

THE APEX

TOURO COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
AT NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE | 2019-20

TOURO
DENTAL
HEALTH

Realizing Our Vision
SCHOOL WELCOMES ITS FOURTH CLASS

Page 14

"Donning my scrubs for the first time and attending my very first lecture in dental anatomy and occlusion was a great feeling. That was the moment where it hit me: I'm on my way to becoming a dentist!"

MICHAEL INDIG, '23

"Learning about digital dentistry at TCDM fascinates me. It's amazing to be part of the start of a dental revolution, since we will be entering the dental field with this new way of helping people."

FRIDA DAVYDOV, '22

"Treating patients from all backgrounds and with such different life stories has been very touching for me. It makes me realize that it's important to understand each person's barriers to dental care in order to help them get back on track with their oral health."

SARA ROSEN, '21



Touro College of Dental Medicine
AT NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

Where Knowledge and Values Meet



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THE APEX

2019-2020 Issue

Touro College of Dental Medicine
at New York Medical College

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Cover Photo:

TCDM dental students from
all four inaugural classes
came together to mark another
exciting milestone for the school
as a fully enrolled institution.

GROWING INTO OUR FUTURE



The Touro College of Dental Medicine story in 2019 is one of pivotal growth—in numbers and reach, diversity of people and programs, and impact on the residents of the lower Hudson Valley.

Last year, our story was about the birth of a new dental school, the newest in the country, founded to harness and drive education in digital dentistry. We were established on the core values of improving overall health through oral care and of committing ourselves to serving our community and all those in need.

This year, we welcomed another class and now, for the first time, have a full complement of TCDM students on campus. Our fully enrolled clinical training programs, complete with third- and fourth-year students, are now bringing the foundational knowledge they've learned directly to patients. What an exciting transition—to see our classrooms, training areas, and informal spaces filled with students who are creating their own sense of community. They are thriving in an atmosphere that is collegial, supportive, and committed to a common mission.

Our growth goes well beyond the numbers. We are expanding our programs by creating opportunities for our students to enrich their learning and prepare themselves to serve all manner of people and populations. An area of special focus, to educate for better health outcomes, is interprofessional education and care. By leveraging the great diversity of health-related schools in the Touro system we are capable of training the next generation of dentists with a holistic approach to oral and overall healthcare.

“We are expanding our programs by creating opportunities for our students to enrich their learning and prepare themselves to serve all manner of people and populations.”

Underlying our growth is the commitment to humanism and diversity. Our students are now charged with participating in community service as well as selecting and completing a scholarly project. These activities are to ensure that we are training well-rounded, culturally sensitive dentists committed to advancing the profession, reducing healthcare disparities, and enriching the lives of the people they treat. We are opening opportunities through partnerships with area hospitals and other healthcare institutions to expose our students to varied care delivery models and socioeconomic groups. Through collaborations like these, we are educating and training dentists who have the compassion and competence to deliver the right care to populations in need.

As a three-year-old school, our true legacy is ahead of us, and how we navigate our growth will determine that legacy. It is with great pride and gratitude to our many partners, supporters, faculty, staff and students, that I share our story of robust and strategic growth in this second issue of *The Apex*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'RM', followed by a horizontal line.

Ronnie Myers, D.D.S.
Dean

BY THE NUMBERS

Stats as of November 2019

CLASS OF 2023

CLASS OF 2022

CLASS OF 2021

CLASS OF 2020

2,149

total applications

20.3

total DAT

2,336

total applications

20.5

total DAT

2,348

total applications

21.0

total DAT

2,573

total applications

21.3

total DAT

432 Students Enrolled



45% Female **55%** Male

COMBINED STUDENT STATISTICS



161

undergrad schools
represented



26

average
student age



30

states represented
+ Canada



37%

from
New York State

39,000 square-foot
clinical training facility

40,000 patient visits
june 2018 – october 2019

109 dental
chairs

96 faculty
36 full-time | 60 part-time

73 staff and
administration

WHITE COAT CEREMONY #2... AND COUNTING

In TCDM's second-ever White Coat Ceremony, 111 students in the Class of 2021, along with family and friends, celebrated their transition from preclinical learning to clinical training. To mark their official entry into the clinical setting as dental care providers, students recited the school's professional oath to uphold compassionate care for the patient as well as scientific proficiency.



Faculty leaders, who represent the value system of the school and the profession, ceremoniously placed a white coat—the mantle of the health profession—on each student’s shoulders to signify the student’s commitment and dedication to the profession of dentistry. As Sara Rosen, President of the Class of 2021, told her classmates: “Our most important lessons are not learned in the classroom but in our time spent with patients and developing relationships with the people around us.”

BELOW: Keynote speaker Dr. Thomas J. Connolly, President of the American College of Dentists, with TCDM students.



LEFT: Families and friends joined Dean Myers and other proud faculty for a breakfast reception before the ceremony.



STUDENT PROFILE: AKIBA DANZIGER, '21

DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

With the symbolic donning of the white coat and reciting of a professional oath, Akiba Danziger is beginning to see and live his future—one that he has envisioned for a long time. “Since I was really young, I always had a very strong interest in the medical field,” says Akiba. “Dentistry for me was the most exciting profession. It was more than just diagnosing. It was diagnosing with your hands and putting the diagnosis into actual practice.”

