

# THE BRIDGE

SCHULICH DENTISTRY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | 2014



# Congratulations to the Schulich Dentistry Class of 2013

**Justin Abbott**  
**Maxwell Abraham**  
**Mina Al-Mosawi (Abdul-Kareem)**  
**Rudha Al-Rohani** – Toronto Academy Crown & Bridge Study Club Award  
**Ali Awada**  
**Paul Azzopardi**  
**Ian Boswall**  
**Patricia Brooks** – Quintessence Research Award  
**Cecilia Chan**  
**Justine Chan**  
**Junle Chao**  
**Irina Chevtchenko** – Senior Award in Paediatric Dentistry  
**Sungrok Choi** – Michael Brooke Award in Oral Medicine  
**David D'Silva** – Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Award | CDA Student Leadership Award  
**Diego Diaz Guerrero** – American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons | Dr. Igor Bolta Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry  
**Jillian Faraci** – American Association of Orthodontics Award in Oro-Facial Growth  
**Shaun Filonowicz**  
**Melissa Frattolin**  
**Roxana Ghergari**  
**David Harris**  
**Kathy Huynh**  
**Richard Jackson**  
**Junho Kim**  
**Alison Kliman** – D. Donald S. Moore Award in Occlusal Therapy  
**Alyson Kohlmeier**  
**Emona Kraja** – American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award  
**Preetinder Kulaar**  
**Aaron Langdon**  
**Seol Lee** – Dr. Paul S. Sills Award in Prosthodontics | Dr. Walter R. Teteruck Award in Fixed Prosthodontics  
**Helena Lim** – American Association of Endodontists Award  
**Michael Lung**  
**Sheri Margolian**  
**Wendall Mascarenhas** – UWO Gold Medal | American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award | The (Senior) Oral Pathology Award | American Academy of Periodontology Award  
**Sherri Mathew**  
**Neha Minhas**  
**Halston Nepinak** – Quintessence Award in Periodontics | Quintessence Award in Restorative Dentistry  
**Raffi Peleg**  
**Daniya Pervaiz** – Academy of Dentistry for the Disabled Award  
**Ashley Phuong**  
**Aaron Podorieszch**  
**Hanieh Rahimi**  
**Nafiseh Rahnama**  
**Krystal Rickus** – Alpha Omega Award | 3M Canada Clinical Award in Restorative Dentistry  
**Sahar Rodfar**  
**Mehtab Sandhu**  
**Emily Santander** – Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award | Professionalism Award 4th Year/ITD2  
**Chen Hung (Andy) Shih** – Dr. John C. McLister Service Award  
**Sukhraj Shinger**  
**Randeep Sidhu**  
**Ranmeet Sidhu**  
**Satinder Sidhu**  
**Jenna Simon** – London & District Dental Society Award  
**Deanna Vertesi** – American Dental Society Anesthesiology Award  
**Jeremy Wageman**  
**Shibani Walia**  
**Grace Yan**  
**Victoria Yu**

## Internationally Trained Dentists

**Saadia Afzal**  
**Lamis Al-Omar**  
**Sharif Al Sabbagh**  
**Lavina Wilma D'Souza**  
**Somaya Eid**  
**Yao Ge**  
**Elena Grebeniuk** – Dr. George Bedrosian Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry  
**Katarzyna Regina Grella** – Dr. Gerald Z. Wright Award | Dr. Kenneth Pownall Memorial Scholarship  
**Sinan Victor Hannoudi**  
**Alma Frezia Iancau**  
**Iaroslav Irodenko**  
**Sanjeev Jaswal**  
**Reem Kakish**  
**Hyam Karam**  
**Hooman Katbab**  
**Rand Luka** – Dr. Glenn Walker Award  
**Rustam Mamiyashev**  
**Ahmad Marei**  
**Nasim Oktaei**  
**Tony Sarkis**  
**Maya Sukarnan**



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# From the Desk of Dr. Harinder Sandhu



By the time you receive this issue of The Bridge, Schulich Dentistry will have celebrated the opening of the School's General Anesthetic Suite. It was an event we had anticipated for several months and one we were most proud to share with the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, our Dean, and representatives of several of our associations and governing bodies.

This Suite puts Schulich Dentistry at the forefront of dental education. Through it, we will be able to offer our students more hands-on clinical experience, offer more specialized care to patients with complex requirements, and achieve the goals in the School's 10-year strategic plan "Optimizing Life-long Health." The Suite also creates the foundation for the establishment of a Division of Special Care Dentistry.

I look forward to sharing with you photos from the opening event in future communication.

As you read through your newsletter, you will no doubt notice what an exciting year it has been for Schulich Dentistry.

The School's curriculum team was recognized with the School's highest honour, a Dean's Award of Excellence. We had the opportunity to celebrate with the curriculum team at the annual gala dinner held at the Great Hall making it a special evening.

This past spring, dentistry students and researchers from across Canada gathered at Schulich Dentistry to attend the first Canadian Dental Research Student Workshop: Careers in Academic Dentistry. It was hosted by The Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR) and facilitated by our own Dr. Walter Siqueira. More than 90 participants attended the two-day workshop initiating a unique collaboration between dental schools from across Canada. This was an important event in our mission and it raised the discussion of training academic dentists.

Looking ahead to 2014, there is a great deal of activity underway.

Building on the successful distributed medical education program, we are working to solidify a distributed dental education program that will enrich dental education across Southwestern Ontario.

We are excited about the plans being made in celebration of the School's 50th anniversary. The two-day event will take place the weekend of September 12, 2015. Thanks to a small team of volunteers including Drs. Mara, McLister and Nicolucci, a program is being prepared offering you the chance to reconnect, participate in a continuing dental education program, and relax and enjoy some time together. You will begin to receive more information about the weekend celebration in the coming months.

