

**CALCULATING
THE COSTS**
Potential impact of a
nationwide fluoride ban

**ALUMNUS
HONORS HSDM**
\$1 million gift to support
teaching and research

**GRATEFUL
PATIENT**
Extending a lifeline to
patients in need

Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Fall 2025 / Volume 85, Number 2

Harvard Dental



Research at Risk

FIRST
YEAR

Student Snapshot

For the DMD Class of 2027, this summer marked a defining moment in their dental education. After two years of academic coursework, students stepped into the dental clinic to treat their first patients. This milestone allowed them to turn classroom knowledge into hands-on care while beginning to build the skills and confidence that will shape their future careers.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

THE PAST FEW MONTHS have been challenging for Harvard and HSDM as we've faced an everchanging federal landscape that has threatened our research funding, our international students' visas, and the very core of our academic freedom. Many of you have reached out to me to express your support for Harvard, and your concern for our students and for the future of medical and health policy research. The longtime partnership between universities and the federal government has produced advances that are the envy of the world. Now, potentially lifesaving cures and public health advances are at risk. In this issue you'll learn more about several HSDM research projects and researchers whose critical work remains on hold.

Over the course of HSDM's 158-year history, we've faced numerous challenges. Time and again, our resilient community has stepped up to meet the moment. I'm extremely grateful for all those who have contributed to HSDM at many different levels to provide much-needed support at this time. We highlight the generosity and vision of Razzaque Ahmed, DMSc88, PD88, MPA95, who has given a \$1 million gift to support research and mentorship in the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity (OMII). You can also learn about a unique gift to the Harvard Dental Center that will provide critical funding to treat patients in need. It was inspired by a patient's own experience.

Additionally, our alumni generously lend their time and talent in so many ways. Faheem Rasool, MMSc93, DMD95 and Neda Shah-Hosseini, DMD96, PD96, this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, are shining examples of HSDM ambassadors who have given back to HSDM in numerous ways as advocates and stewards. We are fortunate to have dedicated champions in our alumni.



We're also fortunate to have dedicated faculty and staff who have risen to recent challenges and have been extremely resilient. In a Q&A with Tom Miller, HSDM's dean for administration and chief operations officer, you'll learn how Tom and his team are managing the financial realities HSDM faces while also looking ahead to opportunities that will strengthen our school in the long-term.

While there has been a significant amount of change, what remains constant is the excellence of our students. The incoming classes of DMD and AGE students are no exception, and it gives me great hope and pride to see the future of our profession in these talented individuals. You'll meet several in this issue. Please join me in welcoming them to our HSDM community.

WILLIAM V. GIANNOBILE, DDS, DMSC96, PD96
Dean and A. Lee Loomis, Jr. Professor of Oral Medicine,
Infection & Immunity
Harvard School of Dental Medicine

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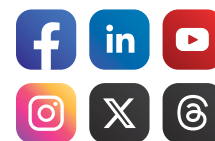
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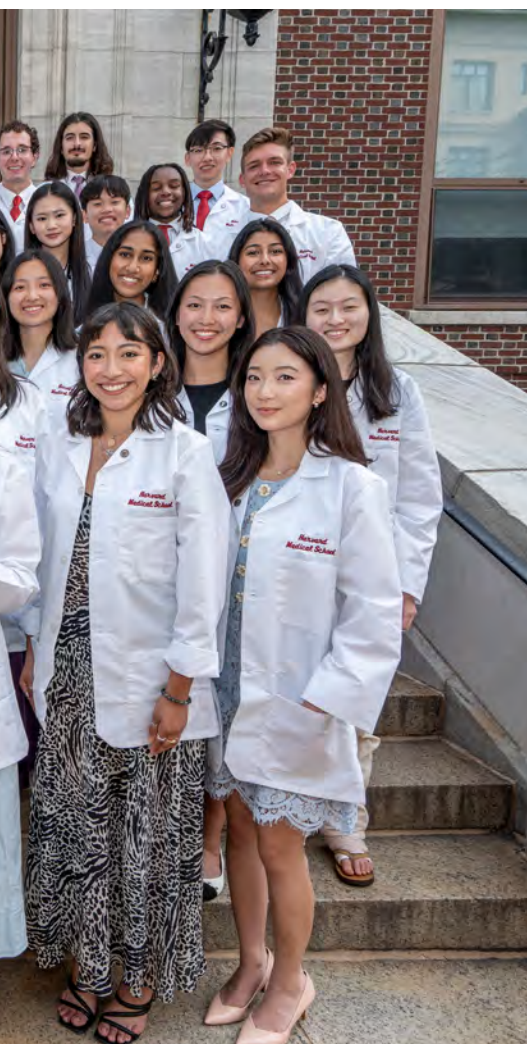
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On Longwood Ave.



NEW PROGRAM

Online master's program in Dental Education launches

Applications are now being accepted for a new online Advanced Graduate Education (AGE) Program in Dental Education offered by Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). The flexible program offers the option of a one-year full-time, or two-year part-time degree program culminating in a Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree in Dental Education.

"We're excited to offer this opportunity for dental professionals from around the globe to gain advanced skills in education innovation, program design, and leadership. This program is designed for those in clinical practice, academia, public health, or other related fields who want to take their career in dental education to the next level," said Sang Park, MMScor, associate dean for Dental Education.

The program is open to all dental educators, allied oral health professionals, public health leaders in oral health, international dental professionals, academic leadership aspirants, and clinicians who have a desire to pursue a career in dental education. Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent to apply.

The online format allows participants to take courses fully remote from any location, with the option of coming to Harvard in person to receive their degree at Commencement. It features both synchronous instruction with Harvard faculty for real-time learning and community building, and asynchronous components for scholarship and research, allowing built-in flexibility. The program emphasizes leadership development and a comprehensive approach to education across multiple learning environments.



The application deadline is February 1, 2026, and the program will begin in July 2026. Scan the QR code to learn more and apply.



MOBILE CHECKUP

Oral health on wheels

Recognizing the deep connection between oral and systemic health, a group of HSDM students has teamed up with The Family Van, a Harvard Medical School-affiliated mobile health clinic that serves residents throughout Boston, to bring dental care directly into the community.

Through the Family Van Oral Health Initiative (FaVOr), DMD students Chi Menakaya, Val Ortiz Jimenez, Brendon Anderson, Aiysha Amjad, Korina Lu, Xuehao Ma, and Victoria Shen are working to expand access to oral health services and strengthen their commitment to the neighborhoods surrounding the HSDM campus.

As part of this service-learning partnership, the team recently hosted an oral health screening event, offering free assessments and connecting community members with affordable care options.

“It’s a small but meaningful step toward empowering individuals with the knowledge and access they need to take charge of their oral health,” said Ma, DMD26.

SUMMER SCHOOL

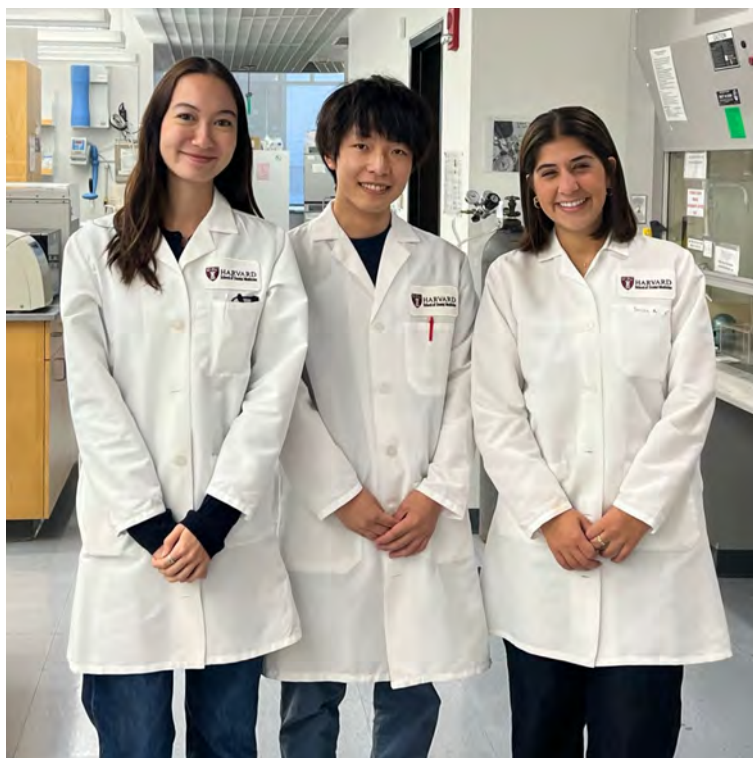
Student interns explore research paths

This summer, several student interns had a chance to explore their research interests in HSDM laboratories.

Giovana Abe, a senior at High Point University who interned in the Feres Lab, plans to pursue a program in neuroscience after her undergraduate program. “I got valuable hands-on experience for what I plan to do in grad school. My ultimate career goal is to become a research scientist for neurodegenerative diseases, combining aspects of the human microbiome and how they interact with each other,” she said.

