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## A short history of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne

By HENRY F ATKINSON

**After several difficult and unproductive years of debate by the Odontological Society of Victoria on the possibility of establishing a dental hospital in Melbourne, the president John Iliffe took the problem directly to a meeting of the local dentists with the result that the Dental Association of Victoria was formed with the single aim of opening a dental hospital.**

This event occurred with much fanfare in 1890. The new Melbourne Dental Hospital occupied rooms over Garton's Horse and Carriage Bazaar directly opposite the gates of

the Melbourne Hospital in Lonsdale Street. Initially the hospital prospered, treating patients and taking on apprentices but politics, gold rushes and the collapse of the land boom saw the Committee of Management reduced to two, Mr John Iliffe, the President, and the Secretary Mr Ernest Joske. They must have dreaded the closure of the hospital and the end of a decade of work.

Drastic steps were necessary, public meetings were called resulting in the administration of the hospital and all its assets, being returned to its founding fathers - the Dental Association of Victoria - of which Iliffe was also President. The hospital continued in reduced circumstances until 1897 when another meeting of local dentists resulted in the establishment of an educational institution, the Australian College of Dentistry, which included the hospital administration (apparently returned without fanfare from the dental association).

Nominally the hospital had its own management committee, the members of which, together with the secretary, were common with the college.

The union between the two bodies prospered with the college eventually designing, financing and completing in 1907 a building at 193 Spring Street to house both organisations; with the hospital as a tenant. They were justly proud of this achievement which John Iliffe stated at every opportunity, was built without government help.

To both patients and students it was not possible to separate hospital from college.

*continued over...*

Picture: Porcelain room and staff, c.1907, sepia toned photograph of the porcelain room at the Melbourne Dental Hospital and Australian College of Dentistry, Spring Street Melbourne with (l to r) Dr E F Greenwood, unknown student, Mr T Unsworth, Dr Angus Bain, Mr Ernest Joske and Mr L Price, 20.5 x 28.0 cm, reg. no 1232/362, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum



## A Word From the Head

**The School has been engaged in a range of activities in the first quarter of 2010; with the major focus on preparing the documentation for the Australian Dental Council for the accreditation of our new Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) curriculum; completion of the negotiations to finalise the agreements to establish the new Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health (CRC-OH) and to secure approval from the finance committee of the University Council for the release of funds to establish the Melbourne Oral Health Training and Education Centre (MOHTEC) at 723 Swanston St.**

I am very pleased to report that the accreditation documentation for the DDS was recently submitted to the ADC and an ADC accreditation visit to the School has been planned for August with the aim of having the new program accredited before our first student intake in early 2011. I would particularly like to thank Professor Michael Burrow and the DDS Curriculum Committee for developing, what I think, is an innovative and exciting dental curriculum. This DDS curriculum and the imminent approval of MOHTEC by the University Council provides an outstanding platform for the School to be recognized as leader in innovation of dental education and as a centre of clinical excellence to enhance its already substantial international reputation.

MOHTEC at 723 Swanston St will represent a state-of-the-art clinical simulation facility and a small private dental clinic which will complement the current clinical training sites at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne and various Community Health Centres in regional and rural locations in Victoria.

MOHTEC will provide experience for the final year DDS students with private patients and with private practice business management.

The DDS will be Australia's only postgraduate qualification for training general dental practitioners. We believe this program creates a new benchmark in 21st century dental education. The degree will not only lead to registration as a general dental practitioner with the Dental Practice Board in Australia and New Zealand, but it will also create a pathway to enter the MPhil, PhD or Doctor of Clinical Dentistry.

The School is fortunate to have internationally-recognised academics who will deliver the course using lectures, pre-clinical practical classes and clinical patient treatments involving all specialties of dentistry and case-based and online learning. The curriculum is based on up-to-date scientific evidence in oral health, imparting advanced philosophies, skills and knowledge related to all areas of clinical dental practice and research.

As part of the four year full-time degree, students will spend significant time in provision of patient care, using advanced materials and clinical methods, as well as undertake a two-year research project in oral health. In final year, students have the unique opportunity to experience working in a private practice setting in MOHTEC, as well as learning how to run a small business.

MOHTEC will not only provide a state-of-the-art clinical training environment for the DDS and the Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) students it will also allow expansion of student numbers in both the DDS and BOH to address the workforce shortage in Australia.

The agreements and contracts to establish the new CRC-OH with \$31.6 million of government funding are very close to finalization and it is expected that the new CRC will be in operation within a few weeks.



This new CRC builds on the old CRC for Oral Health Science and welcomes new participants, Colgate Oral Care, Murray Goulburn Dairy Co-operative and the University of Queensland Dental School. The participants of the original CRC will all continue in the new CRC-OH and these are the Melbourne Dental School and other Departments of The University of Melbourne, CSL Ltd; GC Australasia, Recaldent Ltd and Monash University. All the CRC participants are indebted to Ms Gilda Pekin Deputy CEO and Legal Counsel who has worked tirelessly for the last nine months to facilitate agreement between all parties and make the CRC a reality.

The introduction of the DDS, and the establishment of MOHTEC and the new CRC-OH would feature amongst the most transformational changes for the Melbourne Dental School in its 106 year history and clearly augur well for an exciting and prosperous future.

ERIC REYNOLDS  
HEAD, MELBOURNE DENTAL SCHOOL



*continued from page 1 ...*

Entry was by a common door off the street, students treated patients and furthermore when the superintendent, the only paid hospital staff went on leave, a senior student was appointed to the position. A dental faculty was formed and the college was affiliated with The University of Melbourne, which, according to the inaccurate wording on a large cast bronze plaque mounted on the wall of the entrance hall, also included the hospital.

