Australian dental health set to improve with $31.6m funding boost.
MEDIA RELEASE Friday 7 August 2009

Australians will benefit from improved dental health due to the $31.6m funding for a new Oral Health Cooperative Research Centre, Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, The Hon Kim Carr announced recently.

The new CRC, to be based at The University of Melbourne, will further the work of the existing CRC for Oral Health Science on the discovery and development of new preventive products and treatments for oral diseases such as caries (dental decay) and periodontitis (gum disease) which currently cost Australians some $6 billion a year.

Anti-decay technology developed within the current CRC is already being used in food and drink and oral care products around the world.

“This really is an investment in Australia’s reputation as a world-leader in oral health research. The contributions by government and the CRC collaborators will result in substantial benefits to Australia both by reducing the burden of oral disease and in developing world-first knowledge and intellectual property,” says the CEO of the new Oral Health CRC and Head of Melbourne Dental School at the University of Melbourne, Professor Eric Reynolds AO.

Professor Reynolds says unlike many disease groups, oral diseases are mostly preventable. Despite this, he says, one in four Australian adults have untreated dental decay and just less than one in three have moderate or severe cases of the gum disease, periodontitis. In addition, almost half of Australia’s six year-olds have cavities in their teeth. More than one million work days a year are lost through poor oral health.

“The research programs of the Oral Health CRC will focus on the prevention and early diagnosis of oral disease, and on the known links to systemic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer,” Professor Reynolds says.

The new CRC includes research and manufacturing partners from Australia and overseas. The CRC and its partners will develop novel consumer and professional dental products to prevent and treat oral diseases including early diagnostic tools and a vaccine against periodontitis.

Professor Reynolds says the government funding will make it possible for the researchers to test and commercialise the current CRC’s recent scientific discoveries, as well as enabling investigation into frontier technologies for the regeneration of lost and damaged teeth. It will also support the development of a tooth safe logo to inform consumers of foods and beverages that are safe for teeth.

In addition, the CRC’s researchers will examine how dental workforce shortages can be alleviated, and how evidence-based oral health promotion campaigns can reduce the need for clinical treatment.

Major collaborators in the new CRC include the University of Melbourne, CSL Limited, Colgate Palmolive Pty Ltd, GC Australasian Dental Pty Ltd, Cadbury Enterprises Pty Ltd and Murray Goulburn Cooperative Limited.

Further information can be found at: www.crcoralhealthscience.org.au

Pictured: Dr Vivian Tam conducting periodontal vaccine research at the Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Science.
The Melbourne Dental School has had a very successful 2009/2010 with the maintenance of its number one ranking and the recent successful extension of its CRC for another nine years of Commonwealth funding. The new Oral Health CRC will involve all the Dental Schools and has now been submitted to the Australian Dental Council in early 2010 for accreditation.

The course for overseas trained students for this Graduate Certificate will be submitted to the Australian Dental Academic Board for approval. It will be run by the Melbourne Dental School (DDS) in 2011. This year was the last graduate-entry, four year professional program on which we will launch our new Dental School with a 100 seat state-of-the-art clinical simulation training facility and an 80 dental chair clinic.

The global financial crisis and other changes to higher education policy will have an impact on the University and the Faculty, consequently the school faces a very tight budget in 2010 and we will not be able to replace the staff retiring/resigning which will increase workloads of remaining staff particularly at a time when we are preparing to introduce the new DDS curriculum.

The Melbourne Dental School has entered into a funding agreement with the Department of Health and Aging to expand its rural clinical placement program in Gippsland. The agreement provides for the purchase of dwellings; fleet vehicles for staff and student travel and for two dedicated student dental chairs.

The funding from the Department will enable final year BDS/DDS and BOH students to be placed in Morwell with the La Trobe Regional Health Service and at other locations in Gippsland to provide an essential clinical service in rural Victoria. These rural clinical placements will add significantly to our current successful clinical placements at the Gippsland Valley Dental Clinic in Shepparton.

The University has been approved for the Education Investment Fund for funds to allow the total expansion of the Dental School’s infrastructure to enable the introduction of the DDS and expansion of the Bachelor of Oral Health and the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry academic programs. If successful this will provide the Dental School with a 10-year state-of-the-art clinical simulation training facility and an 80 dental chair clinic.