As always, we look forward to seeing everyone at Homecoming this fall. Mark your calendars for September 18-21. We will once again host our Alumni of Distinction Cocktail Party. You will find nomination forms in your newsletter package; I encourage you to nominate outstanding alumni for these prestigious awards.

Throughout the past decade, Schulich Dentistry has witnessed transformational change; much of that change is attributed to your commitment and support. I am most grateful for this, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to create the best experience for our Schulich Dentistry students.

## **HARINDER SANDHU**

DDS, PhD, Dip. in Perio, FACD, FICD  
Director and Vice-Dean, Schulich Dentistry  
Western University

# A Message from Dr. Michael J. Strong



Welcome to 2014 and another exciting year for the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

There are a number of initiatives underway across the School as we continue to focus on our strategic plan and meeting our promise to achieve our goal to become a global leader in optimizing life-long health through innovations in research education and active engagement with our communities.

Unquestionably, our strategic directions focused on research are at the top of our list. There is incredible work being undertaken each and every day across Schulich Medicine & Dentistry. We are looking forward to the implementation of new opportunities that will expand the great legacy of new discovery at the School while increasing funding, strengthening our role in knowledge translation, and creating new collaborations.

While the cadre of researchers within Schulich Dentistry is small relative to the tremendous breadth of the overall dental program, they perhaps represent most clearly the desire of the School to be highly integrated and collaborative. With a strong focus on biomaterials, salivary proteins and fibrosis, dental researchers have forged exceptionally strong linkages across not only Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, but across the University.

Typical of such a strength is the leadership role that dental researchers play in the University wide program in musculoskeletal health, which has become a leading program nationally. And, with the increasing awareness of the gut microbiome being a key determinant of health, research carried out by Schulich Dentistry continues to play a role in understanding this aspect of health.

This issue of *The Bridge* highlights a number of research activities underway at Schulich Dentistry including the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research workshop held this past spring, and our own student researcher awards. It also profiles three of our researchers: Graeme Hunter, PhD, a 2013 Faculty Scholar; Dr. Les Kalman and Dr. Walter Siqueira. Their work and that of many others continues to lead the way in dental research.

All the best,

**MICHAEL J. STRONG**

MD, FRCP(C)

Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Distinguished University Professor, Western University

## Celebrating 50 years of Dentistry

In 2015, Schulich Dentistry will be celebrating 50 years of dental education and research. A small team of volunteers has been making plans for an exciting weekend for all our alumni. Mark your calendars for September 12, 2015 and watch your mailboxes for news about all the planned activities.

## Curriculum Team receives Award of Excellence



The curriculum renewal team; Kim Scott, Dr. Richard Bohay, Dr. Harinder Sandhu and Brenda Davis (absent is Mari Long).

This past May, Schulich Dentistry's Curriculum Renewal Team was recognized with a Dean's Award of Excellence, the school's highest honour, for their efforts in successfully implementing the School's new curriculum.

Launched in 2009, the curriculum redesign was carefully implemented during a four-year period. It was built upon a foundation of comprehensive patient care and includes new features, such as increased clinical experience, off-site electives and emphasis on a treatment team environment. Just a few weeks following the team's honour, the Class of 2013 celebrated their convocation as the the first Class to complete all four years of the new dentistry curriculum.



Participants gather at Schulich Dentistry for the first-ever Canadian Dental Research Student Workshop.

## Schulich Dentistry hosts the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research

Schulich Dentistry became workshop central for the first-ever Canadian Dental Research Student Workshop: Careers in Academic Dentistry. Hosted by the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR) and facilitated by Dr. Walter Siqueira the workshop brought together more than 90 participants from 10 dental schools for two days of lectures and research presentations. The workshop was an important step towards supporting research capacity within the Canadian oral health community and focused on fostering careers in academic dentistry and the opportunities and barriers facing students interested in oral health research.

## A career worth celebrating

The Division of Graduate Orthodontics celebrated the 40-year career of Dr. John Murray upon his retirement from Schulich Dentistry this year. Dr. Murray joined Orthodontics as a faculty member in 1973 and continued to make a meaningful contribution to the program throughout his career, including sitting on the Admissions Committee, preparing students in biomechanics, and providing guidance throughout the thesis process. His major contribution was the continued supervision of the edgewise orthodontic clinic every Thursday morning for 40 years. In November 2012, the John and Nancy Murray Award was established by his former students and friends in celebration of his career. Despite his retirement, Dr. Murray still makes himself available to cover last-minute emergency clinic needs, participates in social events and he remains a lifelong friend of the Division of Graduate Orthodontics.

## Sharing Smiles Day receives Pillar Innovation Award nomination

Congratulations to Schulich Dentistry's faculty, staff and students who helped organize the 2013 Oral Health Total Health Sharing Smiles Day. The event was chosen as a finalist for an Innovation Award as part of the 2013 Pillar Nonprofit Innovation Awards in London. The Awards celebrate community programs that work to make the London community brighter. Sharing Smiles Day aims to improve access to oral health care for special needs patients.



Dr. Jeremy McCallum, DDS '12 and Co-Chair of the London chapter of Oral Health, Total Health.

## Alumni of Distinction

On Homecoming weekend we were pleased to present the Alumni of Distinction Awards and once again celebrate the tremendous contributions of all our alumni. The 2013 recipients were Dr. Suzan Ekim, Young Alumni of Distinction Award recipient, Dr. Jim Jean, Alumni of Distinction Award recipient and Dr. Kenneth H. Wright, Honorary Alumni of Distinction Award recipient.

**L. SUZAN EKIM,  
DDS'01**



### Young Alumni of Distinction Award

If you ask Dr. Harinder Sandhu, Director and Vice-Dean, Schulich Dentistry, he will tell you "whatever Dr. Ekim touches turns to gold," and he's not wrong. After graduating at the top of her class and receiving the gold medal of distinction, Dr. Ekim completed her Orthodontics Residency Specialty Certificate and master's degree in Science at the University of Minnesota. Holding strong to the value of Schulich Dentistry of social responsibility this young alumnus is well known amongst the orthodontic community and an educational leader in her field. Dedicated to giving her patients the beautiful smile they deserve, today she runs a successful practice and is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Minnesota teaching orthodontic care of cleft lip/palate and surgical orthodontic patients.

