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GENEROUS GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY FROM DENTAL PIONEER

Earlier this year, Dr Robert Cook AM (BDSc 1952, MDSc 1958) and Mrs Gillian Cook established the **Robert and Gillian Cook Family Award** at the Melbourne Dental School (MDS) to encourage and support postgraduate research in the area of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Widely respected as a pioneer in oral and maxillofacial surgery in Australia, Dr Cook enjoyed a long and distinguished career after training at the University of Melbourne and furthering his skills in Europe.

A year after graduating from MDS, he became the first resident dentist in an Australian public hospital when he was appointed as a dental intern at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1953. Soon after, he received a Fellowship with the Dental Faculty of the Royal College of Surgeons in England and travelled to London to undertake two years of postgraduate training. On his return in 1957, he was appointed as an honorary consultant at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in the Plastic Surgery Unit.

Associate Professor Andrew Heggie (BDSc 1977, MDSc 1981, MBBS 1991) describes his friend and mentor as a 'giant upon whose shoulders the rest of us stood.'

"Bob visited Europe in the early 1960s and brought back the techniques that he had seen. It is fair to say that the maxillofacial surgeons in Germany and Switzerland had an advanced training model, combining medicine and dentistry and Bob was encouraged by his plastic surgery colleagues at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, to implement these new techniques.

"In so doing, he helped lay down the foundations for the future of jaw and facial surgery in Australia," Associate Professor Heggie explains.

In 1971, Dr Cook was appointed Senior Dental Surgeon and Oral Surgeon at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Over the next 30 years, he was extensively involved in the training of oral surgeons and witnessed huge changes in the teaching and practice of his specialty led by advances in technology.

"As a surgeon he was intuitive, quick and dexterous. His diagnostic skills were excellent. He taught by example and was an extremely supportive mentor. As a facilitator, he was brilliant at encouraging people he thought would be good surgeons, and as a politician and advocate for our specialty, he was peerless," says Associate Professor Heggie.

To be registered as a maxillofacial surgeon in Australia, surgeons must undertake a four-year Fellowship with the Royal Australian College of Dental Surgery after completing degrees in both medicine and dentistry together with a registration year and a year of 'surgery in general'.

Dr Cook's motivation with his gift to MDS is to provide an avenue to support and expand his profession through the rigorous academic pursuit of a PhD or equivalent.

"Unlike other head and neck specialties like ophthalmology, ENT surgery and neurosurgery, there is no pathway to incorporate a PhD in



Dr Robert Cook circa 1994 while President of IAOMS

maxillofacial surgery, yet there is huge scope for PhD research in oral and maxillofacial surgery. It is a major aspiration for the specialty and it is important that we facilitate a pathway for research during training," says Dr Cook.

In addition to his commitment as a pioneering surgeon, Dr Cook was also active in the development of local and international professional associations: he served two years as the President of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and was the first Australian president of the equivalent International Association.

In 1989 Dr Cook was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his commitment to maxillofacial surgery and teaching at MDS and the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The inaugural recipient of the Robert and Gillian Cook Family Award will be announced in 2017.

RESEARCHERS CLOSE IN ON CHILD TOOTH DECAY

On 28 September 2016, the University of Melbourne and the Oral Health CRC hosted the Early Childhood Oral Health Research Symposium where dentists and scientists discussed the latest evidence on oral health in young children and innovations in prevention and treatment. Presentations were given from a range of related fields including molecular science, genetics, paediatric dentistry, telemedicine and epidemiology.

Around 2,700 Victorian children aged 0-6 years are hospitalised each year for preventable dental conditions — most of them requiring treatment of dental decay under general anaesthetic.

Microbiologist Professor Stuart Dashper (PhD 1991 MDHS) is part of a team working on a long-term research project called VicGen, that has tracked the bacterial composition of children's saliva from the age of one month to five years. The study has found that infants who do not develop a healthy oral microbiome are more susceptible to decay in three or four years' time.

"We found a correlation between the number of bacterial species in an infant's saliva and advanced dental decay by the time that child is five," says Professor Dashper.

"We are continuing research to get a better understanding of how communities of oral bacteria develop in young children and hope to soon be able to use these biomarkers to help identify children at risk of dental disease," he said.