Aoi Sekino, a fourth-year dental student at the Institute of Science in Tokyo, worked in the lab of Drs. Roland Baron and Francesca Gori. He was involved in a project investigating the role of BAMBI in parathyroid hormone signaling in osteocytes. “It not only deepened my understanding of bone metabolism and osteocyte biology but also broadened my perspective on international research collaboration and innovation,” he said. “This experience has inspired me to consider a research career.”

In Dr. Lakmali Silva’s lab, Sareen Armenian explored how hemostatic and immune system factors influence inflammation in the oral mucosa. “By the end of my internship, I felt well-versed in the processes regarding PCR, gel electrophoresis, and data analysis,” she said. “I also learned tissue harvesting, immunofluorescence, histology, and lab organization. My experience was transformative and cemented my commitment to dental health as a means to implement change at the population level.”



Research Focus

Calculating the costs of a nationwide fluoride ban

Study shows eliminating fluoride from drinking water would substantially increase children's tooth decay and dental costs

FLUORIDE HAS BEEN ADDED to public drinking water in the United States since 1945 to strengthen tooth enamel and fight off bacteria, ultimately reducing tooth decay. However, several U.S. states have recently announced bans on the addition of fluoride to their public water systems, and there has been speculation that a nationwide ban may not be far behind. A new modeling study published in *JAMA Health Forum* reveals the impact a ban would have on dental health, showing a substantial increase in dental decay and costs, particularly for publicly insured and uninsured children.

Researchers from Mass General Brigham and Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) used a simulation model to estimate dental health outcomes for children if the U.S. were to ban fluoridation of public water. The study focused on children because fluoride is known to strengthen teeth at a critical time in tooth development.

"Fluoride replaces weaker ions within tooth enamel, making it stronger and less susceptible to tooth decay caused by bacteria," said senior author Lisa Simon DMD14, PD15, MD20, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at

HSDM and associate physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "There's strong evidence from other countries and cities showing that when fluoride is eliminated, dental disease increases. Our study offers a window into what would happen in the United States if water fluoridation ceased."

The study used detailed oral health and water fluoridation data collected from 8,484 children (ages 0–19, 49% girls) in the nationally representative National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Using this dataset, the researchers developed a microsimulation model to see how banning fluoride from



RESEARCH AT RISK



Dr. Sung Eun Choi is an assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at HSDM. Her research, supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), focuses on evaluating the effectiveness and value of policies aimed at improving access to dental

care for underserved children.

“Oral health remains largely siloed from broader healthcare conversations, despite its profound impact on overall well-being. Disparities in access and outcomes persist, particularly among underserved populations, yet often receive limited policy attention,” said Choi.

Her research bridges oral health, health policy, and data science, generating evidence to inform both clinical decision-making and policy development. With her federal research funding

now frozen, gaps in care are at risk of growing and policy solutions could be delayed.

Choi’s work is critical to identifying structural factors that drive disparities in dental care quality and simulating the long-term costs and health outcomes of different policy scenarios. Her research informs state and federal decision-makers with evidence to implement targeted, cost-effective interventions, including Medicaid policy and delivery system reforms.

With funding disrupted,

so is the ability to deliver this timely evidence that could shape policy or community care programs.

“The most immediate consequence is that we lose momentum in understanding and addressing preventable disparities in oral health,” said Choi. “The populations most affected—low-income children, families in underserved areas, and those relying on safety-net systems—are the very groups who stand to benefit most from evidence-informed policies.”

drinking water would impact oral health, quality of life, and dental care costs over 5- and 10-year periods, which align with policy planning horizons. First, maintaining current fluoride levels, and second, eliminating the addition of fluoride to public water.

“Using a simulation model to track the progression of diseases in current populations, we estimated the impact of removing fluoride on the risk of tooth decay and the related dental care costs, including treatment for decay and complications from delayed treatment. We ran the simulation 1,000 times to see how different factors could affect the results. This approach helps ensure that our predictions are more reliable and reflective of real-world variability,” said first author Sung Eun Choi, PhD, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Simon and Choi found that eliminating fluoride increased the total number of decayed teeth by 7.5 percentage points, or 25.4 million more teeth with tooth decay over five years (equivalent to a tooth for one out of every three American children). The number of fluorosis cases—a discoloring

25.4 million
more teeth will decay
over 5 years without
fluoridated water

\$9.8 billion
additional dental costs
over 5 years without
fluoridated water

\$19.4 billion
additional dental costs
over 10 years without
fluoridated water

of tooth enamel due to excessive fluoride intake—decreased by 0.2 million. They also estimated a cost of \$9.8 billion in additional dental care costs over five years, which rose to \$19.4 billion after 10 years.

“Most of the increased cost could be attributed to publicly insured children, meaning it would be a direct public health cost,” said Simon.

The study did not model cognitive effects from fluoride exposure as current levels of fluoride in public water are not associated with worse neurobehavioral outcomes. The authors note that their model demonstrates meaningful, ongoing benefit from fluoride at safe levels currently recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Toxicology Program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We know fluoride works. We’re able to show just how much it works for most communities and how much people stand to lose if we get rid of it,” said Simon. ♥

This study was supported by a Faculty Career Development Award from Brigham and Women’s Hospital.



Research Focus

A setback to research that offered hope for fibrous dysplasia patients

Promising HSDM research into the rare and debilitating disease was halted due to withdrawal of federal funding

IN 2023, the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) was awarded a U.S. Department of Defense grant to fund a four-year study of fibrous dysplasia (FD), a severe skeletal disease in which benign tumors cause bone deformities, fractures, and pain. The award aimed to investigate the cellular and molecular underpinnings of the disease which affects an estimated 1 in 15,000 to 30,000 people and currently has no cure. The research had promise not only for treating FD, but also for finding treatments for conditions affecting

military personnel, including blast-induced heterotopic ossification, and chronic bone pain.

At the time, the funding was applauded by patients and patient advocacy groups such as FD/MAS Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to finding evidence-based treatments for fibrous dysplasia and McCune-Albright syndrome.

“This funding was more than just a financial award—it was a crucial investment in understanding and eventually treating a devastating disease,” said

“
**Advancing research in
 FD/MAS benefits those
 living with this rare disease
 and holds great potential
 for broader medical
 applications.”**

**ADRIENNE MCBRIDE, EXECUTIVE
 DIRECTOR OF FD/MAS ALLIANCE**

Adrienne McBride, executive director of the Alliance. “Advancing research in FD/MAS benefits those living with this rare disease and holds great potential for broader medical applications.”

The mechanisms investigated in FD research have the potential to yield insights relevant for many other diseases causing bone fragility, pain, and fractures. With federal research funding to Harvard now frozen, these insights may never be realized.

“FD patients and their families had been closely following research advances, hoping for novel, effective interventions. The termination of leading-edge projects like this erodes this hope and sends a discouraging signal to those living with an already-overlooked disease,” said Yingzi Yang, professor of Developmental Biology

at HSDM, and principal investigator on the grant.

Yang and her partners at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), had been making progress in the few years since the funding was awarded. While some work continues at MGH, the research based in the Yang Lab at HSDM, that was critical to providing a greater understanding of the disease mutation, has stopped.

