Our Mission

To develop and grow national oral health programs that set global standards for technologically advanced, culturally competent, patient-centered dental education; to deliver exceptional oral health care to the world's neediest citizens and its most underserved communities; and to accomplish these goals while grounded in service and collaboration.

Learn more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCTORS AND PROGRAMS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE please visit www.lmcdental.org or call +1 646.801.0039

Lutheran Medical Center Department of Dental Medicine magazine, The Bridge, is published by the Marketing Office for alumni, professionals and friends of the Department.
RESIDENT ROUNDS

In Their Own Words

Kateryna Grytsenko, DDS
Advanced Education in General Dentistry
International Dental Degree from Ukraine
New York University College of Dentistry, DDS

“I came to the United States in 2009 and was accepted at NYU as an advanced placement student in 2011. When the time came to choose a postdoctoral residency, I visited the community health center I’m now placed with. I immediately realized that working there would prepare me for my future career in a private practice in the best possible way because the work I would be doing as a resident is similar to a private practice setting. That was a big part of my decision to choose Lutheran Dental’s AEGD program. I spend four days a week at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in Manhattan under the direction of Drs. Chrystalla Orthodoxou and Michelle Witter. They both have been wonderful to work with, very knowledgeable, kind, and willing to share their experiences. I’m the only AEGD resident at the site so I am lucky to benefit from the extra attention the attendings are able to provide. My patient volume is high and I’ve been able to see a diverse population. On Tuesday’s, all AEGD residents spend the day at the main site in rotations with the other dental specialties. Specializing is one of the routes I consider taking, and the program gives me the opportunity to prepare for that. I interact with my fellow residents and learn from various specialists. I like the fact that most of our lectures are recorded, because I can complete them on my own schedule and maximize my clinic time. I feel the program provides an excellent basis for professionals looking to enter into private practice or go into a specialty program.”

Rebecca Rees, DDS
Dental Anesthesiology
Arizona State University, BS in Justice Studies, summa cum laude 2002
University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine, DDS 2012

“Although I will be providing anesthesia for patients in an office-based setting, I wanted my training program to have a healthy hospital-based component. LMC is providing me with the practice and skill I need to feel comfortable and competent upon graduation next year. My attendings are great teachers and I could not ask for a more well-rounded anesthesia experience. It is a lot of hard work but being able to work with such a wide range of patients and procedures is what I appreciate most.”

Amru Albeiruti, DDS
Endodontics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Economics
University of Michigan School of Dentistry, DDS

“My experience entering the program in June, is exceeding my expectations so far. As residents, we are allowed a measure of independence, but the bar for our work is set high and we have great clinical and didactic support from our faculty and attendings. Working in a clinic with GPR residents and other specialty programs is also beneficial; all specialists need to think along multidisciplinary lines in order to provide the best care.

My undergraduate degree is in economics, but healthcare was always in my blood (I have several physicians in my immediate family), so I decided that dentistry best suited my personality and skills. I had no initial plans to specialize, so I practiced general dentistry for 11 years, the last seven of those in my own private practice outside of Grand Rapids, Michigan. I enjoyed all aspects of family dentistry, but I “got the itch,” so to speak, to specialize in endodontics the last few years, as I found that aspect of dentistry to be the most challenging and rewarding for me. I applied to several programs, and I was very lucky and grateful to be accepted to LMC, my top choice! Prior to starting the program I was fortunate to sell my practice to a fine dentist. I still miss my patients and all the personal relationships that I developed in my hometown, but I have no regrets so far in this new phase of my career.

The LMC Endo Program was my top choice for a variety of reasons. I knew before interviewing here that there is no shortage of patients and so there is more than adequate clinical exposure to all areas of endodontics in order to become proficient. The multidisciplinary hospital setting also interested me, as well as the fact that I am also an employee, rather than just a student. Most important to me was the fact that when I met all the residents during my interview they all seemed to be very happy and satisfied here. Having been out of school for some time and in practice for a number of years, made becoming an LMC endo resident simply a no-brainer. Also, my wife and I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to live in one of the world’s great cities, New York City.

Thus far, without a doubt, the best part of the program is the people, both my fellow residents and the faculty. All of them have been very nice, easy to get along with and they have been very helpful. I enjoy interacting and learning from every one of my instructors, and I can tell that they genuinely enjoy what they do.

As stated, I am married and have 3 young kids. Moving our family from a relatively small Midwest town to Brooklyn has been an adventure, but we are definitely enjoying it!”

Continues on page 4
Tuan Pham, DDS  
*General Practice Residency*  
Virginia Tech, BS in Biology  
Howard University College of Dentistry, DDS

“I n July 2013, I started my GPR residency with Lutheran at the Sunset Park Clinic. We now rotate through five different clinics including Sunset Park, Brooklyn Chinese, Caribbean, Park Slope, and Park Ridge, spending one month at a time in each clinic. I have enjoyed treating diverse patient populations and getting to work on more complex cases, as chief resident this year. The attendings at Lutheran are wonderful to work with and extremely knowledgeable. They are gracious in sharing their wisdom and experiences which has made my LMC experience very rich and worthwhile.”

Staci Robinson, DDS  
*Pediatric Dentistry*  
St. John’s University in Queens, NY (Hometown), BS in Biology  
Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, DDS

“Prior to starting my residency at LMC-San Diego I completed a General Practice Residency at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut. What I like most about LMC-San Diego is our unique patient population. Our main clinic is located on the grounds of the only children’s hospital in San Diego. This gives us the opportunity to serve a variety of patients with complex and comprehensive medical histories. On a daily basis we see patients with syndromes that most others have only read about in textbooks.

I have also been involved with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Improvement Change Agent Network (I-CAN) course. The purpose of the I-CAN course is to teach student leaders how to improve population health by exercising leadership to engage others. My experience in the course has inspired me to change the way I interact with my peers in dentistry and in other fields of healthcare. I have been enlightened on the impact of an inter-professional approach in creating pathways to improvement and providing better care for patients.”

