In 1896, only one year after German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered that ionizing rays could penetrate solid objects, a New Orleans dentist became the first in the United States to take an X-ray of teeth. Radiography’s medical uses were quickly recognized, but its ability to see inside the body conjured up embarrassment, fears of death, and other, even more ludicrous ideas. A London firm actually advertised X-ray-proof suits, and a New York newspaper reported that the College of Physicians and Surgeons beamed X-ray diagrams directly onto the brains of its medical students!

During its early years, radiology generated many two-dimensional imaging techniques. Then, in the second half of the 20th century, the introduction of conventional tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and computed tomography made it possible to mentally construct three-dimensional images. Now, with the recent arrival of cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), designed specifically for craniofacial imaging, clinicians can access multiplanar, volumetric data, taken from one or more angles, each view a comprehensive whole. A powerful tool for visualizing teeth, pathologic lesions, and vital anatomic structures in the round, CBCT is creating a new relationship between dental surgeons and radiologists.

Columbia’s College of Dental Medicine installed a CBCT system this year, making this advanced technology available to faculty, students, residents, and patients. Christos Angelopoulos DDS, MS, dental radiologist and CBCT expert, who joined CDM’s faculty in May 2007 as an associate professor of clinical dentistry, has been appointed director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Program at the College, where use of CBCT systems will be taught. Dr. Angelopoulos holds degrees from the Schools of Dentistry, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). He earned his MS in Oral Biology, completed the Graduate Program in Diagnostic Sciences and Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, and was on the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology faculty at UMKC until moving to Columbia. A Diplomate.

CBCT images (top) compared to those of the two-dimensional panoramic radiograph (bottom), are able to show the exact side — palate or lip, location, and orientation of an impacted tooth in this young patient.

continued on page 3
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Advances in technology are changing the practice of dentistry and, by extension, have changed how the College of Dental Medicine (CDM) educates dental students and trains postdoctoral students and hospital residents.

Digital radiology has moved dental imaging forward rapidly, most recently with Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT), to provide three-dimensional images of the head and neck for enhanced diagnosis, especially in oral and maxillofacial surgery, implantology, and orthodontics. We have installed CBCT system at CDM, where it is used for both clinical and instruction purposes. This imaging technology is likely to be the new standard of care for our profession.

Implant placement has been enhanced by the computer-assisted Nobel Guide system. The system promotes less invasive surgery by creating a surgical template from a CT scan of the jaws, allowing the surgeon to find the ideal placement, often without need for a mucoperiosteal flap. The Nobel Guide is used by CDM’s oral and maxillofacial surgery residents and our postdoctoral students in periodontics and prosthodontics.

We have brought Cerec, a computer-assisted design/computer-assisted manufacturing (CAD-CAM) technology, to our campus. Cerec is used by predoctoral students to convert images of teeth prepared for restoration into the actual structure needed, which they can place during the same treatment session. In addition, we have introduced ER, CR:YSGG (Erbium) lasers for hard and soft tissue surgery. Fourth-year students receive preclinical training in the technology, and residents in oral and maxillofacial surgery and general dentistry, as well as postdoctoral students in periodontology, employ its clinical applications.

New technology improves patient care and streamlines dental practice. Our challenge is to provide instruction for both basic clinical dentistry and new diagnostic and treatment systems, all within our four-year curriculum. It is a demanding and exciting challenge, and we are meeting it.

Ira B. Lamster, DDS, MMSc
Dean

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION plans stronger ties TO STUDENTS

Lois A. Jackson, DDS, ’77, Peds ’80, President of the Association of Dental Alumni, is a woman with a mission. Dr. Jackson’s goal is to make the Alumni Association an integral part of the College’s activities. Her hope is that those who have attended CDM “will continue to be part of the Columbia ‘family,’ staying in touch and participating in CDM activities and plans...as teachers, and mentors.” Mentoring is one of the several ways in which CDM alumni have been strengthening their ties with students for a number of years.

At a luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association for second-year students entering their clinical years, Dr. Jackson told them “We want to be a resource for whatever you need to know during your four years here...to help you in making decisions about your future.”