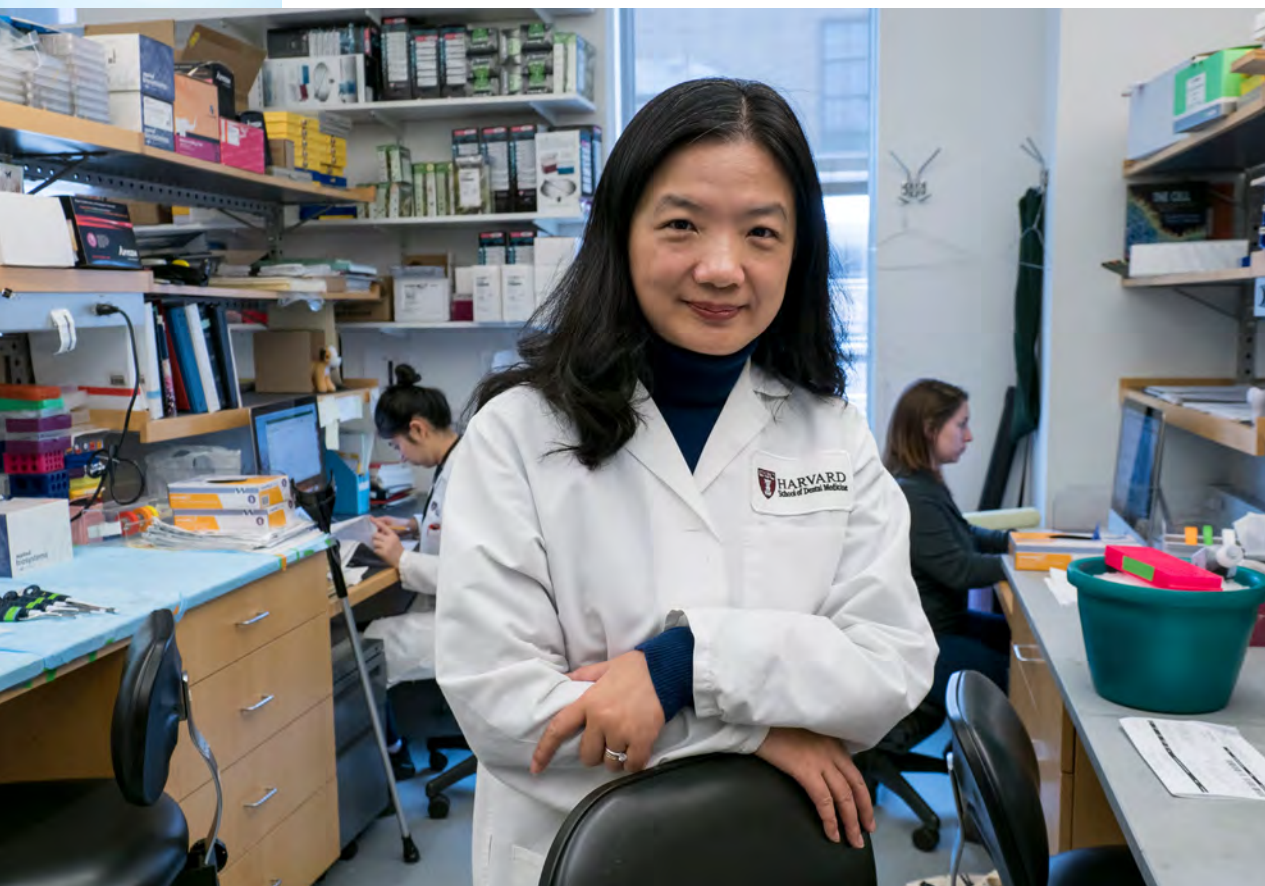
“We had made substantial progress in terms of identifying potential treatment targets of this devastating disease based on getting a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms,” said Yang. “Cutting off our study disrupts the holistic understanding of the FD disease and reduces the research rigor and impacts.”

“The cancellation of this grant is a significant setback for FD/MAS research and for patients, including military personnel, who rely on scientific progress for hope and support,” said McBride.

FD/MAS can affect every bone in the body. The largest subpopulation of those with the disease is affected by FD lesions in their craniofacial bones leading to severe facial deformities.

HSDM alumnus Christopher H. Fox, DMD87, DMSc91, who leads the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), also expressed deep concerns over the implications.

“This funding cut of such promising research is a tragedy for the FD/MAS community and indeed for our country. Through our advocacy efforts, AADOCR is doing everything we can to reverse these ill-advised decisions,” said Fox. ♥



LEFT: Dr. Yingzi Yang,
 professor of
 Developmental Biology

Education Focus

Rural dental residency program created a pipeline of young dentists to serve in remote areas

New Hampshire's most vulnerable dental patients are now at risk as federal funding for the program goes unpaid



Dr. Sara Alibakhshi

JUST A FEW YEARS after launching a successful dental residency program in the state of New Hampshire that trains dentists to care for vulnerable patients in remote regions of the Granite State, the program is facing an uphill battle. The one-year residency program offered by Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), and funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has not received funding from the federal government since April when the administration announced it would freeze research funding to Harvard.

“The rural residency program, which trained residents to provide rural-based care, particularly to medically complex and special needs individuals, has already treated 2,454 patients in NH for a range of services including comprehensive care, special needs, medically compromised and emergency care,” said Christine Riedy Murphy, Delta Dental of Massachusetts associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, and principal investigator

for the grant. “We were recently notified that our competitive renewal to expand the program was successful; however, no funds have come through.”

In just its third year, the program was considered a promising model for rural states facing dental workforce shortages and areas considered dental deserts. It's designed to address training gaps in rural healthcare delivery and increase the number of dental providers in the



state—NH is a state without a dental school, lacking a built-in workforce of young dentists ready to fill dental practices as dentists near retirement.

The program attracted early-career dentists, like Sara Alibakhshi, PD25, who just finished her residency in May.

“I had the privilege of working with community health organizations, where I experienced firsthand the transformative power of outreach and service. We visited community centers, shelters, recovery programs, and local organizations where I conducted dental screenings and provided oral health education,” Alibakhshi said. “These experiences have had a profound impact on me, both professionally and personally. It’s moments like these that remind me why I chose this path—to make a difference where it’s needed most.”

Through a partnership with the Bi-State Primary Care Association, dental residents in the program rotate between six rural clinical care sites affiliated with Bi-State, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC).

“The residents have allowed us to greatly expand the volume of patients we see, including more time for emergent care. Plus, many of these patients can now receive comprehensive care, rather than the episodic care they were used to in the past,” said Dr. Stephen Hoffman, a dentist

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DR. SARA ALIBAKHSHI

RESEARCH AT RISK



Dr. Christine Riedy Murphy’s work focuses on the education and clinical training of the healthcare workforce to better prepare clinicians to care for underserved and vulnerable communities, particularly rural and older populations.

“Our society is aging at a faster rate than ever before and fewer healthcare providers are choosing advanced geriatric training,” said Riedy Murphy. “So, it begs the question, can we effectively meet the needs of older people for what matters most to them?”

Riedy Murphy, Delta Dental of Massachusetts associate professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, was leading three federally funded projects to improve training at the predoctoral, postdoctoral, and continuing education levels when she stopped receiving funding. Her

research aimed to better prepare providers to care for underserved communities by incorporating age-friendly (Geriatric 5Ms approach), interprofessional, and non-medical health factors into training. She led a national center that provided training and resources on caring for older people in the 1,400 community health centers nationwide, which care for over 31 million people.

Like many in the health research community, Riedy Murphy is closely watching the potential fallout from cuts to federally funded research and the consequential impact it will have across the country and in communities most in need.

“Halting this funding has immediate consequences not just for the faculty and staff involved in teaching and training, but for future and current dentists and healthcare providers,” she said. “But ultimately it affects the larger community. The health centers that won’t have postdoctoral trainees to expand care to more patients, the health center workforce that won’t receive continuing education on caring for an aging community, and older people who won’t be treated with an age-friendly focus.”

at one of the clinical sites. “Our medical colleagues are thrilled to have them in the community. It brings another level of access to care that local physicians are appreciative of.”

Residents in the program receive a stipend that was provided through the HRSA funding, allowing the program to attract new dental graduates who may otherwise go directly into private practice after graduation. Without the funding being restored, it threatens the program’s ability to recruit and train new residents.

“Two new residents were able to start in the program this July; however, beyond that, if funding is not restored, we will need to look for alternative sources to keep the program afloat,” said Riedy Murphy. ♥



Read the Boston Globe article: “The fallout from Trump’s attack on Harvard is rippling through clinics, labs, and research centers across the country.”

Alumni Focus

Alumni honored for advancing prosthodontics and community

Meet the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

TWO ESTEEMED GRADUATES of Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) were honored on Friday, June 13 during the School's Alumni Day. Faheem Rasool and Neda Shah-Hosseini received the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards for their leadership in the field and lasting contributions to the mission of the School. The two met as students at HSDM, and own a private practice together in Brookline, MA. They are the first married couple to receive Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Dr. Faheem Rasool

Faheem Rasool, MMSc93, DMD95, a recognized leader in the field of prosthodontics, was honored for his

outstanding contributions as both a clinician and academic leader.

After graduating from HSDM, Rasool joined as a full-time faculty member, where he spent nine years helping shape the future of prosthodontic education. He also served as head of the Division of Prosthodontics and was a key contributor to the Faculty Group Practice in Longwood.

When accepting the award, he recounted how as a student he initially felt intimidated coming to Harvard from Pakistan, but HSDM mentors made a big difference in his experience.

"Contrary to my fears, I was met with kindness, mentorship, and encouragement at HSDM. I have so many people to thank for shaping and supporting me along the way," said Rasool.

Rasool remains closely connected to HSDM, where he continues to serve as an Admissions interviewer, teaches part-time, and mentors the next generation of dental professionals.

"I am deeply touched to receive this award. This is the highest honor—one I'm not sure I deserve—but I accept with humility, deep pride, and immense gratitude."

Dr. Neda Shah-Hosseini

Neda Shah-Hosseini, DMD96, PD96, was honored for her outstanding contributions to the field of prosthodontics as a clinician, where her expertise

and compassionate care have made a lasting impact on her patients and the profession.

Shah-Hosseini came to HSDM as an international student from Iran. When accepting the award, she described times as a predoctoral student when she was at risk of not being able to stay in the DMD program due to financial constraints.

"I'm here today because of the extraordinary people at HSDM who made my dreams possible. Your unwavering support made it possible for me to stay and graduate," she said.



