It is inevitable that I should begin this month’s letter with mention of the ever-expanding global epidemic/pandemic of the COVID-19 virus. As all will hopefully have seen, we have established an Incident Management Team at IUSD, in line with university policy. As I write this, over 70 countries have now reported cases. Although the mortality rate is low, and mainly affects those with predisposing comorbidities, others are also succumbing, and there is still uncertainty regarding the mode of transmission. The internet is crammed with information from a multitude of bona fide sources as well, unfortunately, as pernicious misinformation, such that the CDC has a team devoted to scrutinizing this. We must all remain vigilant and observe the common-sense approach to hygiene, including the time-honored practice of handwashing with soap and water. Several organizations internationally are working hard to create a vaccine, so there is light at the end of the tunnel.

One way or the other, global has definitely been a theme this month, based on events of the past few weeks.

In the spirit of developing opportunities for students to gain international experience through Study Abroad, Dr. Susanne Largura Benvier and I made a short trip to Milan, Italy, to the University of Milano-Bicocca, whose dental school is ranked nationally in the top three. The initial contact was made via a former faculty member here, Dr. Subhalakshmi Hari, now living and working there. Together with our other principal host, Dr. Maello Maddalone, we met with deans and the Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Professor Gabriella Pasi. As the Mid-Western meeting was the following week, Dr. Maddalone stopped by IUSD and was able to meet with several of our colleagues, including Stephanie Leslie and Ian McIntosh from our own International Office. Such was the momentum and efficiency of the team work, that we were able to complete the first stage of the agreement process and Susanne will now take the lead on developing the program. Incidentally, everyone will have seen that she has been appointed Assistant Dean for Student Services, for which we offer sincere congratulations.

At the end of February, we welcomed another international visitor, Dr. Mabel Nangami, Dean of the School of Public Health at Moi University in Eldoret, Western Kenya. Many of you will know that there is a long-standing program that was initiated by IUSM almost 30 years ago, and that led to a consortium of US and Canadian universities to establish a service-driven care and research organization, AMPATH. In the early 2000’s, Dr. Larry Goldblatt helped establish a dental school at Moi, and all parties have been keen to develop an active collaboration in oral healthcare. For a number of reasons, that has been slow to evolve, and Dean Nangami’s visit, and the conversation we were able to have, may help us move forward.

Dr. Martin Mier, several of her faculty, Dr. Chu and Associate Dean for Global Health from our own Fairbanks School, Dr. Sue Babich, all participated and I remain optimistic about prospects. In fact, as one outcome, Dean Nanagami has met within the last few days with our own “IUSD ambassador,” DDS student Ashley Karczewski, who is engaged in her one year student scholarship at the University of Nairobi.

Closer to home again, late February is always the time for one of the largest and most important dental gatherings, The Mid-West Society meeting. I am sure that there were many important and informative exchanges, and two of which we are aware highlighted the success of students in our graduate periodontology and prosthodontics programs. More details are within this newsletter, and our congratulations to the students and their faculty mentors. It was also Dean Murdoch-Kinch’s first meeting as leader of our school and her presence and interactions with faculty, students and alumni were much appreciated.

Our people are, of course, who and what define us as an educational and healthcare institution. With respect to faculty, we are currently in the midst of what is almost a frenzy of hiring at all levels, and this is an extremely healthy indicator of our vitality. I take this opportunity to thank all who participate, as chairs and members of committees and all who meet and assess our candidates. I especially thank Damon and Meredith in our office, who work so very hard and diligently, to ensure the processes and visits run so smoothly.
Faculty Development Opportunities

There are many opportunities for professional development during the month of March. The following list of programs were selected from various resources on the IUPUI Campus including the Office of Academic Affairs (AA), the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the Office for Women (OFW), the Indiana University School of Medicine, Office of Faculty and Professional Development (OFAPD), the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR) and the IUSD Office of Continuing Education. Campus programs are at no cost to faculty.