Mr Joske, through college influence, was now made the Faculty Secretary which together with his other dental activities, Register of the Dental Board, Secretary of the College, Secretary of the Hospital, and Honorary Member of the Odontological Society, must have given an air of a mad Hatter's tea party to the administration; Joske was literally writing and signing letters to himself.

An appeal to the government for funds was met with the reply that when college and hospital had completely separate administrations, the matter would be reconsidered. This prospect horrified both council and committee members as they saw themselves losing control of their own hospital, an act which could not be tolerated so a hand to mouth existence continued. The fear of loss reappeared when the dental students society moved for the appointment of a University Professor who it was thought would undoubtedly take over the college.

World War I came and passed with both bodies heavily involved, students volunteered for war service and those remaining worked overtime in the hospital treating recruits.

The first dental Professor was appointed in 1924 and exerted a strong influence on the standard of teaching. This change worked to reinforce the university's position and is



probably why the government looked sympathetically at the next request for funds. In 1925 it made the first grant of 100 pounds. The finances of the hospital and college were, however, still tangled creating a challenge for the new hospital accountant who was having great difficulty in explaining the concept of separate budgets.

A significant change in philosophy - the acceptance of a physical separation of the two bodies - came when the University Council in 1926, accepted the proposal of a government committee, that the new dental college be incorporated into the medical school and the hospital into the general hospital opposite. Some sketch plans were apparently drawn but the administrations did not formally separate until 1928 when the College Council, as a separate and independent body, had its first meeting followed by the Hospital Committee of Management, a year later in 1929. The physical and practical situations did not change at Spring Street, the building was the same and the committee members were common, but the essentials of financial separation were on the horizon.

In 1934 a new Professor was appointed who, to increase college influence in the hospital, introduced the position of Dean of the hospital thereby gaining control over the professional staff. The concept of the new school had changed in the physical sense, from the campus to the Haymarket site opposite the Royal Melbourne Hospital, with both school and hospital accommodated in the same building. Sketched plans were prepared but World War II intervened putting all aspects of health and hospital reform in limbo until hostilities ceased.

Several years of difficulty ensued between the dental hospital and the Hospitals and Charities Commission over the need for a ward in the new building and the control of the project.

Internal hospital problems over management saw senior staff, the superintendent and secretary, resign because of difficulties over the administration.

As a result the government took a direct interest in the project by appointing to the Committee of Management independent members with business experience.

This was followed by a complete reorganisation of the administration of the project. The building advisory committee membership now consisted of businessmen with experience in finance, architecture and engineering, alongside representatives of the hospital and university. Now for the first time in 20 years a complete set of architectural drawings was available, thus enabling tenders to be advertised and a contract let.

The inclusion of the ward was still opposed by Hospital and Charities but it finally agreed to allow the building to start with the ward in shell form only. Meanwhile a new agreement was required between the university and the hospital as the site was jointly owned. Simply put this meant that the hospital would be responsible for the cost of patient care and the university for teaching. The hospital negotiated that there would be no Dean of the hospital in the new building, however it agreed that the present incumbent would be allowed to continue in an advisory capacity until retirement.

As the building progressed the student quota was increased on the firm understanding that so would staff numbers. Unfortunately this did not occur with the result that, shortly after entry to the new accommodation, the dental faculty reduced the student quota.



This action involved the hospital and the Hospitals and Charities Commission and resulted in the Minister of Health establishing the Ministerial Advisory Commission to consider, amongst other items, the relationship between the hospital and school. Discussions also centered on changing the philosophy of the hospital to that of a general or teaching hospital.

This concept was strongly supported by the chairman of the Hospitals Commission who had recently concluded a similar proposal involving the new Austin Hospital and the

Today the Federal Government is determined to make changes at the national level to the funding of health care in order to bring services to the wider community.

university; the proposal was ultimately narrowly defeated. The Commission however increased hospital staff by appointments to clinical teaching areas with more house surgeons and clinical

supervisors. The hospital changed the position of secretary to that of administrator and appointed a member from the staff of a general hospital who had experience with academics as well as medical students and their problems. Changes were also made to the membership of the Committee of Management, now renamed 'Council', which included a university representative and the Dean of the Faculty. Relationships between the hospital and the dental school were much improved as a result of these changes.

The whole health system was in a state of flux with separate acts under discussion for medicine, dentistry and other dental personnel. The hospital administration changed fundamentally. The previous system, which allowed contributors to put forward and vote for committee members and thereby allowed the academics to play internal politics, was abolished and appointments made from above.

The absorption of the Dental Faculty into the Medical Faculty and the official creation of a Dental School prior to the move to a new building where the school would be a tenant, made further changes to relationships between the hospital and the school inevitable.

Today the Federal Government is determined to make changes at the national level to the funding of health care in order to bring services to the wider community.

These actions will undoubtedly involve dental hospitals which together with the fundamental changes in undergraduate and graduate education now underway, may indicate that it is time to reconsider the wider teaching hospital concept in any new developments.

Pictured above:  
Far Left: Main Clinic, c.1907, sepia toned photographic print of the main conservative clinic at the Melbourne Dental Hospital and Australian College of Dentistry, Spring Street, Melbourne, showing three rows of chairs, gas lights, unsewered spittoons, 20.5 x 28.0 cm, reg. no 1232/375, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Middle: Photographic print, Melbourne Dental Hospital and Australian College of Dentistry, Spring Street Melbourne, c.1910, 12.5 x 18.0 cm, reg. no.1236.6.25, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Right: Gas Room Spring Street, c.1907, sepia toned photographic print of the gas room at the Melbourne Dental Hospital and Australian College of Dentistry, Spring Street Melbourne, with gasometer and milk churn spittoons, 20.5 x 28.0 cm, reg. no. 1232/373, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.