I am deeply touched to receive this award. This is the highest honor—one I'm not sure I deserve—but I accept with humility, deep pride, and immense gratitude."

FAHEEM RASOOL, MMSc93, DMD95

After earning her DMD at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Shah-Hosseini pursued a two-year general practice residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital and gained valuable experience in managing complex patient cases. Following her residency, she advanced her expertise with a postdoctoral fellowship in prosthodontics at Boston University.

Currently, Shah-Hosseini serves as a part-time faculty member in HSDM's Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences. In addition to teaching, she plays a vital role as a mentor to students and young alumni, guiding and supporting them as they navigate the challenges of their professional journeys. Through her work, she is committed to inspiring and shaping the next generation of dental leaders.



“This award is more than a recognition to me. It is a powerful acknowledgment of what it means to give back,” she said.

For nearly 30 years, Rasool and Shah-Hosseini have remained dedicated to the School and committed to supporting HSDM students, faculty, and alumni.

Since 2022, they have served as co-chairs of HSDM’s Annual Fund, playing a pivotal role in the HSDM’s recent fundraising achievements. With their advocacy, gifts of all sizes, especially leadership gifts to the School, have grown, making an immediate and tangible

impact through philanthropy.

“Faheem and Neda have done so much for HSDM. Their shared commitment to the profession and to the HSDM community reflects a partnership grounded in purpose, service, and lasting impact,” said Dean William Giannobile. ♥



Celebrating memories and making new ones

IN JUNE, HSDM alumni from across several class years returned to campus for Alumni Days and Reunion. The class of 1975 marked a special milestone, celebrating their 50th Reunion with more than half the class in attendance. Two days of programming included an evening gala with HMS classmates, an engaging Alumni Day symposium at HSDM, school tours, a lively networking reception with students, and a party on the Quad, making for a truly memorable time.



Student Focus

The right place at the right time

The Class of 2029 takes their first steps
in their training at HSDM

IN EARLY AUGUST, a new cohort of Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) students arrived on the Longwood campus to begin their educational journey. Alongside incoming medical students, the dental students gathered for the first time to take part in a weeklong Introduction to the Profession, marking the beginning of their first year together, immersed in the medical curriculum.

The Class of 2029 began their first day with a Welcome Ceremony featuring remarks by HSDM Dean William Giannobile and HMS Dean George Daley, followed by a White Coat Ceremony, where they received their white coats from their academic society directors. This year's ceremony was held in smaller gatherings organized by academic society, creating a more intimate setting for students to celebrate the milestone with family, friends, faculty, and advisors.

"Whether you come from the U.S., or from halfway around the globe, you've come to Harvard for all the right reasons. You've chosen a path that is both demanding and highly rewarding," said Dean Giannobile. "Here, you'll find others who share your passion and determination. You'll be supported by dedicated faculty, staff, and classmates who will become your trusted friends, advisors, mentors, and role models."

LEFT: The incoming class of Harvard dental and medical students gathered for a group photo on the steps of Gordon Hall.

The 35 talented dental students in the Class of 2029 hail from 17 U.S. states and two foreign countries. They come from 29 different undergraduate institutions where they consistently performed at the top of their class with an average GPA of 3.94.

As undergraduates, many were involved in global and community outreach; worked in research laboratories; contributed to shaping healthcare policy; and helped underserved communities access care.

“I was first drawn to dentistry for its technical side. I was fascinated by how medicine and engineering come together through digital workflows and precision tools to make a direct impact on people’s health and lives,” said Hao (Brian) Hu, who earned his bachelor’s in Biomedical Health Sciences. “During my first shadowing experience, I watched a dentist bantering with patients and their families as if they were old friends. I learned he had cared for some of them for decades. The warmth, trust, and connection in those interactions struck me deeply. Seeing their shared history made me realize this is what I want to do.”

Some students, including Isabella Dobrinski, DMD29, were motivated by personal experiences and a deep understanding of systemic barriers to care.

“As the fifth generation of a North Dakota farming family, my home county was recently classified in a study by HSDM professor Dr. Elani as a dental care shortage area and my house is exactly one mile from a dental desert,” said Dobrinski. “My familiarity with dental inequity and unique barriers that rural populations routinely face inspired me to pursue a career in dentistry. It is my hope that after HSDM I can become a practitioner who both understands and works on mitigating these inequalities.”

To help students gain a broader understanding of healthcare equity and the communities they will serve, the weeklong Introduction to the Profession includes community-based activities across Boston neighborhoods. Students have an opportunity to meet patients and connect with members of the local Boston community, laying the foundation for a patient-centered approach to care.

The Class of 2029 arrives on campus at a pivotal moment when the nation needs more healthcare professionals to fill workforce shortages and serve in areas of the country that lack access to care.

“We are fortunate to have young, inspiring minds like yours to carry our mission forward,” Dean Giannobile told students. “I assure you that you have come to the right place at the right time to make a difference.” ♥

FIRST IMPRESSIONS



“HSDM’s commitment to service, both locally and globally, aligns perfectly with my values. I know I’ve found a place where I can grow, be challenged, and be part of a community that truly cares.”

—Sarah Beshara, DMD29



“During my undergraduate years, I developed a strong passion for research, and I’m eager to continue exploring that in dental school. With HSDM’s integrated scholarly project, I can engage in meaningful research while balancing my clinical training.”

—Eric Njoroge, DMD29



“At HSDM, I look forward to practicing under the whole-person healthcare model, bringing compassion and empathy to build meaningful bonds with patients and, hopefully, help break the cycle of dental fear.”

—Naeemah Haymon, DMD29



Alumni Reflections

What do you remember most about arriving at HSDM?

ALFRED GRIFFIN, MMSc17

“I remember everyone around me having a contagious purpose and motivation to go beyond being a great clinician. I also remember Christina Bonebreak Jackson, DMD14, winning an award for her academic achievements. Years later, we now work together at Lightforce Orthodontics.”

NINETTE BANDAY, DMSc96

“HSDM played a major role in my life and where I am today—all of my successful leadership roles are thanks to the strong foundation and training I received at HSDM.”

SHELDON SALINS, DMD04

“I remember being filled with excitement, nervousness, and pride standing in the middle of the Longwood Medical area seeing the historic iconic buildings and modern new facilities of the Harvard Campus and thinking this is home for the next four years. I also remember meeting my classmate, Ketan Amin, DMD04, who is one of my lifetime closest friends. The first thing he did when we met was extend his hand for a friendly high five and said, ‘We got this!’ He saw the mix of emotions that filled my soul.”

MATTHEW PLUMMER, DMD73

“I was excited, eager, and apprehensive but determined to succeed.”

CHRISTINA BONEBREAK JACKSON, DMD14

“What I remember most about the first day was learning about the varied backgrounds of my classmates. We were comprised of engineers, social scientists, and artists. It made me look forward to learning something unique from each of my colleagues.”

STEPHEN COLCHAMIRO, DMD70

“I first remember a wonderful orientation week which served two purposes: it got us ready for the medical school academics to come and it bonded our small class of 10 students together. The second thought was ‘Do I belong here? These med kids are really smart!’ Third was how fantastic Vanderbilt Hall dorms were. I commuted and lived at home for four years while attending Brooklyn College so dorm living, with food, basketball, and tennis downstairs was terrific.”

ADESEGUN “SHOLA” TEWOGBADE, DMD04

“I remember feeling a sense of grandeur when I first arrived at the HSDM. Everything from the buildings, to the faculty and students immediately made me feel like I was a part of something substantial.”

RYAN LISANN, DMD20, PD23

“I most vividly remember connecting with HSDM and HMS students in Vanderbilt Hall prior to doing my pre-orientation camping trip. The initial meet and greet felt like freshman year of college all over again!”

TINA GUPTA PATEL, DMD05

“On that first afternoon in Vanderbilt Hall, I vividly remember everyone unpacking, settling in, and connecting with one another. I immediately knew that I was surrounded by an exceptional group of motivated and inspirational classmates, and we were all excited to begin this journey together.”



When I arrived at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, I remember feeling a sense of giddy excitement and hope for a brighter future.”

SONIA MOLINA, DMD87

KETAN AMIN, DMD04

“Excellence. I remember feeling the weight of past healthcare pioneers and leaders that had walked the Longwood campus. The HSDM legacy inspires the present community to strive for excellence in a supportive and inclusive environment.”

SADIA NIAZI, MMSc99

“I arrived at the Forsyth Dental Center, which is where the Department of Orthodontics was located. I was so impressed, excited, overwhelmed, and euphoric all at the same time. It was a dream of mine to go to Harvard and when it finally happened, I wanted to give it everything I had. The students were so interesting and of a diverse background as was the faculty and I couldn’t be luckier!”

