

# RECALL

**Look at us now!**

**A change to a comprehensive care model clinic and an update to our research initiatives. We are a college on the move.**



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Dentistry

DENTISTRY.USASK.CA

# KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Life is an unscripted journey of expanding awareness, understanding, and “coming to know”—and no two journeys follow the same path. The University of Saskatchewan is a meeting place for diverse journeys. We respect and believe in the tapestry of identities, traditions, and ways of knowing and being that enrich, and bring us closer to an enlightened understanding of the world around us.



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## RECALL

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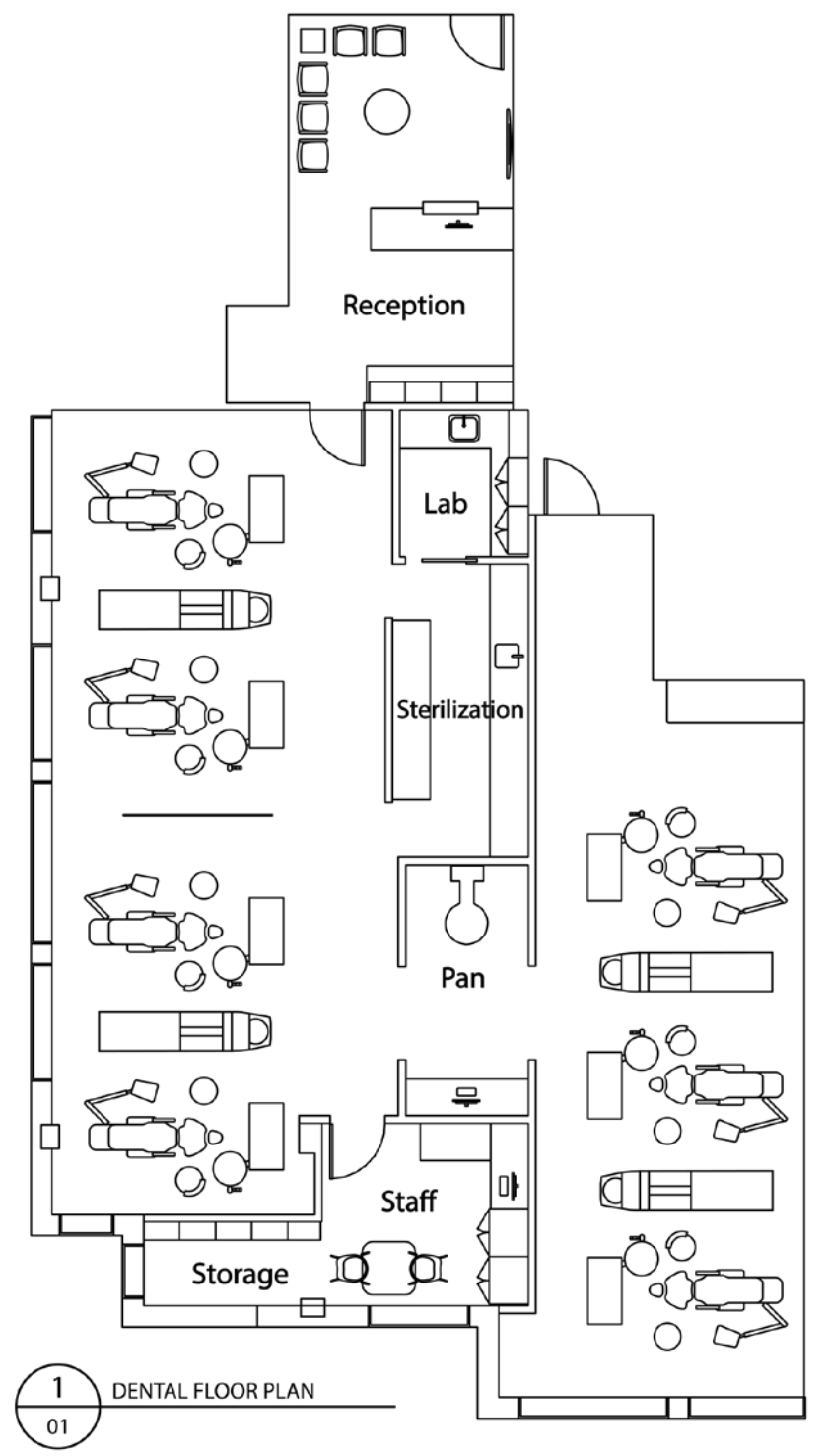
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*The University of Saskatchewan is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.*



**College News: USask breaks ground on PA campus. Read more on page 11.**

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The College of Dentistry is a college on the move.

In 2018, USask created a seven-year strategic plan with bold aspirations to be 'the university the world needs'. The College of Dentistry subsequently developed our Strategic Plan 2025: Building on Strength – Improving Tomorrow, with an honest evaluation of our both our strengths and our weaknesses. As I've said before, our greatest historic strength, our clinical program, has also been our greatest weakness. The college has always delivered an excellent clinical program training some of the top clinician dentists in Canada, however, we did not develop the essential areas of research and service. In order to work towards the aspirations outlined in the University Plan 2025, we needed to build on the strength of our clinical program while concurrently improving our weakness in research and service.