At home, Akiba sees his future every day, in the faces of his two daughters, Yocheved, 1, and Emmy, 3. “Coming home and seeing them—and knowing what I’m giving them for their future—has really been a very strong driver for me,” he says, adding that his wife’s support is what makes it possible for him to pursue his dream while raising two young children.



“Coming home and seeing them—and knowing what I’m giving them for their future—has really been a very strong driver for me.”

Now in his third year, Akiba appreciates how deeply TCDM’s faculty members are committed to the students’ success, and how well the curriculum and clinic prepare students to lead the future of digital dentistry. “As students at a brand new school, we have a lot of advanced technology,” he says. “We have the opportunity to learn digital dentistry skills that others have to take additional courses post-dental school to learn.”

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS THAT
MOVE DENTISTRY FORWARD

When a patient with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), high blood pressure, a history of smoking, and complex dental issues needs treatment after winding up in the emergency room, it takes an interprofessional team to develop the right plan of care.

How does hypertension affect oral health, and what impact does oral health have on COPD? What medication does the patient take, and what side-effects could manifest in the mouth or in the body? Oral health and overall health, after all, are inextricably linked.

This fall, the team convening for such a discussion was made up of third- and fourth-year students from TCDM and other health-related schools within the Touro College and University system, including New York Medical College, Touro College of Pharmacy and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine. The collaborative case-based class is part of TCDM's commitment to interprofessional education, training the next generation of dentists to work across disciplines to provide integrated care for the whole patient.

"We want to educate our students to relate interprofessionally with other healthcare providers, to communicate with them and respect what they say," says TCDM Dean Ronnie Myers, D.D.S., who is working to expand interprofessional education and training at TCDM. He notes that interprofessional education is so central to health-related pedagogy and training that it is required for accreditation.

"We want our students and all students to value what other healthcare providers bring to the table and know each other's

roles and responsibilities," he explains. "And we want our students to have the core value of teamwork, working towards a common goal: better health outcomes of the patients we treat."

Among a number of advances in this area, Dean Myers has appointed Associate Professor of Dental Medicine Katrin Tamari, D.D.S., as Director of Interprofessional Education. "Everything in the body is connected," says Dr. Tamari. "There cannot be a gap between dentistry and the other health professions. We need better communication for the benefit of our patients."

That communication ramped up this fall, when the medical, pharmacy and dental students convened in small groups to talk about the case of the patient with COPD and other comorbidities. The students each brought their discipline's expertise to the case, worked together, and presented findings and recommendations to the group. Social work students are expected to join the collaboration soon, and Dr. Tamari hopes to expand the program to students in other Touro schools, including nursing, occupational and physical therapy, and speech and language pathology.

In another example of working together, Touro pharmacy students delivered flu shots to TCDM students this fall. "That's another way for them to get to know each other and develop a professional understanding of each other's disciplines," says Dr. Tamari.

LEARNING TO 'PLAY IN THE SANDBOX'

As one of the largest healthcare educational systems in the country, Touro provides an ideal crucible for interprofessional education. When distances between campuses, from Brooklyn to Hawthorne to Middletown, posed a challenge, the new system-wide Touro Interprofessional Collaborative brought students from Touro schools of education, osteopathic medicine, physical therapy and nursing together virtually to video-conference about a case that required interprofessional collaboration.

The case involved a 75-year-old woman with diabetes and other comorbidities who suffered a fall that injured her jaw, went to the ER and was referred to her local clinic. Dental students were able to shed light for their peers on the strong association between diabetes and periodontitis, says Aaron Yancoskie, D.D.S., TCDM's Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Associate Professor of Dental Medicine, who led the Collaborative with colleagues from the participating schools.

At TCDM, Dr. Yancoskie teaches a course on pathology and medicine that is "interprofessional by nature," he says, as it covers general and systemic pathology and dental management of the medically complex patient. He is joined by experts in laboratory medicine, anesthesiology, pathology, pediatrics, psychiatry and other disciplines, who all help students understand the many underlying diseases their patients may have and how to safely provide oral care to patients with multiple comorbidities.

The course is structured as a "flipped classroom," in which students review foundational materials before class through digital modules. Class time, then, can be devoted to higher-level case review and critical problem-solving. The flipped classroom makes strategic use of in-class time "to really capitalize on what students can get from faculty—and that is applying knowledge," says Dr. Yancoskie. "With the use of digital technology, the basic acquisition of knowledge can take place anywhere. The valuable time in the classroom can then be used to help them understand how that information is critical to patient care through clinical case discussion."

In another interprofessional TCDM course, Eric Wachs, D.M.D., Course Director for Ethics and Professionalism in Dentistry, teaches ethics from multiple viewpoints, with preceptors who include dentists, physicians and clergy. Teams of students discuss a variety of ethics questions, including in research projects and around medical errors, with consideration across disciplines and perspectives. "You need to learn to play in the sandbox," says Dr. Wachs. "You're part of a healthcare team, which could include physicians, physical therapists, nurses... anyone you can name. You must work together, or you can't provide the best patient care."