SHIKHA KANOTRA, DMD15

“What I remember most about arriving at HSDM was the overwhelming sense of possibility. Stepping onto campus, I was filled with a mix of excitement, nervousness, and pride. Meeting fellow classmates from all over the world, each with their own stories and dreams, reminded me that I was part of something truly special.”

MINDY GREENBLATT STREEM, DMD05

“I remember sitting in a room and everyone introducing themselves. I was so blown away by the incredible life stories that everyone came to Boston with. I felt so thrilled to be included in the amazing group of people that surrounded me.”

JIACHEN LIN, DMD21

“That afternoon, I walked into the historic building, met classmates from around the world, and realized I was about to embark on an intense yet rewarding journey. That day was particularly thrilling because I knew I was surrounded by people who shared the same enthusiasm and passion for the profession.”

LORNE GOLUB, PD68

“It was so many years ago (1965) that Bonny and I drove from Winnipeg to Boston for the start of my Periodontology program at HSDM. Our first challenge? Finding a place to live! Then the introduction to the program director, Dr. Paul Goldhaber. I spent my time in the Perio clinic and research labs with Dr. Goldhaber and in Dr. Mel Glimcher’s Orthopedic Surgery labs at MGH. There was a lot of academic excitement and intellectual debates! Welcome to the class of 2029, and enjoy the ride.”

TERRI BINDER, DMD84

“One of my first thoughts was realizing how fortunate I was to join this incredible family of people from diverse backgrounds who had the privilege of attending such a special school. I was especially proud to be joining because my father had just celebrated his 25th Reunion the prior spring. I was also thrilled to find out that my classmates in our combined HSDM/HMS class were really smart and committed to becoming the best dentists and physicians. They were genuine and lots of fun to spend time with, and they were willing to help one another learn and achieve.” ♥

Donor Profile

Alumnus honors HSDM with \$1 million donation

Dr. Razzaque Ahmed's gift will support the learning and research environment he credits as being foundational to his professional success



RENOWNED DERMATOLOGIST Razzaque Ahmed, DMSc88, PD88, MPA95, has devoted his career to treating patients with life-altering blistering diseases and advancing new treatments for autoimmune disorders. His pioneering therapies have led to clinical remissions for patients afflicted with these disorders, giving them new hope. His scientific work—including more than 350 papers on the subject—has been internationally recognized, most recently by the American Academy of Dermatology, which awarded him a presidential citation in March 2025. Ahmed credits his research experience at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) as the foundation for his success.

“It was the solid bridge I needed between very good research and very good clinical care,” Ahmed said. “The mentorship I received at HSDM carved my career going forward and framed my scientific and clinical discoveries. For this and more, I will remain forever grateful.”

His deep gratitude to HSDM inspired his recent gift of \$1 million to the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity (OMII). The funding will support forward-looking research and enable faculty in

OMII to follow in the footsteps of Ahmed's own faculty mentors Dr. Gerald Shklar, an accomplished oral pathologist, and former Dean Paul Goldhaber, who established HSDM's graduate programs in periodontology and oral medicine. The gift will initially function as a fund for research and, over time, with additional funding, it will mature into an endowed professorship.

“HSDM needs research funds and high-quality investigators. This gift will provide both, in the immediate future and in perpetuity,” he said.

“We are so grateful to Dr. Ahmed for his generous gift to OMII,” said department chair Magda Feres, DMSc99. “It comes at a critical time of much-needed support for research funding at HSDM. Current and future generations of faculty and scholars will greatly benefit from his vision and generosity.”

Ahmed followed a unique path to HSDM, coming to the School to pursue a Doctor of Medical Sciences program in oral medicine, after completing medical school and training in internal medicine and dermatology, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in immunology at UCLA. He recognized that many of the blistering diseases he was seeing in patients would first appear in the mouth.

“As a young faculty member at UCLA, I treated a large number of patients with pemphigus and pemphigoid. Many, if not most, had oral diseases. I felt that I needed to know more about oral pathology and medicine.”

Once at HSDM, he gained experience in oral medicine, oral biology, and oral pathology. “This helped build my clinical base, which my earlier training had not provided. The HSDM experience enhanced my understanding of the ‘science of science.’”

He would go on to serve as a faculty member at HSDM and establish the Ahmed Lab, supported by research funding from the National Institutes of

Health and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. After leaving HSDM, he opened the first independent Center for Blistering Diseases in the U.S. in 1998.

“I developed several unique protocols for treatment that were disease specific and not pharmaceutical industry sponsored. These protocols have completely changed the prognosis of these potentially fatal autoimmune mucocutaneous diseases,” Ahmed said.

His findings led to a groundbreaking study on restoring immune tolerance in pemphigus vulgaris patients that was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and his work has received awards and recognition in 29 different countries.

Now practicing as a dermatologist in Boston, he still appreciates the perspective he gained from his training at HSDM, and wishes more physicians had the benefit of such cross-cutting exposure to dentistry.

“Physicians while training in medical school, or in residency, have minimal or no exposure to oral diseases and oral health. I can very comfortably understand and relate to practitioners of dental medicine,” Ahmed said. “My career in dermatology has significantly benefited by my knowledge of oral medicine and clinical management of oral health. It has made my approach to patient care more inclusive and comprehensive.”

His gift will continue to support the high-quality research and learning environment he benefited from at HSDM. He considers it an investment in bridging dental medicine to general medicine.

“Supporting HSDM’s research and recruiting outstanding faculty is one of the many ways to promote its excellence. This gift is intended for those purposes and more, for today, tomorrow, and the future ahead.” ♥

BELOW: Dr. Razzaque Ahmed (center) was recognized by Dr. Magda Feres, chair of the department of OMII, and Dean William Giannobile at Alumni Day.



The mentorship I received at HSDM carved my career going forward and framed my scientific and clinical discoveries. For this and more, I will remain forever grateful.”

RAZZAQUE AHMED, DMSC88, PD88, MPA95



Leadership Profile

Meet Tom Miller, new leader in Administration and Finance

THOMAS MILLER JOINED Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) as Dean for Administration and Chief Operations Officer a year ago and has been a key figure through a period of transformation at the School. Serving in a senior role, he provides strategic operational expertise and day-to-day oversight of the key administrative areas of operations, finance, grant administration, human resources, information technology, external education, clinical operations, and risk and compliance.



Miller brings extensive higher education leadership experience to HSDM, having served as Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Administration and Finance at UMass Boston, where he helped close a \$30M deficit and establish a sustainable fiscal planning process. At the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, he advanced research initiatives and helped secure a \$125M+ National Science Foundation grant for a new research vessel.

A proud veteran, Miller earned a BS in Marine Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and dual MS degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine

Engineering and Mechanical Engineering from MIT. He served more than 20 years on active duty in the Coast Guard as a maritime safety and security professional, continuing a lifelong commitment to public service.

Q: What inspired you to come to Harvard and to serve in this role?

Great question, it's something I thought about a lot during the interview process and as I considered leaving my role at UMass Boston. I was honored to be invited as a candidate and intrigued by the scope and challenges of the position. The people I met, along with the strength of the administrative and finance team, played a major role in my decision. I was also inspired by HSDM's unique oral healthcare mission and its strategic vision. Joining this community has been one of the best decisions of my professional career.

Q: Tell us more about your background.

I grew up in Grants Pass, Oregon. Both of my parents were elementary school teachers. In the summers, my siblings and I worked as commercial fishermen on the Oregon coast. When it came time to consider college, my father encouraged me to explore the military academies.

I applied to just one, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, largely because I was familiar with the Coast Guard, having been rescued by them a few times. Fortunately, I was accepted, and I went on to spend the next 24 years in the Coast Guard.

After leaving the service, I pursued a career in higher education because I saw it as the place where I could have the greatest impact on developing future leaders, regardless of their academic or professional path.

Q: What have you learned in the past year about the HSDM community?

As I've gotten to know members of the community, I have been so impressed with everyone I've met. The students, faculty, staff, and alumni make up a highly dedicated community who are completely invested in the continued success and legacy of HSDM. It is easy to see that our greatest asset is our people. We all work together to create and strengthen the fabric of the community.

In August, I had the pleasure of meeting the incoming Class of 2029 as they began their journey at HSDM. It's been inspiring to see the students' commitment to serving the broader community. Programs like Give Veterans and Give Kids a Smile highlight this dedication, and

speaking with the veterans who received care reinforced how meaningful these initiatives are.

Additionally, the relationship and strong collaboration that exists between the faculty and the administration at HSDM is refreshing. It really is encouraging as we work through the current challenges we face.

Q: What are some of the most pressing financial challenges HSDM faces?

When I joined HSDM, I learned the School was facing an operating deficit with expenses outpacing revenues and compounded by the need to address significant deferred maintenance on our aging building and infrastructure.

In response, we launched an effort last fall to diversify and expand HSDM’s revenue streams, focusing on tuition-generating programs, external education, philanthropy, clinical operations, and research funding diversification to build a broad-based plan for a fiscally sustainable, and resilient budget. Shifts in the federal landscape, including changes to research funding, the endowment tax, and potential limitations on international student attendance, have only underscored the urgency of these initiatives.