We based our strategic plan off the belief

that a competitive, top-tier college is best supported by a foundation of three strong pillars: education, research, and service. We have always excelled in the pillar of education, and to build on this strength we have increased our full-time clinical faculty from 16.5 to 21 members and added an additional four clinical staff instructors. Additionally, we have changed our fourth-year clinical program to a comprehensive care model, and are working to improve the calibration of how our instructors grade student work.

The college has also made significant progress in the areas of research and service. We are accepting students into our newly-approved PhD program, and we have expanded our faculty complement to include five PhD faculty members. In the past two years, we have increased our research grant funding from zero to approximately \$5 million and increased from a handful of annual peer-reviewed publications to approximately 30. In addition to our Associate Dean of

Research, Dr. Petros Papagerakis, we have also recruited two new internationally recognized researchers to join our team at the college: Dr. Andrew Leask and Dr. Walter Siqueira.

In the pillar of service, we are developing a number of new community outreach clinics and are doing so in a nonconventional style that we call Inclusive Community Care. We are working with Indigenous communities and people to include them in the process of defining their goals and preferences for oral health and the delivery of dental care. We aim to uplift the needs, preferences, and aspirations of Indigenous people and have done this through various methods. In the spirit of reconciliation and decolonization, we are committed to ensuring our personnel, including faculty, staff and students, are representative of the Saskatchewan population. Towards this goal we have increased our Indigenous Equity Access student numbers in the DMD and CDA programs and have diversified our faculty complement to include three Indigenous faculty members. We are adding Indigenous content to our curricula and have a firm commitment to improving access to care in our province. To date, we are now providing dental services for three First Nations and the northern communities of LaLoche and Ile-a-la-Crosse. Construction is also well under way on the dental clinic in the University of Saskatchewan's new Prince Albert Campus.

In short, we are proud of the college that we have built, the continued strength of our clinical program, and our vision for the future and the growth of our research and service capabilities. The College of Dentistry is determined to help achieve the university's overarching goal of becoming the university the world needs and by extension, becoming the dental college the world needs. If you're interested in reading our complete Strategic Plan 2025: Building on Strength – Improving Tomorrow, please visit our website [dentistry.usask.ca](http://dentistry.usask.ca).



ALAN HEINRICHS, ASSISTANT DEAN – CLINICS

Since this is the first time I am contributing to Recall, I should begin by introducing myself. I am a 1981 graduate of the DMD program at USask's College of Dentistry, and after a career in private practice I returned to the dental school in 2011, serving as a clinical and (for a few years) classroom instructor. In February of 2019 I accepted an appointment as Assistant Dean, Clinics.

Beginning in the fall term of 2019, we incorporated a number of changes to the student clinical program in an effort to improve both the student and patient experience, while at the same time satisfy the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada accreditation requirements and the recently updated (June 2019) College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan Infection Prevention and Control guidelines.

Figuring prominently among the changes is the implementation of General Practice (Comprehensive Care) clinics for the entire

fourth year clinical program, allowing greater freedom for students and patients to complete, with some exceptions, any treatment during any clinical session. Supervision of most procedures is provided by general dentists with course coordinators (specialists) providing guidelines outlining the types of cases or situations requiring supervision by a specialist. Third year clinical sessions continue to operate using the existing discipline-based model.

Changes to Central Sterilization included adding additional personnel, as we no longer require students to wash their own

instruments prior to reprocessing. We also did a small remodel of the central sterilization space to accommodate several instrument washers, a new large and several smaller sterilizers to expedite instrument processing, and additional instrumentation to allow for timely sterilization monitoring. The most visible IPC change on the clinic floor is the introduction of disposable long sleeve clinic jackets coded by colour to be worn by everyone involved with patient care, including dental and dental assisting students, dental assistants, and clinical instructors.

Access to dental supplies has been improved in a couple of different ways. First, and most important, students are no longer required to pay for the supplies they use as these are now supplied by the college. Secondly, the supply dispensary has been decentralized so that in addition to the main dispensary there are

four “mini dispensaries” strategically placed throughout the clinic stocked with the most commonly used supplies. Easier, quicker access to needed materials and supplies should result in more efficient care delivery.

Another key element contributing to efficient delivery of care is the provision of timely supervision and evaluation. We are pleased with our complement of full and part-time clinical instructors who share their time and talents with our students, but are always on the lookout for experienced clinicians who would enjoy contributing to the education of the next generation of dental practitioners. ▀

Please contact me at [alan.heinrichs@usask.ca](mailto:alan.heinrichs@usask.ca) should you wish to learn more.

## Clinic growth by the numbers

2016–17

16.5 full-time clinical faculty	7.3:1 student to clinical faculty ratio
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2019–20

18.3% increase in students	21 full-time clinical faculty	4 staff instructors
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6.8:1 student to clinical faculty ratio	5.9:1 student to clinical faculty and staff ratio
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100%  
students trained in Invisalign

Purchased  
**five new digital scanners**  
to start digital dentistry focus

## Comprehensive Calibration System

In order to continue training Canada's top clinical dentists with the necessary skills to serve the Saskatchewan population, the College of Dentistry is implementing a comprehensive calibration system targeting our full-time faculty members and clinical instructors responsible for pre-clinic and clinic educational activities.

