

# MOMENTUM

Volume 14, Number 3 Summer 1989

## News & Viewpoints for Eastman Dental Center Alumni & Friends

### Commencement '89: Seeking the truth, telling the truth

*Dr. Lawrence Meskin struck an optimistic note for the future of dentistry in his June 16 commencement address at Eastman Dental Center. He emphasized, however, that members of the profession must maintain intellectual vigor by examining dentistry's premises. His edited remarks are printed here. Dr. Meskin is vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of the Graduate School, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Editor*

Today, I would like to extend the concept of "commencement" to include a career of not only continued learning, but to take an additional step, the seeking of truth!

There are many differences. The former implies the continued addition of knowledge, the latter adds the dimension of testing present knowledge for its validity... Unfortunately, there are many professionals who, out of laziness or fear, are unwilling to examine existing concepts for their current validity.

Not so Dr. Basil Bibby, who, in the mid-sixties, wrote his classic article entitled, "Do We Tell the Truth about the Prevention and Treatment of Dental Caries?" In this article, Dr. Bibby criticized the blind acceptance of a status quo without questioning.

He implied that a professional, in his or her daily activities, must constantly seek the truth, and then tell the truth. In his article,

### Dr. Levy receives teaching award

Dr. David Levy, clinical associate in EDC's Department of Pediatric Dentistry, is the 1989 recipient of the Center's Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part-Time Clinical Faculty. Dr. Levy was presented with the award at the Center's June graduation ceremony.

"This award recognizes Dr. Levy's strong contribution to Eastman Dental Center's academic program," said Dr. Øivind Jensen, chairman of the award selection committee and assistant chairman of the Center's Department of General Dentistry. "His dedication and multi-faceted involvement in Eastman Dental Center made him the selection committee's unanimous choice."

Since 1982, Dr. Levy has taught in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry one day each week, consulting with postdoctoral dental students to optimize their care of the Center's young patients. His formal classroom activities include conducting seminar series in behavior management and in oral growth and development.

In addition to his position in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Levy is a research associate in the Center's Department of Community Dentistry. He is also a member of the attending staff in the Department of Clinical Dentistry at Strong Memorial Hospital.

A 1972 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Levy

obtained a certificate in pediatric dentistry from Eastman Dental Center in 1977. He earned a Master's Degree (1981) in community health at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. The dental director at Westside Health Services in Rochester from 1977 to 1980, Dr. Levy was also the director of a pediatric dental service in Chester, Maine, in the early 1970's.

Dr. Levy maintains an active pediatric dental practice in the Rochester suburb of Irondequoit.



photo by George S. Morgan

Center Director Dr. William D. McHugh (l.) presents Dr. David Levy (r.) with the 1989 Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part-Time Clinical Faculty.

Dr. Bibby asserted, "To many dentists, a triad of oral hygiene, proper diet and regular visits to the dentist had almost achieved the status of a holy trinity which will keep the devil of dental decay from those who believe in and follow it."

While Dr. Bibby agreed that this triad might be of value, it was his thesis that dentistry likely was a victim of its own propaganda. He importuned dentistry to critically examine the advice dentists had so long been offering to the public about the prevention of dental decay.

After a thorough analysis of the literature, he concluded that, while visits to the dentist saved teeth, they had not been shown to prevent decay and actually, convincing proof that cleaning the teeth prevents decay was lacking.

Dr. Bibby asserted further that the only constructive dietary advice was to reduce the intake of sweets and that all other dental recommendations regarding diet tended to be misleading.

His article was startling; it shook the foundation upon which rested the procedures employed by most general practitioners to prevent caries. But of all the far-reaching effects of Dr. Bibby's iconoclastic analysis, the most penetrating was that it pointed out the need to constantly reevaluate "accepted information lest we become victims of our own propaganda."