Far left: Eric Reynolds, Dr Michael Wooldridge, Garry Pearson ADAVB/evident



Left: Meaghan Quinn



## What is evident?

evident Dental Practice Based Research Network (DPBRN) is an exciting joint venture between ADAVB and the Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Science (CRC-OHS) at the Melbourne Dental School.

While there are numerous evidence-based systems and resources to assist medical practitioners to adopt improved quality and safety measures in their practices, no equivalent support systems exist for Australian dentists.

### Science transfer

Research is fundamental to building our knowledge base, yet there is often a disconnection between research outcomes and the realities of patient care. This is due to the fact that most dental research is conducted within a university setting. Using the results of a number of studies published within the medical literature, it has been estimated that it takes on average 17 years to turn 14% of original research findings into changes in clinical care that benefits a patient (Balas E & Boran S. Managing Clinical Knowledge for Health Care. In: Yearbook of Medical Informatics 2000:65-70).

A recent publication by Gilbert et al, in JADA 2008;139(1):74-81, reviewed the structure and function of the University of Alabama practice-based research network, which includes practitioner researchers in seven US states and three Scandinavian countries. The authors concluded that practitioners from diverse settings were partnering with fellow practitioners and academics to improve daily clinical practice and meet the needs of clinicians and their patients. They stated that DPBRNs can improve clinical practice by engaging dentists in the development and

implementation of studies that are of direct interest to them and their patients.

This active engagement of the profession offers the potential to significantly improve the science transfer from research projects to clinical practice.

### The Network

evident will train evident members in research skills and engage them in activities and projects within their own practices that will improve the evidence base for dental care.

Most dentists work within isolated clinical settings with little opportunity for clinical benchmarking. It would be of great benefit to the profession and community at large if information could be obtained from the private practice environment.

Through evident, clinical and community based health care questions can be answered and translated into provision of services in accordance with best practice and quality improvement guidelines. In addition this information can be utilized to direct appropriate policy initiatives.

Within the context of quality assurance, practice accreditation and practitioner revalidation a DPBRN would provide dentists with the resources to meet the burgeoning requirements set by regulating bodies. evident will draw on the experience and insight of Associate (practitioner) Investigators to identify and frame research questions whose answers can improve the delivery of dental services within the private practice setting. By linking these questions with rigorous research methods, the DPBRN can produce research findings that are immediately relevant to the clinician and, in theory, more easily assimilated into everyday practice.

### Research Projects & Funding

The primary objective of each evident study is to strengthen the knowledge base for clinical decision-making and policy setting. This will be done by testing particular approaches and evaluating the effectiveness of strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of oral diseases and conditions.

The first two approved research projects relate to implant complications and Hypomineralisation. Further details about these will appear in future newsletters. Proposals for new projects will be relevant to oral health care and, where possible, educating general practitioners and practice staff, thereby helping to build knowledge and research capacity of participants.

Research will occur in two broad areas:

1. Research projects about policy issues
2. Research projects about clinical issues.

The ADAVB has committed \$100,000 to start an investment fund to generate future earnings that can be assigned to support research activities, and both the ADAVB and CRC-OHS provide significant amounts of in kind support for evident.

Research projects will be able to make applications for National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Dental Research Foundation funding with assistance from Chief Investigators (Melbourne Dental School academic staff).

Research projects to be conducted by evident are expected to cost from \$5,000 to \$100,000, depending on the scale and scope of the research design.

Possible funding sources include various foundations and trusts plus public donations for particular projects or a general 'pot' of funds for evident.

### Further information

Members interested in evident should contact:

Ms Meaghan Quinn  
evident DPBRN Coordinator  
PO Box 9015  
SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141  
Ph: (03) 8825 4603  
Email: meaghan.quinn@adavb.au

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## Melbourne Dental School Pre-Convention Workshop

Thursday 29th July 2010

The Melbourne Dental School (MDS) in conjunction with the ADAVB is proud to present the 2010 Pre-Convention Workshop. This workshop will highlight current concepts in preparation design.

The workshop will be headed by Professor Charles Goodacre, one of the pre-eminent prosthodontists of today. Professor Goodacre will bring together many years of clinical research and teaching experience to help drive this workshop. He will present concepts behind preparation design and present techniques by using video, live demonstrations and power point presentations. Participants will be able to carry out these preparations under the supervision of some of the leading prosthodontists in Australia. The Melbourne Dental School is proud to offer the first Pre-Convention workshop providing hands-on learning in conjunction with the excellent program offered by the ADAVB.

### Objectives

- To understand choice of preparation
- Concepts supporting design philosophy
- To increase clinical skills by immediate feedback from a range of prosthodontists
- To encourage conservative philosophies in preparation design

### Major Topics

- Overlay preparation
- All Ceramic preparation
- Metal Ceramic preparations

### Choose one session only

The workshop will be repeated on the day and participants need only attend one of the sessions. The morning session will be held from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm and the afternoon session from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Morning and afternoon tea will be made available at the participants' leisure but participants are asked to make their own lunch arrangements.

### What to Bring

All consumables will be provided during the workshop but participants are asked to bring their own safety glasses which are mandatory and must be worn at all times during the workshop sessions.

### Presenters

- Dr. Charles Goodacre
- Dr. Gerry Clausen
- Dr. John Locke
- Dr. Gordon Burt
- Dr. Roy B Judge

### Course Details

Venue: Melbourne Dental School  
720 Swanston Street, Carlton VIC 3053

CPD Credit: 3 hours Scientific CPD

Date: Thursday 29 July 2010

Cost: \$550

For all MDS Pre-Convention Workshop Registrations please contact our secretariat:

Suite 2, Level 1, 120 Railway Avenue,  
Ringwood East VIC 3135

Tel: (03) 9870 2611  
Fax: (03) 9870 1723

Email: events@conferenceworks.net.au

For any other enquiries, email Melbourne Dental School at cpd-dent@unimelb.edu.au or call (03) 9341 1506

### CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION

23 JULY 2010

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT [www.adavb.net](http://www.adavb.net)

## 2010 Minimal Intervention Dentistry

On Friday 26 March, the Melbourne Dental School, Continuing Professional Development Program in conjunction with the CRC, Henry Schein Halas and GC ran its first sponsored program for 2010.