Kevin Walker, DDS  
*Orofacial Pain*  
University of Miami, BA in Business Management and Organization  
Howard University College of Dentistry, DDS

“This is the best career & educational decision I have made since graduating from dental school. The Orofacial Pain program at Lutheran Medical Center is truly a bridge between medical and dental professions. Working for a wonderful hospital system such as Lutheran allows residents to maximize our clinical exposure, have variable treatment options, and access to brilliant minds across the entire hospital network. And you couldn’t ask for a more personal, brilliant-minded, and clinically oriented director. Dr. Suarez is truly one of a kind.”

Ryan M. Jenkins, DMD  
*Advanced Program in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry*  
Texas A&M University, BBA, Mays Business School, Information Systems and Operations Management 2004  
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, DMD 2010  
Lutheran Medical Center, General Practice Residency Program 2011

“My experience at Lutheran Medical Center began in 2009 as a dental extern for six weeks while attending Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. The faculty and staff welcomed me, and I was able to work closely with the general practice residents. Based on my experience, I decided to apply for the GPR program at LMC, and after my graduation from Tufts, I completed the residency. During this time, the exposure I received to periodontal surgery and implant dentistry sparked my interest to specialize in the field of periodontics. After a year of working in private practice in Texas, my interest in periodontics was re-affirmed, which led me to apply to the periodontics program at LMC Dental. Because of my positive experiences as an extern and a GPR resident, I felt that LMC was a great choice in advancing my education in periodontics and implant dentistry.

Over the past two years, I have had the honor of being taught and mentored by amazing faculty in the periodontics department. Their clinical and didactic knowledge has been invaluable in my education. One aspect that differentiates LMC from other periodontics programs is the size. Because of the intimate atmosphere of the program, I have developed close and personal relationships with my fellow residents and faculty. I am fully confident that the education and clinical experiences that I have received at LMC have prepared me to excel in my specialty. In the future, I hope to share this knowledge with others in a clinical teaching environment.”
First of all, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for the opportunity to extend my knowledge and disciplinary skills, with the help of the most outstanding professionals who dedicated their life without rest to guide us.

Furthermore, as a humble professional I am writing this letter of appreciation to thank you for your knowledge, wisdom, effort, and patience with us. Most importantly I am looking forward not only to accomplish my goals, but also being able to give back to my community what you have given to me.

Lastly, I appreciate the effort you have put into the program and thus, I have acquired more wisdom, courage, perseverance, and discipline from you and from this outstanding and amazing program.

Thank you for the opportunity and the trust.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ahmed Saleh Kiwan

Macy’s Shop for a Cause Success…
Macy’s Shop for a Cause initiative surpassed its goal raising $785 to benefit Lutheran Family Health Center’s Dental School Health Program. The money will be used to purchase a curing light and other equipment for the program.

Thank you to all who supported this effort.

We Want To Hear From You!
Let us celebrate your successes—share birth announcements, marriages, publishings, promotions, awards, honors, etc… Follow us on Facebook and visit our new Website at www.lmcdental.org.
The Ohio Region

“Working in an FQHC setting has been one of the most gratifying environments I’ve been able to treat patients in. It has transformed the way I view dentistry.” —Dr. Alex Suarez, ’14

The AEGD program in Ohio graduated four dental residents in 2014 placed in four AEGD sites. Three of the four sites are federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and one site is a non-FQHC safety net dental clinic.

Once placed, these dental residents receive comprehensive general dentistry training and gain practical experience in a group practice environment benefitting from personalized mentoring, didactic training in advanced general and specialty areas of dentistry and guidance from seasoned dentists and clinical teams. They gain speed and confidence in their clinical work and receive help with treatment planning. For many, the AEGD program is also the foundation for advanced specialty training pursuits.

Associate Program Directors, Drs. Ron Walker and Mark Siegal, can attest to the strengths of the program.

“We are dedicated solely to supporting the Ohio residents and the clinical sites. Therefore, we are able to be in closer direct contact with the 1-2 residents per site than ADs who support multiple states in which they may not be based “on the ground.” The residents are not left on their own to find success, but supported by a team of experienced dentists and their clinical teams. This has been highlighted by our residents during a CODA visit,” said Dr. Walker.

Dr. Mark Siegal speaks with great satisfaction when he talks about the program. “We are very proud of how the LMC AEGD program has evolved in the Ohio Region, from the development of the AEGD-PDEE (Pediatric Dentistry Enhanced Experience) option to our exceptionally strong monthly Regional Day curriculum. Because of the ADs’ connections to the strong dental education resources in the state, we are able to get top notch guest speakers. We also believe that we have raised the bar on literature reviews by partnering with the ADA Center on Evidence-Based Dentistry to develop a critical appraisal curriculum. Our residents use critical appraisal worksheets to prepare their literature review presentations and gain a real appreciation of how to interpret research findings in practical terms that will inform their treatment decisions.”

In his recruiting efforts, Dr. Siegal talks about the clinical training sites. He shares a slide with prospective residents outlining the number of residents, chairs, percentage of children seen at the clinic, the approximate population by city and county, and the target population, i.e. low income, Amish, and homeless. He describes the clinics as follows:

• McMicken Integrated Healthcare in Cincinnati, OH: “Prepare to be Inspired!” Its mission is to embrace and promote the health and wellness of the underserved.
Health Partners of Western Ohio in Lima & Kenton, OH: “Be part of something bigger—an interdisciplinary perspective.” Its mission is to eliminate gaps in health outcomes for all members of our community by providing access to quality, affordable, preventive and primary health care.

**Dr. Kirsten Hoyme, ’14** an Ohio region graduate said, “Completing the LMC AEGD program, I now have significantly more experience with a greater number of procedures, I am more confident and a faster, highly skilled clinician.”

Findlay Smiles (AEGD-PDEE) in Findlay, OH: “Especially if you care about kids!” Its mission is to “To provide primary oral health services for underserved children and adults and to serve as an advocate for those with limited access to dental care.”

Findlay Smiles Dental Center offers a special opportunity for dentists who care about children because it is the home of the Ohio Region’s AEGD-PDEE (Pediatric Dentistry Enhanced Experience) program. Half of Findlay Smiles patient visits are children.