CEO of the Oral Health CRC, Professor Eric Reynolds AO (BSc Hons 1971, PhD MDHS 1978) said most oral disease in young children is preventable.

"We need to continue investigating new ways of reducing oral disease for this group, using the latest scientific evidence to inform prevention and education programs, clinical practices and the development of new treatments," said Professor Reynolds.

This article first appeared in the Melbourne Newsroom. <http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/researchers-close-new-ways-prevent-child-tooth-decay>



TICKLING THE IVORIES

Congratulations to MDS Alumnus Dr Timothy Chiang (BDSoc 2010) who was selected as one of twelve finalists in the prestigious 2016 Australian National Piano Award (ANPA).

Dr Chiang began playing piano aged 5, taught by his mother. At the age of 12, he won a music and academic scholarship to Scotch College but decided not to pursue formal tertiary music studies, opting to become a dentist instead. He now works four days a week at two Melbourne dental surgeries, and saves one day a week for piano practice.

Being selected as a finalist for the Australian National Piano Award is a huge accomplishment. The competition is a biennial event and only selects the nation's very best pianists for the week-long schedule of performances.

"It was an amazing experience to be selected to compete in the ANPA," said Dr Chiang. "The level of competition was daunting but I was proud to be selected as a finalist."

Chiang also plays the violin and regularly plays contemporary Christian music in his church band. "Every person has their unique personality with something different to add," he said.

"For me expressing the music is about being very true to what you believe in and being very genuine."



Alicia Zeqir - Q Photography

HENRY FORMAN ATKINSON MUSEUM – STORIES OLD AND NEW

by Jacqueline Healy, Senior Curator

The exciting thing about museums is that they attract people who are passionate about history. The refurbished Henry Forman Atkinson Museum was launched on Wednesday 25 October 2016 attended by staff, students and alumni of the Melbourne Dental School who have supported and contributed to the museum over many years.

The last 12 months have been a period of change at the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum. Sadly, Professor Henry Forman Atkinson died early this year (20 July 1912 to 5 January 2016). His remarkable contribution to MDS and his extraordinary contribution to the Dental Museum is acknowledged in the name of the museum.

The launch celebrated the significant contribution of volunteers to the life of the museum. In particular, Dr Neville Regan was recognised for over 20 years of voluntary work.

Professor Mike Morgan, Head of the Melbourne Dental School, acknowledged Dr Regan's generosity in sharing his time and his knowledge of dental history. His close working relationship and friendship with Professor Atkinson enabled the museum to survive through some difficult times. Their dedication has enabled the museum to continue to thrive.

The Henry Forman Atkinson Museum is appropriately located in the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne surrounded by student classrooms and available to patients and their families. The aims of the refurbishment of the dental museum are to improve accessibility, information and most importantly introduce people into the museum space.

New graphics have been placed in the cases and on the walls. The entrance panel at the front of the museum includes John Scurry's wonderful portrait of Professor Atkinson. When you look up you will see a timeline revealing the key turning points in the history of dentistry.

The themes in the exhibition include innovation, outreach dentistry, World War 1, teaching of dentistry, early dentistry, women in dentistry, tooth care and dentures.