The full day lecture course was held at the Bio21 Institute. Our keynote speakers for the day were Professor Eric Reynolds, Professor Martin Tyas, Professor Michael Burrow, A/Professor Stuart Dashper, Dr. David Manton and Dr. Alexandra Sbaraini.

The lecture program covered the extensive research that has been carried out at the Melbourne Dental School and CRC with insights into how the newly developed treatment philosophies are directly applicable to the clinic.

The program was well received by delegates and there were approximately 100 attendees on the day.

We would like to express our thanks to all our presenters for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience and making the program a success. Thank you also to our sponsors for their support on the day and also to staff at the Bio21 Institute.

**HENRY SCHEIN® | HALAS**

**oralhealthscience**  
cooperativeresearchcentre

**'GC'**

For more information on our 2010 program please contact:

Samantha or Elena on  
(03) 9341 1506 or by email at  
cpd-dent@unimelb.edu.au

or check our web site at  
[www.dent.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.dent.unimelb.edu.au)

UPDATE  
PREP



## Staffing

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences is delighted to inform the staff at the Melbourne Dental School that the Vice-Chancellor has accepted his recommendation that **Professor Eric Reynolds** be appointed Foundation Head of the Graduate School of Dentistry, known as the Melbourne Dental School, for five years from 4th January 2010.

**Mr Alan Eddy** has been appointed as School Manager of the Melbourne Dental School replacing Sandra Turner who is now the Manager of the Department of Medicine.

**Professor Michael Woods** has resigned from his role as Head and Chair of Orthodontics. Michael has been with the School for over 14 years and has built up graduate orthodontics to be one of the most sought after graduate courses.

**Congratulations to Dr Julie Satur and Dr Neil O'Brien-Simpson** on their recent promotions to the level of Associate Professor and also to **Ms Su-yan Barrow** who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer and **Dr Nathan Cochrane** to Senior Research Fellow.

### Professor Michael Burrow

After 15 years, Michael Burrow will be leaving the Melbourne Dental School. He will take up a position in Comprehensive Dental Care in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Hong Kong. Michael came to Melbourne in 1995 after spending six years in Tokyo where he completed a certificate in Japanese language at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, then his PhD at Tokyo Medical and Dental University, First Department of Conservative Dentistry. His research was the first to investigate the long-term durability of resin-based adhesives to dentine with conventional etch and rinse systems and the pioneering development of the self-etching adhesives.



He has actively continued his research throughout his time at the School.

Originally from Adelaide, where he graduated in 1981 from the University of Adelaide with a BDS, he then completed a Masters degree in Prosthodontics in 1987.

Michael started at the School as a Lecturer convening Removable Prosthodontics and shortly after Dental Materials. He then convened Conservative Dentistry from 1997. In 2002, he was appointed as Clinical Dean of the School, and in 2007 was promoted to Professor. He has played a major role in the development of the new graduate entry Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, not to mention many other aspects of curriculum development and education in the School.

We wish Michael well in his new ventures and look forward to making stronger links between Melbourne and Hong Kong in the future.

## Visitors to the School

Professor Nazar Talabani and two PhD candidates, Dr Aras Rauf and Dr Fadil Kareem recently visited the Melbourne Dental School from the College of Dentistry, University of Sulaimani, Iraq. During their visit, they collaborated with Professor Mike Morgan, A/Prof Rodrigo Mariño and Dr John Rogers. Our guests also had the opportunity to visit other departments of the Dental School and Dental Health Services Victoria.



Professor Talabani discussed the possibility of future collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Iraqi Universities.

## Launch of the Stanley Jacobs Trust for Orthodontic Research

The family of the late Stanley Jacobs have donated funds to the School to establish the Stanley Jacobs Trust for Orthodontic Research. The purpose of the trust is to promote research in orthodontics and to recognize Dr Jacob's dedication and passion for his chosen profession. A formal launch of the Trust was recently held in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and the Australian Society of Orthodontists.

Stanley worked for the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne for many years as an orthodontist. His training in orthodontics was in the United Kingdom in the 1960's, affording him a particular interest in removable orthodontic appliances although his practice was mainly with fixed appliances. He built up a collection of orthodontic models, slides and radiographs illustrating the diagnosis and treatment of undergraduate orthodontic cases whilst he was teaching final year undergraduate students in orthodontics. The collection was greatly appreciated by other clinical teachers in the undergraduate orthodontic programme at The University of

Melbourne. It was also utilised in the short courses for general practitioner dentists in orthodontics convened by the Orthodontic Department of the RDHM for which Stanley provided lectures and tutorials.

Impacted canines were of particular interest to Stanley and he explored detailed aspects of localisation, interceptive treatment and surgery. This led to the publication of 26 scientific papers and case reports in Australian and international journals. His articles were cited in many later papers relating to impacted teeth and their management. Stanley gave many lectures on impacted canines and other orthodontic topics to orthodontists, general practitioners and undergraduates and his collection of slides were passed to the undergraduate programme when he retired. He organised an outstanding continuing education programme for the Orthodontic Department from 1995-1999. During the academic year, weekly one hour meetings were held and Stanley arranged for staff, postgraduate students and visiting speakers to present seminars, literature reviews and cases.

The Melbourne Dental School acknowledges and thanks the family of Dr Jacobs for their generous bequest. It is family's hope that the Trust will enable many more students at the Melbourne Dental School to further their study.