Dr. Walter Siqueira, DDS PhD, Professor and Associate Dean is leading this initiative. Ongoing calibration sessions have been incorporated into the annual schedule to ensure consistent and objective student clinical training and assessment.

The callibration sessions began in February 2020, with an additional four sessions planned in the academic year.



## International Dental Degree Program

Dr. Peter Doig, Assistant Professor

In December 2018, the Board of Governors of USask approved the International Dental Degree Program (IDDP) at the College of Dentistry.

This new program was rolled out in the 2019-20 academic year. During first application period, the college received over 100 applications from internationally trained dentists who had completed the National Dental Examining Board Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge examination and were either Canadian citizens or Canadian permanent residents. Of these applicants, 30 were invited to an Assessment of Clinical Skills and Interview process at the college, to judge their acceptability for the program.

The successful applicants began their instruction in the summer of 2019 where all IDDP students successfully completed a full-time 6-week, summer session course, DENT 497 Essentials in Dentistry, to ensure they were adequately prepared to join the third year class. DENT 497 required students meet all the competencies demanded of regular second year dental studies. In August 2019, the IDDP students joined the College of Dentistry in the third year class.

The IDDP is an important adjunct to the regular educational stream at the College of Dentistry. Governments in Canada have demanded that regulators recognize foreign credentials and the IDDP ensures that internationally trained dentists meet the standards demanded by the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. ▀

## Inclusive Community Care

Dr. Amrinderbir Singh, Assistant Professor, Dental Public Health, Director, Inclusive Community Outreach

A key component of the College of Dentistry's Strategic Plan 2025 is our goal to become Canada's leader in Inclusive Community Care.

Our identity at the college is intrinsically linked to our commitment to community engagement. We wanted this commitment reflected in our strategic plan as we continue to work towards improving the quality of life of those populations most affected by the social determinants of health.

An important piece of improving quality of life for these populations, is ensuring they have adequate access to oral health care. As a result, we are working on establishing a network of clinics to serve priority populations in Saskatchewan. We are currently providing dental services for six clinics across the province that serve priority populations: Saskatoon West, Cumberland House, Kinistin First Nation and Yellowquill First Nation, La Loche and Île-à-la-Crosse.

We recognize that providing dental services in these clinics is an important step towards improving access to care, but it is not the only step. We are actively establishing community partnerships with First Nation and Metis leadership to discover oral health care solutions that are based on Indigenous ways of knowing, as well as exploring community-engaged research approaches to learn about how we can best provide services that are respectful. These partnerships and research initiatives are important as we continue to explore possibilities for the expansion of our Outreach Programs. ▀

## Dr. Petros Papagerakis



The college is in the midst of a multi-year transformation that places emphasis on increasing research performance and productivity and expanding student training at all levels.

Our Strategic Plan 2025 outlines our ambitious goals to expand the college's reputation beyond being known for highly-regarded clinical training, to becoming recognized as a research-intensive college.

We have already taken many steps towards achieving our goal of expanding research capacity and output, including hiring a research facilitator to support college research endeavours, defining research goals for faculty, and beginning to establish new undergraduate and graduate programs, including a new PhD program in Precision Oral and Systemic Health.

Additionally, we have increased our existing faculty complement by five PhD faculty members.

These new faculty members include two internationally recognized researchers: Dr. Walter Siqueira and Dr. Andrew Leask. We are thrilled to have them be a part of our team here at the College of Dentistry. ♥

### About Dr. Papagerakis' research:

As for my research in Oral Health and Chronobiology, our main drive is Patient Oriented Research and we are focused on designing innovative ways for improving diagnosis and treatment that will result in enhanced patient outcomes.

We use state-of-the-art platforms and innovative in vitro and in vivo approaches to discover the mechanistic links between oral tissues homeostasis and regeneration, circadian clock disruption and oral and systemic health.

We are specifically working on regeneration of enamel and dentin using novel biosystems, development of intra-oral biosensors, characterization of the roles of circadian disruption in oral cancer and autoimmune disease and evaluation of chronobiology-based therapeutics approaches to improve disease outcome.



## Dr. Andrew Leask

Dr. Andrew Leask was recruited to USask College of Dentistry from the Western Ontario School of Dentistry.

Prof. Leask obtained his Bachelor of Science in Cell Biology from the University of British Columbia and, subsequently, his PhD in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology from the University of Chicago.

After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University, Prof. Leask held positions as Staff Scientist at FibroGen, a successful biotechnology company in Northern California, and as a Senior Research Scientist at the Centre for Rheumatology at the Royal Free Hospital in London, England.

During this time, he established a research program investigating the molecular mechanism underlying fibrosis, a condition characterized by excess scarring, resulting in organ failure and, often, death. Prof. Leask has principally used the rheumatological disease scleroderma as a model.

At FibroGen, Prof. Leask initiated and carried out work that was the basis for a multi-million-dollar collaboration with Sankyo, a major Japanese pharmaceutical company and ultimately contributed to a drug currently in Phase III clinical trials in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and pancreatic cancer.