CLINIC: PORTAL TO BETTER HEALTH

Interprofessional care is a hallmark of Touro Dental Health, TCDM's clinical training facility. Often, neglect of oral and overall health go hand in hand, due to lack of access, insurance, patient education or habit. When patients come to Touro Dental Health for oral care, clinicians and students check certain vital signs and symptoms—and can refer patients, if warranted, to primary or urgent care. TCDM students are trained to conduct a comprehensive medical and oral health history on the first visit and are able to identify risks. It is not unusual for patients to present to Touro Dental Health with medical signs and symptoms that require referrals or even emergency attention.

"We are looking at the overall health of our patients, including taking the blood pressure for every patient who walks through our doors," says Dr. Tamari. "You'd be surprised how many patients have high blood pressure. We can then refer them to a primary care provider for further care, which will greatly improve their overall health. We are just one stop on their journey to better health."

New York Medical College recently opened a Family Health Center within the dental clinic space, with a full-time staff physician, ensuring that patients who come in for dental care have access to overall medical attention. "We can detect certain systemic illnesses from their oral evaluations," says Dr. Myers. "It's a great benefit to partner with the family practice of medicine and get patients into care quickly."

In addition, Touro Dental Health is currently seeking a full-time social worker to add to its staff, who will train social work students in rotation and serve as a resource for patients, especially those impacted by socio-economic factors that may limit their care. "We are here for the community in all aspects of care," says Dr. Tamari.



New York Medical College's new Family Health Center provides a bi-directional opportunity for the medical and dental schools to work together on point-of-care testing and evaluations for patients at risk for chronic disease.

RETHINKING OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS

Setting a Better Course for the Future

Responding to the national opioid epidemic and studies that show teenagers to be at risk of prescription painkiller addiction following wisdom teeth surgery, Touro Dental Health is tightly restricting opioid prescriptions. As an educational institution, Touro Dental Health's new policy not only has an impact today by dramatically reducing opioid prescriptions among clinic patients, but has the potential to make an impact well into the future, by training the next generation of dentists in patient-centered, ethical prescribing habits.

Touro Dental Health's 109-chair clinical teaching practice now allows opioid prescriptions only under special circumstances. These include allergy to other treatments, failed prior attempts to control pain with non-narcotics, or more invasive oral surgery, according to clinic officials. Even then, Touro Dental Health providers limit opioid prescriptions to three days, rather than the typical six-days, and patients are required to sign a contract as part of an educational consultation about addiction risks.

"The contract documents that we discussed the risks with patients, but it does something more than that," says Eric Wachs, D.M.D., Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Clinical Associate Professor of Dental Medicine, and Course Director for Ethics and Professionalism in Dentistry. "It is also a great educational tool to show students the importance of these ethical considerations. The next generation of dentists are simply not going to prescribe opioids. They're developing the right habit from the start."

Dr. Wachs stopped prescribing narcotics for wisdom teeth in his own private practice about three years ago and since then has seen only positive outcomes from patients. "I do not get more calls at night from people saying they're in pain," he said, adding, rather, that there are fewer patients complaining about nausea and other opioid side effects.

Recent studies show that about 70 percent of wisdom teeth extractions for patients ages 16 to 22 resulted in at least one opioid prescription, and about 7 percent of those teens, at some point, went on to get another opioid prescription.

Dr. Wachs estimates that Touro Dental Health's new policy should cut opioid prescriptions in the clinic by more than 80 percent. With an estimated 40,000 patient visits a year at full capacity, the school projects that these changes will have a meaningful impact on the community. Looking toward the future, TCDM-trained dentists will bring to the chair a new understanding of painkillers and what is best for the patient.

Dr. Wachs estimates that Touro's new policy should cut opioid prescriptions in the clinic by more than 80 percent.





“Dentists have always been pillars in the community, educating and serving people... Dentistry is a good way to live out my belief in serving others.”



STUDENT PROFILE: ALEX DORROUGH, '20

SERVICE THROUGH DENTISTRY

Alex Dorrough's attraction to dentistry is rooted in his commitment to serving the community. “I started wanting to become a dentist in high school when I volunteered at a special needs orphanage in China and saw how rewarding it was,” recalls Alex, who spent part of his childhood in Asia and part in Connecticut.

Alex felt that same sense of reward while treating local patients with special needs during a rotation with the Westchester Institute for Human Development. The institute, which is located on the New York Medical College campus, provides comprehensive healthcare, including oral care, to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The rotation is one of several avenues for TCDM students to serve their community outside the walls of the school's clinic, providing valuable real-life experiences with patients in a variety of settings including hospitals, federally qualified health centers and mobile dental units.

Alex was struck by how happy many of these patients were to see him, how valuable oral care was to their overall health, and how challenging the work could be. “These patients are coming in pre-sedated and still it was so difficult to clean their teeth,” says Alex, who believes that learning to treat patients with special needs will position him well as he pursues a career in pediatric dentistry. “For us it's a common procedure, but for them, it's anything but common. I saw that it takes a lot of moving parts for the care to work.”