The Alumni Association seeks to increase the scope of activities offered to alumni and students and encourage lifelong interaction with the College. Its Executive Committee is working with student officers and affinity group leaders to help bring the various groups together and provide support for their activities.
of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (AAOMR) and member of the AAOMR executive committee, Dr. Angelopoulos is responsible for oversight and development of the College’s oral radiology curriculum. He will also be involved with conceptual planning and implementation of a school-wide conversion to digital radiography, and establishing a faculty practice in oral and maxillofacial radiology. Dr. Angelopoulos has already begun to present continuing education programs on CBCT.

Conventional computed tomography (CT) is used medically to image all areas of the human body. The overlapping “slices” of targeted internal areas, reassembled as cross-sectional views, are created by a fan-shaped X-ray beam rotating around the patient lying on a slowly advancing table. CBCT, specifically designed for maxillofacial radiography, uses a cone-shaped beam to take multiple images during a single, 10-20-second rotation around the patient’s head. Unlike fan beam tomography, the narrow CBCT beam can record mandible and maxilla simultaneously, or each alone, reducing radiation exposure and potential patient movement. Versatile, quick, safe, and easy, CBCT is accurate to almost two-tenths of a millimeter. Its image quality for hard tissues like bone and teeth is generally much higher than medical CT.

CBCT is making strong inroads in guiding dental diagnosis and treatment. A 2004-2006 survey of patient referrals to an oral and maxillofacial radiology group showed most requests for CBCT scans came from oral and maxillofacial surgeons (51%) and periodontology specialists (17%). Other requests were for: implantology planning (40%), surgical pathology exploration (24%), and temporomandibular joint analysis (16%), as well as planning extractions of impacted teeth and assessing orthodontic needs. With cone beam’s highly accurate measurements of bone and jaw deformities, bone lesions, and changes of the jaw, dentists can determine a tooth’s exact position relative to neighboring teeth and structures; discover anatomic abnormalities in roots, nasal fossa, and sinuses; and locate pathologies, such as cysts, tumors, and infections with great precision. Over half of CBCT studies, initiated for other purposes, uncover incidental pathologic anomalies, ranging from simple dental and sinus infections to benign and malignant tumors and blocked carotid arteries. CBCT technology promises to contribute to improved interoperability between diagnosis and many types of treatments, though not for close examination of caries, because any large amount of metal in the oral cavity will interfere with imaging decay. The anticipated evolution of CBCT technology toward even smaller voxel size, however, may even improve the diagnosis of caries.

While CBCT imaging is relatively easy, its reformatting, display, and interpretation demand a high level of expertise and experience. In the New York area, dental practices will be able to refer patients to the CDM’s Oral Radiology Group for cone beam services, receiving imaging results on their own computer screens and radiographic interpretations for each scan made. Area dentists who use their own CBCT system may also send scans to CDM for CT image interpretation.

Dr. Angelopoulos cautions that cone beam radiography should be used only when needed. The leadership of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology is currently developing appropriate selection criteria for the use of cone beam diagnostic procedures in the profession, a topic included in Dr. Angelopoulos’s instruction to his CDM students. He sums up his approach to the use of dental technology, saying: “Everything depends on the wisdom of professional judgment. We need to know when to use what!”
ALUMNI AND FACULTY LEADERSHIP

The College of Dental Medicine is pleased to announce the appointments of the following full-time faculty:

ROSEANNA GRAHAM ’05, MA, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, to teach in the preclinical and clinical predoctoral programs.

GEORGE JENKINS, DMD, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, to teach in CDM’s triage unit.

RAQUEL SILVERA, DMD, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, to treat DentCare patients at the Columbia Dental North and Thelma Adair sites.

DANA WOLF, PERIO ’05, DMD, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, to direct the predoctoral periodontics program.

ANGELA YOON ’03, MA, MPH, assistant professor of dentistry in the oral and maxillofacial pathology and oral medicine program, where Dr. Yoon is engaged in oral cancer research.

CANDICE ZEMNICK, PROSTH ’05, DMD, MPH, MS, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, as director of predoctoral prosthodontics.