Prof. Leask's research seeks to cure diseases with a fibrotic component, such

as scleroderma, melanoma and Sjogren's Syndrome, that can severely affect the craniofacial system.

As approximately 45% of the health care costs in the developed world are a result of fibrotic disease, this is an important goal. Prof. Leask's research uses clinical data and in vitro or in vivo screens, including fibroblast-specific conditional knockout mice, to conduct initial proof-of-concept studies to assess the underlying mechanism of fibrosis and suggest possible targets for therapeutic intervention.

Prof. Leask's research has shown that the key cell type in fibrotic conditions, including scleroderma, is a type of connective tissue cell called the myofibroblast. Myofibroblasts are muscle-like cells which excessively adhere to and contract connective tissue, resulting in a stiff scar. He used these findings to identify key components promoting myofibroblast formation and activity, including CCN2, a matricellular protein. Prof. Leask has subsequently shown that CCN2 protein expression by fibroblasts is not required for normal tissue repair, but is required for skin and lung fibrosis and for melanoma metastasis. Prof. Leask is interested in exploiting this information to develop methods of blocking CCN-mediated activities to treat fibrotic diseases.

Prof. Leask's overall teaching philosophy is to empower his trainees to develop their own ideas in the context of the work done in the laboratory. Trainees from his laboratory have gone to have successful careers in both academia and in industry. ♥

**Prof. Leask's research seeks to cure diseases with a fibrotic component, such as scleroderma and melanoma, that can severely affect the craniofacial system.**



## Dr. Walter Siqueira DDS, PhD

Dr. Walter Siqueira leads the Salivary Proteomics Research Laboratory, a unique research program in Canada and one of only a few in the world in this area of applied salivary research.

Siqueira's program in salivary proteomics, diagnostics and therapeutics is unique in all Canada. His research focuses on how saliva and salivary components can be used to improve the health of patients, both in diagnosis and as therapeutics.

Siqueira's background as both a dental clinician and basic scientist has enabled him to integrate basic science with applied clinical research and promote knowledge translation. Siqueira is considered an international authority in the field of salivary research with millions of dollars of research grant support and more than 90 peer-reviewed papers in the most prestigious dental and biochemical journals.

Due to his innovative research, Siqueira has been invited to present more than 50 lectures in universities and at conferences nationally and internationally over the last five years.

Siqueira has been awarded several prestigious teaching and research honors. He was a recipient of the W.W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Education by the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry. In 2012 he received the Salivary Researcher of the Year Award from the Salivary Research Group, International Association of Dental Research (IADR) as well as the Visiting Professorship Award from the Canadian Association for Dental

Research (CADR). Siqueira was also the recipient of the prestigious CIHR New Investigator Salary Award.

In 2018, he received from Western University the title of Faculty Scholar. Recently, he was granted the 2019 IADR Distinguished Scientist Award, the most prestigious international award in oral health science.

Siqueira has made several significant contributions to the field of salivary research and dentistry, for example, he created an innovative nanoparticle method to deliver and protect salivary proteins against degradation, and consequently, prevent oral diseases.

He is also deeply involved in the identification of salivary biomarkers for the early and easy diagnosis of global diseases such as the Zika virus, where the outcome of one of his studies was recently highlighted by the scientific and general media as a ground-breaking diagnostic method for these conditions (US Provisional Patent). Siqueira has trained 17 graduate students, 20 undergraduate students and four postdoctoral fellows.

Siqueira is the current President (2019-2021) of the CADR. Additionally, he was one of the founders of the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR, a CIHR-funded network) and member of the Steering Committee. Internationally, he served as President and Scientific Program Chair of the Salivary Research Group, IADR. He is an Associate Editor of the journal *Clinical Oral Investigations* and an Editorial Board member of the *Journal of Dental Research*. ▀

**He can capitalize on recent technological advances to answer fundamental questions concerning biological functions of components present in saliva that can significantly improve the health of the population.**

## PhD program

The College of Dentistry has started a PhD in Precision Oral and Systemic Health.

This program will train highly-qualified students whose presence and activities will enrich the research and training environment in the college. The specializations for the PhD program will attract a diverse range of applicants; we will welcome applications from those with DMD, DDS, other

professional health degrees, and Masters degrees. The program will focus on an integrative "body to mouth" concept with opportunities for students to focus on precision technologies and approaches, or translational oral and public health approaches. Graduates of this program will have the skills to become highly qualified researchers and policy makers who are capable of designing and conducting research that has impacts in the areas of oral health, precision health, public health, and population health. The PhD program will launch in September 2020. ▀



## Comprehensive Evaluation of the DAT

**KELLIE GLASS, MBA, RDH**  
RESEARCH COORDINATOR, APTITUDE TESTING FOR MANUAL DEXTERITY

Admission to dental school is an important process that safeguards the dental profession and patients.

Every year, thousands of aspiring students apply to ten dental schools in Canada, hoping to obtain a spot within a DDS/DMD program. The Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) is commonly considered across institutions as part of the admissions process, however, in order to provide high quality oral health care for Canadians, the question remains over the need to assess manual dexterity (MD) and perceptual abilities (PA) and how they should be assessed in the admission process.