The Melbourne Dental School has established long-standing professional collaborations with Japanese educational and research institutions. To continue the relationship with Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) and the University of the Tokyo Dental University School of Dental Medicine (TUSDM), a delegation of DDS and BOH students led by Dr. Yuichi Kitasako, Professor Arai Tagami (TMDU), Dean, Professor Arai (TUSDM), and selected academics and students from each institution. The students presented an overview of their research projects, features of the Australian Dental School curriculum and scope of practice of Oral Health Therapist.

In Japan, the oral health therapy profession does not exist as a separate profession. The dental hygiene profession has been placed in municipal health centres and facilities for the elderly across the country. Japan has entered an era of low birth rate and life expectancy is increasing. “Lifetime dental health maintenance” is becoming an immediate concern among many in Japan. The national nursing care insurance system adopted in April 2000 is further increasing the demand and expectations on dental hygienists to help meet these needs.

During the visit Ms Barrow presented the Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy curriculum to Dr. Yoshimasu, Director of Science University School of Dental Medicine and Dental University. The School’s cutting edge technology and research (the University gave birth to the apex locator and super elastic archwires to name a few) was awe-inspiring. In addition, we stopped over at CS Corporation and were offered a preview into the workings of their Research and Development projects in Yokohama. We were warmly welcomed by TMDU, a private school housed by the Soji-ji Head monastery and built upon the site where we receive increased clinical training. Our Japanese students and Melbourne students had an impressive presentation for us.

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

Final year of our participants in an overseas student exchange led by Dr. Yuichi Kitasako and Matthew Hopcroft, we ventured to Japan, the enigmatic land of pachinko and soy sauce kits. On arrival, we spent the weekend touring Tokyo, Osaka’s electric city, and Kyoto. As Japan has entered an era of low birth rate and life expectancy is increasing, “lifetime dental health maintenance” is becoming an immediate concern among many in Japan. The national nursing care insurance system adopted in April 2000 is further increasing the demand and expectations on dental hygienists to help meet these needs.

During the visit Ms Barrow presented the Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy curriculum to Dr. Yoshimasu, Director of Science University School of Dental Medicine and Dental University. The School’s cutting edge technology and research (the University gave birth to the apex locator and super elastic archwires to name a few) was awe-inspiring. In addition, we stopped over at CS Corporation and were offered a preview into the workings of their Research and Development projects in Yokohama. We were warmly welcomed by TMDU, a private school housed by the Soji-ji Head monastery and built upon the site where we receive increased clinical training. Our Japanese students and Melbourne students had an impressive presentation for us.

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

Finally we made a trip to a local private practice to observe the local professionals at work after partying it up with our new Japanese friends over sake, shochu and great food. What did you think of the place? Would you go again?

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

Finally we made a trip to a local private practice to observe the local professionals at work after partying it up with our new Japanese friends over sake, shochu and great food. What did you think of the place? Would you go again?

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

Finally we made a trip to a local private practice to observe the local professionals at work after partying it up with our new Japanese friends over sake, shochu and great food. What did you think of the place? Would you go again?

We heard that while some of us were driving to Toquop to soak up the last few days of Melbourne sunshine this Easter, a select few were getting their kicks far far away – in Japan to be exact! What is this Exchange trip? Do you have to be a member of the super elite or on the Dean’s list to get in on this? And more importantly, how much does it cost? In our pursuit of the dental hygiene, our students hunted down these elusive students and arranged for an exclusive interview.

Finally we made a trip to a local private practice to observe the local professionals at work after partying it up with our new Japanese friends over sake, shochu and great food. What did you think of the place? Would you go again?
Dr Cochrane was one of four finalists at the National Innovators Conference held in Canberra last month. He received a cash prize and certificate presented by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, at an awards dinner held at Parliament House.

In addition to giving a fantastic presentation, Nathan has also undertaken a dozen media interviews in the last few months, promoting the research of the Dental School and the CRC-OHS and taking the opportunity to communicate some public oral health messages.

Nathan was also recently awarded the Chancellor’s Prize for Excellence in the PhD Thesis. Four awards are made annually and the prize consists of a medal for desk display Nathan’s PhD was entitled “Remineralisation of mineral-deficient enamel using calcium phosphopeptide stabilised amorphous calcium fluoride phosphate”. Nathan is a Research Fellow in the Melbourne Dental School and continues to practice as a dentist.