DR. JENNIFER BASSIUR, new director of the Center for Oral Facial and Head Pain, has been appointed assistant professor of clinical dentistry in the College of Dental Medicine, Section of Hospital Dentistry. Dr. Bassiur holds a DDS from the University of Maryland. She completed a general practice residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center and a two-year residency program in Orofacial Pain and Dysfunction at the UCLA School of Dentistry. She obtained board certification in Orofacial Pain in 2006.

BURTON EDELSTEIN, DDS, MPH, chair, Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and professor of clinical dentistry, testified in March 2007 before the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, Health Subcommittee, on dental Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance (SCHIP) programs. Dr. Edelstein spoke following the death of 12-year-old Deamonte Driver from a brain abscess secondary to a dental infection. The hearing, televised on CSPAN, drew a large audience, including many members of Congress.

MARGOT JAFFE 80, PEDS ’81, ORTHO ’85 appeared on the CBS Early Morning Show in April to discuss a surprising rise in dental disease among children in the United States. April 2007 figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that although oral health improved for most Americans from 1988 to 2004, about 28 percent of two-to five-year-olds have cavities in their baby teeth, a strong increase from about 24 percent nearly a decade ago. Dr. Jaffe spoke with CBS Morning Show anchor Harry Smith, explaining why baby teeth are important and suggesting ways that parents can help to keep their toddlers free of cavities, including drinking fluoridated water, brushing immediately after snacking, and limiting sugar in their diets.

DR. LOUIS MANDEL, assistant dean for Extramural Hospital Programs and clinical professor of dentistry, who is a salivary gland expert, will speak at the American Thyroid Association Meeting on October 6th, 2007. Dr. Mandel will also speak in October at the Second International Congress on Salivary Gland Disease, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and its Department of Otolaryngology.

Professor of Dentistry PANOS N. PAPAPANOU, DDS, PHD, who chairs the Section of Oral and Diagnostic Sciences and is director of the Division of Periodontics, will serve a five-year period as councilor to the Periodontal Research Group of the International Association for Dental Research. Dr. Papapanou will also receive the American Academy of Periodontics Clinical Research Award in October at the Academy’s 93rd annual meeting in Washington, DC.

BURTON WASSERMAN, DDS, chairman of the New York Presbyterian Healthcare System for Dental Services, New York Hospital Queens and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, has...
CDM salutes...

been appointed general dentist for the Periodontics Review Committee of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

DR. LAUREEN ZUBIAURRE, who earned a Master of Science degree in Supervision in Science Education from Teachers College in May, plans to enter the College's doctoral program in Science Education. Dr. Zubiaurre recently completed a one-year fellowship in the ADEA Leadership Institute, which began in June 2006 in Kennebunkport, Maine, and ended at the 2007 ADEA Convention in New Orleans.

Eight faculty from CUMC's professional schools, three from CDM, have been named Glenda Garvey Teaching Academy fellows for 2007. The Academy was created in 2005 in memory of Glenda Garvey, MD, after her death in 2002. A P&S alumna and faculty member, Dr. Garvey was admired as an outstanding clinician and teacher who trained more than 3,000 medical center students. The Academy’s mission, inspired by Dr. Garvey’s career, is to recognize excellence, reward achievement, and promote innovation among faculty members at the Medical Center. The CDM Garvey Fellows are: JAMES FINE, DDS, associate professor of clinical dentistry, Periodontics and Oral Diagnostics; MICHAEL S. YUAN, DDS, PhD, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, Orthodontics; and HEERA CHANG, DDS ’98, MD, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

COLUMBIA RESEARCHERS SPEARHEAD INITIAL BS/ONJ CONFERENCE AT NYAS

The first major conference discussing recent reports on the relationship of bisphosphonate treatment with osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) was held at the National Academy of Sciences, 7 World Trade Center, on May 17. Initiated by research scientists from Columbia University Medical Center to “review what is known and needs to be learned about this emerging issue in patient care—to develop a consensus on the definition of ONJ, as well as to explore potential risk factors and pathogenic mechanisms of ONJ and strategies to move research forward,” the event was attended by 140 dentists, physicians, research scientists, and students, who came from medical centers throughout the nation and the world.