Residents are assigned a local pediatric dentist mentor. This mentor is available two days a month for hands on instruction to help with the most challenging patients. They are also accessible by phone or text and allow their resident to “shadow” them in their private office. In addition, residents attend pediatric dentistry seminars, and participate in literature reviews.

Why would a dental resident consider this program? Aside from the wonderful hands on training, mentorship and ability to help patients in need the benefit package is attractive. When looking at the relative cost of living in the SNDC placements in Ohio, the stipend and benefits are competitive with what other dental school graduates are making and in some cases, they are better.

The Ohio Region expects to grow to 10 positions with two new Ohio sites available for 2015-16, subject to approval by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

On August 20, 2014, Lutheran Family Health Center President, Larry McReynolds shared the UDS Health Center Profile with LFHC Employees. The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) released the 2013 Uniform Data System (UDS) data for Lutheran Family Health Centers as well as for all federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) throughout the nation. The UDS report is an annual reporting requirement of LFHC’s Section 330 FQHC status. The data helps to identify trends over time, enabling the federal government to establish or expand health center programs and identify services and interventions aimed at improving the health of underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

In the 2013 report, LFHC showed improvement in addressing quality indicators. Each clinical performance measure is compared to health centers nationally and is ranked from quartile 1 (highest 25% of reporting health center) to quartile 4 (lowest 25% of reporting health centers). Seventy eight percent (increase of 14% since 2012) of LFHC’s clinical measures were ranked in the top two quartiles; showing improvements in adolescent and adult weight screenings, tobacco cessation counseling, child immunizations, and the control of our hypertensive patients. The 2013 LFHC Health Center Profile may be viewed at [http://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds/datacenter.aspx?q=d&bid=0218870&state=ny&year=2013](http://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds/datacenter.aspx?q=d&bid=0218870&state=ny&year=2013).
Meet OUR FACULTY

– Jay Balzer, DMD, MPH
DPH Program Director,
Lutheran Medical Center

Jay Balzer dreamed of being a rock star but ended up becoming a dentist: for ‘all the wrong reasons.’ But it all worked out for the best! Get to know the Director of LMC Dental’s new Dental Public Health program and learn about this interesting dental specialty...

“The new Dental Public Health program is not only a first for LMC Dental, but also a first for the DPH specialty in the sense of using community health centers as the primary training site.”

Q: What is Dental Public Health and what is its relevance in today’s society?

A: Unlike most dentists who are focused on providing the very best dental care to the patients in their practice, the focus of the DPH specialist is on the whole community rather than the patient in the dental chair. The DPH specialist asks: “who in the community is not getting the care they need? Why not? And how can I develop programs so they can get into the dental office?” DPH is an extremely relevant dental specialty, especially now, when many people can’t afford the high price of dental services and do not have dental insurance. The American Dental Association has recognized DPH as a dental specialty since 1950.

Q: What types of jobs do DPH specialists do?

A: DPH professionals have a DDS or DMD degree and go on to complete a Master’s Degree in Public Health (or equivalent degree). After completing both degrees they then decide to pursue a DPH certificate. The benefit of a DPH certification is the expanded ability to treat the entire community vs. a single patient. The DPH might focus on expanded water fluoridation to stem the conditions associated with poor oral hygiene or prevalence of dental caries among children and adults. Educating the public as a whole is highly rewarding in that solving community-based issues will ultimately improve the health of individuals within the community. DPH specialists are required to have broad knowledge and skills in public health administration, research methodology, the prevention and control of oral diseases, and the delivery and financing of oral health care. Development opportunities for them to grow and succeed.

Q: What led LMC Dental to launch a DPH program?

A: LMC recognized the importance of the specialty of Dental Public Health and how LMC’s existing framework for residency training could be adapted for the training of DPH dentists. DPH, one of the original nine CODA-recognized programs, is an excellent complement to the other dental residency programs sponsored by LMC. Following ADA-CODA accreditation approval in August 2014, the 12-month (24-month half-time optional) program began training residents on October 1. We have seven residents in six Lutheran-affiliated community health centers: Brooklyn, NY (2 half-time), Baltimore, MD (1 full time), Providence, RI, (1 full time) and Tucson, AZ, (1 full time); Yakima, WA (1 full time), and Waianae, HI (1 half time). Residents have on-site supervision provided by the Dental Director of each site. In addition, they are paired with an off-site Resident Advisor who is a DPH specialist and academic mentor.

Q: What sets LMC’s DPH program apart?

A: The new Dental Public Health program is not only a first for LMC Dental, but also a first for the DPH specialty in the sense of using community health centers as the primary training site. Emphasis on community-based training differentiates LMC’s DPH program from others. This will encourage DPH residents to pursue public health projects and other activities that provide a real benefit to the host health center and to their patients—and give the resident real-world experience. It’s exciting to be part of something new and innovative and to work with the highly motivated members of the LMC Dental team.”
Q: What was your role in the development of the program?
A: I started to work with LMC Dental about a year ago, when I was asked to help develop the DPH program design and accreditation application. This year I've been very busy creating the innovative LMC DPH training model—adapting the traditional DPH curriculum to LMC’s distributed training model. This work required recruiting training sites, securing faculty, developing course content and evaluation materials, and working with LMC staff to prepare for the CODA accreditation site visit.

Q: What is the current outlook for DPH professionals as far as employment?
A: The job market for DPH professionals in traditional roles, such as state and local departments of health and in academia, is not strong. However there is a growing need for DPH professionals to manage programs in non-profit community health centers and to manage for-profit dental clinics and dental insurance programs. The LMC DPH residency program, with its community-based emphasis, will prepare our graduates for this growing sector of the job market.

Q: How are the master's degree in public health and dental public health certificate related?
A: The MPH degree (not offered by LMC) is an academic degree that provides the foundation of public health practice. It includes topics such as behavioral health, epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy and management; it may or may not include content in dental public health. It is the first step toward certification in the DPH specialty. The second step is the DPH residency (a certificate program, not a degree program), that provides the opportunity to actually practice DPH, such as conducting research projects or developing outreach or preventive projects, as well as taking DPH didactic courses. Once the dentist has achieved the MPH degree and completed the DPH residency, and has at least one year of DPH work experience, he/she is eligible to take the DPH specialty board examination.