Alex's passion for helping people stems from his upbringing and family—their faith as Latter-day Saints, and their commitment to community. “Dentists have always been pillars in the community, educating and serving people,” says Alex. “Dentistry is a good way to live out my belief in serving others.”

TOURO DENTAL HEALTH

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR PATIENTS

More than one-quarter of New Yorkers fail to get the oral health services they need because of “trouble finding a dentist,” according to a 2015 survey published by the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute and Families USA.

Touro Dental Health, now equipped to serve more than 400 patients a day from across the Hudson Valley and beyond, is changing that equation. The state-of-the-art teaching practice completed a 6,800 square foot expansion this year, adding 28 new dental chairs within two new general dental practice units, for a total of 109 chairs. The new practices were built to accommodate the addition of third-year dental students from the class of 2021 who, last June, transitioned to providing clinical care.

“Our expanded training facility now allows us to pair third-year students with their more experienced fourth-year partners to ensure better continuity of care for patients,” says Vice Dean Edward F. Farkas, D.D.S., M.A. “With this unique pairing model, patients will always be familiar with at least one member of their dental team, even as students move on. Not only will this make the experience more comfortable for patients, but creating this dental ‘home’ will allow us to better manage their ongoing dental treatment and oral health.”

Clinical expansion of space and students prompted TCDM to dramatically increase its clinical and preclinical faculty, adding more than 30 dental professionals. TCDM's faculty of nearly 100 general dentists and dental specialists—including periodontists, prosthodontists, endodontists, orthodontists, oral surgeons, pediatric dentists, a dental anesthesiologist and radiologist—enables the school to provide a full-range of dental care under one roof while providing students with hands-on exposure in all dental disciplines.

One of those faculty members is Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., Clinical Practice Leader and Assistant Professor of Dental Medicine, who actively supports TCDM through vital outreach to a diverse patient population, including seniors, women, and, as a Spanish speaker, the Hispanic community. "We want our patients from all communities to know we are here for them," she says.

Dr. Garcia sees that commitment not just in the faculty but also in the students, who she often finds at work through their lunch hour, into the evening and on their days off. "Our students really go above and beyond for their patients," Dr. Garcia says. "When you have students devoted to their patients to that degree, you know you are creating real doctors. They are not just technical experts or mechanics. They care for patients' well-being. And, oh my goodness, the patients love them."

Touro Dental Health has eight comprehensive general dental practices, aptly named after the Hudson Valley counties the clinic serves, as well as specialty

practices in pediatrics, endodontics, orthodontics and oral surgery. In keeping with its commitment to elevating the overall health of the community, TCDM recently welcomed a family medicine practice staffed by New York Medical College faculty physicians to its clinical facility and is planning to open a new family-friendly pediatric dental practice in Spring 2020.



ABOVE: TCDM leadership and faculty came together to celebrate the grand opening of two additional general dental practices built to accommodate the school's growing clinical training facility.



"When you have students devoted to their patients to that degree, you know you are creating real doctors. They are not just technical experts or mechanics. They care for patients' well-being. And, oh my goodness, the patients love them."

ISABEL GARCIA, D.D.S.

HUDSON VALLEY ORAL HEALTH FORUM

COLLABORATING FOR BETTER REGIONAL HEALTH

TCDM faculty and students hosted regional health officials for the school's first Hudson Valley Oral Health Forum to discuss oral healthcare issues impacting local communities and to brainstorm potential collaborative projects that would improve outreach, education, and patients' overall and oral health.

"Dental disease is one of our nation's great preventable public health challenges," said Dean Ronnie Myers, D.D.S. "Creating an interprofessional dialog between dental professionals and public health officials can improve education, collaboration, and result in better patient outcomes."

"Regular dental care by qualified providers goes a long way towards improving nutrition and quality of life, and preventing disease," noted Sherlita Amler, M.D., Commissioner of Health for Westchester County, who attended the event along with officials from Orange, Sullivan and Dutchess Counties.

Students learned about the oral health disparities facing each county, including challenges that disproportionately affect medically and dentally underserved rural and urban areas, particular ethnic groups, and people with developmental disabilities.

Participants gathered in small group settings to discuss ideas for collaborative projects that students will carry forward under a new TCDM initiative, the Scholarly Project Program. Prior to graduation, each TCDM student is required to pursue a scholarly project, which, under the supervision of a mentor, seeks to answer a research question, further community education and outreach, or

otherwise elevate outcomes or deepen an understanding of oral health.

"We covered a broad spectrum of potential projects, from having dental screenings at local schools to creating educational programs for parents and healthcare professionals," said Natasha Patel, a third-year student. "We hope to initiate projects that will impact future generations of TCDM as well as the surrounding communities."

Dean Myers says of the Scholarly Project requirement, which he initiated, "This may spark something in our students that they will carry with them the rest of their lives, whether it's in research, education, mentorship, volunteering, even keeping up with oral health literature. This is the business we're in: educating people to be the best that they can be at whatever they want to be in the healthcare field."