To address this important question, the Universities of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan have struck a research team to provide a comprehensive evaluation of

the MD and PA assessments currently in use within the dental profession.

The purpose of the research is to evaluate the various types of methods currently available for assessing MD and PA, and to determine whether there are any MD or PA assessments the dental profession requires beyond current practice. The study includes four components consisting of a systematic review of existing MD and PA admission practices, the evaluation of psychometric and cost-benefit rationale for adopting the MD and PA tests and well as the development of a new battery of tests that can be recommended to meet the demands of Canadian dental schools.

Dr. Doug Brothwell, Dean of the College of Dentistry, working alongside faculty and staff at USask, leads this exciting research project with recommendations proposed to the Canadian Dental Association by the end of 2020. ▀

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Largest gift in college history



Photography: David Stobbe



Photography: David Stobbe

Left to right: Bilawal Hussain, Julia Croll (Vice President, Corporate Communications, dentalcorp), Guy Amini (President, dentalcorp), Dr. Doug Brothwell (dean), Courtney Posehn, Nate Tchaplia (Chief Development Officer, dentalcorp), and Brenna Glow.



### JENNA FRASER

The College of Dentistry received its largest donation since its inception in 1968.

On September 12, 2019, the College of Dentistry welcomed special guests from dentalcorp to the college to thank them for their donation of \$1.05 million. This generous donation will be applied to the construction costs for the new dental clinic located in the future University of Saskatchewan (USask) Prince Albert campus, which is scheduled to open in fall 2020.

President of dentalcorp, Guy Amini noted, “dentalcorp is dedicated to increasing access to care for Canadians and proud to support USask in opening a clinic

to serve the Prince Albert community. We are honoured to partner with a world-class university that shares our vision and values, and encourages the spirit of giving back among its students and alumni alike.”

On September 12, 2019, the college welcomed guests from dentalcorp where they were given a tour of the college and clinic and were thanked for their kind donation by students, faculty, and staff. Students provided dentalcorp with their own white coats in recognition of their generosity.

The official sign unveiling for the Prince Albert campus was held on September 16, 2019 in front of a crowd of more than 200 dignitaries. ♥

## USask breaks ground on Prince Albert campus

### JENNA FRASER

Construction is well underway on the new USask campus in Prince Albert.

On September 16, 2019, USask President Peter Stoicheff unveiled the campus’ new exterior signage as well as renderings of what the renovated space will look like. The campus is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020.

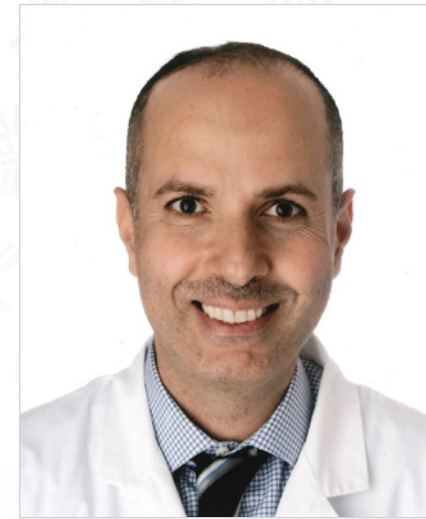
The campus is located at 1061 Central Avenue and is being renovated to include

classrooms, offices, lab facilities, common gathering areas, and a dental clinic. The College of Dentistry received a \$1,050,000 donation from dentalcorp – the largest donation in the college’s history- that will go towards the construction and equipment costs for the dental clinic.

The clinic in Prince Albert will have seven chairs and will play a key role in improving access to oral health care services for priority populations in the Saskatchewan community. ♥



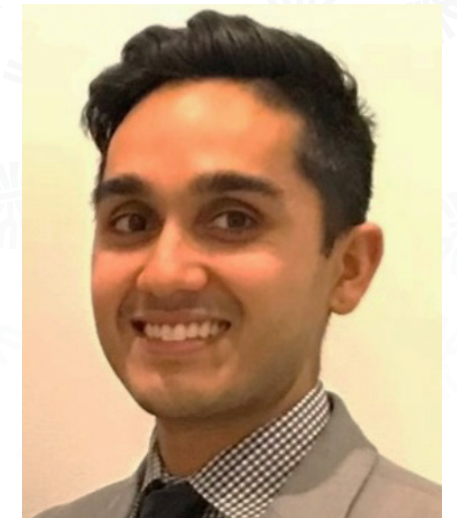
Over the year, the College of Dentistry has welcomed many new faculty members. These members come from many different places, but share one common goal—working together to help achieve the goals lined out in our **Strategic Plan 2025: Building on Strengths – Improving Tomorrow.**



**DR. AHMED HUSSAIN**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
PROSTHODONTICS



**DR. PERRY KURZ**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (PART TIME),  
ORTHODONTICS



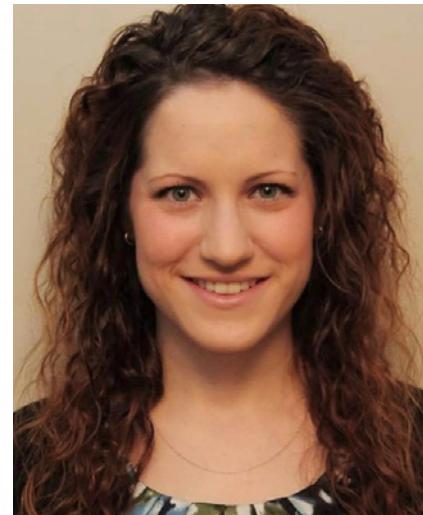
**DR. JAY LALLI**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (PART TIME),  
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**CHRISTINE DOWNING**  
INSTRUCTOR, DA PROGRAM