Congratulations to Professor Martin Tyas who received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours List. Martin received the AM for service to dentistry and dental education to the Australian Dental Association and the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons and through the development of industry standards.

This is a fitting recognition of Martin’s outstanding contributions to dentistry. Martin is seen pictured with his family at Government House to receive his award.

Mr Kheng Tan has been awarded the Colgate Travel Prize at the recent IADR ANZ Conference in Wuhan, China. Kheng now goes on to compete for the Haliton Award at the International Conference in Barcelona. Congratulations also to Ms Elena Toh who was runner-up. Ms Jennifer Lo, 4th year BDS student came and in the junior competition. This result is testimony to the hard work and continued high-quality of research being conducted by the students in the Melbourne Dental School and CRC for Oral Health Science.

Ivan Darby was elected President of the WOR ANZ.

Associate Professor Andrew Smith has left the Melbourne Dental School to take up the position of Head of the Dental School at the University of Western Australia. Professor John Clement is the new Head of Section for Oral Anatomy, Medicine and Surgery.

For left: left to right. Prof Eric Reynolds, Head of the Melbourne Dental School and the Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Sciences; Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Dr Nathan Cochrane, recent PhD graduate and now Research Fellow in the Melbourne Dental School.

Left: Carol, Martin and Stephen Tyas at the investiture ceremony for the Member of the Order of Australia, held at NSW Government House, Sydney.

Below: Dr Sjakon Tahia, accompanied by his wife Shelley and daughter Nina and son Krona with Professor Mike Morgan, in the Wileye Lecture Theatre. Photo in the background is Dr Tahia’s mother and father.

Currently, dental waiting times can be as long as two and a-half years; the main reason for this being there is a significant shortfall in the number of oral health professionals willing to work in rural areas. Even fewer are willing to spend time working in public dental agencies.

It is anticipated the new website will assist in addressing the shortfall of oral health practitioners in the region by providing effective and co-ordinated communication of short- and long-term job vacancies.

The new website will assist with the recruitment and co-ordination of vacant dental positions within Gippsland. It provides a portal linking dental practitioners in Gippsland with oral health practitioners around Australia and abroad.

Professor Mike Morgan from The Melbourne Dental School at the University of Melbourne is pleased with the initiative that will this year provide many new opportunities for young graduate dentists to find solid employment in both public and private dental practices.

“So many of our young graduates will gladly take up the opportunity to work in Gippsland. What better way to start your career than with an opportunity to see the real world through the eyes of a public practice?”

“It’s an opportunity that will stand them in extremely good stead,” says Professor Morgan.

For more information, please contact Anna Pappalardo on landline (03) 9654 4881; mobile 0431 135 61 or email anna@andrewsgroup.com.au.

For more information or to register, visit www.dentalgaps.com.au

The Melbourne Dental School is an approved Educational Activity Provider under the Dental Practice Board of Victoria’s Code of Practice on Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This symposium is credited for 5 hours.

We look forward to seeing you at the symposium.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Science, The University of Melbourne (CRC-OHS) together with Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) is sponsoring its fourth symposium in Population Oral Health to address priority areas as established by the Australia’s National Oral Health Plan 2009-2014.

The goal of the Fourth CRC-OHS symposium is to foster alliances and deliver strategies that public health practitioners can use to improve oral health and overall health in Australia. This year’s theme will be “Innovative models of oral care for high risk populations”.

This one-day symposium will be held on the November 16, 2009 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Jean Falkner Tahia Lecture Theatre, Melbourne Dental School, The University of Melbourne, Ground Floor, 720 Swanton Street, Carlton.

This event is suitable for oral health professionals, health and public health professionals, medical doctors, hospital and clinic directors, educators, public policy makers, students and to all others interested in rural health issues.

The symposium - Innovative Models of Oral Care for High Risk Populations

16th November 2009

Dr Sjakon Tahia: the son of Dr Jean Tahia, recently visited the Melbourne Dental School for a tour of the Theatre which was named after his mother. Sjakon was accompanied by his wife and two children and was delighted to see the theatre and the plaque.
He breathed life into a department that, up to that time, had provided a valuable service as a hospital department and training facility, but which was not really a university department in the true sense.