## Launch of the Paediatric Dentistry Education Fund

On Tuesday 27 April 2010 the Head of School, Professor Eric Reynolds AO launched the Paediatric Dentistry Education Fund of the Melbourne Dental School. In opening the fund, Professor Reynolds said:

"This fund will allow postgraduate students in Paediatric Dentistry to engage fully in research and scholarship.

Research is an integral part of dental education and training. All of the Melbourne Dental School undergraduate and postgraduate students are involved in research during their course and this requires substantial resources to provide the facilities and equipment for the students to engage in meaningful projects with outcomes of real impact. Research is important to provide a scientific basis to dental practice and to produce a critical, enquiring and self-improving professional. The Melbourne Dental School is ranked the leading dental school in Australia for its research output and the students, particularly the postgraduate students make a substantial contribution to that output. The Paediatric Dentistry Education Fund will ensure that the School has the resources to continue to involve students in state-of-the-art research in Paediatric Dentistry that will keep the Melbourne Dental School competitive and maintain its international reputation during these times of ever diminishing funds for student research. The fund will also allow us to financially support travel of the Paediatric Dentistry postgraduate students to international meetings and to other universities such as the University of Minnesota where specific and long term linkages exist."

In the presence of the Dean of the Faculty, Professor James Angus, Professor Reynolds welcomed guests and the Brownbill family, Clinical Associate Professor John Brownbill and wife Gae; Andrew Brownbill and partner Peta; Robert Brownbill and James Owens-Brownbill; also welcoming Clinical Associate Professor Paul Schneider and Dr Margarita Silva and Dr Karen Kan. It is their association with the late Robert Feigal through Emeritus Professor Louise Brearley Messer at the University of Minnesota that the fund has been established with generous contributions.

Dr David Manton, the convenor of Paediatric Dentistry, outlined plans for using some of the money for a visiting external examiner and as a contingency fund for unexpected opportunities.

Professor John Brownbill spoke of the inspiration of the late Robert Feigal and how colleagues in Minnesota had established the Feigal Symposium. John thanked his extended family for their attendance, particularly his three sons whose contributions established the fund. John is the last of a family of dentists who practiced in Victoria throughout the twentieth century. His father Joseph Brownbill practiced in Mildura and his uncle George Brownbill practiced in Maryborough. The fund also acknowledges John's mother Ruby and the support of John's wife Gae.

Before closing the launch and thanking all for their attendance Professor Reynolds said: "In establishing the Paediatric Dentistry Education Fund the donors are not only showing great generosity but also great foresight and leadership to help advance Paediatric Dentistry and attract high caliber postgraduate students to an exciting postgraduate training program. By attracting high caliber postgraduate students to provide care in the public dental hospital this fund will also help children in need of dental care. These gifts are truly gifts that keep on giving to future Paediatric Dentistry postgraduate students and patients under their care. To establish a well-resourced and exciting dental training program in the current climate of under-funding of higher education, particularly dental education, it requires partnerships and philanthropy."

## Final Farewell to 711 Elizabeth Street

Staff and students at the Melbourne Dental School may have noticed that the old building, which was home to many for over 40 years is gradually disappearing to make way for the new Comprehensive Cancer Centre. The foundation stone was laid in 1956 and the School and Hospital moved into the building in 1963.

## Expression of Interest for Alumni Reunion

We are interested in hearing from our Alumni who would be interested in attending a reunion of all years of dentistry. Please send your expressions of interest to Jenny Sifonios, email sifonios@unimelb.edu.au or telephone 9341 1544. We expect that this reunion will attract at least 500 former graduates and we anticipate holding the event in late 2011. The Reunion Committee, made up from Melbourne Dental School staff, will be looking for volunteers who would like to work in year cohorts.

The Advancement Office at the University of Melbourne are providing substantial assistance and some funding to help organize what should be a fantastic reunion dinner.

*Pictured this page, above left, left to right: Professor Eric Reynolds, Dr John Brownbill, Professor James Angus (Dean of Faculty) Photo courtesy of Andrew Brownbill*

*Pictured opposite page, left to right: Julie Satur, Michael Burrow, Nathan Cochrane, Neil O'Brien-Simpson, Alan Eddy, Ms Su-yan Barrow.*



Pictured left: Ms Elaine Cuyegkeng at work on the database

## The Orphan's Tale

The museum receives many enquiries and visitors, some merely curious just wondering what a dental museum may have to offer, others searching for knowledge but none more interesting than Tom who, at the request of his family, and after undertaking considerable research, is writing an account of his early years as an orphan.

Many years ago Tom was in the care of the Melbourne Orphanage where every six months each child was given a medical check up after the Matron had conducted eye and hearing tests and measured and weighed each occupant.

He describes his first appointment with the dentist as:

the cottage mother told me to go to the waiting room and sit there until the dentist was ready for me. Finally a white coated man called me in. He indicated to me to sit in the steel dental chair on which there were two leather horsehair filled cushions, one to sit on and the other as a backrest.

Above the chair was a drop down ceiling light with its electric cord running through a set of rollers attached to a counterweight. When the light was raised, the lack of tension pulled it up to the ceiling and when brought down again to provide a brighter light when examining teeth, the gripping rollers held the cord firmly. The drill, a tall metal three footed contraption about four feet high, stood beside the chair. The dentist instructed me, 'Open your mouth wide'. After pricking my teeth with a metal instrument he remarked, 'I can see I have some work to do for you'. I could hear a whirring sound that was caused by the dentist pedalling to make the drill wiz. He pulled the drill across and into my mouth and began drilling a hole in one of my molars, it was an extremely slow process to remove the rotten part and I felt very apprehensive, as I had no idea what was happening.