LEFT TO RIGHT: TCDM students Lana Hashim and Monica Liang, Dr. Irina Gelman, Orange County Health Commissioner, Nancy McGraw, Sullivan County Public Health Director, Dean Ronnie Myers, Dr. Sherlita Amler, Westchester County Health Commissioner, Dr. Anil Vaidian, Dutchess County Health Commissioner, Dr. Pamela Ludmer, Associate Dean for Curriculum Integration, New York Medical College School of Medicine, students Tyler Moyle and Steven Lin.

STUDENT PROFILE: BRIDGET FALTAS, '22

RESEARCHER'S EYE VIEW

About 5.7 million American adults live with heart failure, according to the Centers for Disease Control. So second-year student Bridget Faltas is grateful for the opportunity to conduct biomedical research into heart function and failure for the good of her future dental patients.

"Being so common, heart failure is something a lot of my patients will have, and this research has given me a greater understanding of the condition," she says. "As dentists treating the whole patient, we need to understand the patient's systemic problems."

During a summer research elective that pairs TCDM students with researchers at New York Medical College, Bridget worked with a Department of Physiology scientist on a study entitled, "The Effects of Enhanced late sodium Currents on the Heart." Zeroing in on late sodium currents, which particularly affect the body as it ages, the research aims to deepen scientific understanding of certain heart functions and, ultimately, help lead to better therapies.

In addition to learning more about the condition and how it may one day affect dental patients she treats, Bridget deepened her critical thinking skills and gained valuable insight into the processes of scientific research—which will pay dividends during her continued studies and in her future practice. "As students, we're often presented with the results of research, and this allows me to understand the logic behind how things are tested, how projects get started, how things are done," she says. "It gives me a greater understanding into the findings that we use and apply in our everyday lives as dental students and dentists."



“

“Being so common, heart failure is something a lot of my patients will have, and this research has given me a greater understanding of the condition,”

Realizing Our Vision

In July 2019, TCDM welcomed its 4th class of 113 new, eager and ambitious future dentists, marking another important milestone for the school as a fully enrolled institution.



TCDM marked a moment in history with this student-wide aerial image of its inaugural classes assembled together for the first time.



Whenever he visits the clinic or classroom, Vice Dean Edward Farkas, D.D.S., M.A., still marvels at the full manifestation of his dream. "This school and this clinic started with the conviction that dental education could be done differently," says Dr. Farkas, who had the initial brainstorm to build a new school around dental techniques and technologies of the future. "And now it's a reality. Every space is filled. To me, this represents the power of how a single idea can change the world."

That single idea has grown into a full cohort of 432 students over four classes, half of those students now working in the clinic in unique third- and fourth-year pairings to deliver vital oral healthcare to patients," says Dean Ronnie Myers, D.D.S. "It is an amazing transformation."

There is yet another "first" coming up for this new school: producing the first class of TCDM alumni and keeping in touch with graduates as they spread "the Touro way"—quality care and community commitment—to dental practices around the country. Says Dr. Farkas, "When our first class graduates, we'll work hard to provide ongoing career support and remind them that we are here for them as a lifelong resource."

TCDM AND GUIDED IMPLANT SURGERY: A PERFECT FIT



Guided implant surgery—in which the entire procedure is meticulously planned ahead digitally, then executed by a collaborative care team—delivers on TCDM’s promise to both patients and students.

“We believe in comprehensive patient care and comprehensive student education,” says Jay Rubin, D.M.D., TCDM’s Director of Implant Dentistry. “The uniqueness of Touro is that we combine the synergy of multiple dentists and specialists working together to create the ideal patient experience from beginning to end—and the ideal educational experience, where students get to be part of the case from start to finish.”

Through the use of such advanced digital dentistry tools as cone-beam CT scanning and digital intraoral impressions, surgeons and restorative dentists can generate a comprehensive rendering of the patient’s jaw and oral anatomy. This detailed information is used to develop a 3-D treatment plan that identifies the best position for the implant and a surgical guide to ensure its precise placement—all before any cutting begins. The care team can send instructions to one of TCDM’s 3-D printers to create the implant guide.

“The uniqueness of Touro is that we combine the synergy of multiple dentists and specialists working together to create the ideal patient experience from beginning to end.”

JAY RUBIN, D.M.D.

“Guided implant surgery is the most wondrous thing,” says Vice Dean Edward Farkas, D.D.S., M.A. “It can be done so precisely that you can make teeth before you make the implant, and know the teeth will fit. Having the ability to do things in a precise manner is so beneficial that it will eventually become the standard of practice.” With such precision, the surgery typically takes less time, requires smaller incisions, and results in less pain and faster healing.

With digital technology, the patient and the care team can see what the results of the surgery will look like before it even happens. “We figure out where the patient wants to be, where they’re happy with their bite, the aesthetics, their teeth and their look,” explains Sunil Abraham, TCDM’s Digital Technology Administrator. “We can digitally plan the whole thing on the screen and superimpose that smile on an image of the patient, so they’re able to see what the final product will look like. That brings emotional acceptance, which is huge.”



“We are spoiled here—beautiful equipment, outstanding faculty. It’s going to be difficult to leave these nice things behind.”

STUDENT PROFILE: PAUL YATES, '20

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF DENTISTRY

Growing up in a low-income, single-parent household in South Carolina, Paul Yates found the inspiration and drive within his family, community and the Boy Scouts to pursue engineering as an undergraduate.