The conference proceedings will be published in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences as well as other scientific journals. The program was partially supported by educational grants from Merck & Co. Inc., Novartis, and The Alliance for Better Bone Health (Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC).

IN MEMORIAM

The College of Dental Medicine is sad to report the loss of three esteemed Professors Emeriti during the 2006-2007 academic year: SIDNEY L. HOROWITZ, ORTHO ’49 (December 13, 2006); AUSTIN KUTSCHER ’46, (May 30, 2007); and NICHOLAS DI SALVO ’45, ORTHO ’57, (June 8, 2007). Further information concerning memorial events will appear in the obituary section of the 2007 Primus alumni magazine.
The College of Dental Medicine opened its Class Reunion Day Celebration on May 4, 2007 with a continuing education session at the Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion. Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs Martin J. Davis ’74, Peds ’75, welcomed the audience and introduced Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research Lawrence A. Tabak ’77, PhD, who spoke on “Facing the Future.” Associate Clinical Professor Steven B. Syrop ’80 and Jeffrey Laughlin, MPH ’08 followed Dr. Tabak with a report on their recent experience in the CDM Global Initiative program.

In the afternoon, Dean Ira B. Lamster presented the State of the School Address, and CDM Capital Campaign Chairman Thomas Connolly ’77, Perio ’80 shared the goals of the campaign with the audience. Alumni President Lois Jackson ’77, Peds ’80 presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to Ralph Kaslick ’59, Perio ’62, former Dean at Fairleigh Dickinson University College of Dental Medicine. The session closed with advice on estate planning and elder law from Marc Leavitt, Esq., son of Professor Joseph M. Leavitt ’40. Tours of the college were followed by a cocktail reception and dinner.

top: Classmates and friends gathered on May 4th to honor Ralph Kaslick ’59, Perio ’62, who was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the profession of dentistry at Class Reunion Day. Standing left to right: Herbert Frommer ’57, Bernard Biron ’59, Dr. Kaslick, Ted West, clinical professor of dentistry, Dean Ira Lamster.

center: Dean Lamster (second from right) with Reunion Day speakers Jeffrey Laughlin ’08, Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research Lawrence Tabak ’77, and Associate Clinical Professor Steven Syrop ’80.

top: Irving Tregerman ’82, Michael Rechter ’82, Assistant Clinical Professor of Dentistry Michelle Mirsky ’77, Allan Kucine ’82.


Dental patients are often limited to eye-rolling or gurgling responses while their doctors chatter on above their heads. But one patient, who had an early morning emergency visit in Dr. Steven Syrop's office last winter, listened intently until the final words of the doctor's story before attempting any response. What held his interest was Dr. Syrop's recounting of his stay in an Ethiopian village in the fall of 2006. He had traveled there as one of a team of international health care specialists working under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of Columbia's Earth Institute. The group's objective – to examine village residents and prepare a report on the state of their health -- fulfilled one of the first steps in the UN Global Villages project to alleviate extreme poverty in rural sites around the world (Primus Notes, Spring 2007). When Dr. Syrop's story ended, his patient uttered just one simple sentence, “I want to help.” And, after exploring the mission's needs with Dr. Sachs and Dean Ira Lamster, that is exactly what he has done. His desire to help has been resolved with an anonymous gift of $1.5 million, over the next five years, which will be of paramount importance in speeding the project's success.

From this very generous gift, the College of Dental Medicine will receive $100,000 a year to underwrite its participation in the Global Villages project. The funds will be used to develop curriculum and provide training for CDM faculty and postdoctoral students who will travel to villages selected for community assistance. These professionals will help to construct health plans suitable for each site, and will also instruct selected villagers in the execution of basic treatment models for a number of common complaints and emergency situations. Faculty and residents from CDM’s Pediatric Dentistry Division have been chosen to travel to Africa this fall, working in both Rwanda and Tanzania.
PHILIP K. JOSEPHS ’08, a third-year dual degree (MPH/DDS) candidate at CDM, was one of 40 medical or dental students throughout the United States to attend the June 2007 Primary Care Leadership Training Program at UC San Francisco. The applicant pool was described as “particularly strong” and the review process as “very competitive.” Each year’s program, sponsored by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and Foundation, is organized around a specific health issue, which attendees learn how to address both locally and nationally, and decide what role health professionals should play in resolving the problem.