**Wednesday, March 4th**
Stepping Stones of Women in Leadership with Julie Welch, MD (OFAPD)
Time and Location: 11:45 am – 1:00 pm, Glick Eye Institute, 103
Presenter: Julie Welch
Register

**Wednesday, March 4th**
Teaching@IUPUI: Features of the IU eTexts interface-sharing your notes and more with students (CTL)
Time and Location: 12:00 – 12:45 pm, Online - Zoom
Presenter: Noma Maier
Register

**Wednesday, March 4th**
Opening Doors: Celebrating African American Academic Surgeons (OFAPD)
Time and Location: 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Fairbanks Hall, Rm 1109-1112
Register

**Friday, March 6th**
2020 E.C. Moore Symposium on Excellence in Teaching (CTL)
Time and Location: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, University Tower Ballroom
Presenters: Lingma Acheson, Jane Fernandes
Register

**Monday, March 9th**
Southern Indiana Preceptor’s Conference (OFAPD)
Time and Location: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Stone Family Center for Health Sciences, Evansville. IN
Presenters: Paul Wallach, Steven Becker, Matt Neal, Alvaro Tori, Shawn Patrick, Leeann Parker
Register

**Tuesday, March 10th**
Teaching@IUPUI: Best Practices for Slide Show Presentations (CTL)
Time and Location: 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Online - Zoom
Presenters: Douglas Jerolimov, Randy Newbrough
Register

**Tuesday, March 10th**
Culture & Conversation: LGBTQ+ Women’s Health (OFAPD)
Time and Location: 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Fesler Hall 319
Presenter: Hannah Locke
Register

**Thursday, March 12th**
PLUS Information Session (OFAPD)
Time and Location: 10:00 – 11:00 am, Van Nuys Medical Science Building 209
Presenter: Brownsyne Tucker Edmonds
Register

**Thursday, March 12th**
CIRTL Open House for Graduate Students and Postdocs (CTL)
Time and Location: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, University Library 1126
Presenters: Anusha S Rao, Jessica Alexander, Akaash Arora, Christine Kassab, Janice Blum, Tabitha Hardy
Register

http://ce.dentistry.iu.edu
Assessment Institute Proposals

Proposals are being accepted for the 2020 Assessment Institute, which will be held on October 25-27 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel. The Assessment Institute, hosted by IUPUI, is the nation’s oldest and largest higher education event of its type, offering more than 200 educational sessions. Typically, the Institute attracts more than 1,000 participants from all 50 states and several other countries, with over 400 colleges, universities, and organizations represented.

The priority deadline to submit a proposal is March 20, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Preference will be given in the selection process to those proposals that include information about assessment findings and their use to improve student learning and/or institutional processes or services.

For submission guidelines, session topics, a list of materials needed to submit a proposal, and to submit a proposal, please visit: [http://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/program/proposals.html](http://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/program/proposals.html).

For more information, email planning@iupui.edu or visit [https://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/](https://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/).

Professional Development Cont’d

**Tuesday, March 24th**
**Teaching Portfolio Guide for Graduate Students and Postdocs (CTL)**
**Time and Location:** 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, University Library 1126
**Presenters:** Douglas Jerolimov, Richard Turner
[Register](#)

**Wednesday, March 25th**
**Academy of Teaching Scholars: Introduction to Qualitative Research (OFAPD)**
**Time and Location:** 9:00 - 10:00 am, Online – Zoom
**Presenter:** Krista Hoffman-Longtin
[Register](#)

**Wednesday, March 25th**
**Teaching@IUPUI: Translating Growth Mindset into Your Classroom Activities (CTL)**
**Time and Location:** 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Online - Zoom
**Presenter:** Jessica Alexander, Annwesa Dasgupta
[Register](#)

**Thursday, March 26th**
**Digital Course Design: Purposeful Online Discussions (CTL)**
**Time and Location:** 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Online - Zoom
**Presenter:** Jeani Young
[Register](#)

**Thursday, March 26th**
**Graduate students and Postdocs: Preparing and Delivering a Teaching Demonstration (CTL)**
**Time and Location:** 1:30 – 3:00 pm, University Library 0110
**Presenters:** Katherine Adams, Debora Herold, Tina Chen
[Register](#)

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LGBTQ+ Faculty-Staff Development Conference

**Date:** Friday, March 13
**Time:** 9:00am—4:00pm
**Location:** Ruth Lilly Center
**Register:** [go.iu.edu/2k8e](https://go.iu.edu/2k8e)

You are invited to join for a full day of development and networking with other LGBTQ+ faculty and staff colleagues. This event is free, and will include a keynote address, lunch, breakout sessions, and a time of networking.
IUSD Refugee Panel & Call to Action

