine Oda

The Oral Pathology Biopsy Service is open every day to receive biopsies:

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to all of you for your continued support of the Oral Pathology Biopsy Service (OPBS) at the UW School of Dentistry. In 2019, the OPBS processed an all-time record 7,100 cases. In addition to being honored to serve you, we appreciate your contribution to the education of dental students and residents at UWSOD through your sharing of these cases.

COVID-19 is proving itself to be a challenge for all of us. The OPBS is working diligently to navigate the process of maintaining an efficient service while keeping a healthy measure of social distancing and wearing face masks. We are committed to do the best we can to keep ourselves and your patients safe, secure, and cared for. The office has not stopped processing all the urgent biopsy specimens that needed to be read in a timely fashion. I and two full-time office staff members continue to come to work at the UW on a daily basis and will continue to do so going forward.

If you are seeing patients on a regular basis and need your biopsies processed with the highest-quality service, we are happy to receive your specimens and to continue to serve your patients and the community.

Thank you again for all your support.
FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

1. **Dr. Burke.** "Phosphaturic Mesenchymal Tumor: The one that almost got away." Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Grand Rounds, University of Washington School of Dentistry, December 2019.
2. **Dr. Burke.** "Creating the 'Women in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Pipeline.'" University of Washington School of Dentistry - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Student Interest Group (Zoom Meeting), May 2020.
3. **Dr. Dillon.** WIN Denver - Dr. Lauren Basile/Straumann Study Group March 1st, 2020
4. **Dr. Dillon.** ACOMS - The impact of Covid-19 on head and neck surgeons May 9th, 2020
5. **Dr. Dillon.** Tracheostomy - A guide to prevent catastrophe. Dental student's around the country zoom lecture May 15th, 2020
6. **Dr. Susarla.** "Subcranial and Orthognathic Surgery in Syndromic Craniosynostosis" Craniofacial Surgery Grand Rounds, Oisehi Children’s Hospital, State University of New York at Buffalo, April 10, 2020. [Virtual Meeting via Zoom]
7. **Dr. Susarla.** "Orthognathic Surgery: What’s the Evidence?” Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Grand Rounds, State University of New York at Buffalo, April 14, 2020. [Virtual Meeting via Zoom]
13. **Dr. Dodson.** Invited presentation. Seattle King County Dental Association. “Update on MRONJ” Seattle, February 25, 2020


LETTERS, INTERVIEWS, EDITORIALS

4. **Susarla SM**. This Week in Surgery: Neck Trauma Quiz. The SCORE Portal – General Surgery Resident Curriculum. February 2, 2020
5. **Susarla SM**. This Week in Surgery: Biostatistics Quiz The SCORE Portal – General Surgery Resident Curriculum. May 3, 2020

ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

1. **Dr. Susarla**. Co-Editor-in-Chief – Craniomaxillofacial Trauma and Reconstruction Editor --Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Global Open
2. **Dr. Beirne**. Associated Editor for Evidence Based Dental Practice for the Journal of the American Dental Association

HONORS & AWARDS

1. **Dr. Burke**. American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Elaine A. Stuebner Scholars Award University of Washington School of Dentistry Dental Alumni Faculty Award
2. **Dr. Lang**. Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
3. **Dr. Beirne**. Visiting Professorship at University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

The following is a description of the University of Otago Professorship.

Sir Thomas K Sidey Visiting Professorship was established in 1973 to enable persons of scientific or professional eminence to make visits to the School of Dentistry to further dental education and foster potential teaching and research collaborations. It is a highly competitive and sought-after professorship and one of the few named professorships of the university. Sir Thomas Sidey (1863 -1933) was a prominent politician and member of council for the University of Otago and championed the creation of a dental school and dental education in New Zealand. Monies from his estate were bequeathed to the university to commemorate his long association with dentistry in New Zealand. Professor Beirne’s visit was regrettably cut short by a week due to the exceptional circumstances that arose with the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the closing of borders and travel restrictions necessitating him to return to Seattle sooner than we would have liked. During his time here however, Prof Beirne provided exceptional teaching to residents, interns and other postgraduate students and staff in the department and provided two public lectures to the department and Faculty. His knowledge, immense intellect and easy manner was well received by the students and faculty.
FULL-TIME FACULTY

Thomas B. Dodson, Chair
Jasjit Dillon, Program Director, OMS
Ryan O'Connor, Program Director, GPR
O. Ross Beirne
Andrea Burke
Mark Egbert
John Evans
Melanie Lang
Paige Moorhead
Dolphine Oda

ACTIVE AFFILIATE FACULTY*

Rafael Alcade
Ramtin Amini
Layla Yassin
Franco Audia
Abhishake Banda
Richard Bell
Dale Bloomquist
Guillermo Chacon
Julia Chang
Richard Crinzi
Daryl Detwiler
Alan Deubner
Sukhdeep Dhaliwal
Robert Dillard
Lawrence Ebel
Anthony Feider
Gary Feldman
Adam Fettig
Austin Gaal
Pete Gauger
Peter Gooris
Kristine Grace
Thomas Hohl
Jae Hong
Gregg Hyde
Scott Jones
Philip Kaiser
Patricia Kelly
Adam Kennedy
Peter Kim
Lisa Kinney
Stephen Knoff

*If your name is missing, please let us know*

Let us know your thoughts:

Email us at:
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Visit the University of Washington Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department homepage

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