The sound and vibration of the drill in my mouth was horrendous and to help me cope, I gripped the arms of the chair tightly. The dentist noticed my distress, 'It's nearly over, the only thing I need to do is to fill your tooth'

Because my teeth had been neglected for so long the dentist decided after my second visit, I needed more specialist attention than he could provide, so I was taken to the dental hospital in Melbourne to have the job done under anaesthetic. I stayed there for a couple of days which I did not mind, as I was fed mainly jelly and ice cream, food that we seldom saw on the orphanage menu.

He then quotes from the 87th Annual Report of the Melbourne orphanage for 30 June 1939 when the honorary dentists were Mr. Ronald Campbell and Mr. Hartley Gibson who wrote the following report:

95 examinations were made; 44 of the children examined have no dental defects what ever, 59 temporary teeth have been extracted; 19 amalgam fillings in permanent teeth; five porcelain fillings in front permanent teeth; 12 permanent teeth extracted (some for orthodontic purposes); five had tartar removals; four had temporary teeth removed under general anaesthetic at the dental hospital. I was surprised to see the low caries incidence of the permanent dentition -- evidence of the comparatively few fillings done in permanent teeth.

The next quotation is from the Annual Report of 30 June 1943.

One of our honorary dentists Major Ronald Campbell who has been on active service early in the war is, we regret to learn, now a prisoner of war. Capt Hartley Gibson has been on military duty for some months and Mr. F.A. Breidahl is doing double duty for absent dentists. Mr. P.R.N.

Sutton kindly came to our aid in February last and in addition to carrying out the necessary dental work, has kindly prepared this year's dental report.

### Dentist's Report

Examination of the children's teeth reveals a remarkably good condition, compared with that of most children. This reflects great credit on the diet and general living conditions at the orphanage, for the good state of the teeth is undoubtedly due to these factors.

The children fall into three equal groups; the first group have excellent teeth, and no dental work has been necessary during the year. The second group comprises children with very good teeth, requiring only one or two fillings or extractions. The third group averaged just over four fillings or extractions which must be considered good. There were no indifferent or bad groups.

As a point of interest I have compared the figures with children in the same age groups in my own practice and have found that their fillings and extractions averaged eight compared with less than two of those in the orphanage. A large proportion of the extractions are almost entirely due to an inadequate and in most cases complete lack of dental attention before the children entered the orphanage. I would like to record my appreciation of the excellent equipment which has been installed. Such modern apparatus is a tremendous aid to rapid and efficient work.

I was acquainted with all the dentists mentioned in these reports but knew particularly well Hartley Gibson and Philip Sutton. Hartley Gibson later specialised in prosthetics and was appointed as the first external examiner for the final clinical examination for our bachelor's degree. Philip Sutton joined the staff of the

Department of Dental Medicine and Surgery where he became involved in a study of the statistics relating to the fluoridation of public water supplies. From his comments on the children's teeth it seems that he developed an interest in the prevention of dental disease and associated statics from the early years of his career.

Intrigued by the reports from the dentists I asked Tom if they had tooth brushes and cleaned their teeth to which he replied:

We had a definite routine, in my cottage locker room, along one wall above a row of about six wash basins was a shelf with a row of individual tooth brushes hanging from it together with several dishes of tooth cleaning powder. Each brush was engraved in roman numerals with the owner's number. To maintain dental hygiene the cottage mother ensured we brushed our teeth with the cleaning powder prior to heading off to school and before going to bed.

Personal details have been left out of this brief summary of the information given to me but we have an excellent view of dentistry through the eyes of a child some sixty years ago. From the reports we gain the impression that in spite of these being war years the orphans were well cared for and that the results of the dental examinations show how important diet and cleaning are in relation to general and dental health. However we are left with many questions such as where will dentistry be in sixty years time? What was the diet? Are there similar figures today for comparison? And many more.

I thank Tom for the discussions we had and the letters he answered about his childhood days, for his frankness and for allowing me to use selective extracts from his story to give a glimpse of one aspect of dentistry now many years ago.

## University Annual Appeal 2009: Library and Cultural Collections Projects

The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum is pleased to announce the Cultural Collections Advisory Group has approved its application for funding to support the preparation of data for incorporation into the museum's online browser. The museum was awarded \$4,500 for the project which includes a portion to be used for improving the user-friendliness of the browser interface.

Funding for the project comes from donors who nominated 'Libraries and Cultural Collections' as the purpose of their gift to the University Annual Appeal 2009. Funds from this area may be used for projects relating to preventive conservation and storage, cataloguing or listing, web presence and digitisation as well as display enhancement.

Over the past three years the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum has been working towards improving its electronic catalogue and online access to the collection. It has received generous funding from the Miegunyah Trust Fund, the Cultural Collections Committee Grant Program and from the Melbourne Dental School to support the purchase of Vernon Collection Management System, Cataloguing and Browser Modules.

In 2008 the museum was awarded \$3,200 from the University Annual Appeal to employ a cataloguer to transfer data from the museum's catalogue worksheets into the new database in preparation for the installation of the online browser. Melbourne University Arts graduate Elaine Cuyegkeng worked on a part time basis over 6 months, and then as a volunteer, to ensure the completion of the project.

Vernon Browser is now installed on the museum's website. As there is still a significant amount of the catalogue to be made available online, the current funding will be used to engage an experienced cataloguer, familiar with Vernon, to prepare the remaining data for the browser. Improvements will also be made to the browser interface.

Completion of this project will ensure a more comprehensive online catalogue is available for museum staff, University staff and students, and the broader public who may wish to access the collection. The museum is extremely grateful for the ongoing support it receives from the Cultural Collections Advisory Group and the donors who contribute so generously to the University Annual Appeal: Libraries and Cultural Collections.