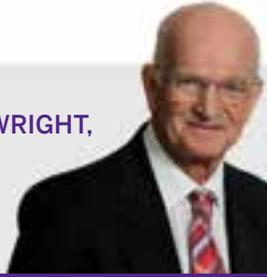
**JAMES E. JEAN,  
DDS'73**



### Alumni of Distinction Award

Dr. James (Jim) E. Jean, DDS '73 was humbled by the honour to be recognized as an alumnus of distinction. However, as you learn more about his commitment to Schulich Dentistry and its students, it is immediately obvious that he is most deserving. Upon graduating, Dr. Jean opened a dental practice, and a year later he went back to the School. This time, however, he wasn't the student, he was the teacher, serving in the role as a part-time pre-clinical instructor. That was 40 years ago. This past fall, he returned to the clinic. In addition to teaching on the clinic floor, Dr. Jean, now an assistant professor, mentors 12 to 14 students annually.

**KENNETH H. WRIGHT,  
DDS**



### Honorary Alumni of Distinction Award

A much-loved professor, Dr. Wright has been described as "a highly regarded periodontist, a popular and inspiring teacher, a man of enormous consciousness and sense of personal responsibility, and a creative and resourceful innovator." Amongst his many accomplishments, Dr. Wright created the Dental Outreach Community Services (DOCS), a program which for five years has been providing free dental care to people in the City of London who are less fortunate and don't have access to dental insurance.



Schulich Dentistry's hockey team celebrates a victory at the ODA President's Cup Classic in Toronto.

## Hockey Classic win

The Schulich Dentistry hockey team was victorious once again at the annual ODA President's Cup Hockey Classic. Playing rivals the University of Toronto, they won by a slim margin of 3-2. This is the second year the team has captured the title. Proceeds from the game went to the Dental Outreach Community Services (DOCS) program at Schulich Dentistry and the Lisa Montanera Bursary at the University of Toronto.

## Schulich Research CIHR funding

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) operating grants were awarded to principal investigators Harvey Goldberg, PhD, and Dean Betts, PhD from the 2013 competition. Meanwhile Goldberg and Graeme Hunter, PhD, along with Frank Beier, PhD from the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry received nearly \$750,000 over five years for the project titled: "Functional Characterization of Bone Sialoprotein." Betts of Physiology and Pharmacology received \$138,000 over five years for a project titled "Extra-telomeric functions of telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) isoforms."

# Celebrating our Commitment to the Community

Social responsibility and a commitment to the community run deep at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry. For more than 132 years, we have achieved academic excellence while at the same time living the value of social responsibility. Each day our faculty, staff, students and alumni contribute to their local and global communities through voluntarism and artistic pursuits. Throughout the 2013/14 academic year, we are celebrating this commitment to the community. At Schulich Dentistry there is no shortage of examples of social responsibility – from fundraising for local charities, providing dental care to disadvantaged communities at home or abroad, or serving as board members – there is a strong commitment to enriching the lives of others.



**Sam Goodman,** Schulich Dentistry Class of 2016

It wasn't until he travelled halfway around the world as part of MedOutreach that Sam Goodman truly realized the full impact that dentistry could have on people's lives. Watching Tanzanian families walk hours through the night to receive free dental care was an eye-opening experience that has changed

the way Goodman views his chosen profession. Throughout the course of six weeks, the team split their time between providing clinical care to patients, sometimes 60 in a day, and providing education and outreach to children in local schools and orphanages.



**Sharon Rasul,** Dentistry Financial Officer

Sharon Rasul learned how to knit from her mother when she was five years old, and then went on to teach herself how to crochet at the age of ten. Hooked from that moment on, she had no idea this new hobby would later provide her with the perfect opportunity to help others in need.

A member of The Crochet Club of London, Rasul and her fellow knitters create beautiful blankets for people in

need, or other charities that auction off the works of art. Since the clubs inception, they have made and donated almost 7,000 afghans to more than 100 different charitable organizations. Although the club only gives away blankets, they create mittens, hats, scarves, and Sharon's favourite, tooth fairy pillows which they sell at bazaars to raise money to buy yarn needed to make the blankets they give away.



## Dental Outreach Community Service

The Dental Outreach Community Services (DOCS) was initiated by Dr. Ken Wright in 2008 as a voluntary program for dental students and other dental professionals. The program became part of the dental curriculum in 2012. It provides free dental care to low-income families without dental insurance. Since its inception the mobile dental unit has

travelled throughout London, setting up clinics at various community centres to complete examinations, clean fillings, tooth extractions and provide simple denture delivery. In January 2014, Dr. Wright was named to the City of London Mayor's New Year's Honour List for his dedication to the community and the DOCS program.



## Dr. Les Kalman

Assistant professor

Les Kalman's passion for photography and motorsports fuels a commitment for global community support. A credentialed motorsport photojournalist with MotoGP, he has used images to create pictorial calendars and auction items for charities. Organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Canadian Riders Safety Fund and the Riders For Health Campaign have all benefitted from his generosity. Dr. Kalman also recently shared his photography with the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry community and pieces were featured for the School's holiday cards and a pictorial calendar.



## Dr. Barry Schwartz, Assistant professor

In Dr. Schwartz's courses on dental ethics, he encourages students to become moral exemplars and community leaders. He also strives to teach by example. He has done this in strides. In the past decade alone, Dr. Schwartz served as a Director on the York-Simcoe District Health Council and chaired the steering committee for a multi-year plan that recommended resource allocation. He supervised two groups of students

as they undertook research as part of an outreach mission. And he currently serves as a community member in the field of research ethics oversight and on the Research Ethics Policy Advisory Committee for the University of Toronto. His tireless commitment to fundraising was recognized through the awarding of the United Jewish Appeal Federation Campaign Distinguished Service Award.