Additionally, we face significant financial challenges in our operation of the Harvard Dental Center Cambridge practice which was further impacted by a recent electrical fire. Even in strong financial times, an operating deficit of approximately \$1M is not sustainable, and we have had to carefully evaluate HSDM’s options to close that gap.

Q: How is the School sustaining its research and education priorities during the current fiscal climate?

Sustaining our academic, research, and clinical care missions are absolute necessities. To rebuild a budget that is fiscally solvent, resilient, and sustainable, we have been faced with some difficult decisions.

Department chairs assessed HSDM’s research strengths and prioritized areas for future growth. For federally funded projects jeopardized by the federal funding freeze/termination, principal investigators



ABOVE: Tom Miller with the student organizers of Give Veterans a Smile

took significant steps to reduce monthly spending. Through a combination of University and HSDM funds, we have been able to provide continuity funding to maintain a reduced level of effort on the projects most closely aligned with these future research priorities.

To create new financial capacity, we must sunset programs that are no longer viable, improve operational efficiencies, and reallocate resources to strategic priorities.

Q: What areas of growth or opportunity do you see for the School?

As a global leader in oral healthcare, there is tremendous growth opportunity in External Education and HSDM has only begun to tap into that market. We are investing in this area and are continuing to leverage key partnerships to help expedite program growth and revenue generation.

The expansion of our Advanced Graduate Education programs and establishment of an Advanced Standing International Dentist program are key initiatives, requiring thoughtful investment of resources to ensure sustainable growth.

One example of this growth is the launch of our online Masters in Dental Education led by Dr. Sang Park and her team. After two years of preparation, the first cohort will begin in July 2026. This program represents a major opportunity to explore online degree offerings more broadly.

Philanthropic support and corporate funding continue to be vital areas of growth. We have been honored by the strong and growing support from alumni, corporate partners, and friends of HSDM. FY25 brought impressive gains across multiple areas, and efforts to pivot some research toward corporate funding will help diversify our portfolio and enable greater agility in the face of changing funding opportunities in the future.

While the path ahead may be challenging, HSDM’s vision provides a clear guide as we move forward together as “One HSDM.” ♥

Giving Focus

Gift to the Harvard Dental Center will extend a lifeline to patients in need

A \$500,000 gift will provide dental treatments to those who could not otherwise afford care

A RECENT DONATION in the amount of \$500,000 from the Maya L. Auchincloss Trust will enable the Harvard Dental Center to provide critical dental treatments to patients who are uninsured, or whose insurance will not cover the expenses. The gift was made possible by the attorney for the Trust, Keith Kyle, who has been a patient of the Harvard Dental Center (HDC) since 2017.

“Maya gave me the responsibility of finding worthy causes that would benefit from her charitable wishes. While coming to the Harvard Dental Center for my own care, I saw many patients and families who had a tremendous amount of need. It’s a place where her donation could do a great deal of good,” said Kyle.

At least one in every ten patients, 10% of the HDC’s patient population, is in need of financial assistance. Additionally, several dental procedures are out of reach for those with limited insurance.

“Many of our patients face financial challenges and are unable to afford comprehensive care. As a result, they often only address urgent needs, leading to a decline in their oral health and the loss of their teeth. It is deeply heartbreaking to witness this,” said Sang Lee, MMSc10, PD12, assistant dean for clinical affairs and medical director of the HDC. “This generous gift will provide invaluable support to both our patients and the mission of our school.”

The charitable impact of the Maya L. Auchincloss Trust extends from Rhode Island to Massachusetts and beyond. Auchincloss was the daughter of Hugh D. “Yusha” Auchincloss III, the stepbrother of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. She was a lifelong resident of Newport, RI, and a private and quiet individual who was passionate about music and



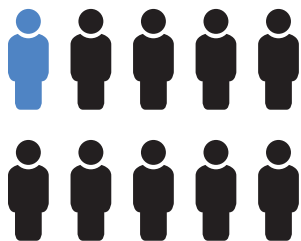
The gift from her estate to the Harvard Dental Center is an investment in preventative health care. It may well lead to the early discovery of oral cancer, or other treatable diseases, for a patient in need.”

KEITH KYLE

history and had a love for animals. Even surrounded by wealth, she led a simple and intentional life. Auchincloss passed away in 2024 at the age of 65.

“I started representing Maya when her father died. From the moment I met her, she made it clear that she wanted to give every dollar away to charity. She was the sweetest, kindest, most generous person you’d ever meet,” Kyle said.

After having extensive reconstructive dental work done at the HDC, Kyle got to know the dentists and advanced graduate students well. He was grateful for their expertise and care and knew the gift could make a difference for patients unable to afford treatment. He also appreciated that the gift could benefit dental students in training. His hope is that his client’s legacy will live on and make a tangible impact.



At least one in every ten patients, 10% of the HDC’s patient population, are in need of financial assistance.

“Maya passed away at a relatively young age from cancer. The gift from her estate to the Harvard Dental Center is an investment in preventative health care. It may well lead to the early discovery of oral cancer, or other treatable diseases, for a patient in need,” said Kyle.

HDC faculty and student providers will evaluate individual patient cases to determine eligibility for care covered by the funds. Patients with limited insurance and a demonstrated need for financial support for their oral health will be considered. The funds will help waive expenses for specific procedures, such as teeth replacement, the removal of partial dentures or a removable prosthesis, that

can be unaffordable for patients without coverage.

“This contribution will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many patients. We look forward to this gift directly benefiting many of our patients in need,” said Lee. ♥

Gifts from grateful patients make a significant impact in the education and clinical mission of Harvard School of Dental Medicine. To learn more about how to make a gift, contact Jody Johnson, associate dean for Development and Alumni Relations, at jody_johnson@hsdm.harvard.edu.

BELOW: Keith Kyle and Dr. Sang Lee



Steve Gilbert received an award at HSDM's Alumni Day recognizing his fifty years of service.



The nature of my work has allowed me access to incredible individuals, cutting-edge science, and thought leaders who shape our society.”

STEVE GILBERT

Gilbert. “The nature of my work has allowed me access to incredible individuals, cutting-edge science, and thought leaders who shape our society.”

Gilbert majored in electrical engineering and political science in college. On a whim, he used his student loan money to purchase a camera. He took two elective courses in basic photography and documentary film, which helped shape his love for the visual medium. Realizing that law school was not the right path for him, he pursued a master’s in broadcasting and film.

In 1976, after taking a stab at fame and fortune in Hollywood, Gilbert wandered into the Harvard University employment office and saw an opening for a media specialist position. That May, he started working at HMS, where his first assignment was capturing Class Day.

“Obviously, I was green and nervous about documenting this auspicious occasion,” he said. “I always consider myself honored to be able to capture these moments.”

A little over two years later, he officially joined the ranks of HSDM, beginning what would become a decades-long relationship with the School. For more than 20 years, he served as HSDM’s dedicated photographer and videographer, capturing countless moments and documenting generations of students, faculty, and alumni.

After retiring from his official role in 1991, his connection to HSDM has remained strong. To this day, he continues to serve as a freelance photographer,

Community Focus

Marking a milestone behind the lens

Photographer captures fifty years of memories at the dental and medical schools

WHETHER IT’S CAREFULLY assembling students on the front steps of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) for their very first class photo or capturing the triumphant smiles and warm embraces of graduates on Class Day, Steve Gilbert has been a steady and familiar presence behind the lens.

For five decades, he has documented the experiences of dental and medical students, photographing their milestone moments, and also showcasing the spirit of the HSDM and Harvard Medical School (HMS) communities.

“What I love most about photography is the doors that it has opened,” said



LEFT: Gilbert photographing the DMD Class of 2029 on the front steps of HSDM

BELOW: Gilbert videotaping a live demonstration in the Maloney Lab

lending his talent and familiarity with the community to events such as the annual White Coat Ceremony, Student Research Day, Alumni Days, and other key occasions that mark the rhythm of life at HSDM.

“I have known and worked with Steve for over 30 years, first during my student days at HSDM and now in my role as dean,” said Dean William Giannobile. “He is truly a delightful member of our community in all ways and cares deeply about our students, staff, faculty, and alumni.”

“My memories working at Harvard are fond ones. I have always said that I am blessed in the fact that I love what I do and it is never lost on me where I get to do what I love,” said Gilbert.

One of Gilbert’s most cherished assignments each year is HSDM and HMS’s annual White Coat Ceremony. For fifty years, he has stood just offstage, camera in hand, ready to capture the jubilant expressions of students as they cross the stage to don their white coats for the first time.