Seek the truth — tell the truth. What other concepts need be evaluated by the profession of dentistry? Following Dr. Bibby's lead, some 15 years later I had the opportunity to conduct a similar analysis regarding the treatment of periodontal disease. While the prevailing view at that time was that only surgical intervention would be effective in slowing the ravages of periodontal disease, our review clearly demonstrated that little information was available regarding the effects of long-term treatment of destructive periodontal disease, either by surgery or any other technique.

(continued on page 2)



## Calendar

### September, 1989

11-Exhibition of art by the Arena Group. Atrium Gallery. Through November 3.

### October 12, 1989

Continuing Education Course - Five Approaches to Pain Control for the Dental Practice. Farash Auditorium. Contact: Maxine Manjos (716) 275-5064.

### February, 1990

Annual Winter Meeting of the Rochester Section, AADR. Contact: S.A. Mundorff Shrestha (716) 275-5020.

### June 7, 1990

12th Annual Allen A. Brewer Upstate New York Prosthodontic Conference. Contact: Maxine Manjos (716) 275-5064.

## Seeking the Truth (continued from page 1)

Empirical evidence, we concluded, was not enough; well-designed studies were needed in virtually all areas so that we could tell the truth about the treatment of the disease.

Since that time there have been numbers of longitudinal studies that indicate that non-surgical techniques can be effective under appropriate circumstances. Interestingly, the pendulum has swung. Now, many practitioners consider this evidence conclusive and are not ready to question further.

In my area of expertise, I would like to share with you my seeking of the truth. The subject: the future of dentistry. While many in our profession have expressed serious reservations in the last decade about the opportunities that dentistry offers to those entering the profession, I and a growing number of professionals dispute these dire predictions.

We have solid evidence that indicates great opportunities for those entering the practice of dentistry. This optimism is based on a number of current national reports. For example, these communications have indicated that dental income, a major assessment of the personal rewards of the practice

of dentistry, has, over the last few years, demonstrated significant gains in both gross as well as real income.

It is the elderly, those over 65, who I believe will provide new challenge and rewards to the practitioners of dentistry.

This particular age group has been ignored by the majority of our dental work force. Most believe that the elderly are underutilizers of dental care, and even though their numbers are expected to increase from 30 million at the present time to over 50 million by the year 2020, this increase will not be accompanied by a concurrent increase in the utilization of dental care.

Those who believe this are in error. They have not examined the most recent literature, which indicates that the number of dental visits from 1983 to 1986 for those 65 and over increased by 29 percent; whereas *all* dental visits increased by only 5.5 percent. The elderly truly represent a golden opportunity and that opportunity is now.

Our research on the productivity of dentists in five states indicates that the elderly visit the dentist in greater proportions than would be expected by their numbers. For example, in Florida, 25 percent of all dental visits are made by those 65 and over, whereas only 17 percent of the state's population is a similar age.

For those who would argue that visits by the elderly are not productive in terms of sophistication of services delivered, let me assure that their expenditures per dental visit are greater than the average of all other age groups.

Indeed, the results of this study indicate that dentists seeking opportunities to treat the elderly will find themselves engaged in a practice of dentistry entailing the delivery of highly sophisticated procedures to a willing and knowledgeable public.

In conclusion, in regard to the future of dentistry, I am pleased to state that I have sought the truth and I speak the truth when I say that you can look forward to a full, productive and rewarding professional career. The only danger to that prediction would be complacency caused by an unquestioning daily acceptance of your professional environment. This type of behavior can only lead to atrophy and eventual disintegration of our profession.

Congratulations to you and those gathered here to celebrate this important occasion.



photo by George S. Morgan

Department of Periodontology graduate Dr. Roxanne Lowenguth (r.) with Dr. J. Mitchell Kreher (l.), clinical associate in the Departments of General Dentistry and Prosthodontics. In addition to joining a private practice in Rochester, Dr. Lowenguth was recently appointed a faculty member in the Department of Periodontology.