## Public Lecture Series: Medicalia - Melbourne's Health and Medical Collections Unveiled

Melbourne is home to a number of extraordinary health and medical museums. The Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences is fortunate to own three related collections including: the Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology, the Medical History Museum and the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum.

Alongside these three faculty museums, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History, the Cunningham Dax Collection, the College of Surgeons Museum and Museum Victoria's Human Biology & Medicine department, constitute a remarkable resource, often

unfamiliar to the broader population and known only to professionals or students in related fields. With the aim of introducing these collections to new audiences, curators Maria Drossos, (Geoffrey Kaye Museum) Rita Hardiman (Anatomy and Pathology Museum) and Louise Murray (HFA Dental Museum) organised the public Lecture Series - Medicalia: Melbourne's Health and Medical Collections Unveiled.

The lectures were held at the University of Melbourne over a four week period with representatives from two museums speaking each night about the histories and stories which their collections represent. It was hoped that through the talks, greater public interest would be encouraged and that individuals, unfamiliar with these collections, would be inspired to visit and engage first-hand with them. Not all health and medical collections could be represented in this series and the organisers are keen to extend the program in the future.

Honorary Curator of the dental museum Emeritus Professor Henry Atkinson contributed to the lecture series with a paper on the history of the dental museum and how the collection reflected the history and development of dentistry in Victoria. Dr Nurin Veis from Museum Victoria spoke about the medical collection and the challenges of exhibiting and interpreting the psychiatric services collection held by the museum. Grainne Murphy provided a detailed insight into the College of Gynecologists fascinating collection, and Penelope Lee of the Cunningham Dax Collection showed some wonderful examples of the creative work, including works on paper, paintings, ceramics and textiles, made by people who have experienced mental illness or psychological trauma.

The linkages formed between the faculty museums and external colleagues and collections was an invaluable and positive outcome of the talks, as was the sharing of experiences, histories and information. Attendances exceeded

the expectations of the organisers and appreciation is extended to all the speakers who gave generously of their time to provide such authoritative and engaging insights into their collections.

Information about the talks and audio recordings can be found at: <http://museum.dent.unimelb.edu.au/>



Left: Portrait of Professor Arthur Amies in Military Uniform, 1940, sepia toned photograph. Arthur Barton Pilgrim Amies collection, University of Melbourne Archives. Acc.No. 78/13; 79/44; 94/ 67. Series No. 13/035.

Below: Dr William Tuckfield, c 1950, black and white photographic print, thought to be a self portrait, courtesy of Professor Henry Atkinson.

(Certificate) Northwestern University, Evanston-Chicago, certificate conferring the Degree of Doctor of Science Honoris Causa on W.J. Tuckfield, 15 June 1925. William John Tuckfield collection, University of Melbourne Archives. Acc.No. 78/112; 98/55. Series No. 1/8.



Left to right: Annette Humplik and Julia Gellatly

## Papers of Dr William Tuckfield and Prof Sir Arthur Amies recently listed

The Melbourne Dental School recently funded an important project to document a collection of records held at the University of Melbourne Archives. The records relate to Sir Arthur Amies and Dr William Tuckfield, two key figures in the history of dentistry in Victoria and in particular, key figures in the history of the Australian College of Dentistry and the Dental Hospital of Melbourne.

Dr William Tuckfield (1881-1969) was one of the earliest graduates from the Australian College of Dentistry graduating as a Member of the Australian College of Dentistry (MACD). He registered with the Dental Board of Victoria in 1902 and took up a teaching position at the Australian College of Dentistry in 1908. Highly respected and loved by the dental profession, he was best known for his publication *Full Denture Technique*<sup>1</sup>, a book which became a standard text for decades of dental students.

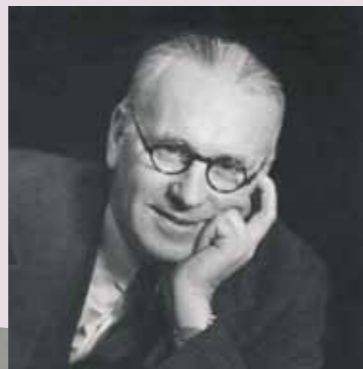
The recently listed Tuckfield material is in 2 boxes covering 5 series, and includes 'certificates 1944-1965', 'objects 1911-1965', 'professional articles and teaching materials 1945, 1950s', 'personal papers 1868-1964' and 'photographs c.1964'. Although small, this collection contains evidence of the key achievements and interests in Tuckfield's academic career and life.

Sir Arthur Amies (1902-1976) represented a new generation of dentists who were University trained and qualified unlike many of Tuckfield's era who came through the apprenticeship system. Amies completed his dental degree at the University of Melbourne in 1924 (BDSc) and Medicine at Edinburgh University (LRCP, LRCS). He later received the Doctor of Dental Science (DDSc. 1929) and the Diploma of Laryngology and Otology (1933).

There are 17 archival boxes of Amies' material covering 11 different series that include correspondence, photographs, lecture notebooks, minutes, speeches, administrative files all relating to the broad orbit of Amies' interests and responsibilities in his many professional roles. The records provide insights into the activities of the Australian College of Dentistry, the establishment

Descriptions of the material can be found at the following address: <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/collections/findingaids.html>. The records will be of great interest to researchers of dental history and education in Victoria in general, and of Amies and Tuckfield in particular.

The curators would like to hear from anyone who may have further material relating to Dr Tuckfield or Sir Arthur Amies as we are always keen to expand and develop our archival collection.



## Forthcoming Dental History Exhibition

**Baillieu Library, 1st floor, Leigh Scott Gallery, 9 September to 28 November 2010**

The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum is currently preparing for a forthcoming exhibition on early Dentistry in Victoria opening 9 September 2010 in the Leigh Scott Gallery of the Baillieu Library, the University of Melbourne. The exhibition will explore the social history, educational developments, technical developments and establishment of the dental profession in Victoria.