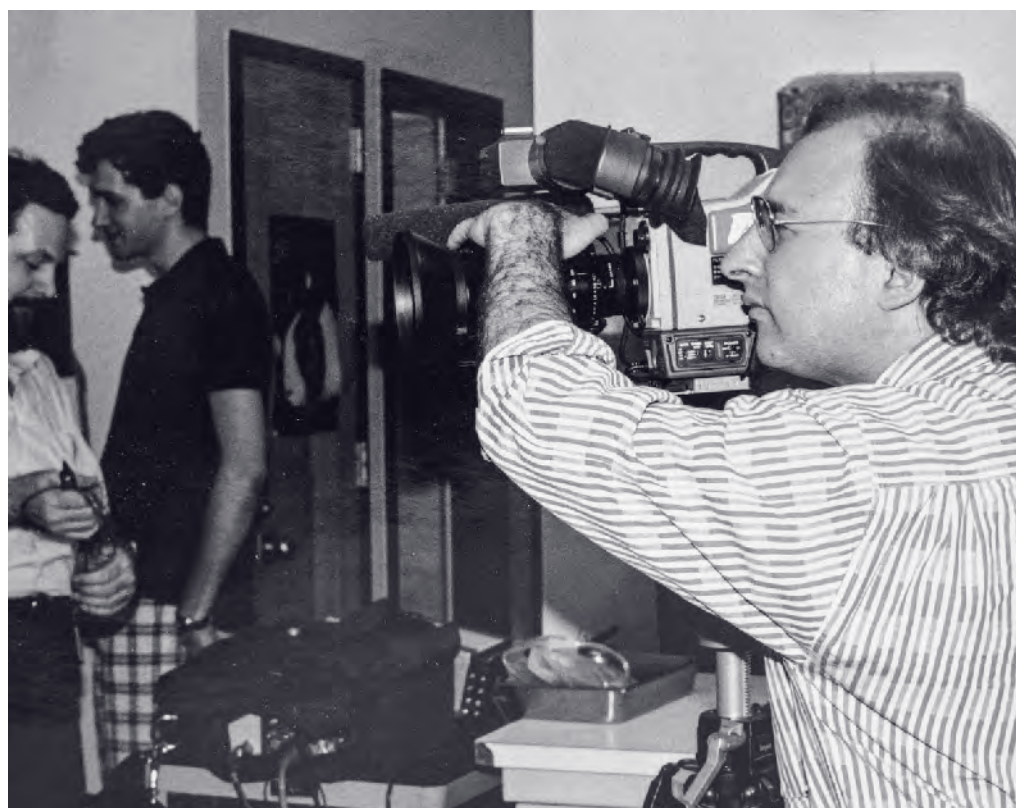
“What makes me happiest about White Coat Day is the joy and elation of everyone involved. I am honored to be able to follow each class from their first day when they

put on their white coats and assemble on the front steps for their first class photo until Class Day when we take their final class photo in their caps and gowns.”

Through his lens, Gilbert hasn’t just documented the stories of HSDM, he’s become an enduring part of it, leaving behind a visual legacy that will inspire

generations to come. And after fifty years, he’s still right where he belongs: behind the camera, smiling alongside the students whose stories he helps to tell.

“Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than to know that I was along for the ride and somehow in some small way I had made an impact.” ♥



News & Notes

Alumni News

1 **Ariana Aram, DMD23, Lillian Gordon, DMD27, and Priscilla Opoku-Yeboah, DMD26**, laced up their sneakers and raced the Paris Half Marathon.



2 **Anas BaHamam, DMSc25**, was honored with a Top 10 Oral Presentation award at the American Association of Endodontists annual meeting for his research presentation, “The Role of Transient Receptor Potential Ankyrin-1 (TRPA1) Receptor in Mediating Pain from the Dental Pulp.”

John Chang’s, MMSc04, foundation, the Dana Chang Foundation, in honor of his late daughter, has been busy with activity this year. This summer, the foundation raised over \$10,000 at their inaugural 5K and hosted its memorial concert.

3 HSDM alumni **Judah Garfinkle, DMD02, Jeremiah Kim, DMD23, David Kornmehl, DMD21, Laura Lin, DMD21, Camille Herzog, DMD22, and Stephen Yen, DMD85**, reunited at the Orthodontic Forum of the 2025 American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association Meeting in Palm Springs, CA.



4 **Sheldon Salins, DMD04**, recently visited HSDM with his two children.

5 **Zainah Salloot, DMSc25**, was awarded second place in the William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award at the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Annual Meeting for her research titled, “Differential Response of Osteocyte to Tension Vs. Compression Cues During Loading, Unloading and Spaceflight.”

Richard Valachovic, PD82, was recently appointed Interim Chair of the Department of General Dentistry and Comprehensive Care at NYU College of Dentistry.



6 Class of 2025 DMD graduates **Gavin Chen, Juliana Enriquez, Martin Haugstad,** and **Boris Sorkin** were recognized and inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a national dental honor society, for their excellence and exemplary leadership in academics, professionalism, and character. **Dr. Chia Yu Chen, DMSc19**, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity, was also inducted into the society.

In memory of alumni and former faculty who passed away between August 1, 2024–September 2, 2025, HSDM recognizes: **George H. Wyshak, AB47, DMD56; Ray B. Robison, AB49, DMD53; Barry D. Trabit, DMD58; Donald M. Seifert, DMD59; Elias J. Kaufman, DMD63; William M. Davidson, DMD64; Richard J. Reisman, DMD71; Thomas R. Mullen, DMD76; Jerome Haber, DMSc82, PD79; Norton Taichman, PD64; Michael C. Alfano, PD74; Barton H. Tayer, former faculty; Paul H. Rigali, former faculty; Paul F. Depaola, former faculty at Forsyth.**

Please contact Alumni Relations with any updates to this list.



Roland Baron, professor of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity (OMII), was an invited speaker at the ASBMR Rare Bone Diseases Pre-Meeting in September. He presented a talk on “Mechanisms of Carpo-Tarsal Osteolysis from Pre-Clinical Models.”

8 Briana Burris was named program director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program. Burris is an attending surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard OMFS residency training program. She is pursuing a career as an educator-clinician with research focused on diagnosing and managing immune-based synovial membrane diseases.

Faculty News

7 **Sercan Akyalcin**, head of Orthodontics, served as a significant contributor to the third edition of *Mosby's Orthodontic Review*, leading the restructuring of content to reflect the latest trends and clinical practices in orthodontics. The book is a resource for students, residents, general dentists, and orthodontists. Additionally, Akyalcin was named an associate editor for the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*, the leading journal in orthodontics. He will oversee the Resident Reviews submitted by orthodontic programs across the country.



9 Samuel Coffin, PD80, was promoted to assistant professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences (RDBS). He recently received the Academy of General Dentistry's (AGD) prestigious Mastership Award. The award is the highest honor given by the AGD. To be recognized for the honor, Coffin completed over 1,100 hours of continuing dental education in the 16 disciplines of dentistry, including more than 400 hours dedicated to hands-on skills and techniques.



Hawazin Elani, MMSc15, was promoted to associate professor in the department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology (OHPE), and **Angeliki Polymeri** and **Shenam Ticku** were promoted to assistant professor in OMII and OHPE respectively.

Nalton F. Ferraro, DMD74, **Mark A. Green, DMD74, MD76**, and **Balazs Feher** in the department of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) were promoted to assistant professor.

Magda Feres, DMSc99, chair of the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity (OMII), and **Feher** chaired the Scientific Symposium titled "Artificial Intelligence in Oral Health Diagnosis and Individualized Treatment Planning" at the 103rd General Session & Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). They served as speakers, chairs and scientific program organizers for this event.

Francesca Gori was named Director of Research Training and Programs at HSDM. In her new role, Gori will oversee and direct the research training experience of our predoctoral and postdoctoral students and serve as a research faculty liaison to support collaboration opportunities and raise awareness on available research resources. She will also oversee the functions and staff of the Office of Research.

Peter C. Grieco, DMSc15, was promoted to assistant professor in the department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences.

Jeffrey Hajibandeh was also promoted to assistant professor in OMS, and received the Faculty Educator Development Award (FEDA) at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) annual meeting.

11 Chukwuebuka Ogwo, assistant professor of OHPE, participated in the AADOCR/ADEA advocacy day in Washington, DC. He visited the offices of Massachusetts senators Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, and representatives Ayanna Pressley, Katherine Clark, and Lori Trahan, advocating for continued funding of oral health initiatives and research through NIH/NIDCR funding, HRSA Oral Health Training & Workforce Programs, and the CDC's Division of Oral Health.



Eduardo de Souza Oliveira, lecturer in OMII, was awarded a Harvard Catalyst Pilot grant for his project, "Bulk RNA-Sequencing as a Tool for Functional Insights into the Periodontal Microbiome."



10 David Kim, DMSc05, associate professor of OMII, was recognized by Mass General Brigham for his contributions to patient care, research, teaching, and service, with a 2024 Pillars of Excellence Award in the category of Commitment to an Exceptional Patient Experience.

Lisa Simon, DMD14, PD15, MD20, was appointed to assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology.

