CHAIR’S CORNER: A Year for the Record
Books
Dr. Thomas B. Dodson

We have had a tumultuous, rewarding, dramatic, and astounding year. COVID-19 took over and we were forced to adapt . . . and adapt we did. There were disruptions in clinical activities, new processes to learn, PAPR and mask filtration effectiveness to figure out, and finally, we were FIT-tested for N-95 masks. Despite this unplanned chaos, we thrived. The residents had an outstanding clinical journey that, in retrospect, may turn out to be a once in a generation experience. Our clinical volumes have now recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and the variety and depth of our clinical cases no meets or exceeds past years.

The resident class of 2021 (Figure 1) is the first trainee triumvirate to graduate from our combined MD/OMS certificate program. Drs. David Ludwig, Rodney Nishimoto, and Karen Zemplenyi started their program in July 2015, received their University of Washington medical degrees in 2018, completed 24 months of general surgery training, and on June 18th, 2021, were awarded their OMS certificates (Figure 2).

For those die-hard historians, this remarkable cohort is not the first to earn a double degree from this program. In 1972, Dr. James Hooley, then OMS department chair, established a double-degree program at UW. Between 1972 and 1976, 9 trainees were accepted into the OMS program with the medical school option. Five completed the program: Dr. Joe Piecuch, Dr. Bryce Potter, Dr. Lou Gallia, Dr. Gary Feldman, and Dr. Joel Berger. Our current curriculum represents the first time at UW that the double-degree is fully institutionalized and supported by both Schools of Medicine (SOM) and Dentistry as the only path to an OMS certificate at UW.

When I arrived as chair in September 2013, establishing a double-degree program in OMS was my first priority. The greatest challenge was persuading the SOM to dedicate 3 spots in their class for dental graduates, and 3 spots in their general surgery residency program for outside-the-match oral surgery residents. We were fortunate to earn the full-throated support of the then SOM Education Dean, Dr. Ellen Cosgrove, and Chair of Surgery, Dr. Carlos Pellegrini. The parties jointly agreed to replace the previous OMS curriculum with a formalized 6-year joint training program, which was ratified by August 2104. We interviewed the first residents that Fall, and enrolled the first class in July 2015. A lot of credit goes to Dr. Jas Dillon, our program director, and Susan Lael, residency program manager, for translating the handshakes of some bureaucrats into all the administrivia and minutiae required to make this a reality!
Due to social distancing mandates, last year’s graduates were forced to endure a “slightly scaled down” graduation celebration during a lunchbreak in a Harborview conference room (with masks and fist bumps). It was hardly the celebration they deserved for such an auspicious accomplishment, and we promised that Drs. Lucas Lai, Michael Tsai, and Joey Garcia would be our special guests at this year’s awards celebration (Figure 3).

Even more remarkable is that both this year’s and last year’s graduating classes completed their training during the COVID-19 pandemic . . . and none of them contracted COVID-19!!! I consider it a mark of the quality that we maintain in OMS that not a single member of our residency program nor a single faculty member contracted COVID-19.

As we think about training our residents, I am so proud of the excellence embodied in our OMS faculty. Dr. Jasjit Dillon is our most recent faculty to be promoted to Professor. Dr. Andrea Burke was promoted to Assistant Professor, thus ending the “acting” nonsense often accompanying a School of Dentistry appointment. Dr. Neel Patel, our most recent addition to our faculty, will join the team at Harborview Medical Center effective August 1, 2021.

Figure 1 - OMS Class 2021. Back Row: Joshua Alumbaugh, Luke Nelson, Trayvon Foy, Aaron Hui, Stephanie Lustofin, Brian Bhaskar, Robert Johnson, Thomas Beckstrom, Aparna Bhat, Kanvar Panesar, Rachel Lim, Gabrielle Moen, Stuart Allyn, Philip Hurst; Middle Row: Jessica Van, Melanie Lang, Taylor Ellingsen, Andrea Burke, Damin Park, Charlie Smith, Leena Zaryuk, Jasjit Dillon, Rodney Nishimoto, Thomas Dodson, Dale Bloomquist; Front Row: O. Ross Beirne, Onyi Esonu, Karen Zemplenyi, David Ludwig, Nick Smiley, Jesse Han

Figure 2 - 2021 graduating residents. From L-R -Drs.Jas Dillon (Program Director), David Ludwig, Tom Dodson (Department Chair), Rodney Nishimoto, and Karen Zemplenyi
On a bittersweet note for me personally, Dr. Ross Beirne, a member of the OMS faculty since 1986, former Department Chair, former residency program director, and all-around nice guy with an encyclopedic knowledge of medicine and anesthesia, announced that he will retire from the faculty at the end of this calendar year. For those of you who don’t know, Ross was my OMS program director when I began my OMS training in 1984. It has been a joy to work alongside him these many decades as my teacher, mentor, colleague, foot-soldier-in-the-trenches, and friend.

