Welcome

Dear students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends,

This newsletter arrives in your inboxes during a challenging time. Nearly every day, we are confronted with updates concerning the global economic crisis as well as new information about the impact it may have on the University of California and UCLA in particular.

During the past months, I've had many opportunities to discuss the challenges we face with students, alumni, staff and faculty alike. Time and again, I have been heartened by your resolve and support. I appreciate your dedication—to educating our students, caring for our patients, advancing our scientific research, and supporting the school.

This newsletter provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our many strengths and to renew our confidence that we will emerge from this economic crisis as an even more powerful institution.

Wishing everyone a strong finish to the spring quarter,

Dean No-Hee Park, DMD, PhD

DENTAL SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FACULTY WIN MULTIPLE HONORS AT I/AADR

At the level of both our students and our faculty, the research culture at the UCLA School of Dentistry is thriving. One need only look to the school's recent performance at the I/AADR meeting in Miami, Florida to see the evidence.
Before the conference, we were informed that Anna Kreymer (MS in oral biology ’08), a first-year student in the combined DDS-PhD program, and third-year predoctoral student Deema Saad had won AADR Bloc travel grants enabling them to present their research.

Cristiane Mengatto, a former visiting scholar in the Weintraub Center (2008), received the First Place Arthur Frechette Award for her work in the biological sciences and tissue engineering.

Shebli Merhazarin, a first-year DDS/PhD student, won the First Place Jonathan Ship Award for the best poster presentation in geriatric oral research.

Bo Yu, who is enrolled in his second year of predoctoral study and is also working toward a PhD, took First Place in the junior category of the AADR/Johnson & Johnson Oral Health Products Hatton Awards Competition. Bo also earned Second Place in the prestigious IADR/Unilever Hatton Competition.

Cun-Yu Wang received the Distinguished Scientist Award in the field of Oral Medicine and Pathology Research. In addition, one of his research publications earned the William J. Gies Award for Biological Research.

Mo Kwan Kang was honored with the Young Investigator Award.

**DENTISTRY ADDS TWO NEW ENDOWED CHAIRS**

*Gift from Shapiro Family Charitable Foundation Makes New Named Professorship Possible*

On January 6, 2009, the dental school issued an announcement that a $1 Million gift from the Shapiro Family Charitable Foundation had established the Dr. No-Hee Park Endowed Chair in Dentistry. The donors, Shirley and Ralph Shapiro, are UCLA alumni with a long history of giving back to their alma mater.

The seventh endowed chair to be created at the dental school, the Park Chair honors the current dean and is intended to foster excellence in research and scholarship in biomedical and dental science.

“I am deeply moved that Shirley and Ralph Shapiro have chosen to create this chair and to do so in my name,” said Dr. Park. “This is the most significant honor of my career.”

On March 5, 2009, the school announced Dr. Cun-Yu Wang, an eminent cancer scientist and the chair of the dental school’s Division of Oral Biology & Medicine, as the first person to hold the chair.

“My major goal is to bridge the gap between science and dental medicine,” said Dr. Wang, whose research focuses on oral cancer.

“In our long association with the dental school, my wife, Shirley, and I have been impressed by the breadth and quality of the dental medicine research being conducted by its faculty,” said Ralph Shapiro. “We look forward to the new advances in scientific understanding that are certain to emanate from Cun-Yu Wang’s laboratory.”

**New Grants Awarded to Faculty**

*Tara Aghaloo* has won two new grants. One, in the amount of $74,000 from the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation, will aid her research on bone response to bisphosphonates. The other, from the Musculoskeletal Foundation in the amount of $124,620, will advance her work on enhancing bone regeneration.

*Neal Garrett’s* new $64,545 grant from GlaxoSmithKline will support a clinical trial designed to study the quality of life of denture-wearers.
The NIH’s National Institute for Drug Abuse has awarded $447,150 to Igor Spigelman for an exploratory study of the development of Peripherally-acting cannabinoid-1 receptor ligands.

A $1,540,000 grant from the NIH’s National Cancer Institute will support Cun-Yu Wang’s work on NF-kB signaling in osteoclastogenesis and osteolytic bone metastasis.

David Wong has received a two-year grant in the amount of $1,761,985 from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to discover key molecular targets that are responsible for Sjogren’s syndrome and malignant lymphoma. The grant funding was made possible by The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which was signed into law in February 2009 to help stem the current economic crisis. The goal of ARRA is to create and/or save millions of jobs, advance American innovation, and lay a stronger economic foundation to grow the economy in the 21st century.