# Schulich Dentistry's ITD Program

## Fulfilling a family's dream

Nuha Baalbaki says being in the Internationally Trained Dentist (ITD) Program at Schulich Dentistry is the fulfillment of a dream.

Baalbaki and her husband Sharif Al Sabbagh, grew up and went to university in Syria, both becoming dentists. They met when they were taking postgraduate training in oral surgery. When they graduated in 1992, the couple went to Saudi Arabia to practise. Fifteen years and three children later, they moved to Canada.

"We wanted Canada for the future of our three sons mainly. Our oldest, Amr dreamed of being a scientist and he wouldn't have achieved his dream at home," said Baalbaki. Now, when she sees the civil unrest in her native country, she feels lucky to be here.

"We visited this School in 2006. It was Christmas time and we were standing in the patient parking lot, just having that dream. We wanted to be at Western University; Sharif would be enrolled first and I would be second. And that same dream came true."

It wasn't easy. ITD Program coordinator, Mari Long said the program is very competitive with nearly 170 applications each year for 20 spots. Candidates must have permanent

resident status or Canadian citizenship, pass an English proficiency test, and take an exam called the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge offered by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB). And that's only the start of the process.

The top 100 applicants are selected by the ITD Selection Committee, then have to undergo a two-day Prior Learning Assessment to ensure they have the same level of knowledge and skill as other dental students entering third year. The top 40 applicants are then invited to an interview, where only 20 to 22 actually make it into the program.

Schulich Dentistry started what was then called the "Qualifying Program" back in 1997. After completing the two year program, foreign trained dentists received a certificate and were able to take their NDEB exams. The name of the program changed to ITD in 2005 and graduates were awarded the same Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree as those enrolled in the undergraduate dentistry program. Five years ago, a decision was made to present the earlier graduates of the program with retroactive DDS degrees.

So far, the Schulich Dentistry ITD Program has graduated 188 dentists





**“It was Christmas time and we were standing in the patient parking lot, just having that dream. We wanted to be at Western University.”**

— NUHA BAALBAKI

from 50 different countries and there are currently another 42 enrolled. Most have come from India followed by Iraq, Iran, China and Romania. Eleven were trained in Syria.

After 15 years practising dentistry and oral surgery, Baalbaki admits it was hard to be a student again. “Initially for the first couple of months, you ask yourself ‘did I make the right decision?’ But when you are adjusted to the program, and with the nice people here, it gets easier.” She says it’s been especially valuable to learn Canada’s patient-management system.

Baalbaki’s husband graduated from the ITD Program last year and is now practising at the Cosmos Dental Centre, and one day a week at Colborne Family Dentistry. Their son, Amr, is in second year Biomedical Science at Western University. Their middle son, a grade 11 student, is aspiring to follow his parents’ footsteps, and their youngest is in grade two. Baalbaki looks forward to graduating from the ITD Program next year, and now has a new dream; that one day the whole family will have degrees from Western.



# Designing a future in Dentistry

Sarah Shell's ties to the New York fashion scene bring a unique creativity to the dental chair

Sarah Shell's name is linked with the likes of Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift. So how does the second-year Schulich Dentistry student find herself in such company?

It's all about the handbag.

Shell is a fashion designer and founder of 442 McAdam, a Canadian company that makes luxury leather bags. While dentistry and fashion may seem like an odd mix, it's the innovative aspects of both that appeal to Shell. "Dentistry has the creative side, social side, entrepreneurial side; the more I thought about it, it fit my personality," she explained.

After years in the fashion world, she took the Dental Aptitude Test and was accepted into Schulich Dentistry. "From day one, I knew I was in it all the way. I love it every day," said 32-year-old Shell of her time so far at Schulich Dentistry. "I've met such incredible people in this program, the dentists and students are so interesting."

Shell completed an undergraduate degree in biology at McGill University and was then accepted to Parsons: The New School for Design, an elite century-old design institute in New York. "People are so surprised when I tell them it was the most intense year and a half of my life," Shell said. As part of her program, she worked several sleepless weeks at New York Fashion Week.

After completing the design course, Shell interned for various companies, such as Club Monaco and Gucci, but found it too much of a desk job. "I didn't feel that creative freedom that I felt

in school," she said. "The reality is not glamorous."

It was a chance encounter in a Calgary hunting store that inspired Shell's designer aspirations. Asked to create a report on leather straps as part of a freelancing opportunity, she rediscovered her love of the industry through these hunting accessories.

"I saw these rifle slings and they were so beautiful, how intricately they were designed," she said. Never able to find a leather bag she liked, Shell bought one of the rifle straps and decided to make one for her mom; she then made one for herself. The bags quickly grew popular and local retailers jumped on board.

Her designs have since been featured in several fashion magazines. And when names like Gaga, Swift, Perry and Cyrus all want your bags life has got to be good. "I remember hearing about Lady Gaga and going gaga," Shell said. "It's a wonderful moment, but to me the 'I made it' moment is when my mom comes home and tells me people stopped her on the street and asked her about her bag."

While Schulich Dentistry is now her priority, Shell still spends her weekends keeping the designs flowing and the company thriving. "Things are going great for me. I'm not doing it (designing) for the career aspect anymore, but for the love of doing it for myself," she said. "I got lost in the business side of it, but it's now back to doing it for me."