Student and Postdoc News

12 Mohammed Ben Eid, MMSc26, DMSc27, Maddie Koh, MMSc27, and Lake Seymour, MMSc26, hosted Boston 10th and 11th graders to introduce them to dentistry as a potential career path. Students heard from current students and toured HSDM's clinics and labs.

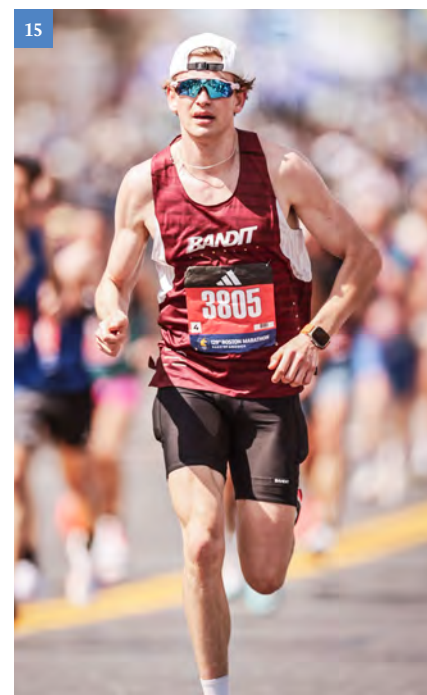


Stacy Cho, DMD22, DMSc26, was selected to receive the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation Educator Scholarship recognizing a resident intending to pursue a career as a full-time teacher at a U.S. periodontal program following graduation.

Edson De Sousa, DMD26, earned second place at the Hispanic Dental Association Conference for his poster presentation, "Does Metabolic Syndrome Have an Impact on Periodontal Treatment Outcome?"

Carolina Ruis Ferrari received the LION Dental Research Award from the IADR.

13 Eren Keles, DMD27, was named a finalist in the Healthcare and Life Sciences division of the 2025 Harvard President's Innovation Challenge. Keles was selected for his patented invention, the Keles Keyless Expander, a device with a built-in activation arm that removes the need for a key. He was inspired to create the device based on his own experience with a traditional expander during treatment.



14 Min Kyeong Kim, DMSc25, received the Shafer award at the annual AAOMP meeting in Pittsburgh for the resident with the highest score in the AAOMP fellowship exam.

15 Will Nemeth, DMD28, ran the Boston Marathon this spring finishing with a time of 2:33:35, and placing him 346 out of 28,400 runners.



16 Abdulrahman Nakshabandi, DMSc25, received the EAOM young investigator award for his abstract, “Treatment of Oral Leukoplakia with Topical 5-FU+ Calcipotriene” at the joint AAOM/EAOM meeting in Las Vegas. He conducted his research under the supervision of Dr. Sook-Bin Woo.



16 Laurel Henderson, PD25, received the AAOM trainee case report award for her abstract, “Eosinophilic Sialodochitis: A Rare Salivary Gland Disorder with Atopic Associations—Diagnostic Challenges and Therapeutic Insight,” at the joint AAOM/EAOM meeting in Las Vegas. She conducted her research under the supervision of Dr. Sook-Bin Woo.

Byeong-Rak Keum received the Center for Skeletal Research (CSR)–MGH Young Investigator Travel Grant. He will present a poster on “Systemic Bone Loss, Periarticular Bone Resorption, and Transcriptomic Changes in the *Mafb* P59L Mouse Model of Multicentric Carpo-Tarsal Osteolysis (MCTO).”

Kalpna Patel was awarded the ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant and will present an oral presentation on “Identification of BMP and Activin Membrane-Bound Inhibitor (BAMBI) as a Novel PTH Target Gene in Osteocytes, Required for Sclerostin Repression and Skeletal Homeostasis.”

17 Jessica Poon, MMSc26, received first place in the case presentation poster session for the annual Academy of Prosthodontics meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Ridhima Seth, DMSc24, was awarded the ASBMR Young Investigator Travel Grant. She will present an oral presentation and plenary poster on Ctsk+ dental cells and their function in signaling in tooth eruption and root formation, and in skeletal homeostasis.

18 Heidi Shen, DMD27, Edson De Sousa, DMD26, Abdul-Rakeem Yakubu, DMD27, DMSc28, Ching-Shuan (Jolly) Huang, DMSc27, David Cruz Walma, DMSc28, and Mohammed Ben Eid, MMSc26, DMSc27, recently traveled to Barcelona, Spain, for the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) general session. **Cruz Walma** received the 2025 Growth and Development Research Award from the Orthodontic Research Group at the IADR for his work and presentation on “KCTD15 Mutations Cause a Craniofacial Syndrome Characterised by Frontonasal Dysplasia.”



Rakeem Yakubu, DMD27, DMSc28, earned first place at the Student National Dental Association for his poster presentation, “The Microbiome of Cancer in the Oral-Gut Axis.”



19 HSDM students traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 2025 ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day. They joined dentists and students from across the country to advocate for important issues shaping the future of oral health. On Capitol Hill, students spoke directly with senators and representatives about key legislation, including student loan reform, community water fluoridation, and improving access to dental care.



20 HSDM welcomed the newest advanced graduate students. This year, 45 residents from 10 different countries will pursue either a master of medical sciences (MMSc) degree, doctor of medical sciences (DMSc) degree, or certificate in a specialty field.



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HSDM News

21 **Adrien Doherty**, academic societies coordinator, and **Carrie Sylven**, director of Student Affairs, were honored as 2025 Harvard Heroes for their exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication to HSDM. They were recognized, along with other staff heroes from across the University, at the Harvard Heroes Celebration in June.



23 **Martha Vedrine**, admissions and recruitment coordinator, was honored with the 2025 Dolores J. Brown Staff Award for outstanding service to her position, colleagues, and the School. Vedrine was recognized in a special celebratory tea with the HSDM community in June.

24 HSDM has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Yonsei University College of Dentistry to promote academic and educational collaboration. Under the agreement, the schools will engage in a range of joint initiatives, including student and research personnel exchanges, co-development of dental education curricula, and activation of collaborative research.



22 **Kate Rezendes**, chief of staff, was selected as a recipient of the 2025 Joseph B. Martin Dean's Leadership Award for the Advancement of Women's Careers. Rezendes was recognized during the Joint Committee on the Status of Women (JCSW) Dean's Awards ceremony.



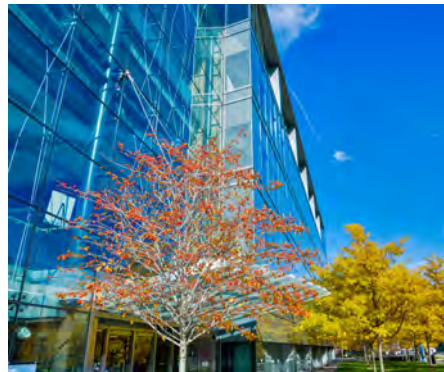
25 HSDM kicked off a new semester on a sweet note with a community-wide ice cream social for students, faculty, and staff to enjoy.

Upcoming Events



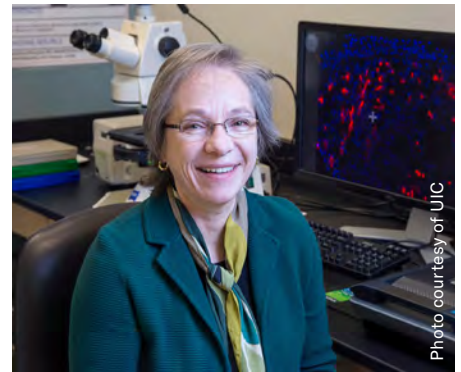
November 7–8
**Innovations and Modern Techniques
in Restorative Dentistry**

Tokyo, Japan



November 14–15
**2nd Global Symposium on Artificial
Intelligence in Dentistry**

Joseph B. Martin Conference Center
at Harvard Medical School



November 17
Paul Goldhaber Distinguished Lecture

Harvard School of Dental Medicine



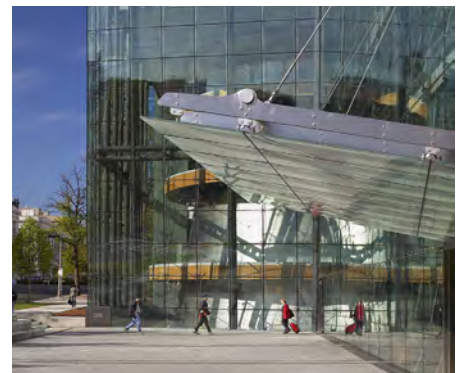
December 12–13
**Advanced Education in
Implant Dentistry**

Taipei, Taiwan



January 30
**Yankee Dental Congress Alumni
and Friends Reception**

Boston, MA



February 27–28
Dental Implant Symposium

Joseph B. Martin Conference Center
at Harvard Medical School



SEE A FULL LIST OF EVENTS AT:
HSDM.HARVARD.EDU/EVENTS





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