Francisco Ramos-Gomez’s Community-Based Participatory Research Gets Boost from New Grant

When the San Francisco Business Times reported that the UCSF School of Dentistry had received a new $24.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the UCLA School of Dentistry had reason to celebrate too. That is because more than $2 Million of that funding, which will be used to address socio-economic and cultural disparities in oral health, will support the work of UCLA professor Francisco Ramos-Gomez.

Dr. Ramos-Gomez, formerly a member of the faculty at UCSF, continues to be a member of its research Center to Address Disparities in Children’s Oral Health (acronym: Cando). A pediatric and public health dentist, much of his work focuses on issues of oral health disparities in the Latino community.

The new grant will enable Ramos-Gomez to continue the next stage of his work on the Mothers and Youth Access (MAYA) clinical trial, conducted at the San Ysidro Community Health Center, which seeks to identify best practices in a Prevention Management Model for caring for the oral health of under-represented minority, maternal-age women, their infants, and their young children based on the U.S.-Mexico border.

To date, the research has yielded useful information not only about exactly what constitutes effective oral health care interventions for the prevention of early childhood caries (click here for an article about fluoride varnishes published in the Journal of Dental Research), but also about the best way to pursue clinical trials with this unique, vulnerable patient population.

To learn more about the factors involved in Dr. Ramos-Gomez’s work recruiting and retaining clinical trial participants, click here for a PubMed abstract of an article that appeared in the journal Clinical Trials.

Forward Strides in Patient Care & Community Service

Upward Bound House

Since 1969, the UCLA School of Dentistry has played an important role in Venice, improving the oral health of the Westside community via the Wilson-Jennings-Bloomfield UCLA Venice Dental Center.

Since 1991, Upward Bound House of Santa Monica has been keeping families together, offering safe, clean housing and other forms of assistance—from parenting workshops to classes in budgeting and word processing—to homeless families on LA’s Westside.

Now, the two organizations are working together. Beginning this spring, the men, women and children who reside at Upward Bound House’s “Family Place” transitional housing shelter have access to dental care at the Venice clinic.

Many of the homeless children easily qualify for dental insurance benefits, however finding funding for adult oral health care can be a challenge—especially in light of the State of California’s decision to eliminate Denti-Cal coverage for adults beginning July 1, 2009.

Dean Park has committed $20,000 from the Robert and Marion Wilson Patient Care Endowment to fund adult care. According to David Snow, executive director of Upward Bound House, the new relationship and the funding could not have come at a better
Upward Bound House is currently in the process of converting a former motel in Culver City into a new facility, and will soon increase the number of families it serves.

"The current economic crisis is having a profound impact on families who are losing their jobs and their homes," said David Snow, UCLA Anderson MBA '00. "We're on the front lines, in a partnership with UCLA's dental school, doing our small part to help these families get back on the path to self-sufficiency in good health."

## Venice and Inglewood Kids Have a Reason to Smile

![Image of children stopping by for free dental care](image1)

Give Kids a Smile Day is an annual, nationwide effort to provide free dental care to children. In good times and in bad, the event involves many thousands of people, yet somehow when the UCLA School of Dentistry gets involved, it all manages to feel quite local and personal.

As in years past, UCLA hosted the event at the Wilson-Jennings-Bloomfield UCLA Venice Dental Center and also provided student, staff and faculty volunteers at the Children's Dental Center in Inglewood. We were joined in our efforts by volunteer dentists affiliated with the Western Los Angeles Dental Society.

Parents and kids started filing into line an hour before the official start time. Some children were visibly nervous. Others were stoic. One girl was an "old pro"—she had been to a dentist before and knew just how to calm her younger sisters. A group of boys passed the time playing a handheld video game. Nearly every child left with a sticker, some face paint, and a smile.

## Faculty Group Dental Practice Gets a Makeover

![Image of Faculty Group Dental Practice](image2)

The Faculty Group Dental Practice located on UCLA's campus in Suite 350 at 100 Medical Plaza received a makeover this year. Practice manager Rochelle Bache planned the renewal for nearly 12 months, then guided the interior decoration efforts, transforming the dental office into a space evocative of a boutique hotel's lobby. The goal, Bache said, was "To make the space more relaxing, more welcoming. We wanted an environment indicative of the quality of care our dentists provide."

Leather chairs, vinyl floors, warm walls faux painted in shades of browns, coral and gold, abstract artwork, mirrors, and glowing hanging lanterns complement the 11 new operatories complete with flat-screen TVs. Patient feedback has been uniformly positive, and Bache has plans to turn her attention to redecorating Suite 355.