**"Dentistry has the creative side, social side, entrepreneurial side; the more I thought about it, it fit my personality"**

— SARAH SHELL

# Out with the old, in with the new

Dr. Les Kalman is developing a cutting-edge Facebook application for smart devices

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**“What I’m trying to do is offer technology at a very affordable cost, that’s accessible,”**

— DR. LES KALMAN





Dr. Les Kalman, DDS '99 and Schulich Dentistry assistant professor, remembers his May 2013 trip to Las Vegas well, and not for the reasons most do. Despite the beautiful weather and lively entertainment, he spent 16 hours studying for oral and written examinations with the International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

His perseverance and willpower paid off, as Dr. Kalman now holds Diplomate credentials with the ICOI. And it's an honour that suits him well. The Division of Restorative Dentistry assistant professor is a technology innovator, having developed a digital Facebow application for smart devices and a ground-breaking hybrid sports guard for athletes.

The Facebow app is a replacement for the analogue version, used to assess a patient's bite, and launched on the Android market in July. The application was designed by Dr. Kalman to improve accuracy, efficiency and cost. "We see that it helps the patient, helps the clinician and takes the frustration away," he said. "I think everyone can benefit, including the profession." With funding support through an Internal Research Grant from the School, Dr. Kalman was able to manage the necessary software creation and assess the app's impact this past summer. An online tutorial

demonstrating how to use the digital Facebow application is available on YouTube.

Inspiration for his other project, the hybrid sports guard, comes from Dr. Kalman's experience as a competitive athlete. The current prototype is a turning point in sports dentistry, he said. The researcher is looking to submit a provisional patent on the technology and increase its exposure in the market.

Both products are clinically driven, said Dr. Kalman. "What I'm trying to do is offer technology at a very affordable cost, that's accessible," he said.

Dr. Kalman attributes his research and career success to the education he received at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry. "When I was here in dentistry, I had phenomenal instructors," he said. "That professionalism was instilled in me too."

After years in the private sector, he also considers teaching at Schulich Dentistry among his biggest professional accomplishments. "To have all those students come to you for direction, to be able to have an impact on them the way instructors had an impact with me is pretty cool," said Dr. Kalman. "It's a true privilege."



# Dr. Walter Siqueira

Fuelled by the adrenaline in his lab, this researcher is inspiring Schulich Dentistry students to dream big

Dr. Walter Siqueira, assistant professor at Schulich Dentistry and in the Department of Biochemistry, is known to colleagues as “Saliva Guy.” The license plate on the researcher’s car is “Saliva 1” and he attends a global saliva conference with the International Association of Dental Research every two years.

Dr. Siqueira is studying saliva as a therapeutic and diagnostic fluid. His lab works to identify and amplify proteins in saliva that prevent periodontal disease and tooth decay. They are also analyzing biomarkers to assist in the fast diagnosis of a range of illnesses, including asthma and Dengue Fever. “With new technology, saliva became a very fashionable fluid,” explained Dr. Siqueira. “A lot of the pharmaceutical companies look at saliva as an investment, because you can use saliva to detect systemic disease.”

Dr. Siqueira and researchers at Schulich Dentistry are having a significant impact on the overall health of Canadians by connecting functions

of the oral cavity to the rest of the body. Dental research has led to improvements in patient care, clinical techniques and treatment advances.

With such a passion for his research, it is important to Dr. Siqueira that Schulich Dentistry students understand and get involved in lab work. He has six graduate students working with him throughout the year. He also takes on three students for the Summer Student Research Program. Dr. Siqueira’s goal is to encourage critical thinking. “They need to understand the environment of the research,” he said.

Dr. Siqueira says he understands what students experience when professors present lectures on heavy scientific material. When dental students begin their studies, “the idea is that dentistry is just about opening a cavity and seeing a cavity,” he explained. “I try to show the students that you need to know basic science such as biochemistry, to interpret data when you

are in your dental office in real life.”

Since his arrival in 2009, Dr. Siqueira’s commitment to research and Schulich Dentistry students has led to new learning opportunities. During the academic year, he facilitates an informal student research group that meets monthly to discuss a variety of research topics. The group has more than 80 members and an active Facebook page. “My function there is to bring papers with different point of views with different conclusions and challenge the students,” said Dr. Siqueira. His work is also vital in the School’s mission to provide exceptional education and learning.

Dr. Siqueira enjoys the adrenaline of his lab in Schulich Dentistry. “I like science, because every day is a different thing,” he said. “I love when students come to me and say they have found something different and we begin to dream.”

**Dr. Siqueira and researchers at Schulich Dentistry are having a significant impact on the overall health of Canadians by connecting functions of the oral cavity to the rest of the body.**

