



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Dent-AL

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE
23
2016



FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

As alumni you will know that the Melbourne Dental School, formerly known as The School of Dental Science, is a wonderful place to study and work, full of talented people dedicated to the profession. We are honoured to have a team of world-class academics, bright students and brilliant alumni, and we are committed to building on, and celebrating, this success.

Our reputation is in no small part due to the esteem and skill of our alumni community – over 300 of whom each year lend their skills as highly qualified clinicians overseeing the work of students in a variety of venues including Community Health Centres, The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne and the University of Melbourne’s own Melbourne Dental Clinic.

You will no doubt be aware of the current fundraising campaign for the University of Melbourne, the second phase of which has been recently launched with the ambitious target of raising \$1 billion by 2021. At the Melbourne Dental School we have been privileged to receive a number of generous philanthropic donations since the campaign was launched in 2008. These include gifts from Dr Ron Rosanove (BSc 1949, MBBS 1954) to support dental students in financial need, Mrs Gillian and Dr Bob Cook AM (BDS 1952, MDSc 1958) to fund students specialising in maxillofacial surgery, and Mrs Helen Exarchos-Jacobs, who set up a scholarship for students specialising as orthodontists in memory of her late husband Stanley Jacobs (BDS 1962). In 2015 we were delighted to celebrate ten years of our relationship with the Victorian-Medical

Insurance Agency Limited. For the past decade VMIAL-PSA has provided financial support through the VMIAL-PSA Medical and Dental Scholarships for rural students to live on campus for the duration of their degree. We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed their time and talent and have generously supported the Melbourne Dental School.

It is my pleasure to bring you the first edition of *Dent-al* for 2016 along with the University of Melbourne’s alumni magazine *3010*. We are committed to staying in touch and you may notice the changed format and size of your magazine. We are currently undertaking research to understand how we can best provide you with news and information that is useful, interesting and relevant. If you would like to be a part of our surveys and focus groups I encourage you to contact us via email at mdhs-alumni@unimelb.edu.au. Later this year we will also be launching a new MDHS Alumni website – a new site for and about you. Again, we look forward to your feedback and input.

I trust you will enjoy learning more about what has been happening with your colleagues and on campus, and I hope to see you at one of our events.

Best wishes

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Professor Mike Morgan
(MDSc 1985, PhD 1996)
Head, Melbourne Dental School



Indigenous Dentist made Minister

From a travelling dental caravan in regional NSW and Victoria to cabinet in the ACT Legislative Assembly, Minister Chris Bourke (BDS Sc 1982) has worked hard for social and medical equality across Australia through every avenue available to him.

In 2011, Minister Bourke was confirmed as the first Indigenous representative in the ACT Legislative Assembly. In January 2016 Minister Bourke was elevated to the cabinet and become Minister with responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Children and Young People, Disability, Small Business and the Arts, Veterans and Seniors.

Minister Bourke says he is proud of the foundation his education has given him. After graduating from the University of Melbourne, Minister Bourke who is a proud Gamillaroi man became the first Indigenous dentist in Australia. He spent the next ten years in public dentistry working in Aboriginal dental services, school dental services and public clinics. He brings to his political portfolio the experience of owning and operating a dental clinic for over 16 years as well as his deep and ongoing community work with Aboriginal education committees and community health. In 2004 he helped found the Indigenous Dentists' Association of Australia and was the inaugural President. With no resources, other than the personal sacrifice of its members, the Association has been able to influence policy development at the highest level.

“My education from the University of Melbourne equipped me with the skills I needed to become a lifelong learner. It has empowered me to seek further knowledge and grow.”

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Dr John Moody (BDS Sc 1947) has been made a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to clinical dentistry, particularly in remote Indigenous communities, and in the establishment of oral cancer treatment programs in India. Dr Moody was the first 'flying dentist' in Arnhem Land, NT, from 1948-50.

Dr Sajeev Koshy has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the field of Dentistry in Australia. In addition to his role as a Specialist Endodontist at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne, Dr Koshy's clinical expertise and strong sense of social justice is well known and revered at the University's teaching hospital.

GLOBAL IMPACT AWARD

Professor Eric Reynolds (BSc (Hons) 1972, PhD 1978), CEO of the Oral Health Cooperative Research Centre, and former Head of the Melbourne Dental School for 16 years, was presented with a Global Impact Award at the Annual Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Research Excellence Celebration in September 2015.

Professor Reynolds' award was made 'in recognition of far reaching improvements in oral and general health arising out of his research into oral disease prevention'. Professor Reynolds' team at the Oral Health CRC has developed and commercialised a range of professional and consumer dental products that are sold globally, including the remineralising treatment Tooth Mousse. The team is currently working with vaccine producer CSL on a world-first treatment for chronic periodontitis.

VALE HENRY FORMAN ATKINSON

The University community honours and celebrates the life and service of Emeritus Professor Henry Forman Atkinson (MBE, LDS, MSc, DDS, MDSc, FDSRCS) who passed away on the 5th of January, 2016, at 103 years of age.

Professor Atkinson had a 75-year history with dentistry at the University and, until several months ago, visited the Parkville campus every Wednesday to work in his role of honorary curator at the University's dental museum (which was named in his honour in 2006).