**DR. TRISH GOULET**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (ED LEAVE),  
DENTAL JURISPRUDENCE AND  
PUBLIC POLICY



**DR. AMANDA GRUZA**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
ORAL MEDICINE/ORAL RADIOLOGY  
AND ORAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP  
DIRECTOR



**DR. ANDREW LEASK**  
PROFESSOR, ORAL HEALTH AND  
PRECISION MEDICINE



**DR. AMRINDERBIR SINGH**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DENTAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND DIRECTOR,  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**DR. WALTER SIQUEIRA**  
PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE  
DEAN ACADEMIC

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DR. KRISTIN YONT



Dr. Yont, lead dentist for the Calgary Flames, in China for two preseason games against the Boston Bruins.

### JENNA FRASER

Dr. Kristin Yont graduated from the College of Dentistry in 1998, but she was just six when she knew she wanted to go to university.

Growing up on a farm in Saskatchewan, she always felt as though she wasn't in control of her own destiny, life was always determined by something outside of her control, like the weather.

During high school Yont worked at a Safeway in Prince Albert where students from the dental therapy school would tell her about their program. She found it interesting and thought she might like to become a dental therapist, until one day her dad said to her, "Why don't you just go be a dentist?"

Once her dad asked her that question,

Yont, a very driven individual, went to work on achieving her dream. She called the University of Saskatchewan who allowed her to shadow a dental student, Tony Gill. "I remember just sitting with him. I even remember the patient, we were working on a baker that tested the batters and the icing. He had all of these cavities and I was really inspired that day. So, I decided to apply, or strive towards it," Yont remembers.

When Yont was 19 and had completed just one year of university, she got accepted into the College of Dentistry. She said that the best part of dental school was her classmates, "If I look back on my dental school, that's definitely what I remember. You have fond memories of your classmates, there isn't one person I don't have a fond memory of." She said.

Throughout her studies, Yont was always interested in forensic dentistry, and in her

third year, she had the opportunity to travel to Calgary, AB, and meet with a forensic dentist, Dr. Blair. They got along well, and when Yont graduated she relocated to Calgary to work with Dr. Blair in his practice. At the time she didn't have the option to associate, so right out of university, she bought half of his practice. "This is where my path led me, what was I going to do? I knew it was right," Yont said of the life changing decision.

As a practicing dentist, Yont started developing the physical aches and pains that come along with spending her days hunched over patients. This is what led her to try yoga. She found such relief from practicing it, she wanted to find scientific answers to the improvement she was seeing in herself. During dental school, one of her professors, Dr. Ambrose, advised his students to always know the reason why you do the things you do, and the reason



Jarome Iginla and Dr. Yont

Dr. Gaur and Dr. Yont who work together on game nights

**"When you're dealing with dental hockey trauma, it's immediate and acute trauma. You're dealing with it now, it's not two hours before they get to the dentist."**

DR. KRISTIN YONT

why you say the things you say. Yont said that this quote has always inspired her and stayed with her. She went from practicing yoga to becoming a yoga instructor herself. She now teaches yoga students about anatomy and physiology, always staying true to a lesson she learned in dental school: always know why you do the things you do, and why you say the things you say. This is a lesson she now passes along to her students, in her first day of instruction for each class she said, "I have a slide, and Dr. Ambrose is quoted on there."

Aside from keeping herself busy with a thriving dental practice, teaching and practicing yoga, and her forensic dentistry work, Yont still finds time to be on the dental team for the Calgary Flames. "When I joined Dr. Blair's practice for forensic reasons, he was the dentist for the Flames. His practice always has been, ever since the Flames came to Calgary. So, I just got involved that way," she said.

She's now the lead dentist for the Calgary Flames, and having to attend all of the games in Calgary, it's a big commitment, but it's one she enjoys. Similar to her work in forensic dentistry and yoga, working with the Flames provides Yont an opportunity to continually learn. "It's experiential!" She said of the dental work she does with the Flames. "When you're dealing with dental hockey trauma, it's immediate and acute trauma. You're dealing with it now, it's not two hours before they get to the dentist."

Her view on her work with the Flames is similar to how she remembers her dental education: the best part is the people. "I

was honoured they asked me to be the lead dentist." Yont said of the opportunity that arose when Dr. Blair retired. "The Flames organization is fantastic. They're awesome - from the GM to the security personnel. I was also honoured when I was asked to travel with the team to the China for two pre-season games against Boston Bruins. It was an awesome experience and great bonding with everyone in the organization."

She's even brought in another USask graduate to the Flames organization, Dr. Monty Gaur. "He graduated three years ahead of me," Yont said of Dr. Gaur, "I've known him since dental school, he's a lovely human being, we trust each other and we work really well together."