In 2006, CARMEL DUDLEY ’07, mentored by Associate Dean Martin Davis, was one of 10 grantees from 57 dental colleges in America and Canada to participate in the first year of the American Dental Careers Fellowship Program (ADCFP). This year, NEERU SINGH ’08, whose mentor is Dr. Laureen Zubiaurre, became the second CDM student so honored. The program, launched by an ADEA/AADA partnership in 2006, addresses the national problem of academic recruitment for dentistry by demonstrating the benefits and rewards of teaching. ADCFP grantees, guided by their mentors, serve as instructors, undertake biomedical/clinical research or dental education projects, and complete a poster presentation for the AADR/ADEA Annual Session. Each fellow receives $4,000 as a stipend and to cover travel expenses.

Four members of the 2007 CDM graduating class have received the College’s first Delta Dental Foundation Scholarship awards. Dean Lamster picked KEITH DASILVA, CARMEL DUDLEY, ANTHONY PROUSI, and DAVID TAVELIN as the Delta award recipients of $2,500 each in recognition of their academic and leadership skills. The honors were announced at the Dean’s Senior Farewell Luncheon in May, with Dr. Cheryl Lerner, a representative of the Dental Delta Foundation in attendance.

EUGENE KO and NANCY OKEKE, both class of 2010, are among the 12 winners chosen from 4,300 first-year dental school students across the country to receive National Institute of Dental and Cranial Research (NIDCR) Summer Student Awards (SDSA). During the eight-week internship, the SDSA program offers a cutting-edge research experience in oral health to dental students early in their professional education.

50TH BIRNBERG DAY PROGRAM ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENT ENTRANTS

As the 50th recipient of the Birnberg Research Award, Ralph V. Katz, DMD, MPH, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion, NYU College of Dentistry, spoke to an enthusiastic audience of student researchers, their mentors, classmates and faculty, on March 29, 2007. Dr. Katz’s lecture was titled: “Are We ‘Racing Towards Race’ or ‘Erasing Race’ in Research? Some Findings on Race in Research.” The 2007 Birnberg Research Day attracted the largest number of pre- and postdoctoral table presentations in its history. Entrants whose work was singled out for mention include: Betty Chen ’08, to represent CDM at the 2007 Hinman Research Symposium; Helaman Erickson ’08, to represent CDM at the 2007 ADA meeting; and Karl C. Bruckman ’08, to represent CDM at a 2007 Oral Health (Public Health) national meeting. Payam Afzali ’09, Jin Soo Bae ’07, Betty Huang ’09, Sylvia Lin ’07, Tracy Shen ’08, Angie Chin ’08, and Josh C. Wolf ’09 all received honorable mention in their categories.
above: During CDM’s 2007 commencement, Senior Associate Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn presented Associate Professor of Clinical Dentistry and Clinical Medical Informatics John Zimmerman with the Edward Zegarelli Teaching Award for dedicated and compassionate teaching of dental students.

below: Dr. Samuel Pritz ’33 spoke to the class of 2007 at their commencement ceremony on May 16. Dr. Pritz, who began his dental studies at Columbia during America’s Great Depression, compared his own student years with those of the graduates, citing major changes in the economic times, as well the demographic and gender composition of their class. He concluded by telling his audience he believed they were one of the best CDM classes in years, and wished them a long, happy, and healthy life – presumably one just like his own.

above: Roy E. Lasky, executive director of the New York State Dental Association for the past 17 years, was guest speaker at this year’s College of Dental Medicine commencement. Mr. Lasky is a leading authority on state politics and legislation in relation to the profession of dentistry, who has guided many NYSDA initiatives through passage, including stipulations for dental licensure and legislation that authorizes dentists to perform physical examinations prior to admitting patients for hospital treatment. His comments to the graduates gave insight into an important aspect of the careers upon which they were about to embark.