The department continues to maintain a busy research agenda (page 8), despite the demands of clinical care and resident training. All 5 of our resident abstracts were accepted for oral presentations at AAOMS this year. This is a remarkable feat, as most abstracts are not accepted, and of those accepted, most are accepted as posters. This achievements places the work of our residents at the top of the heap, as only the best are selected for oral presentations. And, if you attend the AAOMS meeting in Nashville, please join us for our annual alumni reception on Thursday, September 28th from 5:30 – 7:00 (See the AAOMS 2021 Annual meeting program for details).

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Dr. Bonnie Padwa from Boston Children’s Hospital will be the 2021 Worthington Lecturer. Her presentation will be held in conjunction with OMS Grand Rounds on November 3, 2021.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for maintaining focus, good humor, and generally positive morale during an unprecedented global health emergency. I bear witness to our ability to work respectfully as a team under adversity, to maintain as job one the health and safety of our patients, and the extra efforts by our residents to reap the most from a bad situation. I am so proud of our trainees, our faculty, and our staff, who exhibited the highest standards of patient care and personal integrity during every day of this challenge.

And now, on to the next challenge!

Tom Dodson
Dear UW OMS alumni and friends,

The Philip Worthington Lectureship in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery was established in 2003 by a passionate, committed group of stakeholders in the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery who wished to honor and recognize the profound contributions of Dr. Worthington to the Department after more than 20 years of leadership and service. Since then, proceeds from this fund have brought to the University of Washington a number of distinguished scholars in the field of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, or other fields where new developments impact upon the practice of OMS. The contributions of these scholars have been of great benefit to oral surgery faculty, residents, and other post-doctoral students each year. In view of the excellent response to honoring Dr. Worthington and to meet the strategic challenges of maintaining a sustainable OMS department, we are working to expand the fund to provide for an Endowed Chair in Dr. Worthington’s name.

An Endowed Chair in OMS is critical for several important reasons:

- It signifies the importance of OMS to the School of Dentistry
- It ensures that funding is available in perpetuity for the transition of high-caliber leadership from one generation to the next
- It offers a competitive edge nationally when recruiting the best from among a limited qualified pool of candidates by underscoring the resources and economic stability of the UW
- The commitment of an endowed leadership position is important in retaining the best candidates, who are commonly recruited to consider other positions as they become available

Thanks to the financial contributions from generous OMS alumni and stakeholders, I am pleased to announce that we have reached almost 90 percent of the University’s threshold for an Endowed Chair, so we are tantalizingly close to this goal! Please consider honoring Dr. Worthington and helping the Department to maintain its excellence and outstanding reputation by making a contribution to help us reach this goal. If you wish to make a contribution or if you have any questions, please contact Doug Day in the UW School of Dentistry Office of Advancement at (206) 543-6017 or daydoug@uw.edu.

Thank you!

Doug

**Doug Day**  
Associate Director  
UW School of Dentistry  
Office of Advancement & External Affairs

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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.
OMS RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Dr. Jasjit Dillon

June 2021 saw the completion of our MD track with Karen Zemplenyi, Rodney Nishimoto and David Ludwig graduating. Karen and David are both staying in WA. Karen also will be working part time in Alaska in Ketchikan at an Indian Health Center. Rodney is returning to Hawaii. We wish them all the best. It was wonderful to finally see all our friends again at the Columbia Tower June 18th where we celebrated the completion of training for years 2020 and 2021.

Our new first years are Trayvon Foy (UW), Taylor Ellison (UW) and Jessica Van (UCSF), with our 4 non-categoricals (NCs), Joshua Alumbaugh (UW), Luke Nelson (UW) Lauren Lill (UCLA) and Anastasia Dovzhenko (Rutgers). Of last year’s NC Stevie Lustofin has joined Thomas Jefferson in their 6-year program. Jardin Yousef and Daniel Bandary are both doing further NC years and Damin Park is returning to Boston. Hana Lim from last year matched to Howard’s 4-year program.

We had 5 abstracts submitted to AAOMS for the fall Nashville meeting. All five were accepted as oral abstracts. One of these is via zoom and the others are in person. Our department also submitted 4 manuscripts for the resident research award. This year Rachel Lim won for her research – ‘Are oral antibiotics an effective alternative to intravenous antibiotics in the treatment of osteomyelitis of the jaws?’

Our incoming Chief residents are Jesse Han who will return to California when done. Philip Hurst and Nicholas Smiley are both staying around and are actively looking for jobs – please reach out to them if you have a position available.

Stuart Allyn, Robert Johnson and Leena Zurayk have started their general surgery year. And... Kanvar Panesar, Rachel Lim and Onyi Esonu have rejoined us at R5’s. Charlie Smith, Thomas Beckstrom and Aaron Hui are in their stride in medical school.

Interviews will again be held virtually, and we are starting to accept applications. We look forward to another year of stellar candidates.

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

Congratulations to the graduating 2021 GPR class. They were a hard-working, no-drama group that had a rather slow start due to COVID. I think they were eventually able to get some good experiences that will jump start their early careers.