EDC's Farash Auditorium was filled to overflowing on commencement day, June 16. Following the ceremonies, a reception was held in the Atrium to honor the 31 members of EDC's Class of 1989. Family, friends, faculty, staff and future graduates gathered to offer congratulations and to say goodbye.

**EDC**

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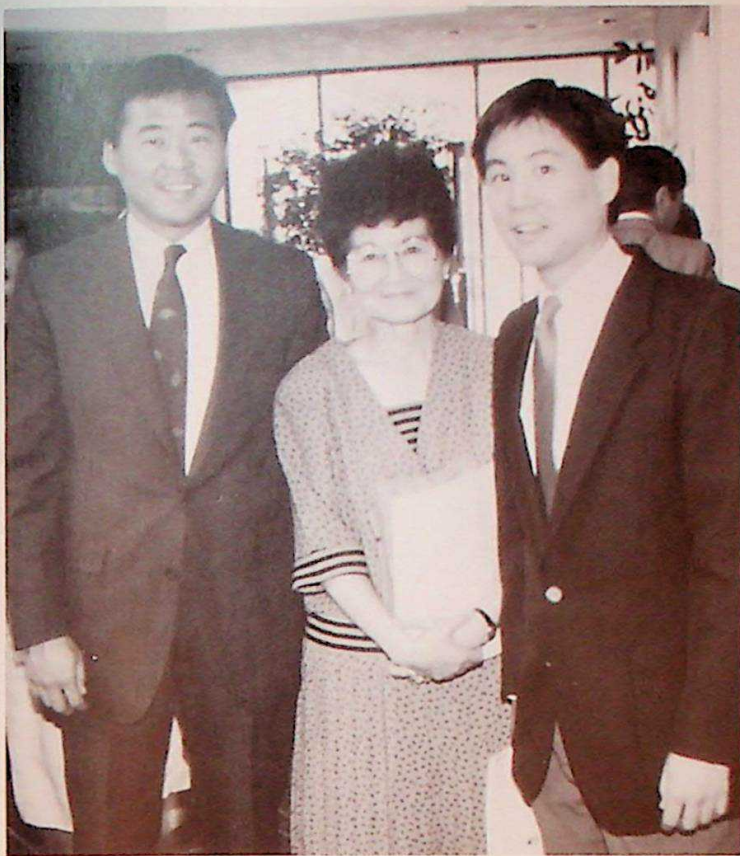


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photo by George S. Morgan

(Above) General Dentistry graduate Dr. Anabel Noriega (*cntr.*) continues her EDC studies in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. She is pictured with her husband, periodontology student Dr. Carlos Quinones (*l.*), and Department of Periodontology Chairman Dr. Alan M. Polson (*r.*).

(Left) Department of Orthodontics graduate Dr. Mark Iritani (*r.*) with his brother, Bob (*l.*), and mother, Irene (*cntr.*). Dr. Iritani is currently part-time instructor in the Department of Orthodontics, University of Colorado School of Dentistry. He also works in a private orthodontic practice in Denver.

# Commencement 1989



photo by George S. Morgan

(Above) Department of Prosthodontics graduate Dr. Heidi Huber (*l.*) and General Dentistry graduates Dr. Javier Tormo (*cntr.*) and Dr. Zully Criado (*r.*). Dr. Huber plans to enter private practice in her hometown, Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Tormo, who received a research fellowship for the 1988-89 academic year, returned to private practice in Costa Rica. Dr. Criado is currently in Baltimore, MD., and looks forward to starting private practice.

(Right) General Dentistry graduates Dr. Lonny Gatlin (*l.*) and Dr. Andre Puppini (*r.*). Dr. Gatlin was accepted into the M.B.A. program at the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business. Dr. Puppini returned to his native Brazil to continue private practice.



photo by George S. Morgan



## Alumni News

**Charles M. Brenner** (GEN DEN '74; PED DEN '76) was appointed to the Clinical Affairs Committee of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. A clinical instructor in EDC's Dept. of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Brenner has a private pediatric dental practice in Rochester.

