

## The William Jarvie Research Society: A Year in Review

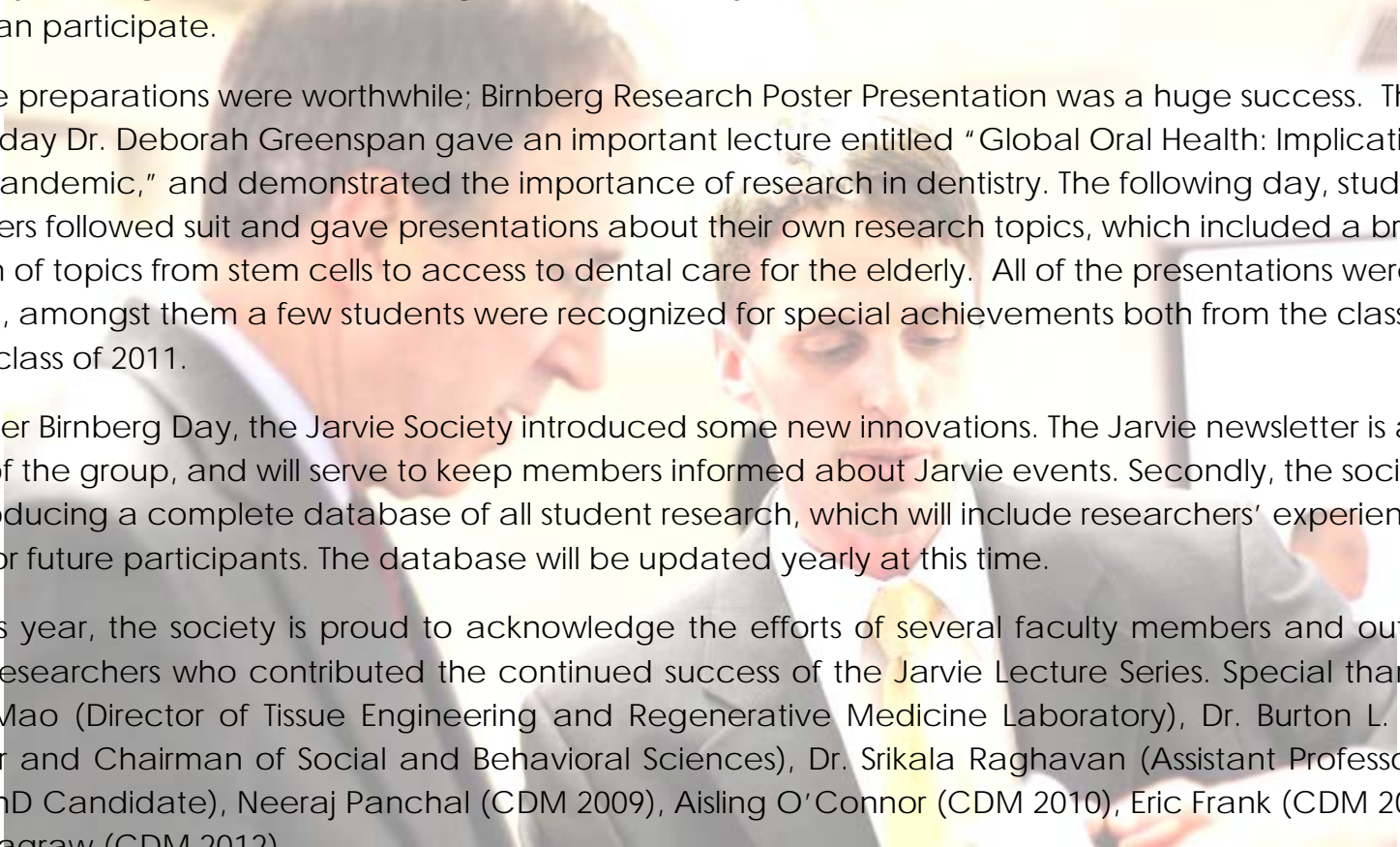
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It is inspiring to evaluate yet another year of rigorous and productive research. In 2008-2009, just under one third of the student body has enthusiastically undertaken extracurricular research projects under the mentorship of established and respected scientists in a variety of fields. In so doing, the student body emphatically demonstrates that the mission of the Jarvie Society, the continued striving to place the field of dentistry into its proper context in the general field of science and medicine, is of vital importance. The Jarvie Society and the school can be proud of all that has been achieved this year.

Traditionally, the research year is punctuated by the Jarvie Lecture Series, talks given by the student/mentor partnerships presenting their work and findings and suggesting future goals. This year the opportunity was given to the students to take a more active role in the presentation. The reaction to this change has been overwhelmingly positive; attendance at all four talks reached unprecedented highs as students turned out to hear about their own colleagues' research experiences. This is significant considering the intense workload all of the students experience at Columbia.

The Jarvie Lecture Series represents one of several functions organized by the society through which it attempts to foster interest and participation amongst the incoming freshmen and perhaps, upperclassmen as well. The society also achieves this goal by participating in Club Fair Day, a day in which all clubs and groups on campus are showcased.

Perhaps, the most significant and well-known Jarvie Society function is the Birnberg Research Poster Presentation day, which took place this year on March 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a special lecture and lunch on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Much preparation was put into making this an impressive and inspiring display of the research year to faculty, peers and potential future research participants. The Jarvie Society put together a presenters' seminar to acquaint students with the proper poster design, location, and general organization of the function. The



researchers wrote abstracts which were published; the Jarvie Journal, cataloguing the year's research publications in print, now includes more articles published through more student participation than ever before! The society also organized the visit of a guest lecturer; this year we were fortunate to have Dr. Deborah Greenspan participate.

The preparations were worthwhile; Birnberg Research Poster Presentation was a huge success. The previous day Dr. Deborah Greenspan gave an important lecture entitled "Global Oral Health: Implications of the HIV Pandemic," and demonstrated the importance of research in dentistry. The following day, student researchers followed suit and gave presentations about their own research topics, which included a broad spectrum of topics from stem cells to access to dental care for the elderly. All of the presentations were excellent, amongst them a few students were recognized for special achievements both from the class of 2010 and the class of 2011.

After Birnberg Day, the Jarvie Society introduced some new innovations. The Jarvie newsletter is a new feature of the group, and will serve to keep members informed about Jarvie events. Secondly, the society is now introducing a complete database of all student research, which will include researchers' experiences and advice for future participants. The database will be updated yearly at this time.

This year, the society is proud to acknowledge the efforts of several faculty members and outstanding student researchers who contributed the continued success of the Jarvie Lecture Series. Special thanks to Dr. Jeremy Mao (Director of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory), Dr. Burton L. Edelstein (Professor and Chairman of Social and Behavioral Sciences), Dr. Srikala Raghavan (Assistant Professor), Avital Harari (PhD Candidate), Neeraj Panchal (CDM 2009), Aisling O'Connor (CDM 2010), Eric Frank (CDM 2011), and Caitlin Magraw (CDM 2012).

Finally, the Jarvie Society would like to express gratitude to the faculty and board members who are the driving force behind this important work.