## Apollonian Society Subsidy Benefits Students and Patients

![Image of student smiling](image3)

It is a fact of life in the predoctoral clinics: dental students must demonstrate competency in a variety of...
It is a fact of life in the predoctoral clinics: dental students must demonstrate competency in a variety of procedures, yet some patients have difficulty covering the full cost of necessary treatment. The Dean’s Newsletter spoke to Kevin Andrus ’09 to learn how gifts from the Apollonian Society help bridge the gap.

Dean’s Newsletter: Each year, the Apollonian Society, a group of alumni and friends dedicated to enhancing the student experience, provides funding for what is known as the Patient Care Subsidy. How have you used this fund?

Kevin Andrus: I have used the patient care subsidy to provide removable and fixed partial dentures for my patients with limited finances.

DN: What was the result of the procedures funded by the subsidy?

KA: The subsidy opened treatment possibilities for my patient pool that they otherwise could not have afforded—the deep discount also incentivized my patients to return again and again during lengthy removable treatment. I also benefited greatly from the patient care subsidy as I gained needed clinical experience and met clinical requirements.

DN: What is the process for requesting subsidy funds?

KA: Requesting subsidy is simple. It requires filling out a form that outlines the subsidy request. The completed form is signed by my group practice and clinical directors and processed by the billing department.

DN: What would it have meant if the subsidy hadn’t been available?

KA: If the subsidy were not available, I would have experienced a more difficult time completing fixed and removable partial denture requirements. Thanks to the subsidy, we students are able to find the patient cases necessary to complete our minimum graduation requirements and the community surrounding UCLA is provided with high-quality and affordable care.

The patient care subsidy is another example of the positive impact the Apollonian Society has had on my UCLA dental school experience.
Faculty News

George Bernard, professor emeritus, recently played a featured acting role in a short film, "Joseph's Wheel of Destiny," directed by Ian Eyre (husband of assistant professor Clarice Law). The film, which placed in the top 20 among those submitted for the 168 Film Festival, made its premiere April 4, 2009 at the Alex Theater in Glendale and is available online.

In June 2009, the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine will present the 2009 Tjellström Award to John Beumer for, in the award committee's words, "the outstanding and remarkable contribution he has made to the field of Maxillofacial Prosthetics... John Beumer has always inspired and encouraged young minds to engage in discovery and to work to improve the plight of those who require reconstruction and rehabilitation of the head and neck." The award will be presented at the International Symposium on Bone Conduction Healing and Craniofacial Osseointegration in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The UC President's office has appointed Ian Coulter to two statewide committees: The UC Subcommittee on Advancing and Rewarding Teaching in the Health Professions, the purpose of which is to develop a repository of teaching materials for all the health sciences and to develop an academy for the health sciences, and the Senate-Administration Task Force advising on EAP's Strategic Plan, which is a response from all the UC Campuses and the UC Senate about proposed budget cuts and the reorganization of the Education Abroad Program.

James Crall traveled to our nation's capital February 12, 2009 to deliver a congressional briefing highlighting the latest research that demonstrates a vital link between high-quality early childhood oral health programs and long-term health.

Alan Felsenfeld's CDA Journal editorial entitled "Attention K-Mart Shoppers" on the subject of dental tourism that was nationally reprinted by The American Dental Association in its January 2009 ADA News.

Shadi Kamyab published a paper, Cardiovascular Simulation Cases for Dental Students, with acclamation at MedEdPortal.

Mo Kang has been appointed to the Research and Scientific Affairs Committee of the American Association of Endodontists.

At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago in February 2009 (which was themed to honor the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth), Carl Maida chaired the symposium, "Expression of Emotions: Biocultural Perspectives." In addition, Maida's book Pathways Through Crisis: Urban Risk and Public Culture, was...
The American Academy of Orofacial Pain (AAOP) held its annual meeting in Austin, Texas March 5-8, 2009 and UCLA Orofacial Pain (OFP) faculty and alumni played a significant part in the proceedings. Marcela Romero, who completed an OFP preceptorship and also earned a PhD in oral biology at UCLA in 2006, presented her research on muscle pain. Bernadette Jaeger GPR ’80 spoke on myofascial pain. Steven Graff-Radford spoke on headache and orofacial pain. Robert Merrill spoke on the neurophysiology of myofascial pain and also gave a talk on migraine variants. In addition, Dr. Merrill (pictured at right in the photo above) received the AAOP Lifetime Achievement Award for "...exemplary dedication to alleviating Orofacial Pain and... outstanding contribution to education, knowledge and advancement of the field of Orofacial Pain Management."

