



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Dent-AL

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Julie Satur promoted to Professor in the Melbourne Dental School



Professor Julie Satur has been employed by the University of Melbourne since 1996 and was instrumental in leading the transition of dental therapy and hygiene education from the certificate courses of the 1970s, to the Bachelor program it is today. Julie is a pioneer within Oral Health Therapy, being the first in the Australasian/Asian-Pacific region to have been awarded a PhD, the first Dental Therapist appointed as an academic staff member to any university Dental School in Australia, the first to be promoted to Professor on merit, and the only female Professor of Oral Health Therapy in our country. Through her career, Julie has led the development of the profession into a research enabled discipline

through development of undergraduate and graduate curriculum, coursework and teaching, research and academic publication, journal editing, and conference development.

Professor Satur's recognition that traditional models of oral care were not delivering access to dental care has informed her research and directed her work towards policy implementation and change. She was a founding member of both the Victorian and Australian Dental Therapist Associations, and has held many executive and leadership positions including development of the first peer reviewed international journal for the profession. She has been identified as a leader and mentor for several generations of Oral Health Therapy practitioners in Australia. She has driven student engagement with the community through many oral health promotion programs in underserved populations over many years, for refugees, people with disabilities, homeless, early childhood, rural communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. This work has raised the profile of oral health therapy and contributed to improving oral health for people with severe mental illness, seen graduates employed in many settings providing care for people with complex needs and helped to increase access to dental care in underserved communities.

Recently, she has established the extension of Oral Health Therapy students educational experience in remote communities through the development of a partnership with the Miwatj Health Service in East Arnhem Land. This has been outstanding as an example of sensitive community engagement linked to positive outcomes for both the oral health of the Miwatj Community and the development of cross cultural learning for our graduates.

Julie was the first dental therapist in Australasia to serve on a regulatory body and led the development of new practice regulation subsequently translated into national regulation. Julie has made an outstanding contribution to health policy development in our country including National Oral Health Plans, the Graduate Year Program, competency and accreditation frameworks and establishing the College of Oral Health Academics.

Recently, Julie has been instrumental in the development and successful implementation of the Melbourne Dental School Mentoring Program for final year DDS and BOH students. Her dedication and enthusiasm has seen the program return and even expand for the second year of the program in 2018.

**Professor Michael McCullough**  
(BDS (Melb) 1982, PhD (Melb) 1995, MDS (1997))

Professor of Oral Medicine,  
Melbourne Dental School

## Leading global oral health outcomes

"I have been part of world first research looking at OHT practice and evidence for effective oral health promotion. My work has taken me from Canberra to help develop national policy, to London to learn about leadership, Washington DC to speak on

oral health therapy, Indonesia and Fiji to consider educational models, East Arnhem Land to work with Indigenous communities, and Melbourne to work with some wonderful and inspiring people who use the power of the University of Melbourne to help

vulnerable and socially disadvantaged communities. I feel very lucky – it has been an incredible privilege".

**Professor Julie Satur**  
Head, Oral Health  
Melbourne Dental School

## Celebrating our newest graduates

Welcome to the first edition of Dent-AL for 2018, our dedicated publication for alumni of the Melbourne Dental School. In this edition, we celebrate women in dentistry, the impact of scholarships, opportunities for continued professional development, and our newest graduates.

Last year we saw 84 students graduate from the Doctor of Dental Surgery and 28 students graduate from the Bachelor of Oral Health program.

I am pleased to be able to share the profile of Akram Abdullahi (BSc 2013, DDS 2017), who was one of the first new graduates to walk across the stage last December, graduating with a Doctor of Dental Surgery.

We could not be more proud to welcome Akram and all of our recent graduates to the alumni community!

Head online to read more alumni career profiles. While you are there, make sure to update your details and keep in touch with us for access to events, professional development opportunities and other alumni benefits.

[dental.unimelb.edu.au/engage/alumni](http://dental.unimelb.edu.au/engage/alumni)

**Professor Mike Morgan**  
(MDSc 1985, Grad Dip Epidemiol 1993, PhD (Melb) 1996)  
Head, Melbourne Dental School



### Akram Abdullahi

Akram Abdullahi (BSc 2013, DDS 2017) loves dentistry because he says it encourages him to both think critically and scientifically, while also engaging his creative side. He hopes to pass on that passion by returning to the University in a few years' time to teach Australia's future dentists using his own experiences as a clinician.