He was instrumental in the introduction of an undergraduate research programme as a subject in the Bachelor of Dental Science degree course. He personally supervised 14 student groups, trying as always to get them thinking! He introduced continuing education courses for oral surgeons and oral medicine and oral surgical pathology, before such courses became a registration requirement as a subject in the Master of Dental Science degree course. He developed a Doctor of Philosophy programme, and postdoctoral programme and also mentored and supervised these for two Doctors of Dental Science, eighteen Doctors of Philosophy, fifty-two Masters of Dental Science, three Masters of Science, and two Masters of Physiotherapy.

He was an authority on the acquisition of skills required for a craft. In a way, learning the craft of thinking...

I was born in Australia, but my roots are in Austria, with its attendant formality, and so to me he will always be “Prof”, but this is meant in the most affectionate way. At Prof’s funeral recently, Dr Ian Chippendale reminded me of a barque at Prof’s home in Barrackpore in January 1978, at which my wife Chee and I were also present. On so many occasions over the years, many of us have shared in the Reid family’s hospitality, and have been touched in some way by their generosity.

I have known Prof since I arrived in Melbourne, my association with him going back to 1970, when I started as an undergraduate at The University of Melbourne. More particularly, I knew him since 1971 when I started to attend his oral medicine and oral surgery lectures. He was the “famer professor”, who regularly arrived late to our morning lectures, but who then impressed with a passion for, and deep understanding of, his subject. He did that better than most - he made us want to learn.

When overseas, many famous people we met knew Prof. He was clearly someone who stood out as an example of what makes a professor – academic learning rather than the acquisition of skills required for a craft. In a way, learning the craft of thinking...

The trip to Dharamsala in India involved examining and treating primarily Tibetan refugees in that village, gaining the gratitude of the Dalai Lama, who lives there in exile. After this trip, Prof engaged in several excursions of similar nature, including to Vietnam, Indonesia and New Guinea, some under the auspices of Rotary.

We agreed...
The making of a gold plate based denture

H.F. Atkinson

In the last edition of "Dent. aI" the ivory curving-dentist was described fitting his patient with an example of the best appliances then available. A colleague, in the same time frame of the 1700s, but a world away, Doctor Greenwood, Revolutionary Army Dentist, was treating Colonel George Washington, the future first President of the United States.

The techniques employed by Greenwood were entirely different from those of the ivory carver and were instead derived extensively from the craft of the goldsmith. The clinical assessment and treatment of both patients however would have been very similar.

Once the fit of a base was considered satisfactory, selected anterior teeth were prepared by cutting to the required length with a saw. The pulp chamber was then cleared out and the crown was mounted on the dentine and enamel, to appear in the cleft gum. The reason for making the hole in this fashion was to prevent the end of the post from being seen as a dark 'criminal' spot when the patient opened the mouth.

The fitting of one tooth at a time was also considered an advantage as porcelain teeth were only available in one size and the dentist could have been a dark 'carious' spot between the porcelain and the base.

The principles of retention, which involved the necessity for full coverage, and the difficulties of adapting the plate to the double curvature of the alveolar ridge and palate. Another possible reason may have been the desire to save on the cost of gold.

The only replacement teeth available at that time were human, obtained through an agent or an early dental supply house that received material from ghous that reputedly collected specimens by grave robbing or from casualties on battlefields. In Doctor Greenwood's case, skirmishes in the American Civil War were the most likely source of supply.

Once the fit of a base was considered satisfactory, selected anterior teeth were prepared by cutting to the required length with a saw. The pulp chamber was then cleared out and the crown was mounted on the dentine and enamel, to appear in the cleft gum. The reason for making the hole in this fashion was to prevent the end of the post from being seen as a dark 'criminal' spot when the patient opened the mouth.

The fitting of one tooth at a time was also considered an advantage as porcelain teeth were only available in one size and the dentist could have been a dark 'carious' spot between the porcelain and the base.

The principle of retention, which involved the necessity for full coverage, and the difficulties of adapting the plate to the double curvature of the alveolar ridge and palate. Another possible reason may have been the desire to save on the cost of gold.

The only replacement teeth available at that time were human, obtained through an agent or an early dental supply house that received material from ghous that reputedly collected specimens by grave robbing or from casualties on battlefields.

The crown, the cutting to length of which presented more problems. (Image 4) With a foot post dental lathe the grinding of a porcelain tooth to size was intolerably slow. A much quicker method was developed in which a nick was made round the root at the required height with a small grinding wheel and the excess split off with one quick action of the special porcelain tooth cutting pliers. In the larger practices, a bench mounted tool with a similar action was used.