Richard G. Stevenson III has been awarded the coveted RV Tucker Award, the highest honor that the Academy of Operative Dentistry gives, recognizing an individual who has made a significant impact not only on the Academy, but the profession as a whole.

As part of Give Kids a Smile Day outreach, Phil Trask and Phil Kamins ’87 visited the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Nursery School.

Student News and Events

The dental school hosted its annual scholarship ceremony on May 13, 2009. Each year, the school and its generous donors provide more than $2 million in support for predoctoral students, more than any other dental school in the nation. About one third of the revenue generated by student differential fees is returned to students in the form of scholarships. In addition, friends of the dental school play a crucial role in reducing the cost of a dental school education. This year, students had the opportunity to meet some of the philanthropists who make their scholarships possible, including Shirley and Ralph Shapiro, Sharon Rosen Lieb, Ann Beech, representatives of the UCLA Affiliates, and Dr. Henry Yamada. Click here for the scholarship list.

Congratulations to the 3rd-year dental students who were the Fall 2008-09 UCLA Co-Ed Intramural Volleyball Champions! The winning team (composed of David Avenetti, Chris Chau, Lindsay Costantino, Ben Freed, Kristen Ritzau, Cory Ritzau, Amy Yen, and Mike Young) went undefeated with a 6-0 record.
On January 17, 2009, the first Student Study Club (#67) of the Academy of RV Tucker Study Clubs was held at UCLA under the mentorship of Dr. Richard G. Stevenson III. Drs. William Morgan and Cristina Lopez were also present to help guide the students throughout the clinic session, during which 10 students operated on patients, 10 students assisted, and 10 simulated a case on a typodont. Following the clinical session, photo critiques of the patient cases were presented.

The Division of Restorative Dentistry sponsored eight predoctoral students who attended the Academy of Operative Dentistry meeting held February 25-27, 2009 in Chicago. Five fourth-year and three third-year dental students actively participated in both the scientific session and hands-on portion of the conference, which attracted more than three hundred restorative dentistry educators and private practitioners from more than 20 countries. Along with the students, Drs. Stevenson, Hewlett, Morgan, Lopez, Bonilla, Schoenbaum and Charlin also attended the conference.

The 2008-09 Dean’s Leadership Institute came to a conclusion on April 23. Twelve predoctoral students—Brian Asbury, Sara Asgari, Samantha Brenner, David Feller, Carl Jones, Jason Kung, Kristen Lowe, Rick Rauth, Michael Shoff, Aldrich Sy, Delia Tuttle, and Jelson Yalung—received certificates in recognition of their participation in the program, designed to identify and encourage future leaders in patient care, education, research, organized dentistry, and community service.

David White ’12 and his wife, Bonnie, welcomed a beautiful baby girl named Audrey in November 2008.

Valentina Redden and her husband and daughter welcomed their newest additions, twins Matthew and Ashley, on February 14, 2009.

In Memoriam

Donald D. Weissman, DDS, a member of the dental school faculty from 1967 until his retirement in 1980, passed away in Sherman Oaks, California on February 18, 2009. During his long career, Weissman published numerous professional articles on dental radiology and served as president and fellow of the American Academy of Dental Radiology, founding president and Diplomate of the American Board of Maxillofacial Radiology, fellow of the American College of Dentists, and a member of the scientific research society Sigma Chi.

He is survived by his sons Dr. Albert M. Weissman of Rancho Mirage, California and Bruce J. Weissman; his daughter Carol Day and son-in-law Carl, of Malibou Lake; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Ruth Sarah Weissman, on December 31, 2008.

The family suggests that donations be made to...
Services and internment were conducted at Mt. Sinai Cemetery in Los Angeles. The family suggests that donations be made to your favorite charity.
New Faculty

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Alexander</td>
<td>Adjunct Associate Professor</td>
<td>10/1/08</td>
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<td>Jonathan Armstrong</td>
<td>Assistant Researcher</td>
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<td>David Arnold</td>
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<td>James Baker</td>
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<td>Bradley Baum</td>
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<td>James Chen</td>
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<td>Shen Hu</td>
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<td>Hyun Jung</td>
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<td>Michelle Kelman</td>
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<td>Jung Lim</td>
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<td>Sandra McLaren</td>
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<td>Michael Nguyen</td>
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<td>Elana Norman</td>
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<td>Jason Pair</td>
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<td>Bae Park</td>
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<td>Cun-Yu Wang</td>
<td>No-Hee Park Endowed Chair in Dentistry</td>
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<td>Patricia Wilkes</td>
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<td>Jason Wong</td>
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New Staff