But after college, he made a discovery that would lead him to switch career paths. “I quickly realized that engineers don’t get a lot of human interaction,” says Paul.

His girlfriend—now wife—suggested he shadow a dentist, and Paul was hooked. “I’m pursuing dentistry because it’s a perfect career for an engineer who actually enjoys being around people,” says the fourth-year student. “Dentistry is a great blend of medicine, engineering, art, and science.”

Paul chose TCDM for its emphasis on and access to cutting-edge technology, so he can provide patients the best options for their care. He recalls one of his first digitally

planned surgical cases, where, with the help of a faculty member, Paul planned two dental implants and a stent that, in the end, gave the patient fixed, rigid teeth to bite down in back. “The outcome was just as we had planned it,” said Paul, adding that he was heavily involved in the entire process. “It changed the course of my career.”

Now, as he applies to residencies and considers his options, he sees himself always striving to innovate solutions for patients. “When technology becomes the standard in dentistry, and it will, I will be prepared wherever I go,” he says, noting that his Touro education has also imbued him with the critical thinking skills needed in a rapidly changing field. “There will be times we have to improvise solutions. This is where the proper education is critical. It takes years to be an overnight success, as Steve Jobs says, and it’s the desire to continue studying after a long day in the clinic that separates the pack.”

TCDM's oral surgery faculty are leaders in the minimally invasive, maximally precise procedure, which capitalizes on several of the institution's key strengths, including:

DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT

With one of the most digitally advanced dental clinics, a curriculum on the leading edge of technology and innovation, and a generation of students who are digital natives, TCDM has shaped its education and clinical care to take full advantage of the revolution in digital dentistry. Students learn both digital and conventional analog techniques, to add value to any type of practice.

COLLABORATION

The digital treatment planning and workflow unite all members of the care team, from the outset. "We don't believe in barriers," says Dr. Rubin, who notes that because TCDM is a new school, it doesn't have the historically siloed disciplines that many other schools do.

UNIQUE CLINICAL TRAINING

TCDM clinical rotations pair two students—a third and fourth-year student—with each patient, to ensure continuity from beginning to end of that patient's treatment. If the D4 graduate is in the middle of treatment, the D3 student, who receives a new partner from the incoming clinical class, provides an anchor for the patient.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Touro Dental Health is committed to offering affordable guided implant surgery, which brings the benefit of implants to more people in need. "We're providing access to care to people who may not otherwise have the ability to afford it," says Dr. Farkas, noting that implant surgery can greatly improve quality of life. "You're able to eat steak without giving it a second thought—and that's where you want to be."

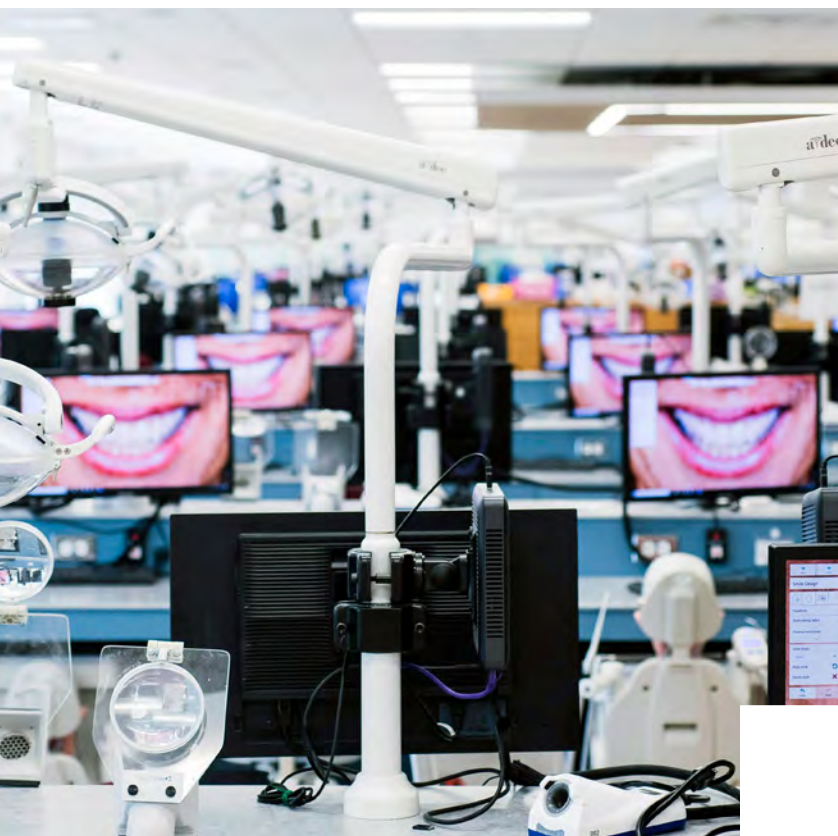


Photo: Karsten Moran for The New York Times

The New York Times

"From digital scanners and 3-D printers, to milling machines that create same-day crown replacements, the field of dental medicine has rapidly changed, yet some of these advances have not been widely adopted because of high equipment costs, lack of training or dentists who were more comfortable with older, traditional equipment. Sensing this trend, the Touro College of Dental Medicine opened at New York Medical College in 2016 to train students in both established and cutting-edge technologies."