**Olwyn Diamond** (ORTHO '79) and **Ralph H. Francis** (ORTHO '71) were recently certified as Diplomates by the American Board of Orthodontics.

**Glen Ehrenman** (PED DEN '87) made a July 22 guest appearance on the ABC television news magazine, "New York Views." He discussed nursing bottle decay and dentistry for the developmentally disabled.

**Margaret C. Hamilton Grundy** (GEN DEN '62) writes from Solihull, W. Midlands, England: "I am a senior lecturer in the Department of Children's Dentistry and Orthodontics at Birmingham University. As well as my teaching commitments with undergraduate and postgraduate students, I am involved with the care of a large number of handicapped patients of all ages. I completed my thesis, 'A longitudinal study of maxillary arch growth from two and a half years to twelve and a half years of age,' and was awarded a D.D.S. in July, 1988. I am at present working on the 5th edition of 'Pathology for Dental Students' (Walter, Hamilton and Israel) and have just published 'Diagnostic picture tests in Pediatric Dentistry' (Rock, Grundy and Shaw).

"My husband, also a Senior lecturer at the Dental school, is in the Department of Conservative Dentistry. Our daughter Emma is 18 years and hopes to go to the university in October and our son Angus who is 16 is still at school.

"We escape whenever possible to Poole on the south coast of England where we have a house and boat."

**Nikos Kafandaris** (GEN DEN '78) was named associate professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, Dental School of the University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

**Harvey Levy** (GEN DEN '76) was awarded a fellowship by the American Association of Hospital Dentistry in recognition of his work with the handicapped. He was awarded the fellowship in May, 1989, at the First Annual National Conference on Special Care Issues in Dentistry, held in Chicago.

Dr. Levy practices general dentistry in Frederick, Maryland, and is president-elect of the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry.

**Mario E. Paz** (GEN DEN '84, ORTHO '87) was selected by the American Association of Orthodontists as the recipient of the Harry Sicher First Research Essay Award for 1989 for his essay, "Correlation Between Computed Tomography (CT) and Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) and Meniscal Disorders — A Direct Sagittal CT, Anatomic and Histologic Study.

The award, which carries a \$500 cash prize, was presented on May 14 during the association's annual session, held in Anaheim, California.

Dr. Paz recently joined the lingual orthodontic practice of Dr. Craven Kurz in Beverly Hills, California. Dr. Paz and his wife, Linda, live in Marina del Rey.

Dept. of Periodontics alumni **Brian E. Reed** ('82) and **Martha J. Somerman** ('78) recently were named Diplomates of the American Board of Periodontology.

**Buddhi Shrestha** (PED DEN '70) presented a paper entitled "Prevalence of dental caries and malocclusion of primary dentition in WIC and non-WIC children" at the 1990 ORCA Congress held in July in York, England, U.K.

**Patra Watanakosolsri** (PED DEN '89) and **Mark Iritani** (ORTHO '89) are engaged to be married in the summer of 1990.

## What's new...How's by you?

If we haven't heard from you lately — or even if we have — we encourage all our alumni and friends to put pen to paper and tell us what's happening. We know that all *Momentum* recipients would love to read all about it, whatever "it" happens to be. Take a moment to write us about your new job, new book, new accolade, new spouse or newborn. Remember, it's always news to *Momentum*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

(please include area code)

Here's what's new with me \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send your notes to: *Momentum* Editor, Eastman Dental Center, 625 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

Due to publication deadlines, we may not always print your news right away. Never fear, if you don't see it in one issue, look for it in the very next one.

## Correction

The class affiliation of Dr. Peter Hawker was listed incorrectly in the spring edition of *Momentum*. His correct affiliation is GEN DEN '81, PROSTHO '83.

# MOMENTUM

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