As would be done today the teeth were fitted to the plate, secured with wax and tied in the mouth. When satisfactory, a wire with a spot of pigment on the end was passed down each tooth to mark the position of the hole for the post which was drilled as before and, if necessary, enlarged with a tapered broach. A length of post-wire was filed to fit 10 to 15 mm triangular point with three sharp edges. With the tooth held in the correct position, the sharp end was pushed firmly through the hole thus temporarily securing it to the base. Each tooth was similarly treated, the triangular point allowing solder to flow through the hole and for any minor adjustment of the inclination of the post to be made while it was still hot. When the post was the correct length, the head of a pin was nicked round the root at the edges. With the tooth held in place, the plate with enamel was no mean feat considering the drill was hand operated, with the dentine and enamel being seen as a dark 'carious' spot between the porcelain and the base.

The principle of retention, which involved the necessity for full coverage, and the difficulties of adapting the plate to the double curvature of the alveolar ridge and palate. Another possible reason may have been the desire to save on the cost of gold.

The only replacement teeth available at that time were human, obtained through an agent or an early dental supply house that received material from ghous that reputedly collected specimens by grave robbing or from casualties on battlefields.

To fix the post permanently, a minute pin head sized piece of rock sulphur was heated until the solder melted and 'ran', making a permanent union.

To insert the dentures the patient would be instructed to hold them together and the hands would then slide apart through the lips into the mouth. On releasing, the springs would push up the upper and the lower down, there was no natural retention.

From the early history of the pioneer dental firm of Claudius Ash and Sons, then silver and goldsmiths, we learn that the supply of teeth by grave robbers and battle field ghous was in the form of human remains - mandibles and parts of skulls, from which members of the firm had to dissect, clean, disinfest and wire together sets of anterior teeth.

To the founder of the firm this was a most nauseating task, a fact that would undoubtedly have stimulated research which produced the gold tube porcelain tooth, a satisfactory substitute with a root portion longer than the crown. Manufacturing techniques were soon developed that did not require a tube on which to form the porcelain, advances that were quickly followed by the cutting implements mentioned above.

It has been stated that the preparation of dentures of this type required at least six weeks of work and most would have been spent in the workshop. As a consequence, this article may appear for the casual reader laborious in describing the various techniques, but it was considered necessary in order to highlight the knowledge and the variety of skills that were required for a successful result. It is no wonder, therefore, that in the time of the industrial revolution when only the finest craftsmanship was acceptable, it took a master from five to seven years to teach an intelligent apprentice the secrets of his profession. However, even before the apprentice had mastered the techniques of the gold base denture fitted with tube teeth, another major advance in restorative dentistry occurred, the production of the flat back porcelain pin tooth that displaced the tube tooth from the anterior of the mouth and advanced the making of crowns and bridges to a discipline in its own right.
All collections rely on the generosity of donors and over the years the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum has been fortunate to receive a number of wonderful items from dental history which have helped to make the collection comprehensive in its representation of the development of dentistry and dental education in Victoria. Donated items have included dental instruments, dental equipment and furniture, photographs, documents including early certificates and indentures, student memorabilia, historical teaching material, and key collection items such as the "George Washington" denture, to name but one of more than 2500 objects.

Now that the dental museum has received approval to participate in the program, future donors may find opportunities to take advantage of the benefits offered through the scheme. If you would like to find out more about the program, or if you believe you have an item of cultural significance that you are interested in donating to the museum, contact the honorary curator Professor Atkinson at hfa@unimelb.edu.au or the curator Louise Murray at munay@unimelb.edu.au or telephone 03 9341 1518.

The program is administered according to the gift provisions of income tax law and is administered by a Secretariat in the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. A copy of the cultural gifts program guide can be found on the department’s website at arts.gov.au/cpg.

The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum is pleased to announce it has received approval to participate in the Cultural Gifts Program following its endorsement as a Deducible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office. Under the scheme, donors are able to claim the full market value of a gifted item or items, as a tax deduction.

Many institutions that participate in the scheme have limited financial resources and often find themselves competing with better resourced private collectors and institutions, a situation that can restrict the public institutions’ capacity to acquire items pertinent to their required specialisation. The Cultural Gifts Program helps to address this by giving owners of items of cultural significance an alternative to selling on the open market, by rewarding them financially through the tax system. As identified within the scheme, this helps to develop and preserve Australia’s cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.”