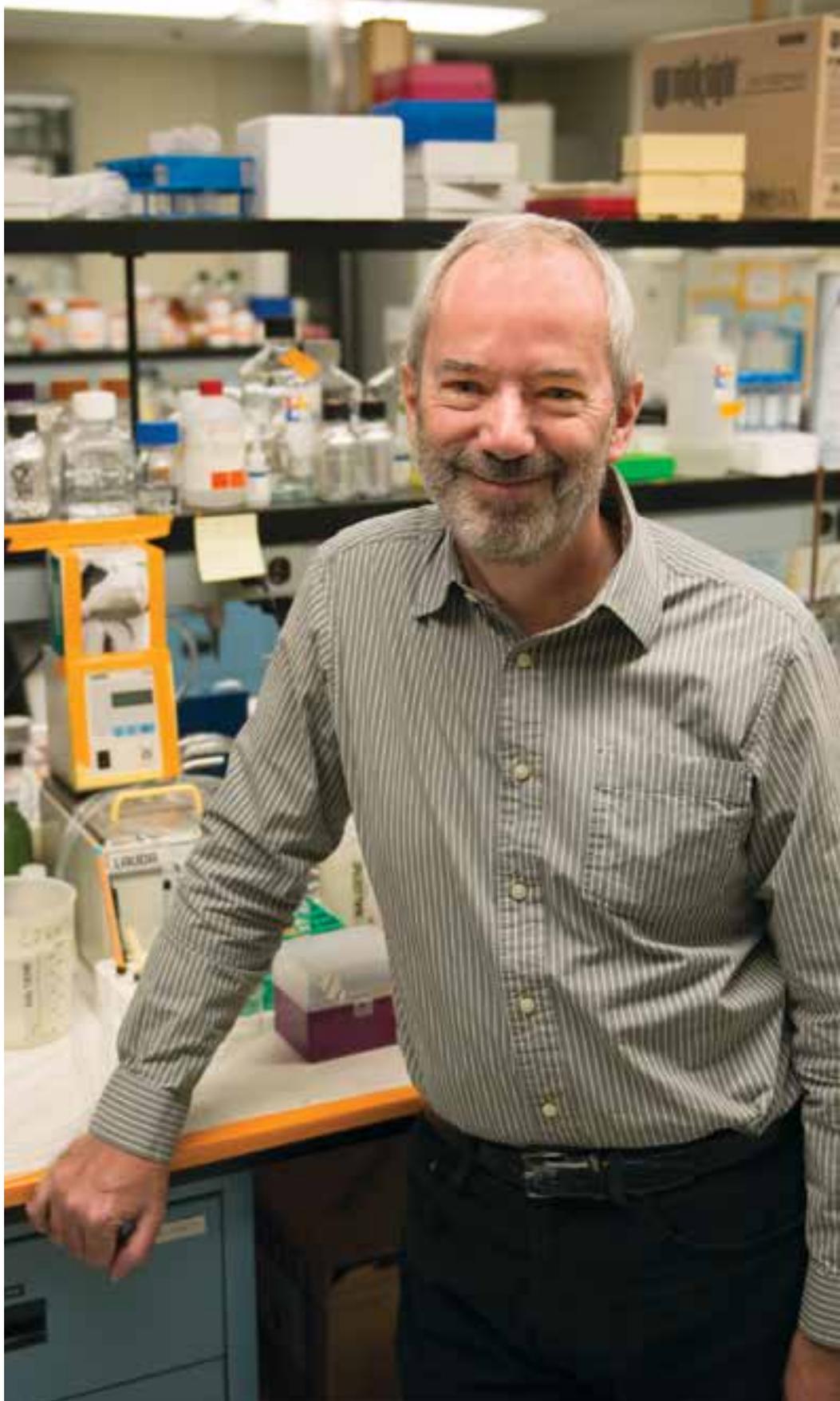


# Crystal clear

Dr. Graeme Hunter's work with proteins is impacting the future of oral health

**“I think it’s important to re-invent yourself as a scientist. You have to be continually introducing new techniques, new collaborations.”**

— DR. GRAEME HUNTER





The possibility of a new discovery gets Graeme Hunter, PhD, out of bed every morning. The Schulich Dentistry and Department of Biochemistry professor enjoys the thrill of an unexpected result when analyzing his research data. "Scientists have a unique opportunity to know something that nobody ever knew before," he said.

This inquisitiveness is part of a distinguished 23-year career at Schulich Dentistry. Hunter was the recipient of a 2013 Faculty Scholars Award from Western University. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and research, accompanied by a \$14,000 grant to be used in support of scholarly pursuits.

"It's a great honour," Hunter said. "It's very difficult for people to understand what you do as a scientist, so what you really want is recognition from your peers, from other scientists and academics."

Hunter's biomineralization research focuses on proteins that prevent crystal formation in the body's soft tissues. These crystals can cause painful and life-threatening diseases, such as kidney stones and atherosclerosis, a hardening of the arteries. "We're trying to understand the mechanism by which these proteins act to inhibit the growth of crystals," explained Hunter.

Crystal-inhibiting proteins incorporated into toothpaste or mouthwash also have the potential to prevent the calcification of dental plaque, a buildup of tartar associated with periodontal disease and tooth decay.

Hunter's findings have been published in several academic sources, including the *Journal of Dental Research* and *The Journal of the American Chemical Society*. In 2009, he received the Basic Research in Biological Mineralization Award from the International Association for Dental Research.

Despite his achievements, Hunter is quick to acknowledge the assistance of other Western researchers and faculty members. "It's important to make the point that this is a very collaborative research program," he said.

Focusing on the future helps Hunter stay motivated. "I think that it's important to re-invent yourself as a scientist," he said. "You have to be continually introducing new techniques, new collaborations." It's this philosophy of renewal that guides his work and continues to inspire excellence in research and teaching.

THE RESEARCH AWARDS ARE PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO RECOGNIZE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE SCHOOL'S INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH.

## 2013 Student Research Awards

### Quintessence Research Award (Graduating Dental Student)

The Quintessence Research Award is awarded on the recommendation of the Schulich Dentistry Research Committee following nomination by faculty supervisors to a graduating DDS student who has been exemplary in research in the undergraduate dental program.

**Patricia Brooks (DDS 2013)**

### CADR Student Research Award

CADR provides a limited number of CADR Student Research Awards available for trainees to present their research at the annual AADR/CADR meeting.

**Kathleen Martin (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton

## Schulich Dentistry Research Day Awards

### CDA/DENTSPLY Travel Award

Awarded to the first-place winner of the Student Poster Presentations to represent Schulich Dentistry and present a research poster at the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) Annual Convention.

**Joel Keshwah (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton

### ADA Conference Travel Award

Awarded to represent Schulich Dentistry at the ADA Dental Students' Conference on Research. The purpose of this conference is to introduce outstanding dental students to scientists from the ADAF Paffenbarger Research Center (PRC), the ADA oral health industry leaders and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) with the goal of raising their awareness of the wide-ranging careers available in oral health research.

**Mohammad Garshasb (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. J. Santos

### HINMAN STUDENT RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARD

Student Poster Presentation Award for travel in the following year to the Hinman Student Research Symposium in Memphis, Tennessee. The Symposium is a national meeting that features presentations of research studies from dental schools across North America.

**2013 Symposium –**  
**Joel Keshwah (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton

**2014 Symposium –**  
**Nicole Johnson (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Siqueira

### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Student Poster Presentation Award at Dentistry's Annual Research Day (cash award).