Yont has had a busy and rewarding career already, and there's still more to come on the journey. But when she looks back and reflects on how she got to where she is, she thinks of Saskatchewan. "Being a Sasker in general, people from Saskatchewan work hard, we have that in our blood." She said. "I'm proud of being from Saskatchewan. I'm proud to be a USask graduate. I think we had a really good education. It is the house that built me." ♥

Do you know an outstanding USask College of Dentistry graduate who would like to be featured in an upcoming issue of *Recall*?

Contact [dentistry.comms@usask.ca](mailto:dentistry.comms@usask.ca) with their name, year of graduation, and why you think they deserve to be featured!

# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

2019 was an exciting year at the College of Dentistry.

**As we move forward and continue to reach the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan 2025: Building on Strength – Improving Tomorrow, we take this moment to share some of our favourite 2019 memories.**



## The Class of 2019

On June 6, 2019, the College of Dentistry was proud to watch 28 students cross the stage to receive their Doctor of Dental Medicine degrees. Included in these 28 graduates was Tinashe Mutswangwa, the college's 1,000th graduate. A special congratulations to Whitney-Lynn Corri Sparrow who was presented with the Faculty of Dentistry Gold Medal recognizing outstanding academic achievement.

The following morning, the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan held the annual Grad Breakfast to pay tribute to the Class of 2019. Faculty, staff, family and friends were all present to wish the graduates well in their future endeavors.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019, on behalf of the entire College of Dentistry, we wish you bright futures and successful and rewarding careers! ♥



Tinashe Mutswangwa, the 1,000th graduate of the College of Dentistry



## 2019 White Coat Ceremony

On January 4, 2019, 31 students participated in the College of Dentistry's White Coat Ceremony in the University of Saskatchewan's Convocation Hall. These second-year students were cloaked by fourth-year students, taking part in a meaningful college tradition. The White Coat Ceremony marks the transition for our students from lab to clinic, and as students recite the Oath of Professional Conduct they take an important step forward in their dental education and professional training.

Students and guests were addressed by keynote speaker Dr. Mitch Taillon, graduate of the class of 1984. ♥



Photography by David Stobbe



## CDA Convocation

On June 14, 2019, the College of Dentistry proudly graduated the 30 students from the Certificate in Dental Assisting program. The CDA program was new to the College of Dentistry in the 2018/2019 academic year. Congratulations to all of the CDA program graduates! ♥

## Kent McLeod Memorial Classic

The 21st annual Kent McLeod Memorial Golf Classic took place September 7, 2019. The Saskatchewan Dental Student Society organized a phenomenal and fun event to honour USask alumnus Dr. Kent McLeod. This event would not have been possible without the generosity of alumni, the

McLeod family, and those that support the dental profession. Proceeds from the tournament support student initiatives like DIRECT Dental and student awards that recognize academic achievement, leadership, spirit, and participation in extracurricular activities. ♥



## Orange Shirt day

On September 30 the College of Dentistry encouraged all students and staff to wear orange shirts in recognition of Orange Shirt Day. This is a nationwide event held to acknowledge and remember residential school survivors and their families. ♥



Dental Assisting Program students and instructors in their orange shirts.

## First annual student award ceremony

This year marked the first annual Student Award Ceremony. On August 22, 2019, students, staff and faculty gathered to recognize and present students with awards and scholarships. In total, over 65 awards were given out to hardworking and deserving students, totaling over \$60,000. Thank you to the donors who make these awards possible, and congratulations to our student recipients! ♥



Dr. Doug Brothwell welcomes guests to the first annual Student Award Ceremony.



Third year students Miles Kinch and Bilawal Hussain.



Dylan Jackle, Saskatchewan Dental Student Society president addresses guests.



Table Clinic 2019 winners Abdul El-Rabbany and Davin Truong.

## Table Clinics

Table Clinics were held on Friday, October 4, 2019. Three groups were selected as finalists and moved on to present again on October 8, 2019 at the University Club. The winning project was "Regeneration of Dentin and Enamel Tissues Using Stem Cells" by Abdul El-Rabbany and Davin Truong. Congratulations to all of the students who participated! ♥

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RYAN TENEYCKE

# An Eye-Opening Dental Placement in Nepal

Ryan is a 3rd-year dental student at USask. He recently travelled to Pokhara in Nepal on a dental internship to see the differences between healthcare in Canada and the developing world.



### RYAN TENEYCKE

I chose my destination purely based on photographs of the area. I honestly did not know much about Pokhara, or Nepal for that matter, but thought it would be great to learn about a culture from scratch, having no knowledge of what it was like. And I'm so glad I chose this destination—it was a magical experience.

In Canada, we place a huge emphasis on infection control and sterilization procedures. This did not seem to be a major concern in Nepal. Staff rarely used latex gloves, and certain instruments

and restorative materials were used from patient to patient without being sterilized.

There was a limited number of tools available, and I became much more resourceful as a result. Back home, I was used to having a myriad of tools and restorative materials—this was not the case in Nepal. I learned to use what was available and had to get creative.