Q: What led you to pursue your MPH degree and DPH certificate?
A: I became a dentist for all the wrong reasons—to work for myself, to make a lot of money, to have high professional status. Once in dental school I realized that I was more interested in working in community programs than starting my own private practice. I was fortunate to have a faculty advisor who introduced me to the world of public health and, as they say, the rest is history.

Q: If you didn’t enter the dental/public health profession, what other type of job would have interested you?
A: Of course, growing up in the 60's, I wanted to be a rock star, but I couldn’t figure out basic guitar chords and I cannot sing. In college I had an interest to be an ethologist (someone who studies animal behavior in nature) and probably would have pursued that if I hadn’t been admitted to dental school.

Q: What has been the most fulfilling aspect of your career, to date?
A: I really like the excitement of creating a new program, to develop dental services that help people and that wouldn't exist if not for my effort, that is very fulfilling. And I enjoyed the varied experiences and travels of a career in federal service that took me to Indian reservations and other interesting assignments throughout the country.

Q: Can you give us a glimpse into your personal life?
A: I live with my wife and adult daughter who has disabilities in Boulder, Colorado. My son lives and works nearby in Denver. We lost our beloved standard poodle, Toby, who was part of the family, last year at age fourteen. I like to hike and garden and go on birding trips with my wife and her Audubon friends.

Q: What is a fun fact about you that might surprise your colleagues and residents?
A: Working with LMC this past year brings me back to Brooklyn, where I was born, after an absence of nearly 50 years. It has been fun to visit my old neighborhood (Fort Greene) and borough hall area where my dad had his business and to re-connect with childhood friends. Also, it has been great to re-connect professionally with Dr. Demby, with whom I worked in the late 70s to secure federal funding for the very first GPR residency positions at LMC.
Charles Azzaretti, DDS
Dental Anesthesiology Program
Director, Lutheran Medical Center

Q: How did you connect with LMC Dental?
A: It’s funny, but it’s like my professional life came full circle. In 1982, when I was just out of my GPR residency, I went to upstate New York to work in Job Corp federally funded clinics. That’s when I first met Dr. Neal Demby and was impressed by the group dental practice he was putting together. I stayed in Oneonta for two years with my wife, who was also a dentist, then went back to New York City to begin my DA residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

Fourteen years after first meeting Dr. Demby, we crossed paths again. I came to LMC Dental in 1996 looking for a hospital-based dental department where I could provide anesthesia services in an OR environment. At the time, LMC’s residency in Pediatric Dentistry was a new program, and they were looking for DAs to instruct the residents on anesthesia rotations. I functioned as a DA working with the pediatric dental residents one day a week until March 2010, when I was appointed program director for DA.

Since the DA program started in 2008, 20 residents have graduated and most of them have established successful careers as DAs based on the training received at LMC. It wasn’t a straight line but it all started with Dr. Demby’s vision so long ago. He realized his vision and so much more.

Q: What makes being part of the LMC family so special?
A: LMC, as a group of people, has a really good vibe. You don’t know everyone, of course, but you get to know people from around the world. That’s why the Faculty Development Meeting is such a great event. It brings people together from 10,000 miles apart! It keeps people connected, deepens relationships and helps us grow as professionals. This organization is constantly reinventing itself. That is a source of stress, but in a good way, because it forces you to make things work. You can’t be complacent. You have to adapt and grow.

Q: What interested you in the DA director position?
A: Becoming Director of the DA program was right for me because it addressed multiple goals of my professional life. First, teaching. I have taught/mentored residents ever since I graduated from my DA residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in 1985. Second, maintenance of anesthesia skills in a peer-based OR environment is important to me. Although most of my private practice is office based, I have always maintained practice one day a week in a hospital/OR setting. Third, becoming a program director was a new professional challenge for me. Other than running a dental practice I had never been an administrator before. In this position I am provided with finite resources and a measure of authority. The challenge is to make the program work in real time. And that means continually improving and adapting to a constantly changing environment—whether it’s a mandated curriculum change, a loss of a rotation, a competition for OR time from other programs, etc.

“When I was a GPR resident I was fascinated by a sedation in which one of the significant effects was amnesia. At the end of a 40-minute dental procedure during which the patient repeatedly complained of pain, the patient said, ‘Did we start yet?’ It was like magic, but with a science to it! That’s when I began to consider becoming a Dental Anesthesiologist.”
**Q:** Why did the Committee on Dental Accreditation (CODA) change DA from a 2-year to a 3-year program?

**A:** There is always some degree of politics in decisions like these, of course. That aside, I believe the thinking was that an extra year of study would allow the residents time to develop a deeper knowledge base in medicine, physiology, etc. with additional medical rotations mandated in the new CODA requirements for DA. The additional time will also allow the residents to more realistically conduct clinical research projects. Residents who begin their studies July 1, 2015 will be entering a three-year program. Hopefully the added time commitment will not detract dentists from entering our program at Lutheran—or any of the other postdoctoral DA residency programs across the country.

**Q:** What other major changes have occurred in Lutheran’s DA program over the years?

**A:** There have been so many! First, appointing Dr. Ken Reed as Associate Program Director was a very positive move for our program. Our DA residents are very fortunate to have Ken as their teacher and mentor when they do rotations in Arizona and California.

Another huge improvement was adding the Solis Surgical Arts Center to our network for training purposes. Senior DA residents do a three month rotation at this dental focused ambulatory surgery center in Los Angeles. Solis is dedicated to the delivery of dental care under anesthesia, mostly for special needs patients. It’s a state-of-the-art facility that includes two fully equipped ORs. In this facility the focus is on the administration of general anesthesia for the patients. However, for select patients the DA residents are exposed to the operator-anesthetist mode of practice in which they perform both the dental procedure and administer sedation to the patient. There is only one other postdoctoral DA program in the country that also offers this training. Ken also directly administers the two month rotation in Arizona where residents work with DA attendings that have mobile office-based anesthesia practices.

Other positive changes include increasing class size from four to six residents (for the class of 2013) and increasing the medicine rotation from one to two months.