Items for the exhibition will be primarily sourced from the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum collection as well as the Dental Museum Collection University of Melbourne Archives, the Baillieu Library Special Collections, and a number of private lenders. The exhibition will encompass a range of material including photographs, art works, early dental publications, dental instruments, workroom equipment, and documents relating to early dental training and education.

Information about the exhibition is available at: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections/>

<sup>1</sup> Tuckfield, W. J., *Full Denture Technique*, Melbourne, Australian College of Dentistry, 1945.

## Dr Annette Humplik

Dr Annette Humplik obtained her BDS from the University of Melbourne in 1989 and subsequently her MDSc in Prosthodontics in 2000. Her career commenced as an Intern for the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne followed by six years of general dental private practice. Annette's adventurous spirit led her to Northern Australia where she worked with indigenous communities in Oenpelli (Kakadu), Maningrida (Arnhem Land) and Palm Island, Queensland. On completion of her Masters, Dr Humplik worked for the first year in Saudi Arabia and upon her return to Australia worked in beautiful Norfolk Island. Late in 2001 she established her private solo practice in Moonee Ponds and commenced practice as a Specialist Consultant for the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne.

Today, both these practices continue as well as an ongoing commitment to her own and others' education. Dr Humplik completed an Executive Master of Business Administration with Distinction in 2008. Her commitment to teaching is demonstrated by years of undergraduate demonstrating and presently as Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer to the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry. Dr Humplik convenes several DHSV CPD programs, is a recent past Member of the DHSV Clinical Leadership Council, presenter to AIDER (Australia-Pacific Institute of Dental Education & Research) candidates and most recently delivers her own training programs in-house to public sector agencies through the Enhance© program. Dr Humplik also provides mentoring and one-to-one training for overseas dentists and graduates through dentalcpd2u©. Projects include writing and directing an oral health promotion animation titled 'Manny the Molar and the Fluoride Fairy' and most recently, under the auspices of Leadership Victoria, expanding the base of the

Hume Global Learning Village to encompass health. Dr Humplik's philosophies of treatment are based on sound treatment planning, with a strong preventive and minimalist approach.

## Dr Julia Gellatly

### Working her way to the top

Working as a mortuary technician is not a job for the faint hearted. "My role preparing corpses for pathologists was far wider and very different than depicted in forensic television shows like CSI," said Julia Gellatly, who recently graduated from the Melbourne Dental School. "Working in forensic science can be more confronting than other professions and there are certainly aspects of it that are hard to discuss at the end of the day over dinner."

Julia has always had a passion for anatomy and worked as a respiratory physiologist before pursuing a career as a dentist.

"Being a dentist offers a variety of opportunities that go beyond the usual stereotypes people have such as cleaning teeth or filling cavities," said Julia, who worked as a dental nurse throughout her dentistry degree to support herself. "It allows you to engage with people and build relationships with them so they have trust in you."

Julia grew up in the western Victorian town of Horsham and completed an arts and science degree before starting a traineeship as a dental nurse. In 2004, she commenced the Bachelor of Oral Health and then transferred to Dental Science in 2005.

Reflecting on her experience, Julia said the course offered good opportunities for intensive clinical training and exposure to research.

"The School has a practical and academic approach to learning and also allowed me to gain exposure in a variety of settings," said Julia.

Julia said returning to study as a graduate was aided by her experience in the profession.

"Dentistry is a complex area where technical skills must be matched with excellent communication skills. I think having that experience in dentistry before I returned to study really helped me deal with a lot of different people and situations and ensured I was ready for work at the top of the profession," said Julia. "It meant I had developed a good grounding in dental health before starting the course. It really gave me confidence in my career choice."

Julia is currently working in a practice on the Mornington Peninsula where the seasonal influx of summer holidaymakers has been keeping her busy. "Summer has seen me treat a lot more patients than at other times of the year" said Julia.

For this vibrant young dentist, much like her previous role as a mortuary technician, it is all in a day's work!

"Dentistry is my passion. I certainly feel a sense of satisfaction that I am helping people everyday in maintaining and improving their oral health, which is something that is often neglected."

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*Editor's note: Julia won the Pierre Fauchard University Award in 2009 awarded to an outstanding student.*

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## Ms Judith McNaughtan

By DENNIS ROWLER

Judith has recently retired from the Melbourne Dental School after 15 years. Judith started at The University of Melbourne's Department of Otolaryngology where she ran the histology laboratory for 7 years. Much of her time was spent developing histology techniques to section the cochleas for Professor Graeme Clark. In 1995 Judith moved to the University's School of Dental Science. The Dental School runs a small diagnostic service and most of Judith's time has been spent running this valuable service to the industry. Class sets and research histology are also a part of the daily routine. Over the last few years one of the more interesting research projects has been to work with Dr Bryan Fry from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Australian Venom Research Unit. He has made major inroads in researching venoms in reptiles and how they can be utilised for possible medicinal needs.

Being the sole person in a small histology laboratory means a lot of manual procedures have to be undertaken. There has been no labeller, no auto stainer and no coverslipper. All staining techniques including immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence are done manually. Special techniques including microphotography, radiography and scanning of slides with a digital scanner are also a part of Judith's routine. Histology covering all aspects from specimen reception, cut up, processing, sectioning, staining and labelling through to administration of the laboratory including filing of slides and pathology reports are all a part of Judith's day. Judith has certainly had a long and interesting career. Apart from the impressive number of big name researchers she has worked with Judith has developed immense knowledge of techniques involving many different types of material.

### From the Editor

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of Dent-al, the Melbourne Dental School's newsletter for alumni. We would be pleased to have your feedback on this issue and if you would like to contribute in any way, or have any suggestions for future issues, please let us know.

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