Last fall, *The New York Times* highlighted TCDM's innovation and unique approach to digital dental education in the 20th Century. To read the full article, visit: dental.touro.edu/news

"We designed the school to address the practice world of 2030."

EDWARD FARKAS, D.D.S., M.A., VICE DEAN

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTOPHER WALINSKI, D.D.S.

LASERS IN DENTISTRY

Dr. Christopher Walinski, Course Director for Lasers in Dentistry, is an internationally known expert, innovator and educator in laser dentistry. He spoke with The Apex about bringing the latest advancements in laser dentistry to TCDM.



Explain what is possible in laser dentistry.

Everyone knows you can use a laser to cut soft tissue or do a gingivectomy, but a lot of dentists don't know that there are many other applications. We can do cavity preparations on teeth or gum surgery. One of the other newer applications is using lasers at low power to speed healing and reduce pain. It's called photobiomodulation (PBM), and it's presented now at all the medical laser conferences.

How are you bringing this knowledge to the next generation of dentists through your work at TCDM?

Recently we completed TCDM's first course on lasers in dentistry for our fourth-year students. I believe we're the first dental school in the country that's using lasers to the extent we are, including teaching a course, certifying our students and using lasers in clinic to treat both soft and hard tissues.

How are the students responding to being on the cutting edge (excuse the pun) of this new technology?

Feedback from students has been really positive. Who doesn't like cutting with light? Even with all the challenges they'll have after dental school, many are asking, "When I graduate, what kind of laser should I get?" Or, "Where can I get a used laser?" They really understand how this could improve their patient care and give them a competitive edge.

Outside the school, I teach faculty at other universities, in continuing education programs, symposia and congresses all over the world. When I'm teaching dentists who've been using a drill for their entire professional career, it's sometimes like herding cats to get them to use the laser in the way it's supposed to be used. It's more difficult because their muscle memory is tied to using a drill. Now we're cutting with light; not even touching the tooth, so there's no tactile sensation.

With students, if I say, "Get closer or slow down," they actually do it. In fact, they can often prep faster with a laser than with a drill, because they don't have to unlearn and relearn. TCDM students—who decided to enroll at a brand new dental school—are risk-takers, willing to take a chance. Maybe that's why they're so excited about it. They are

inquisitive, chomping at the bit to use lasers in clinic.

Why isn't every dentist using lasers?

I think it's just a lack of knowledge and education. It really is so beneficial to the patient experience. Patients feel no vibration, and they tell me that when they go home they have less pain. Laser surgeries are minimally invasive. You can keep the surgical sites smaller, and patients heal significantly faster. I'm sure that if you could take the experience in my head and transfer it to another person, the benefits of lasers would be immediately obvious.

There also is a cost associated with it. A dental laser can set you back thousands of dollars. I think less about the cost and more about the value of the laser to your practice.

You say, 'If you could take what's in my head and put it into another person's head...' That sounds like what you are doing through education.

That's a good point. I do travel around the world—recently to New Delhi and Taipei, and soon to Barcelona and Tel Aviv—to share what we're doing here at Touro. It's of great benefit that our students are getting this knowledge and experience right here, as part of their education.

How does a TCDM education compare to your dental school education?

When I went to dental school, I think my professors used the same slides for 20 years, then converted their Kodachrome slides into PowerPoint to deliver the same information. The mindset was, "That's the way it's always been."

But we are committed to updating and evolving education to match our students, to make sure that everything they do here has a direct correlation to what they'll be doing when they get out of dental school.

And we are definitely more collaborative and more collegial than my instructors were. That was "tough-love" dental school. At Touro, students feel like they're part of it rather than just a piece of it. No one is afraid to ask a question.

ON CAMPUS

TCDM students have built a rich and fulfilling campus life that has them interacting and networking with their chosen profession, giving back to the community, attending to their own health and wellness—and just having fun amid the challenge and hard work of their studies.



TCDM kicked off the start of another school year with a school-wide BBQ. The event included ping-pong tournaments with the Vice Dean and a scavenger hunt including dance-offs, as well as volleyball, egg-tosses, and more.



Dental students, faculty and staff enjoyed some fun on the field during Touro Dental Health night at the Hudson Valley Renegades. TCDM's a cappella group, the Chromatic Scalars, sang the National Anthem, and students handed out toothbrushes and information to the community.



Wellness Month, sponsored by ASDA, is an annual event designed to ensure that students take the time to keep up with their health and well-being, and not solely their studies. Students enjoyed yoga and dance classes, spa services, fresh fruit from a local farm, informational sessions on various forms of therapy and healing, and other activities.



TCDM hosted its first Vendor Fair, where students met with representatives from more than 30 companies to learn about dental products, money management, practice insurance, and more. Proceeds from vendor registration fees benefit American Student Dental Association (ASDA) programs at the school.



Students decompressed with four-legged friends during finals week. Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause joined TCDM for an afternoon where students, who'd spent hours studying, received some quality, cuddle time with trained, assistance dogs.