**Q:** What type of private dental practice do you operate and where is it located?

**A:** My private practice is located in Mt. Kisco, New York. That’s about 45 miles north of Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, where the majority of training occurs for our DA residents. My practice is focused on dentistry for phobic and special needs patients. In my office, I function as an operator-anesthetist. I also provide mobile-office based anesthesia for other practitioners, but that part of my practice has decreased due to the additional time demands associated with my position as DA Program Director for LMC.

**Mobile dental anesthesiologists’ experience as a mobile dental anesthesiologist**

Mobile dental anesthesiologists travel throughout a region to provide deep sedation and intravenous (IV) general anesthesia within the dental office. It is beneficial to both the dentist and the patient because it allows for a comfortable dental experience with little to no memory of the events, decreased discomfort for the patient after the appointment, and often reduced procedure time because the dentist can work more efficiently with a dental anesthesiologist by his side.

All of the same safety precautions and monitoring equipment that are used in a hospital operating room are utilized in this environment.

Jeremy Bonander is one of six board certified, LMC Dental Anesthesiology alumni who are currently employed as mobile dental anesthesiologists.

Jeremy received his DDS from the University of California San Francisco School of Dentistry and completed a GPR residency prior to his LMC dental anesthesiology residency. He chose LMC’s Dental Anesthesiology program because of its strong hospital/OR component and its mission to deliver exceptional care to some of the world’s most underserved communities. During the program he benefitted from two mandatory rotations. He spent three months in Tucson, AZ working in mobile anesthesiology office based settings and two months working in an outpatient surgery center in California. He learned a great deal by observing and experiencing first hand different practice approaches and found that he enjoyed the variety working in mobile dental anesthesiology.

He is currently employed by Southwest Dental Anesthesia Services based out of Tucson, AZ. What he enjoys most about his career is always meeting new people and providing care to patients that might not otherwise receive treatment.

Five of his fellow alumni are also currently practicing as mobile dental anesthesiologists:

- Dillon Atwood, ’13
- Ryan Larsen, ’12
- Diana Belli, ’11
- Hunter Stuart, ’10
- Eitan Gross, ’13
RECENT EVENTS

Rady Children’s Hospital’s Hematology Family Day

• On October 18th the residents at LMC-San Diego had the opportunity to participate in Rady Children’s Hospital’s Hematology Family Day. They provided oral hygiene instruction, toothbrushes and informational material to the Cookie Monster, Elmo and families of children affected by hemophilia, thrombocytopenia and other blood disorders. As residents at the only children’s hospital in the county, they are a safety net for a vastly underserved special needs and medically compromised population. This gives them an amazing opportunity to treat many patients that they otherwise might only learn about in a textbook.  

Pictured from left to right: Jessica Lee (PGY-2), Christain Lin-Burns (PGY-1), and Staci Robinson (PGY-2, Chief Resident).

• LMC Dental pediatric residents and staff celebrated National Health Center Week by providing dental screenings and education at the Lutheran Family Health Center Sunset Park Health Fair on August 5, 2014 in Brooklyn, NY.

New Senior Associate AEGD Directors, Drs. Anthony Caputo and Calix Ramos.

• Lutheran Dental held its first Special Reception during the National Primary Oral Health Conference on August 17, 2014 in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Alumni, faculty, staff and prospective health center affiliates enjoyed great Florida weather while learning more about the Lutheran Dental mission and its recent accomplishments.

Springfield, MO Peds residents support health center training site, August, 2014

• LMC-PEDS/Missouri residents and faculty members participating in the Annual Bentley Fund 5K walk/run which benefits the patients for the LMC-affiliated Jordan Valley Community Health center located in Springfield, Missouri on August 3rd.

• LMC Dental residents and staff support National Health Center Week, August, 2014

Lutheran Medical Center Department of Dental Medicine Postdoctoral Dental Residency Programs
Dr. Carolina Escobedo (AEGD, 2012; Pediatric Dentistry, 2015, Metro, NY) volunteered services to children in Guatemala through Kids International Dental Services, August, 2014.

• On August 9 2014, Dr. Escobedo left for a week to join Kids International Dental Services (KIDS) in Antigua, Guatemala. KIDS is a nonprofit volunteer organization that provides pro-bono, preventive and emergency pediatric dentistry to impoverished children in developing countries such as Cambodia, Philippines, Mongolia and Guatemala.

Kicking off a healthy school year with Lutheran Dental

• Some Sunset Park kids got an extra boost towards a healthy school year, thanks to doctors and educators from Lutheran Family Health Centers (LFHC), Brooklyn Public Library, the FDNY, Lutheran School Health Dental Department and others, who teamed up for the 13th annual Back-to-School Blast in Martin Luther Park. The event was sponsored by HealthPlus Amerigroup.

Julian and Kathi have fun at the Back-to-School Blast, Sept. 2014.
Dr. Kevin Walker Supports First Responders of 9/11

Dr. Kevin Walker (co-chief resident of the Orofacial Pain Program in Brooklyn) ran the NYC marathon on November 2, 2014 in support of 9/11 first responders and their families. After reaching his goal of raising $5000, Dr. Walker was honored to dedicate his 26.2 mile journey to fellow New Yorkers who bravely put their lives on the line to rescue thousands of people during the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Dr. Okuji received Master of Health Care Management Degree

Dr. David Okuji, Associate Director of Pediatric Dentistry at LMC Dental completed his Master of Health Care Management from Harvard University. The degree offers valuable experience and useful knowledge in a results oriented environment. Participants gain practical managerial skills to augment their talent as medical practitioners. Utilizing Harvard’s case based teaching method combined with extensive peer collaboration; the degree program keeps clinical executives on top of trends, issues and competitive strategies unique to the U.S. health care system.

Congratulations Dr. Caputo!

Congratulations to Anthony Caputo, DDS, MA, FACP, FICD, Lutheran Medical Center, Department of Dental Medicine’s AEGD Program. He presented at the 22nd International Association for Disability & Oral Health held October 2-4, 2014 in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Caputo was one of three presenters representing a global perspective of anesthesia administered in the dental office setting—one presenter from Asia, the second from Europe and Dr. Caputo representing The Americas.