below: Alexandra E. Baranetsky BS ’75, DDS ’80 received The University Alumni Medal for 2007 at this year’s University commencement. Dr. Baranetsky, who graduated from the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science in 1975, earned her dental degree from the College of Dental Medicine in 1980. She has a practice in general dentistry in Union, New Jersey. Dr. Baranetsky is seen here at the award ceremony with Columbia Alumni Association board members.
EVENTS & CE COURSES

For further information regarding these events and courses, please contact Melissa Welsh at 212-305-6881 or mww7@columbia.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 28</td>
<td>“3D Imaging in the Dental Office.” 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. [3 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 29</td>
<td>Alumni Reception at ADA Annual Session. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jillian’s at Metreon, 101 4th Street (at Howard), San Francisco, CA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 9</td>
<td>New Jersey Alumni Study Club Meeting. “Orthodontic Intervention for General Practitioners.” 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nobel Biocare Training Facility, Mahwah, NJ. [2 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 10</td>
<td>“Implant Treatment Strategies for the Partially Edentulous Patient.” 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. [3 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 17</td>
<td>Westchester/Rockland Alumni Study Club Meeting. “CEREC...Where We Are Today.” 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Helen Hayes Hospital, West Haverstraw, NY. [2 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 20</td>
<td>College of Dental Medicine 90th Anniversary Gala. 6 to 11 p.m. Low Memorial Library. Columbia University Morningside Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 29</td>
<td>Percy T. Phillips Memorial Lecture. “What do we stop teaching to address oral-systemic linkages in the curriculum?” 4 to 5 p.m., Columbia University Medical Center [1 Credit]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 30</td>
<td>Percy T. Phillips Seminars. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 7</td>
<td>“Differential Diagnosis of Oral Lesions.” 8 to 11a.m. Columbia University Club. [3 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 14</td>
<td>“Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office.” 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. [3 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 5</td>
<td>“Associateships: The Road to Success or the Path to Disappointment?” 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. [3 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 14</td>
<td>“Tobacco Cessation Intervention and The Oral Health Effects of Tobacco Products.” 8 to 11 a.m. Columbia University Club. [3 Credits]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 18</td>
<td>“Practical Infection Control. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., CPR Recertification.” 1 to 4 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. [3 Credits per session]</td>
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Q. DR. ZICCARDI, AS AN ACADEMICIAN AND A SPECIALIST IN TRIGEMINAL NERVE MICROSURGERY YOU BELONG TO THE WORLD OF SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH AS WELL AS THAT OF MEDICAL SKILL. WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO SUCH A COMPLEX COMBINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE?
A. I became familiar with dentistry as I was growing up, because my mother managed the office of a family friend who was a dentist. I saw a lot of him at his work and thought the profession looked like an attractive area to pursue in the health sciences.

Q. WAS YOUR DECISION THE RIGHT ONE?
A. Oh, yes. Occasionally I think I might have enjoyed getting an MBA, but my wife is a corporate lawyer, so I have a vicarious relationship to the business world.

Q. YOU WERE ON MT. SINAI’S OMFS FACULTY FROM 1995 TO 1997, THEN ACCEPTED AN APPOINTMENT TO UMDNJ’S DEPARTMENT OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY, WHERE YOU BECAME RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR IN 1998 AND CHAIR IN 2002. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ENTER ACADEMICS RATHER THAN PRIVATE PRACTICE?
A. The challenges and rewards of teaching were made obvious by the many excellent professors I’ve been privileged to study with. The world of academics is also a constant source of new ideas and insights, inspired by and shared with both students and colleagues. Last year I attended the ADEA Institute, where my group’s theme was how to achieve faculty retention. That was a valuable exchange with experienced peers.

Q. WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT, COMMITTEES, CLASSES, SURGERY, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS, IS THERE ROOM FOR ANYTHING ELSE IN YOUR LIFE?
A. I do a lot of landscaping at home and some skiing at our place in the Poconos. Neither one is easy on my bad knees, but I enjoy both very much.
A tremendous thank you to the CDM volunteer faculty members listed here, who selflessly devote their time and energy to teaching and mentoring our students. Working closely with part-time and full-time faculty members and the administration, CDM’s volunteers are essential in helping to advance the educational mission of the College. They deserve our utmost gratitude.