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<tr>
<td>Rachel Alex</td>
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<td>Marcella Chavez</td>
<td>Patient Biller</td>
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<td>Adrian Conanan</td>
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<td>Derrick Dickens</td>
<td>Clinic Assistant</td>
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<td>Deborah Herrera</td>
<td>Admin. Analyst Supervisor</td>
<td>12/15/08</td>
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<td>Lidia Leyva</td>
<td>New Patient Svcs. Coordinator</td>
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<td>Mari Orozco</td>
<td>Sr. Public Admin. Analyst</td>
<td>4/6/09</td>
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<td>Aja Stanley</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susana Zamora</td>
<td>Registered Dental Assistant</td>
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Staff in New or Expanded Roles

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<tr>
<td>Anet Haratunian</td>
<td>Admin. Specialist Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Pescatore</td>
<td>Assistant Director of Development</td>
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Alumni of the Year

The UCLA School of Dentistry Alumni Reunion and Luncheon held May 16, 2009 was the perfect opportunity to celebrate our co-alumni of the year, Drs. Melanie Gullett and her husband George Maranon, as well as our honorary alumnus of 2009, Dr. Harold Hargis.
Melanie and George have a long history of service to the school and the dental profession. They graduated as classmates from the UCLA School of Dentistry in 1983, and have been very active in the Alumni Association and the Apollonian Society. George, an oral surgeon, practices in Tarzana. Melanie, a breast cancer survivor, sold her practice in Santa Monica and is very involved in fundraising for a cure.

In choosing the honorary alumnus this year, the alumni association took a cue from the California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons which recognized Dr. Hargis’ lifelong contributions to the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery in a ceremony in 2006. Dr. Hargis officially retired from the dental school 15 years ago, though you’d never know it judging by the schedule he keeps.

Alumni News & Notes

A great time was had by all at the UCLA School of Dentistry Golf Tournament, played this year at the Industry Hills Gold Club at the Pacific Palms Resort. A total of 20 teams comprised of 78 participants—alumni, students and faculty alike—teed off, however it was the alumni teams that turned out to be the biggest winners of the day. Alumni landed the first three finishes, with Mark Ozaki’s (Class of 1983) team taking the top spot coming in at 14 under par with a score of 57. The top student team ranked fourth at 8 under par and a score of 63. The good news is that the students will be alumni someday . . .

Dr. Conrad Block ’94 of Santa Rosa was profiled in a Press-Democrat story about surfing professionals entitled “Wave Goodby to Surfing Stereotypes.”

Don Goudy, GPR ’94, the dentist for the NHL team the San Jose Sharks, was recently profiled by the San Jose Mercury News (photo credit: Gary Reyes, Mercury News).

Karen Potter wrote in to share a recent photo from the spring American Association of Endodontics meeting in Orlando. Our own professor Nadia Chugal is flanked by recent female graduates of UCLA who are currently endodontic residents around the country. Picture from left to right are Stacey Woo, 2008 PhD graduate of UCLA and current endo resident at UMKC; Karen Potter, 2007 graduate of UCLA and current endo resident at University of Iowa; Nadia Chugal, current director of the postgraduate program in endodontics at UCLA; Amanda Ngan, 2006 graduate of UCLA and current endo resident at University of Washington; and Avina Paranjpe Phadke, 2007 graduate of UCLA and current endo resident at University of Washington. Karen observed, "It was amazing to realize how many endodontic women UCLA has produced, especially when women are a minority in endo!"
New Target in Fight Against Periodontitis, Osteoporosis

The UCLA Office of Media Relations issued a press release May 18, 2009 to announce a promising new research finding by dental school scientists.

In a paper published by *Nature Medicine*, Cun-Yu Wang and his colleagues suggest that inhibiting nuclear factor-kB (NF-kB), a master protein that controls genes associated with inflammation and immunity, can prevent disabling bone loss by maintaining bone formation. Their findings could offer new hope to the millions of people who struggle with osteoporosis and periodontitis each year.

Click here to read an abstract of the article.

ABC7 Promotes Dental Student Clinic

In an “ABC7 On Your Side” news feature on May 5, 2009, KABC-Channel 7’s consumer specialist Ric Romero profiled the dental student clinic as an affordable option for highly supervised, quality care.

Ronald Mito and Richard Stevenson served as spokespeople in the story, which has resulted in more than 50 new patient appointments at the Westwood predoctoral clinic, as well as numerous referrals to specialty clinics.

Click here to watch a video of the newscast.