Dr. Ram Vaderhobli inducted into the Fellowship of Pierre Fauchard Academy

Congratulations to Dr. Ram Vaderhobli, UCSF AEGD Associate Director. He was inducted into the Fellowship of Pierre Fauchard Academy, Northern California Section, on Saturday September 6, 2014 at a special ceremony held at the University of Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco.

The mission statement of the Academy states, “Our mission as Fellows in the Pierre Fauchard Academy is to consistently focus on professionalism, integrity, and ethics worldwide, by our own conduct as worthy role models, by the advancement of dentistry to the highest level, by supporting and honoring colleagues for their distinguished work, research, contributions, and public service, and by providing excellence in programs, education, and leadership in oral health care.”

Dr. Jeffrey Dodge featured in the Providence Journal

Congratulations to one of LMC Dental’s newest AEGD faculty members, Dr. Jeffrey Dodge, who was featured in the Providence Journal for the wonderful work that he does for those with zero or limited access to dental care through the Rhode Island Mission of Mercy.

Follow the link: http://www.providencejournal.com/features/lifestyle/health-fitness/ to read the full article “Free R.I. Dental Clinic Restores Smiles—and Lives.”
Congratulations Dr. Baptiste!

Congratulations to Marjorie Baptiste, DMD, Program Director of the Advanced Program in Periodontics for Lutheran Medical Center's Department of Dental Medicine. She recently received her certificate of completion for Comprehensive Training in Parenteral Moderate Sedation. This will allow Dr. Baptiste to help third year residents complete their IV clinic requirements.

Dr. Darrin Blackman to serve on PACoF

Congratulations to Dr. Darrin Blackman, Residency Director/Deputy Chief Dental Officer at the Winslow Indian Health Care Center in Arizona. Dr. Blackman has been chosen to serve as a member of the President’s Advisory Committee on the Future (PACoF) for the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. PACoF is designed to solicit perspectives on positioning dental hygiene and hygienists into business roles and primary care integration.

Dr. David Reznik named Community Outreach Healthcare Hero Finalist!

Hats off to David Reznik, D.D.S., associate dental director for Lutheran’s Dental Residency program, who was featured in an Atlanta business journal as a healthcare hero! Dr. Reznik was a finalist for the Community Outreach Health Care Hero Award presented by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Dr. Reznik was recognized for his groundbreaking work treating patients with HIV/AIDS. In addition to serving LMC’s Dental Medicine program, Dr. Reznik is president of HIVdent and director of the Oral Health Center–Infectious Disease program at the Grady Health System in Atlanta, GA where he helped launch the nation’s first oral health clinic for people living with AIDS. Read more at http://bit.ly/SQYc7i.

Congratulations Dr. Demby!

The National Network for Oral Health Access published an informational document co-written by Neal A. Demby, D.M.D., MPH, D.A.B.S.C.D., SVP, Dental Medicine. It explores academic and residency program collaboration models and provides suggestions for health centers considering launching a similar program. LFHC and partners are prominently listed.

Drs. Ariane Terlet and Huong Le inducted as Fellows, International College of Dentists

Drs. Ariane Terlet and Huong Le were inducted as Fellows, International College of Dentists. The convocation took place during the ADA Convention in San Antonio on Friday, October 10, 2014.

The International College of Dentists (ICD or “College”) is the oldest and largest international honor society for dentists in the world. Established in 1928, the College has over 12,000 members, in 122 countries, who have been awarded the prestigious title of Fellow in the ICD. Fellowship in the College is extended by invitation only. A nominated dentist must pass a rigorous, peer review process leading to the recognition of the individual’s “outstanding professional achievement, meritorious service and dedication to the continued progress of dentistry for the benefit of humankind.”
APPOINTMENTS

Organizational Changes announced July 2014

• Lauren Buck was promoted to Director of Process Improvement. Lauren will be responsible for planning, implementing, and managing projects and processes that impact quality care and the overall efficiency of the department. Lauren is assuming pivotal areas of responsibility that will help LMC Dental to achieve greater expansion and longer-term industry leadership. Lauren completed her Bachelor's degree from Wagner College. She earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from Columbia University and an MBA, with a focus on public health and policy, from Baruch College.

• Peggy Diaz-Ticz was promoted to Network Front Desk Supervisor/Interim Director of Billing. In her new role, Peggy will be responsible for all front desk functions across the dental network, including registration and cashiering. Peggy began her career in 2005 as a Program Assistant and was quickly promoted to Front Desk Supervisor for the main site in Brooklyn, NY. In 2006, she took on additional responsibilities as Billing Supervisor and successfully transitioned the department to a Dental Electronic Record System (DENTRIX). After a brief hiatus from dental, Peggy worked as Front Desk Supervisor at Long Island College Hospital until its closing in 2013.

• Carla Evelyn-Roberts has accepted the role of Clinical Supervisor for Caribbean American Family Health Center (CAFHC). Carla is responsible for managing the day to day operations of the dental clinic. She began her career with Lutheran Family Health Centers as a PSA in the Department of Dental Medicine. When CAFHC was opened, she was asked to serve as the Senior PSA. She worked hard to increase its services and patient panel.

• Amy Hisiger was promoted to Director of Grants and Content Development. In her new role, Amy will be responsible for directing, overseeing, and seeking government and NGO grant opportunities. In addition, Amy will be responsible for developing and curating standardized descriptive content for the organization. Amy completed her Bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College with a double major in Experimental Psychology and English. After graduation, she worked in corporate research and development with AVON. She earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from NYU and a Master's Degree in Education, with a focus on dental education, from the University of Pacific.

• Eric Malone was promoted to Senior Coordinator of Extramural Development. In this new role, Eric is assisting with recruitment efforts, data management, and the implementation of strategic marketing initiatives. Eric has been with Lutheran Dental since 2011, serving as project coordinator for the Dental School Health Program, managing facilities and operations for 20 different school based dental health sites throughout New York City. Eric graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in business management, specializing in entrepreneurship.