Originally from Lancashire, Emeritus Professor Atkinson arrived in Australia in 1953 to take up the Chair in Dental Prosthetics at the University of Melbourne. He worked in the Department of Biochemistry and the Department of Physiology, and was later appointed lecturer in Histology and Embryology. Emeritus Professor Atkinson was a member of the Dental Faculty, College Council, Dental Hospital Committee of Management, the Professorial Board and the University Research Committee. He was also Dean of the Faculty from 1968 to 1970.

Although officially retiring in 1978, Emeritus Professor Atkinson continued a close association with the Melbourne Dental School and the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne in the roles of honorary curator of the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum and honorary historian for the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. His knowledge of



the history of dentistry often attracted media interest and he was widely respected as an easy, authoritative historian with a passion for explaining how dentistry evolved within Australian health and society.

Professor Atkinson will be greatly missed, not only by the many generations of students and patients that he cared for with great empathy and humility, but by the large dental and medical communities whom he inspired through his dedication and passion for his profession.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Professor Atkinson's family and friends.

IT'S A GAS! DENTISTRY AND CARTOONS

**Monday 9 May
to Saturday 3
September 2016 in
the Medical History
Museum, Brownless
Biomedical Library**

'It's a gas!' meaning 'it's hilarious!' possibly had its origin in the effect of nitrous oxide (also known as laughing gas) on one's behaviour. Nitrous oxide gas was first synthesised by the English chemist Joseph Priestly in 1772, and first used to anaesthetise a dental patient in 1844. Anaesthetics transformed the delivery of dental services and had a significant impact on the well-being of patients. However people still fear trips to the dentist, and the profession is still the brunt of many jokes.

This exhibition traces the history of dentistry through illustrations and cartoons dating from the seventeenth century to now from Europe and Australia. Themes include fear, relief, pain and vanity. Cartoons come from private and public collections including the University of Melbourne print collection and Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum. Complementing the cartoons are objects and archival material from Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum and the Medical History Museum.

The scene of the dentist, blacksmith or tooth-puller in the market place or workshop appears frequently in European art. Usually the patient shows extreme fear or anxiety concerning the extraction about to take place. There is also an element of theatre as well as crowds or family gather around for the spectacle. In the exhibition illustrations and cartoons reveal dental practices in the days before anaesthetics. From the mid nineteenth century cartoons reveal the introduction of new technology such as laughing gas and new forms of dentures. This imagery also translates into political commentary where the dentist is often the politician and the public, the patient. *It's a gas!* explores the story of dentistry through humour. Come along and laugh out loud!

**University of Melbourne
Brownless Biomedical Library
Kernot Road, Parkville**

**Open: Mon to Fri 10am-5pm
Sat 1pm-5pm
Closed Sundays**

medicalhistorymuseum.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/



Pierre Falké (French, 1884–1947)
You feel no pain?, 1913
published in *Le Rire* [Laughter],
22 November 1913, p. 8
Chromolithograph: image 21.0 x 19.0 cm
sheet 32.0 x 23.0 cm
Private Collection



Angus Macdonald, known as Angus Mac
(20th century)
Hold on tight Bill!, c. 1940
coloured pencil on paper
sheet 22.5 x 17.5 cm
Private Collection



Peter Nicholson (Australian, b. 1946)
Rudd as dentist, 2009
digital print
artwork for cartoon published in
The Australian, 28 June 2009
Henry Forman Atkinson Museum
© Peter Nicholson and *The Australian*.



Associate Professor Mina Borromeo and student Daniel Sundaresan with patient

THE ART OF SPECIAL NEEDS DENTISTRY

Associate Professor Mina Borromeo (BSc(Hons), BDS 1991) leads the largest under-graduate and post-graduate special needs dentistry courses in the world here at the Melbourne Dental School.

“Dental care for patients with special needs doesn’t change – a filling is a filling – but the context of the patient’s health can be vastly different for patients with special needs and this will undoubtedly affect the outcome in terms of oral health,” Associate Professor Borromeo explains.

“For example, telling a patient to brush their teeth is all well and good but if your patient has a disability that prevents them from using their hands, then this isn’t going to be achievable for them. Approaching our task with a holistic appreciation of the health and wellbeing of a patient is what I found was lacking in teaching students about a special needs context.”

Special needs dentistry encompasses patients grappling with all kinds of issues including mild phobias, psychiatric issues, developmental disorders or mobility issues.

Associate Professor Borromeo realised that in order for her students to gain insight into their patient’s needs the power of empathy in the clinical environment needed to be woven into the curriculum. After collaborating with colleagues locally and internationally, Associate Professor Borromeo introduced Arts-based intervention to her curriculum. In this course students examine artwork at the Ian Potter Museum in order to learn how to “observe in detail, think in-depth about what they observe, and describe it as well as building this into thinking about the special needs context and the empathy that surrounds that.”

“In the first year of introducing this into the course the students looked at me like I had three heads but it’s amazing how it has really taken off!”

The course quickly expanded to include an assignment in which students make their own creative work in response to the context of special needs patients. These creative responses have included sculptures, photography, paintings, poems and even a piece of music composed by a student.

In 2015 Associate Professor Borromeo won the David White Award for Teaching Excellence and an Australian Federal Government Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

“Special needs dentistry has come a long way in the last ten years and I think the profession, the public health system, and the general health of the patient is better for it. Yet there is still a long way to go to close the gap in the perception and awareness of the oral health needs for those with special needs.

“Training for special needs dentistry is all about the world in which the patients live. If I can teach all of my students to be more empathetic to their patients and understand the social, physical and psychological contexts of their health then all patients will be better off.”