Whilst studying, Akram was a Dental Team Leader for the Teddy Bear Hospital, a program established and run by student volunteers

from across the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Students have a mock health check-up with a child's teddy bear or soft toy to help familiarise children with healthcare environments and to promote a healthy lifestyle.

*"It's an invaluable opportunity to develop communication skills with children and their parents through a range of fun, interactive and educational activities."*

## Volunteer trip – student reflection

In December of last year 14 Doctor of Dental Surgery students visited Cambodia to volunteer their time in rural communities. Fourth year DDS student Jamie Kang recalls the experience.

We were situated three hours from the capital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. From here, we made our way to the rural community, a further hour and half drive down a bumpy dirt road from where we were staying. Along the way, we watched as we drove behind an old truck, with all the dental chairs, mobile

dental units and materials we needed in order to help serve the community. There was a different kind of traffic jam along this road, involving herds of cows and potholes.

We did the best we could with the equipment we could bring. Set up in an old cobweb filled building, bumping elbows with each other as we tried to maximise the space we had available. As we all slowly learnt some broken Khmer language from the single Cambodian dental student we had with us, we were able to communicate with the members of the community in order to work out what we could do for them.

The most rewarding part of this experience was to see how appreciative each and every one of our patients were. Our only regret was that we would not be around to provide them with the continued care that they need.



Update your details online to ensure you receive the latest news, events and other opportunities from the Melbourne Dental School [dental.unimelb.edu.au/engage/alumni](http://dental.unimelb.edu.au/engage/alumni)

# Dentists' diversity milestone reached with women taking a lead

Dentistry in Australia has reached a significant diversity milestone. Towards the end of last year, quoting the Australian Dental Association (ADA) and the Federal Department of Health, Fairfax reported: Nationally, 50.2 per cent of dental practitioners were female, and 55 per cent of dentists aged 20 to 34 were women. Student member numbers at the ADA's Victorian Branch, meanwhile, also pointed at what looks like an ongoing trend with females representing 56 per cent of its student membership.

In STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine), females are

much better represented numerically in the "M" – medicine vocational grouping, but not yet nearly enough as senior managers and leaders. This is one reason why I am delighted that, at Melbourne Dental School's world-class training facilities at the Melbourne Oral Health Teaching and Education Centre, including the Melbourne Dental Clinic, our CPD program is increasingly female-led.

A great example is our new-for-2018 Behaviour Management for Successful Practice – Sedation and CPR training. Led by distinguished specialist clinicians, Dr Sadna Rajan and Dr Gaurika Sud, this course will

run from Thursday 6 to Friday 7 September and will refresh and update 15 participants' knowledge of clinical assessment and patient management. Uniquely, it will feature hands-on training in administration of nitrous sedation. It will also focus on identifying patients who would benefit most from treatment modification, empowering them to make informed decisions about treatment options.

**Dr Roy Judge (MDS 1997, PhD 2006)**  
Associate Professor (Prosthodontics),  
Director of Continuing Professional  
Development  
Melbourne Dental School

## Dr Sadna Rajan



Dr Sadna Rajan is a lecturer and Convener of the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Paediatric Dentistry program at the Melbourne Dental School. She completed her clinical training in Paediatric Dentistry in Leeds UK (2011) and subsequently obtained her membership, MPaedDent RCS (England & Glasgow), in 2012.

Asked why she recommends a career in dentistry, Dr Rajan says: "From my personal experience, dentistry is a wonderful career for women in STEMM. There are many opportunities, including clinical practice, teaching and research, which leads to great flexibility for work-life balance through life stages. More than that, it's a truly rewarding profession."

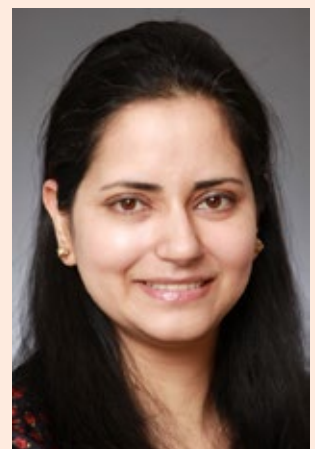
Her CV illustrates this well. She has been a clinical academic for the past 13 years, and specialist in Paediatric dentistry with AHPRA since 2014. Her special interests include management of dental caries, paediatric endodontics, dental trauma, inhalation sedation and developmental dental anomalies in healthy and medically compromised children. Her research interests range from cariology to the study of dental pulp in relation to infection, inflammation and regeneration, and paediatric endodontics. She received the Charles Eleanor Knowles best research award (2011) from the University of Leeds, and Young Researcher Travel Award (2012) from the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry.