• Dr. Nathalie Mohadjeri took on a new role as Vice President of Quality Management and Patient Care. In this position she will serve as a member of the Senior Management Team and be a key partner in the overall planning, directing, coordinating, and implementation of dental services, programs, policies, and procedures. Dr. Mohadjeri received a BA degree from Adelphi University and her DMD from Temple University. After Dental School, she completed a GPR residency at Mount Sinai. She worked in private practice as a dental director for 6 years at Heritage Health Care Center in Harlem, New York before joining Lutheran Dental. In addition, she recently received Basic training at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)—a not for profit organization and leading innovator, convener, partner, and driver of results in health and health care improvement worldwide. She has overseen the Lutheran Family Health Center clinic for 5 years, prior to taking on this new pivotal role in the organization.

• Barbara Ottenio was promoted to Director of Curriculum, Graduate Dental Education (GDE). Dr. Ottenio completed her BA from Brooklyn College and received her DDS from New York University College of Dentistry. She completed a Master’s Degree with a focus on dental education from the University of Pacific. After completing two residency programs with Lutheran Medical Center, an AEGD and GPR residency, she spent nine years in private practice. Dr. Ottenio then served as Dental Director at Park Ridge Family Health Center. She was promoted to AEGD program coordinator and then assumed the position of Assistant Director for GDE before accepting this new role as Director of Curriculum. She will continue to work with program directors to maintain and enhance the curriculum provided for all dental residency programs.

• Antoinette (Toni) Rego was promoted to Senior Manager at Park Ridge Family Health Center in Brooklyn, NY. She will continue to manage the operations of the site and become more involved in special projects associated with business development and managed care. Toni graduated from St. Francis College with a BS in Management/Finance. While in college, she worked in the Long Island College Hospital (LICH) Admitting Department and on special projects for the operating room. In 1997, she became Manager of the Dental Department at LICH and stayed on when Lutheran Dental took over the site in August 2010. Upon the closing of LICH in August 2013, Toni took on the role of manager at the Park Ridge Dental site.

• Dr. James Rodriguez was promoted to Clinical Director of the Main Clinic Site at Sunset Park in Brooklyn, NY. In this role, he will be responsible for the overall clinical care delivered at the site. He will focus on quality of care, patient and employee satisfaction, and integration of services. This role was newly created to meet the ever growing needs of the main dental clinic in Brooklyn. Dr. Rodriguez received his DDS from NYU after which he entered Lutheran Dental’s General Practice Residency Training Program where he excelled as a resident as a PGY1 and was selected as chief resident as a PGY2. Dr. Rodriguez was the Dental Director for five years at NENA Health Center in Lower Manhattan as he simultaneously developed a thriving private practice in Staten Island, NY. He has been an active attending in the department since 1995.

• Eileen Suriel was promoted to Senior Program Coordinator. Eileen started with Lutheran Dental in 1995 as a part-time PSA at the main site. In 1997 she became a full-time PSA and then program coordinator for Dental School Health in 2009. She was instrumental in getting the school health program up and running, overseeing dental assistants and enrollment specialists, maintaining Kronos, creating schedules and assisting with all aspects of the program’s outreach activities. She is an integral part of the School Health team, always willing to help wherever needed.
AEGD

A.T. Still University
Christina Habib
Dylan Thomas

Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health
Michael Duong
Nadia Fazel
Sally Hanciles
Jessica Lecy-Hunter
Irina Martinez
Onika Patel
Jeffrey Weber

Autonomous University of Santo Domingo
Maria Melo

Baqai Dental College
Muhammad Saeed

Baylor College of Dentistry
Jennifer Perry

Boston University
Sruthi Joyce
Sirisha Rao
Suzanne Siu

Case Western Reserve University
Tekira Hypolite
Roshan Jacob

Columbia University
Sakshi Gupta

Creighton University
David Duniven
Lindsey Erickson
Ru Mee Han
Stephen Sueda
Jillian Zingula

De Montmorency College of Dentistry
Qurrat-ul-Anne Yousaf

Government Dental College and Hospital
Jyoti Sonkar

Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Allysa Adams
Samira Sarai

Hermann Ostrrow School of Dentistry of University of Southern California
En Chen

Howard University
Willer Constant
Marlon Foote
Candice Hardwick
Trista Hewitt
Courtney Jackson
Amir Kazim

LMC Dental Incoming Residents 2014

Welcome

Babak Salahbin
Khailah Syrianos-Robertson

Jordan University of Science and Technology
Alaa Alrababa

Loma Linda University School of Dentistry
Jane G. Kim-Moon
Stephanie Shin

Louisiana State University
Brett DeCoursey

McGill University
Lauren Tink

Medical College of Georgia
Monica Chana

Medical University of South Carolina
Danny Vo
Winny Wang

Meckarry Medical College
Marjorie Attimy
Brittany Sloan

National University
Federico Villarreal
Gloria Campos Vasquez

New York University
Ng nia Bui
Navneet Dhaliwal
Samira Ehteshami
Katelyna Grytsenko
Chiradip Kar

Nova Southeastern University
Theresa Malamel

Oregon Health Sciences University
David Bass
Kyle Geelan

Southern Illinois University
Sean O’Day

State University of New York at Buffalo
Jordan Blair

Temple University
Sanah Ali
Nathalie Blanc
Adam Levine
Sean O’Connor
John Reimischissel
Emily Weitberg

Tufts University
Alexandra Bassett
Katerina Chernykivska
Kerry Kerwar
Raheel Khatri
Courtney Michelson
Mai Nguyen

Timothy Nguyen
Dave Patel
Keone Tyau
Saro Babaian
Leslie Darnell
Prabhdeep Kaur
Samantha Melzer
Christina Rosero
James Shahinian
Casey Wu

Universidad Autonoma de Cd Juarez
Arturo Davalos

Universidade Gama Filho
Erika Dos Santos

Universidad Metropolitana de Barranquilla
Dianoris Lora

Université de Montreal
Yanne Ch&eacute;
Mira Jarmak
Sami Sreis

University of Alabama
Adam Forehand
Jesse Mann
William Pennington
Jordan Scott
William Vandervoorst

University of California at Los Angeles
Alexander Shau
Diane Vasquez
Lourdes Moreno