**Kathleen Martin (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton

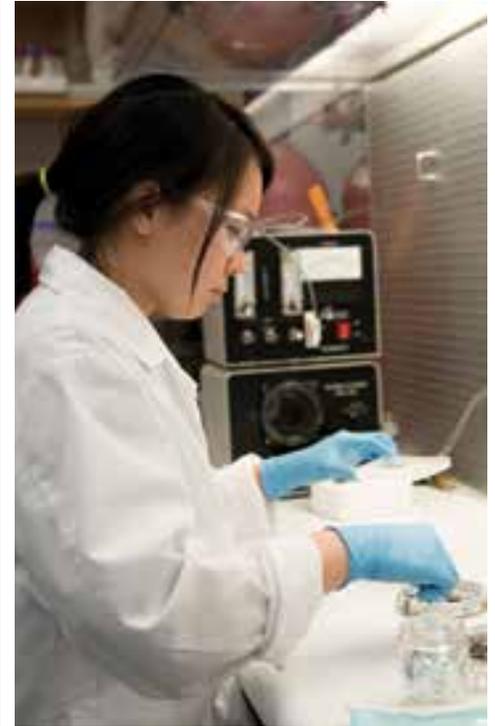
### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (Senior Category)

Awarded to the top 3 presentations in the Senior Category at Dentistry's Annual Research Day.

**Erik Holm (DCS Candidate)**  
Supervised by Dr. Goldberg

**Barry Lai (BMSc Student)**  
Supervised by Dr. Rizkalla

**Shawna Kim (DCS Candidate)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton



## Funding Awards

### DENTISTRY SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM 2013 DDS STUDENTS

**Leanna Dunn (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Ari

**Ziana Esmail (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Séguin

**Mohammad Garshasb (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Santos

**Holly Javidnia (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Kalman

**Nicole Johnston (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Siqueira

**Joel Keshwah (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton

**Matthew Kreher (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Santos

**Kathleen Martin (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hamilton

**Lu Lu Shen (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Leask

**Ali Tanara (DDS 2016)**  
Supervised by Dr. Siqueira

**Grant Vezina (DDS 2015)**  
Supervised by Dr. Hunter

# Celebrating Schulich Dentistry

There was a great feeling of celebration at the annual Schulich Dentistry Fall Awards event with more than 29 awards presented to faculty and students.

Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Osman was honoured with the W. W. Wood Faculty Award. This special award commemorates Dr. Bill Wood, whose academic career exemplified dedication to research, teaching and service and recognizes excellence in dental education.

Barbara Zaritsky was presented with the C.Y. Lung Faculty Award, recognizing outstanding contributions made by a part-time faculty member to the undergraduate dental program.

## Students receiving additional honours include:

### Jennifer Boogaards

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Dean's Award of Excellence; Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship First Year

### Mohammad Garshasb

ADA Foundation Travel Award

### Dickson Kong

General Medicine Award

### Kimberly Ngai

Toronto Crown & Bridge Study Club Award

### Martin Reiss

Dr. Sam Ioannidis Memorial Award



## Class of 2015

### Brandon Brillan

Laura Stakiw Memorial Award; Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship Second Year; American Dental Society Anesthesiology Award

### Ashley Chan

Dr. Donald MacLean Award in Oral Radiology

### Nicole Johnson

Hinman Student Research Travel Award (for 2014 travel)

### Tara Kennedy

Centennial Orthodontic and Paediatric Dentistry Award

### Joel Keshwah

Hinman Student Research Travel Award (for 2013 travel); CDA/Dentsply Travel Award

### Kathleen Martin

Award of Research Excellence

### Anh-Quan Nguyen

Toronto Crown & Bridge Study Club Award

## Class of 2014

### Rachelle Blue

International College of Dentists Award

### Justin Bubola

Dentistry Class of 1975 Scholarship; Western Faculty Association Scholarship

### Shaunna Hamat

Canadian Academy of Periodontology Award

### Alweena Munjal

Sunstar/G.U.M. Clinical Proficiency Award

### Shannon Munsie

Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award

### Rachelle Laviolette

Elgin Dental Association Award in Oral Surgery

### Jeffrey Lovell

Association of Prosthodontists of Ontario Award

### Poonampreet Sekhon

Centennial Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry Award

### Laura Van Damme

Professionalism Award Third Year

### Donato Viggiani

Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

## Leading the way

Two years after graduation, Dr. Auzzie Reyhani is already molding the next generation of dentists through teaching and outreach opportunities

There's a lot of teeth talk around Dr. Auzzie Reyhani's, DDS '12, dinner table on Friday nights, as her family sits down for their weekly meal together. Both her sister and brother-in-law are dentists, a family connection that first attracted Dr. Reyhani to the profession. "Shadowing my sister in her office and learning first-hand about the impact that dentists can have on a patient's quality of life is really what inspired me to commit to dentistry," she said.

Student involvement and improving lives is why Dr. Reyhani chose to study at Schulich Dentistry. She worked with the Dental Outreach Community Services (DOCS) program in her final two years at the School, gaining invaluable patient care experience. "Schulich Dentistry really gets you involved early on and I know a lot of schools don't do that," she said.

Dr. Reyhani also spent three weeks providing oral health care to the residents of Sioux Lookout in northern Ontario as part of her Graduate Practice Residency at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital. A lack of understanding about oral health meant many patients waited until emergency situations before seeking treatment.

These experiences led to the creation of DocsKids, inspired by the DOCS program. The initiative launched in September and provides preventative oral health care education for children 18 years and younger in the London area.

With the help of first- and second-year student volunteers from Schulich Dentistry, participants learn about sugar content, the consequences of smoking and tooth extractions. The emphasis on interactive activities helps get the health message across and sessions are kept to 45 minutes to work with short attention spans. "Our goal is to educate the kids and provide them with the tools and the foundation to be able to make the decision to brush every night, floss every night," said Dr. Reyhani.