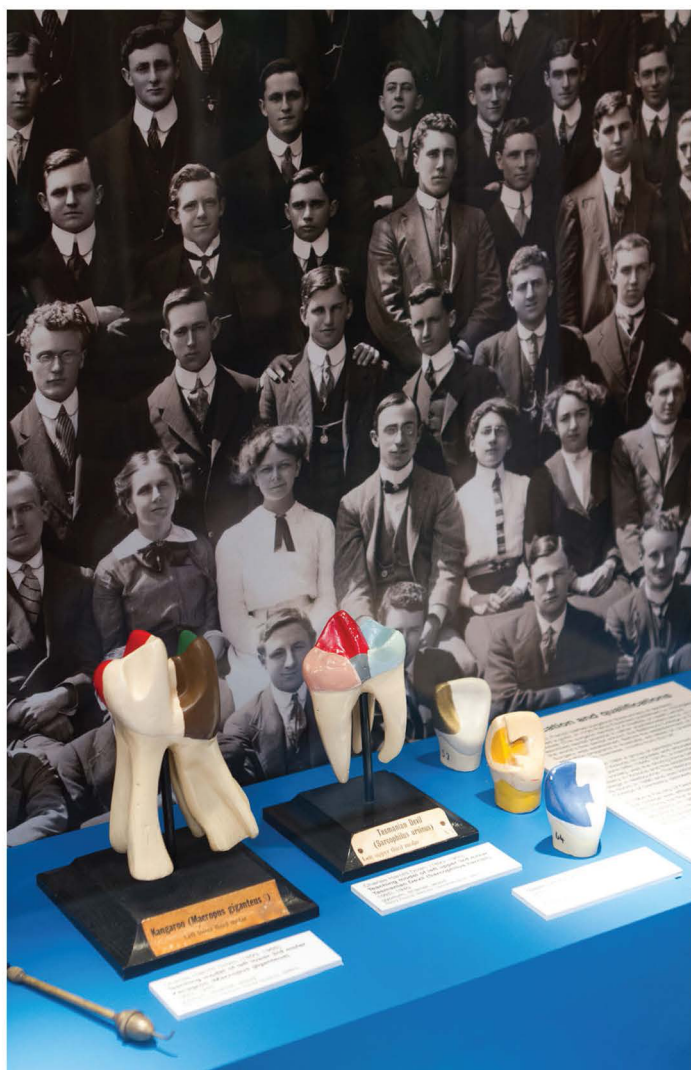
The activities and redevelopment of the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum would not be possible without our student and alumni volunteers through the Cultural Collections Projects Program and the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Volunteer Programs-Faculty Museums Projects.

We thank all of our volunteers and supporters and look forward to seeing you all at the museum soon.

The Museum is open 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday on the ground floor of the Royal Dental Hospital, 720 Swanston St, Carlton.



Dr Neville Regan with Professor Mike Morgan



A photograph of The Melbourne Dental Students' Society 1912, with teaching models.



THANK YOU TO CLINICAL DEMONSTRATORS AND PLACEMENT PROVIDERS

On Thursday 20 October 2016, the University of Melbourne celebrated the clinical demonstrators and placement providers who give so generously of their time and expertise to the Melbourne Dental School.

Following is an extract of the speech given by Dr Ennio Rebellato (BDS 1982, MDS 1987), a long-time mentor and demonstrator in MDS.

“My involvement with the Melbourne Dental School has encompassed the best part of 30 years: initially teaching undergraduates and for the last 15 years in the graduate program in the specialist field of endodontics.

There are many reasons why I have remained involved in the teaching program, which I will summarise into ‘The 3 Ps!’

P1: Professionalism

Dentistry is a caring clinical profession where we place the patient’s best interests centrally in our attempts to assist with their problems.

I believe as teachers, we impart a lifelong commitment to continued learning and

striving for excellence as we assist students to develop empathy, ethics and professionalism.

Teaching is a two way street. While we impart knowledge and develop clinical skills in the student, we are also continuing to learn ourselves as students challenge us with their enquiries and observations.

P2: Passion

Our passion translates very easily to students. We can probably all remember teachers who, by their passion and commitment, ignited a spark of interest and confidence in our lives. Conversely, we can probably also remember those who were disinterested in both teaching or the subjects they taught and the effect that had on ourselves or other students.

In my own case, the spark for doing endodontics was ignited by the late Dr Effy Ehrmann whose passion, especially in the areas of diagnosis and pain relief, made me appreciate and want to emulate some of those feats.

I also remember with gratitude the feeling of satisfaction and confidence inspired by the late Dr Julian Bassar when he encouraged me, after many weeks of holding me back till I was ready, to complete two fillings in a session when one was the norm. He stayed back to make

sure that it was achieved. I left the clinic that afternoon with a spring in my step!

P3: Pride

I have been involved with the University of Melbourne and the Melbourne Dental School for well over half my life and I have appreciated every moment.

I have a great sense of pride in my alma mater. I also have great pride in MDS being as highly regarded as it is, both within Australia and on the world stage. We should be justly proud of the academic staff and researchers at MDS, and of their sustained accomplishments in many diverse fields over many years.

As a clinical teacher/demonstrator over many years and on behalf of the Melbourne Dental School, I would like to think that all the clinical teachers have contributed in a small way to the excellent reputation of the Melbourne Dental School.”

Dr Ennio Rebellato is pictured above with guests at the ‘MDS Thank you’ Event in October 2016.