University of California at San Francisco
Sisiley Bao
Jennifer Cai
Reene Chow
Heather Dinh
Ricardo Flores
Melanie Gaglioti
Dr. Theodore Haley
Brandon Malan
Jennifer Neglerio
Tu Nguyen
Ramina Sarmicicac
Radka I. Varimezova

University of Colorado
Michael Omelas
Chelsea Shellhart
Heidi Roberts

University of Connecticut
Kunsun Lee

University of Iowa
John Wikle

University of Kentucky
Sahil Arora

University of Maryland
Bayonne Joseph
Ricky Mason
Jessica Shiao

University of Michigan
Leslie McGarvey
Christopher Ammons

University of Minnesota
Kurt Erickson

University of Mississippi
John Wikle

University of Missouri
Jenna Rogers

University of Nevada
Kelly Maxson

University of North Carolina
Elizabeth Rich

University of Pittsburgh
Chantal Botros
Matthew Maropis
Haig Mastikian

University of Puerto Rico
Zuleydi Arencibia
Kirenia Diaz
Robert Feliciano
Ana Sofia Fernandez-Rodriguez
Yazmin Miranda
Juan Sanchez

University of Tennessee
Erica Hunt
Jaimin Surati
Xiao Yu

University of Louisville
Sheela S Bangalore
Ula Yi-Chin Chiu
Joshua Duffy
Gayathri Konchady

University of Pennsylvania
Sheela S Bangalore
Ula Yi-Chin Chiu
Joshua Duffy
Gayathri Konchady

University of Pennsylvania
Chantal Botros
Matthew Maropis
Haig Mastikian

University of Philadelphia
Chantal Botros
Matthew Maropis
Haig Mastikian

University of Puerto Rico
Zuleydi Arencibia
Kirenia Diaz
Robert Feliciano
Ana Sofia Fernandez-Rodriguez
Yazmin Miranda
Juan Sanchez
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*List of names includes those PGY1 residents as of October 15, 2014.
Lutheran Dental Team led by Dr. Nathalie Mohadjeri awarded

Congratulations to the Lutheran Dental Team, led by Dr. Nathalie Mohadjeri. Their hard work and dedication resulted in the American Dental Association’s Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) Committee awarding Lutheran Medical Center a four-year term of recognition. Lutheran Dental’s new term will extend from May 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The Ben Massell Dental Center published

Congratulations to our AEGD clinical training site in Atlanta, GA. The Ben Massell Dental Center article on “The Ethics of Charity Dental Clinics” has been published in the Journal of the American College of Dentists. Follow this link to read the full article. www.acd.org/_jacd/JACD-81-2.pdf

Congratulations to the Department of Oral Pathology’s Case of the Month 3rd Quarter Winners

August
Komail Abbas (Pediatric Dentistry, PGY-1, California-Southern)
Drew Colantino (Pediatric Dentistry, PGY-1, California-Southern)
Heather Jenkins (Pediatric Dentistry, PGY-1, Missouri)
Jesse Wright (Pediatric Dentistry, PGY-1, New York-Metropolitan)

September
Dr. Mal Azar (Pediatrics, PGY-1, NYC-Metropolitan)
Dr. Debra Cohen (Pediatrics, PGY-1, NYC-Metropolitan)
Dr. Amanda Engelhardt (Pediatrics, PGY-2, Massachusetts)
Dr. Alejandro Jimenez (AEGD, PGY-1, Trinidad and Tobago)

Congratulations to the Orofacial Pain Residency Program and the Endodontic Specialty Program!

CODA conducted an Initial Accreditation site visit of the OFP program on August 21 and a seven year comprehensive site visit of the Endodontics program on August 26. Both programs had successful reviews receiving no recommendations from the site visit teams. The Commission will review the reports at its January meeting and will grant official approvals in February. We are extremely proud of Dr. Suarez and Dr. Goldberger as program directors and leaders in their disciplines.

Orthodontics Residency Pre-Approved

CODA conducted a pre-enrollment site visit on September 9 to establish a LMC Orthodontics Residency Program in Brooklyn, NY. Congratulations to Dr. Laurance Jerrold, Chair of Orthodontics at LMC on a successful site visit. LMC will begin its 9th dental residency training program in July 2015 pending the Commission’s approval in February. We are extremely proud to have Dr. Jerrold on the LMC team and excited to begin this new residency that will expand services to our patients in SW Brooklyn. Special thanks go to Ms. Karla Fuentes and her endless efforts to secure a clinical facility for the program and to the Accreditation team of Dr. Nery Clark, Ms. Debbie Richardson and Ms. Andrea Levy for their continued success in site visit preparation and documentation.

Congratulations to the Orofacial Pain Residency Program New LFHC Dental Health Center Celebrated in Manhattan School

Margarita Rosa, LFHC’s Dental School Health outreach coordinator, recently served as a special guest at PS 28 in Manhattan when the school celebrated the opening of its new school-based dental health center, which will be operated by LFHC’s Dental School Health Program. This will be LFHC’s 22nd school-based dental health center. A short speaking program featuring Margarita was held, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured is one of two dental rooms where full dental services will be provided for students during school hours.
PALM RIVER, FL — Last month a woman searched four days for a dentist who could help her 18-month-old daughter. The child had barely eaten after falling and breaking her front tooth in half. But the Hillsborough County mom couldn’t find a dentist who would accept Medicaid. At last, she found Suncoast Community Health Centers, where dentists administered anesthesia and pulled the tooth — in 15 minutes, said Dr. Richard Gyles, Suncoast’s pediatric dental director.

Gyles said the case illustrates the reason Suncoast teamed up with a New York medical center to create the Tampa Bay area’s first pediatric dental residency program: Too many children on Medicaid can’t find a dentist.

The partnership, which began this summer, placed four postdoctoral dental residents from Lutheran Medical Center at Suncoast’s medical clinic in Palm River as part of a two-year training program in pediatric care.

Lutheran has for decades sent its residents to underserved areas. Suncoast has provided medical and dental care for nearly 35 years but struggled to meet the high demand for dentistry, especially the specialized care that goes beyond basic cleanings.

Follow this link to read the full article: http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/hillsborough-health-center-offers-kids-dental-care-with-help-from-ny/2195317