Figure 4 - Combined GPR graduating classes of 2020, 2021 and GPR inbounds. L-R: Drs. Ryan O’Connor (program director), Sarah Mischo, Parham Tabar, Molly Keam, Nousha Panahpour, Nick Maniatis, Zachary Cook, Jessica Mehta, Ana Mateo, Luke Taylor, Lorenzo Marcil, Madeline Harris, Morgan Fannon, Abby Szlachta, Paige Moorhead, Samantha Best
We had a great dinner at the Columbia Tower. It was great seeing 3 different classes of GPRs all at once and celebrating this year’s group. We wish them the best!

Class of 2020-2021:
Sarah Mischo
Morgan Fannon
Ana Mateo
Jessica Mehta
Shyrie Patel
Abby Szlachta
Parham Tabar
Luke Taylor

We also look forward to having Sophy Park provide more help for the GPR Program. She will be taking on more administrative duties for the GPRs and will, hopefully, relieve some of the workload that falls on our super program manager, Susan Lael.

We want to welcome the incoming group of GPR residents.
Class of 2021-2022:
Emma Bhaskar
Zach Cook
Madeline Harris
Molly Keam
Nick Maniatis
Lorenzo Marcil
Alan Lopez
Nousha Panahpour Eslami

Many thanks to all of the OMS folks and administrative team and we hope for a great year.

Best,
Ryan O’Connor
Program Director, General Practice Residency

Oral Pathology

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/.
PRE-DOCTORAL ACTIVITIES
Dr. John Evans

As we start the summer teaching program, we look forward to operating under the relaxed rules taking effect in Washington after June 30. For the last year we have been quite strict in the School of Dentistry about producing aerosols in the clinical environment. We have used handpieces only while treating patients who have a negative COVID test within seventy-two hours of surgery. We recently started treating patients who have been vaccinated without a pre-operative negative COVID test. We look forward to getting back to near normal summer quarter. We also expect the flow of patients through the School of Dentistry to improve as restrictions are relaxed.

We are expecting to be back in the classrooms in September. We can then resume in-person didactic education. We have all become quite good at using ZOOM but most faculty greatly prefer in-person, real-time, didactic instruction. We have found that dentistry is quite hard to teach effectively online and, of course, clinical care simply must be taught in person through a lot of one-on-one instruction.

We are planning to incorporate several new affiliate instructors fall quarter as we lose Dr. Bob Dillard, who is going to work in a clinic in central Washington and Dr. Layla Yassin, who is moving to the east coast. Thanks so much to you both. We wish you all the best in the future.

We will continue to enjoy the able assistance of Doctors Jim Reed, Henry Rowshan, and Jae Hong this summer. Those of you who have taught in the past, and there are quite a few of you, please know that we are grateful for your generous help. You are welcome back. As always, we have plenty of room for new affiliate faculty if you are so inclined. Our students appreciate good teaching especially from practitioners from the "real world". The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clerkship remains tied with the Endodontics Clerkship for the best-liked clinically oriented course in the third year of dental school. That tradition will be vigorously maintained as we, hopefully, move beyond the soon to be infamous COVID year.

We have worked through many big changes in the curriculum over the last several years. We are now, once again, in a fine-tuning phase. The COVID year was an immense challenge for us as it was for most everyone. We move forward with a vaccinated staff, faculty and student body who will be treating patients who are mostly vaccinated. Compared to a year ago things have improved remarkably.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS
1. Dr. Dillon. The Surgical Airway. AAOMS in Conjunction with ICOMS Oct 1-10th virtual annual meeting 2020
2. Dr. Dillon. The role of HPV in head and neck cancer – ACOMS lecture for 'anytime, anywhere'. June 15th 2021
4. Dr. Dodson. Invited lecture. University of Pennsylvania, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. "Writing a scientific paper is not rocket science." Updated and revised for the resident audience. Recorded, live webinar format. 35 participants
PUBLICATIONS

LETTERS, INTERVIEWS, EDITORIALS


ACTIVITIES/SERVICES


HONORS & AWARDS

1. Dr. Dodson. Appointed Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
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 Arab 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 Kainer
Patricia Kelly
Adam Kennedy
Peter Kim
Lisa Kinney
Stephen Knoff

David Kraayenbrink
Libby Kutcipal
Richard Lebeda
Galia Leonard
Ivy Lin
Mehdi Matin
David Molven
Sasidhar Narra
Erich Naumann
Yirae Ort
Simon Prior
Jim Reed
Hirbod Rowshan
Brian Rubens
Matt Ryskalcyzk
Subrata Saha
Vincent Slovan
Christopher Steen
Mark Stivers
Srinivas Susarla
Bryan Swanson
John Tidwell
Douglas Trippel
Servprit Wahan
Lori Walker
Patrick Wang
Michael Wasson
Roger West
Michael Whelan
Sophie Yi
Seung Yu

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

Let us know your thoughts:

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June 2021 Volume 6, Issue 1