This year’s first IU School of Dentistry Diversity Lecture Series program was held on February 20, bringing together an eagerly awaiting small crowd of faculty, staff, students and administrators that had not yet traveled to the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting or had the day off because of subsequent clinic closures. Unlike previous IUSD Diversity Lecture Series events, this program brought in several community guests as panelists. Panelists and attendees alike focused collectively on barriers and myths related to oral health care outreach and services for Indianapolis’s refugee population; realities faced by refugees needing and/or seeking preventive and/or corrective oral health care; success and challenges of practices, services, partnerships and policies currently active to meet refugee oral health care needs; and a call to action to create impact that will decrease barriers, disparities, and gaps in the delivery of oral health care to refugees. The session was moderated by Dr. Jack Turman, professor in the department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. Following his opening remarks, which highlighted the interdisciplinary approach and the importance of gathering to act rather than simply to absorb, Dr. Turman opened the floor for each of the panelists to personally introduce themselves: Chelsea Davey, director of Extended Services; Exodus Refugee; Jay Dziwlik, assistant executive director, Indiana Dental Association; Calvin Lobini Kile, dentist, Democratic Republic of Congo/Uganda; Joan Kowolik, director, Pediatric Dentistry, IU School of Dentistry; Ed Pophieff, director of Governmental Affairs, Indiana Dental Association; and Michele Schrouhag, supervisor, Resettlement Services, Catholic Charities. After introductions and each panelist sharing why she/he was involved in service to mitigate the challenges refugees confront in attempting to satisfy even the basic of life’s necessities, Dr. Turman turned the discussion to candid exploration of myths and barriers refugees face when needing oral health care. Transportation, translation services, insurance, native land cultural practices, true informed consent, multiple product care options, and charity versus economic viability for dental practices were all among the topics addressed.

As each panelist shared from personal and/or professional experience, all in attendance became increasingly informed about how “close” the issues, needs, and opportunities are in addition to how vital structural competence is to reducing the disparities and gaps in the delivery of oral health care to our city’s and state’s refugees. Such awareness and understanding is vital in this work in consideration of how structure relates to the establishment of systems that produce and reproduce the social world and ultimately transmits values to bodies and diseases (see article by Jonathan Metzl and Helena Hansen).

To close the program, Dr. Turman elicited from the panelists and audience next steps—“small, tiny, doable acts.” Those included emailing legislators; collaborating to increase charity options; and initiating a student-organized screening day. Seize the moment.

Research Day

The 28th annual Indiana University School of Dentistry Research Day event will be held on Monday, April 6, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the IUPUI Campus Center, on the fourth floor. All are invited to attend.

IUSD Research Day is an annual event highlighting the advances in basic and clinical research of the students, staff and faculty associated with Indiana University School of Dentistry. The Indiana Section of the AADR (IN-AADR) is an integral sponsor of the IUSD Research Day event. The IN-AADR is the local link to the national and the international organizations for dental research, the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) and the International Association for Dental Research (IADR).

This year Dr. Nisha D’Silva, BDS, MSD, PhD, Donald Kerr Endowed Collegiate Professor and Associate Chair of the Division of Oral Medicine, Pathology and Radiology at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, will present the keynote address “Oral Cancer: Corrupting the Microenvironment.” Research Day also includes research and clinical case poster sessions designed to encourage interaction among presenters and attendees, an awards program with presentations by awardees, and a commercial exhibit featuring leading manufacturers and companies.

The abstract submission deadline for Research Day participants is Friday, March 6, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Visit https://dentistry.iu.edu/research/research-day/ for more information on abstract submission guidelines, the schedule of events, and additional information. You can submit your abstract online here.
Shout outs to the following faculty and faculty-supported residents on recent noteworthy achievements: Chandler Walker, Vanchit John, Yusuke Hamada, Thuraya Gadah, Aziz AlSakr, Chandni Batra. Dr. Walker received a $240,000 grant from Pathogenes, Inc. to support his research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Dr. John was recognized as the 2020 Honor Dentist for Indianapolis District Dental Society, given to the member who exemplifies outstanding service to organized dentistry, to the patients, the students, and the community at large. Dr. Hamada was awarded an education grant to participate in the Osteology Research Academy 2020 in Gothenburg. Dr. Gadah won the Clinical Poster Award in the 2020 American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics annual meeting. It was an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental project. At the 2020 Mid-West Society of Periodontology Annual Meeting, Drs. AlSakr and Batra were selected to be part of the Graduate Research Competition and Poster Session, respectively.
PROMOTION OR TENURE ON BALANCED CASE

DATE: MARCH 10, 2020
TIME: 9:00 TO 10:30 AM
LOCATION: CAMPUS CENTER 409, ZOOM
PRESENTER: RACHEL APPLEGATE

REGISTER

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PROMOTION IN THE CLINICAL RANKS

Date: MARCH 30, 2020
Location: CAMPUS CENTER 409 AND ONLINE–ZOOM
Time: 9:00—11:00 AM
Presenter: RACHEL APPLEGATE

REGISTER