The program also benefits dental students by giving them experience in community outreach and patient care. "Learning how to explain the significance of preventative oral health care, that's a huge learning curve as a student," said Dr. Reyhani.

Dr. Reyhani is hopeful DocsKids will expand to other schools across Canada. She will continue working in dental outreach and envisions a career serving the community. "That's what matters to me," she said. "Those are the times the





**“Our goal is to educate the kids and provide them with the tools and the foundation to be able to make the decision to brush every night, floss every night,”**

— DR. AUZZIE REYHANI

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patient gets out of the chair to give you a hug and truly appreciates and thanks you for what you’ve done.”

The instruction and guidance Dr. Reyhani received at Schulich Dentistry also encouraged her to pursue teaching. She holds part-time clinical instructor positions at both Schulich Dentistry and the University of Toronto, working in private practice the remainder of the week.

Dr. Reyhani’s interests for the future lie in orthodontics. She will be starting the University of Toronto’s Graduate Orthodontics program in June. “I’ve never been so passionate about something before,” she explained. “I couldn’t be more thrilled to be given this opportunity.” She’ll soon have lots more teeth talk to contribute on Friday night family dinners.

# A homecoming for Dr. Joel Napeñas

It's been, as the song goes 'a long and winding road', but Dr. Joel Napeñas is now back where he started. In 2013, he joined Schulich Dentistry as an assistant professor in oral medicine; the same dental school where he earned his dentistry degree in 2002.

While most of his classmates immediately went into private practice following graduation, Dr. Napeñas decided to head south of the border to Dayton, Ohio to complete a residency in oral medicine. Doing so gave him the opportunity to work directly with patients. "I liked being in a hospital, seeing more complex patients that had medical issues and interacting with physicians on a daily basis."

Following his residency, he took a position at the Carolinas Medical Center in North Carolina. His next move was to Houston, to become the residency program director at the University of Texas. Two years later he returned to the Carolinas Medical Center, this time as its residency program director.

Dr. Napeñas and his wife missed Southwestern Ontario, where they had both grown up. "Yes, I had a dream job, but we missed being at home close to our family. We had also just started our own family, and we wanted to be back where we could raise our family with family." In considering a move, he was determined to remain active in academics and teaching. He loved dealing with students. "That's what brought me back here."

Dr. Napeñas also teaches a wide variety of topics in oral diagnosis. Primarily, he supervises third- and fourth-year students in the clinic when they're seeing their patients for the first time.

"There are many things that are very familiar, so when I interact with students, I can see some of the challenges that they experience and I can certainly

**"The best way to learn is to be taught it first, watch it once, assist once, and then actually do it"**

— DR. JOEL NAPEÑAS

relate," said Dr. Napeñas, reflecting on his return to Schulich Dentistry. One of the most important improvements to the program, he has seen, is the introduction of clinical mentors. "The best way to learn is to be taught it first, watch it once, assist once, and then actually do it," he said.

Dr. Napeñas is also involved with clinical research and is currently a section head of the World Workshop of Oral Medicine. The group, comprised of oral medicine experts from around the world, reviews clinical, administrative or educational topics related to oral medicine. He is currently working with five other colleagues on a review of the dental management of medically complex patients. The research will be presented at the workshop in April 2014.

Dr. Napeñas is getting comfortable in his new role, although it does feel strange at times working alongside his former professors. "One of the hardest things is trying to address a former professor by their first name. I still look up to them because I still view them in the role that they were in when I was a student." He added, "it's a great relationship. You now have the benefit of having someone to work alongside, and you can still draw upon their wisdom and their expertise. You're still constantly learning from the people who taught you as a student."





## Welcome to the Class of 2016

**Dr. Meena Na**  
**Dr. Derek Tomson**  
**Dr. Andrew Emanuele**



Graduate Orthodontics celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2013 at a celebratory lunch at the London Hunt and Country Club at the end of March 2013.

Graduating were Dr. Angie Smith (now practising in Kelowna, BC), Dr. Paul Glasser (now practising in Owen Sound, ON) and Dr. Matthew Tse (now practising in Sudbury, ON). At that time the Division of Graduate Orthodontics recognized Dr. John Murray for 40 years of service as a dedicated teacher to the Graduate Orthodontic program. Also during the luncheon, the John and Nancy Murray Award to the second-year residents was inaugurated.

## Following a 20-year tradition, the Program held its annual Holiday Lunch



Front row left to right: Dr. Ali Tassi, Director of Clinic; Patricia Vanin, Dental Assistant; Dr. Antonios Mamandras, Chairman of Graduate Orthodontics; Dr. Natalie Swoboda (Class of 2014); Dr. Angie Smith (Class of 2013); Evelyn Larios, Dental Assitant; Dr. Bhavana Sawhney (Class of 2014); Jacque Geneau, Division Secretary. Second row left to right: Barbara Merner, Clinic Administrator; Dr. Paul Glasser (Class of 2013); Dr. Carrine Bourassa (Class of 2015); Dr. John Murray; Dr. Matthew Tse (Class of 2013); Dr. David Chambers (Class of 2014); Dr. Harbinder Sangha (Class of 2015); Dr. Brian Phee (Class of 2015); JoAnn Pfaff, Dental Assistant.



## 2013-14 New Faculty and Residency Appointments

### Faculty

**Dr. Joel Napeñas**  
**Dr. Nilgun Ari**

### GPR Residents

**Rudha Al-Rohani**  
**Heather Jones**  
**Wendall Mascarenhas**  
**Aadil Shamji**

### OMFS Resident

**Matthew Morrison**



# Celebrating 50 years

SCHULICH DENTISTRY  
1965 - 2015



Schulich Dentistry is a leader in exceptional education, innovative research and the development of socially responsible leaders. Since 1965, we have trained generations of dentists and oral surgeons who have advanced the field of dentistry and contributed to the health and well-being of people across Canada and around the world.

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