## Dr Gaurika Sud

Specialist prosthodontist, Dr Gaurika Sud received her Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Prosthodontics) from the University of Melbourne in 2015.

"The dental profession offers a great degree of independence and flexibility. It allows women to set their own career goals, working independently or as part of a team." Dr Sud enjoys all aspects of prosthodontics and has a special interest in aesthetic dental treatments, gaining most satisfaction from: "Knowing I have given someone the confidence to smile again." Dr Sud specialises in treatment of patients with complex

dental problems using options such as crowns and bridges, implant-supported prostheses, and removable dentures. At the Melbourne Dental School, Gaurika has been involved in teaching as a clinical supervisor since 2012. A regular continuing professional development program lecturer, she is also an examiner for the Australian Dental Council and President of her local ADA group. She is a committee member of the Australian Osseointegration Society (Victorian branch) and a member of Australian Prosthodontic Society.



Each year, the Melbourne Dental School provides an extensive range of CPD training courses. Visit our website for full details of the 2018 schedule [go.unimelb.edu.au/8av6](http://go.unimelb.edu.au/8av6)

# Inaugural Robert and Gillian Cook Family Award recipients announced

On Friday 9 February, the Melbourne Dental School was pleased to hold a morning tea celebration to announce the inaugural recipients of the Robert and Gillian Cook Family Award.

Hosted by Head of School Professor Mike Morgan, the event was a wonderful opportunity to thank our generous donors Dr Robert Cook and Mrs Gillian Cook and to introduce them to the two inaugural recipients, Mr Peter Tao and Mr Aaron Thomas.

Established by the Cooks in 2016, this Melbourne Dental School award provides important financial support to students who are pursuing research in the area of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Dr Robert Cook AM (BDS Sc 1952, MD Sc 1958) is a dentist who is widely recognised for his work in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Now retired, Dr Cook is eager to give back to his alma mater and support the next generation of students looking to pursue a career in his area of specialisation.

## Aaron Thomas

Aaron holds a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (University of Adelaide), Bachelor of Dental Science (University of Western Australia) and Bachelor of Science (Honours) (University of Adelaide), and he is currently Specialist Trainee in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, in the Victorian and Tasmanian Training Program. His clinical and academic interests include the management of facial trauma, correction of facial deformity, and paediatric maxillofacial surgery.

"The Robert and Gillian Cook Family Award is extremely helpful to me as I pursue a Master of Philosophy degree through the Melbourne Dental School. I plan to use this most generous grant to purchase anatomic dissections of the head and neck area to illustrate publications of my research topic, which is on the radiographic analysis of the maxillary artery. The aim of my research is to improve safety in maxillofacial procedures that involve this difficult anatomical region – such as corrective jaw surgery of the maxilla and surgery for trauma to the temporomandibular joint."

## Peter Tao

Peter is a PhD candidate at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute under the guidance of Professor Antony Burgess (BSc (Hons) 1969, PhD 1973). Peter is currently working on a project in close collaboration with the head and neck tumour stream at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, headed by Associate Professor David Wiesenfeld (BDS Sc 1976, MD Sc 1980). The project aims to translate recent innovations in genetic sequencing and targeted therapies into improving immunotherapy options for patients with oral cancer.

Peter also works as an ear nose and throat registrar at the Royal Melbourne Hospital with an aspiration to become a Head and Neck Cancer Surgeon. Having worked in a busy head and neck cancer unit, his motivation to pursue further research is to improve outcomes for patients with head and neck cancer. All current treatment modalities can carry a large burden of morbidity, disfigurement and even mortality.

"Receiving the Robert and Gillian Cook Family Award has been immensely beneficial to my studies.

"I migrated to Melbourne when I was three with my family from Shanghai, China. I completed my medical degree as a National Medicine Scholar through the University of Melbourne in 2011 followed by my internship at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 2012. Whilst working as a surgical resident I maintained a strong interest in head and neck cancer research, publishing multiple studies in peer-reviewed journals and presenting at national and international conferences. I also hold a Diploma of Surgical Anatomy (2012) from the University of Melbourne and a Masters of Surgery (Surgical Sciences) from the University of Sydney."



Mr Peter Tao, Mr Aaron Thomas, Dr Robert Cook, Mrs Gillian Cook and Professor Mike Morgan.

To make a gift to support students of the Melbourne Dental School, please visit:  
[alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/dentalscholarships](http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/dentalscholarships)