One patient came in who was only four years old. I was handed her chart and saw her age and looked up to see her mother carrying her over to me. I thought, "This is not going to go well." Communication was already a barrier. I knew a little bit of Nepali, but not enough to comfort a child in a dental chair. In the end she turned out to be the most well-behaved child I had ever treated.

**"Her mother gave me a big hug and I could just tell from the expression on her face how thankful she was. It was a very rewarding experience and I will remember it for the rest of my life."**

RYAN TENEYCKE



The little girl had a bad cavity. Staff in the hospital I was based in did not give local anesthetic for fillings. This made me even more apprehensive about treating this patient.

Her mother sat her down in the chair and went out into the waiting room. The girl was so small that she had to stand on the chair for her head to reach the headrest. I remember her looking up at me, and I was fully expecting her to start crying. But instead, she gave me a big smile. In fact, she didn't cry or complain once.

Then, part way through the treatment, the power went out. The entire operatory plunged into darkness. I felt a little hand

grab hold of my finger and it held on for five full minutes until the power returned.

When the lights came back on we continued her treatment as though nothing had happened. When we were done, she reached up to give me a hug. I carried her out to her mother and gave her a thumbs up, letting her know everything went well. Her mother gave me a big hug and I could just tell from the expression on her face how thankful she was. It was a very rewarding experience and I will remember it for the rest of my life.

Each morning, my housemates and I all went to placement at our respective hospitals. In the afternoons after placement,

we went out to do things like hiking up to a hilltop pagoda, exploring underground caves, canoeing on Lake Phewa, and going on hikes leading across enormous suspension bridges towards beautiful waterfalls.

One weekend, we spent a whole day white water rafting, and went paragliding the next. One afternoon we were passing by a Nepali wedding celebration. The family of the bride saw us watching and invited us to come and join the celebration. They gave us food and introduced us to the newly wedded couple. They even taught us some traditional Nepali dance moves.

On another weekend, we joined in the 'Paddy Planting Festival' in a neighbouring village. The celebration helped kick off Nepal's rice planting season. The festival was set in a muddy paddy field where we took part in mini challenges, pitted against local people. There was a tug of war, a relay, and even a catfish catching competition. Catfish were released into the flooded paddy fields and we dug around in the mud to catch them. We all had an amazing time and it's something I'll remember for the rest of my life.

When my internship had finished, I spent eight days trekking to Everest Base Camp and then four days trekking back to Lukla. It was an experience like no other, and I would highly recommend it if you like trekking and adventure.

If I had to pick one thing about my experience that will stick in my mind forever it would be the friendliness and generosity of the Nepali people. I have never met such kind and giving people. They wanted me to enjoy my time while in their country and instantly made me feel like they were friends I'd known my entire life.

If you're considering a placement overseas, try and experience as much as you can and keep an open mind—you'll surprise yourself. ♥

*Work the World specialize in customizing overseas dental placements in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their destinations provide eye-opening insight into the challenges associated with delivering healthcare in the developing world.*

# CELEBRATIONS



Left to right: Founders Drs. Christopher Bertsch, Christy MacPherson, Mary Tait and Doug Brothwell, Dean of the College of Dentistry.

Dr. Kristen Kezar was unable to attend the ceremony.

## DIRECT Dental recognized on National Philanthropy Day

National Philanthropy Day was on November 15, 2019. It is an important day that has been celebrated by fundraisers, government leaders, businesses and individuals in North America for over 20 years. The purpose of this day is to recognize the philanthropic initiatives in our communities and the importance of these acts.

At the 2019 awards ceremony, DIRECT Dental (Dental Initiative Rendering Emergency Care Treatment) was recognized at National Philanthropy Day in the category Youth in Philanthropy. DIRECT Dental was founded in 2018 by four students, who have since graduated, from the College of Dentistry: Drs. Christopher Bertsch, Christy MacPherson, Mary Tait and Kristen Kezar. While it is supported by the College of Dentistry, it is a student-led initiative. DIRECT Dental is a free emergency outreach clinic in Saskatoon. It provides treatment to individuals who experience financial barriers to receiving dental care. The clinic is run off of the generosity of those in our community with students from the College of Dentistry and licensed dentists volunteering their time to work in the clinic.

In its first year of operation, DIRECT Dental provided care to over 140 patients. This represents over \$49,000 of in-kind emergency dental treatments. ♥

## Happy retirement and congratulations to Dr. Nagle



Dr. Carol Nagle joined the College of Dentistry in May 1991 as an Assistant Professor, and became an Associate Professor in 2005. In September 2019, Dr. Nagle retired from the college.

On behalf of the college, its students, faculty, staff and the extended dental community, we want to thank Dr. Nagle for her commitment and contribution to the College of Dentistry, and we wish her the best in retirement. ♥



Sarah and Ryan Gallagher, both alumni from the class of 2013, welcomed twin boys, Ethan Caleb Gallagher and Owen Samuel Gallagher on January 6, 2019. ♥



Kyla Tzupa (Class of 2020) and her fiancé, Tyler Mueller, got engaged on May 15, 2019, in Banff, Alberta. ♥

## Don't be shy!

If you or a fellow alumni member have an important milestone to celebrate, and would like to include it in *Recall*, please email [dentistry.comms@usask.ca](mailto:dentistry.comms@usask.ca)

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