Dr. Asmaa Alkahtib delDent (Pediatric Dentistry) attended Khartoum University Medical School and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree. In October 2000 she started her dental internship for twelve months at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Qatar. This was followed by a residency position in the dental hospital, Qatar, until mid 2002. In mid 2002, Asmaa joined the Health Services of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Qatar, where she worked as a general dentist and clinical forensic dental officer, consulting with the Police Department in trauma cases and submission of appropriate reports corresponding to these cases in mid 2003. Asmaa worked in the primary health care department as a general dentist in various health centres, including School Dental Services in Qatar.

Asmaa enrolled in the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in 2005 and passed her final clinical and didactic examination on the 10th June 2009. She has a passion for Paediatric Dentistry and has been a provider of dental care for young patients. In addition, she enjoys educating her patients and their families about the importance of oral hygiene, and making healthy choices that can contribute to healthy oral habits during the community to prevent oral diseases. Because of her passion for oral health, Asmaa is enrolled in the Melbourne Dental School to conduct a PhD in the area of public health under Professor Mike Morgan and Professor Louise Birley-Messier.

When Asmaa started in 2009, she had a 22 month old boy, Ahmed, who is now 6 years of age. It was extremely difficult to accommodate both postgraduate study and Family life. However, Asmaa has a very supportive husband who provided her with endless support and encouragement.

Life in Australia was difficult to start, with no extended family support, no friends or network and a very different lifestyle to Qatar. However, when the years passed by, a beautiful social network grew for Asmaa and her family including local families and international student families. Now Asmaa and her family have become so used to the Melbourne life style that they missed Melbourne so much in their last holiday back home.

During her final year of her postgraduate study Asmaa had another baby boy who is now 33 months now. The academic staff at the Melbourne Dental School were a family for Asmaa during her postgraduate study and for that she is extremely grateful.

The Friday lecture I and thank all our ADAWV colleagues for their assistance in preparation for this learning event. Finally, our School Pre-clinical lab staff, Mr. Mario Smith and Mrs Sue Dobbelt who were available on the Saturday to assist our demonstrators and participants throughout the day. The CPD unit look forward to offering many new and exciting course of this nature to our dental colleagues during 2010 and beyond.

Dr. Alan Jackson
Chairman
ADAWV CPD Subcommittee
From the Editor

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of Dent-al, the Melbourne Dental School’s newsletter for alumni. We would be very 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, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

If you have any items of interest, please let us know.
Editor: Jennifer Sifonios

Contact
Postal Address: Melbourne Dental School Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences The University of Melbourne VICTORIA 3010 AUSTRALIA
Street Address: Melbourne Dental School The University of Melbourne 4th Floor, 720 Swanston Street CARLTON 3053 VICTORIA
Telephone: 61 3 9341 1500 Facsimile: 61 3 9341 1599 Email: sifonios@unimelb.edu.au www.dent.unimelb.edu.au

The University of Melbourne does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in this newsletter. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

Class of 1979
30 Year Reunion

By Dr Shane McGuire

The graduating class of 1979 recently celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Athenaeum Club in Melbourne with approximately 70 people attending with their partners. The night commenced with pre-dinner drinks which provided an excellent opportunity for guests to mingle and catch up with colleagues, many of whom had not seen each other since the twenty year reunion.

The dinner and wine provided were exceptional. Between the main course and dessert was the highlight of the night. Alan Carlton provided the keynote address, which included moments of history, reflection and views of the world (which after this talk some of us believe he should manage).

However, it was Alan’s wit and rib-tickling finesse that impressed us most.

Overall, it was a great night and we look forward to 2019 for the 40th anniversary celebration.

Thank you goes to the Organising Committee consisting of Phil Zimet, Julie Fraser, Jo-anne Cherry, Gerry Clauscen, Shane McGuire. Music - provided by an excellent string quartet, organised by Michael Woods. Entertainment by Alan Carlton – legendary performance! The prize winner - Kevin Smith – well done in getting the trivia question correct so quickly.

Thanks to Jenny Sifonios from the Melbourne Dental School who provided a huge level of coordination support.

1. Julie Fraser, Phil Zimet.
2. The String Quartet.