Dean Ronnie Myers joined TCDM students in The Race for Rehab, an annual 5K run held on the NYMC campus each October. Proceeds from the race benefit *Achilles International*, a not-for-profit organization which provides a community of support to athletes with disabilities, using sports as a tool to offer hope, inspiration and the joy of achievement.



In July, TCDM fourth-year students welcomed their third-year partners to the clinic and enjoyed the opportunity to mentor their junior counterparts as they began providing patient care for the very first time.



This year, students came together to form TCDM's official basketball team. Known as the 'Molar Bears' — the team enjoyed friendly competition with TouroCOM-Middletown, offering a chance for students to connect on a joint wellness activity.



To prepare upperclassmen for post-graduate success, TCDM hosted its first Residency Fair. The event provided opportunities for students to meet with over 20 residency programs from throughout the tri-state region in all areas of dental medicine including pediatrics, orthodontics, periodontics, and general dentistry, and ask questions in a casual and open environment.



From scrubs to suits, dental students and faculty enjoyed a fun evening socializing and dancing at TCDM's third annual Spring Formal.

Giving Back to Veterans

AT TOURO DENTAL HEALTH



As part of TCDM's mission to provide community-based care to those in need, TCDM teamed up with the Ninth District Dental Association for its 2nd Annual Smiles for Veterans event, a day of free oral healthcare for veterans, military personnel and their family members.

"Our veterans don't receive dental care benefits through the government unless they are 100 percent disabled or have service-related injuries to their mouths," said G. Kirk Gleason, D.D.S., a Vietnam Veteran and Chairman of the New York State Dental Foundation who supported the event. "We've expanded our efforts to bring accessible care to veterans in need, but more needs to be done and programs like this are so important."

More than 60 participants turned out for the Veterans Day event, which included student-led activities around good oral health practices. Clinicians from New York Medical College's new Family Health Center, located on premises, joined to offer blood pressure screenings, as well as height, weight and body mass index readings.

Madeleine Maas, a third-year dental student who participated in the planning of the event, has a personal connection to the cause. Several of her friends and family have served in the military, from the Marines to the Coast Guard, including her boyfriend who is in the Army. "A lot of people don't know to how to use their benefits and there are lapses in insurance for many veterans," said Madeleine. "This free event is an opportunity for us to help the community and we're just happy to get people back on track for proper oral healthcare."

Toward this end, Touro Dental Health also provided free, follow-up treatment for all participants of the event and special courtesy rates for long-term care in an effort to reduce financial barriers and encourage ongoing access to oral healthcare,



FAR LEFT: Dental students and community dentists from the Ninth District Dental Association with leadership from TCDM and the New York State Dental Foundation.

"We want our students to leave here with a commitment to serve their communities, and this program is an up-close opportunity for them to understand the needs of those with limited access to oral healthcare and the impact that they can make."

**RONNIE MYERS, D.D.S.
DEAN**



Give Kids a Smile Day

Touro Dental Health celebrated its second annual Give Kids A Smile! Day in partnership with the Ninth District Dental Association last February. TCDM students, faculty and community dentists teamed up to provide free dental screenings, cleanings, fluoride, orthodontics consultations, and oral health education to nearly 50 children from across the region.

A Spirit of Community Service

TOURO DENTAL STUDENTS SHARE A COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PATIENTS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.



Joining Global Causes

A team of TCDM faculty and students joined forces to organize the school's first-ever emergency dental mission trip to the **Maxine Smith STEAM Academy in Memphis, Tennessee**. Emergency dental care was provided to 150 patients in need through Remote Area Medical, a major nonprofit provider of free mobile clinics who recruits licensed dental, vision, medical and veterinary professionals who treat individuals living in remote areas across the globe. TCDM students have also volunteered independently for other global mission trips and the school is actively planning its next school-sponsored mission trip in 2020.

Partnering with Local Schools

TCDM students, along with Pediatrics faculty, delivered oral health seminars to nearly 400 young children in the local **Elmsford Union Free School District** this year. The team came together to design unique and fun oral health activities and games that would engage kids and motivate them to improve their oral health habits at home. This was TCDM's first school visit among many planned for the Hudson Valley region, with a focus on improving oral health education for our youngest and most vulnerable population.



Giving Back to the Community

TCDM students volunteered at **Feeding Westchester**, a local food bank that leads hunger action programs and mobilizes resources needed to **eradicate hunger in Westchester County**. The event, and many other outreach opportunities such as this, are organized by TCDM's Community Service Committee. Through volunteer events, the group seeks to positively impact the surrounding community, provide meaningful service opportunities to the student body, and improve oral health both locally and at large.

Improving Access to Dental Care

Throughout 2019, TCDM students, faculty and staff participated in more than 30 community outreach events throughout the **New York Tri-State region**, from community fairs, to oral health screenings and seminars in partnership with community organizations serving vulnerable populations. TCDM students volunteered their weekends to join many of these initiatives, eagerly providing education and information to multi-generational and diverse audiences while enjoying the opportunity to engage with future potential patients.



STUDENT PROFILE: SHREYA JHA, '20

THE POWER OF THE PERSONAL

Shreya Jha knows that every patient in her chair has a story.

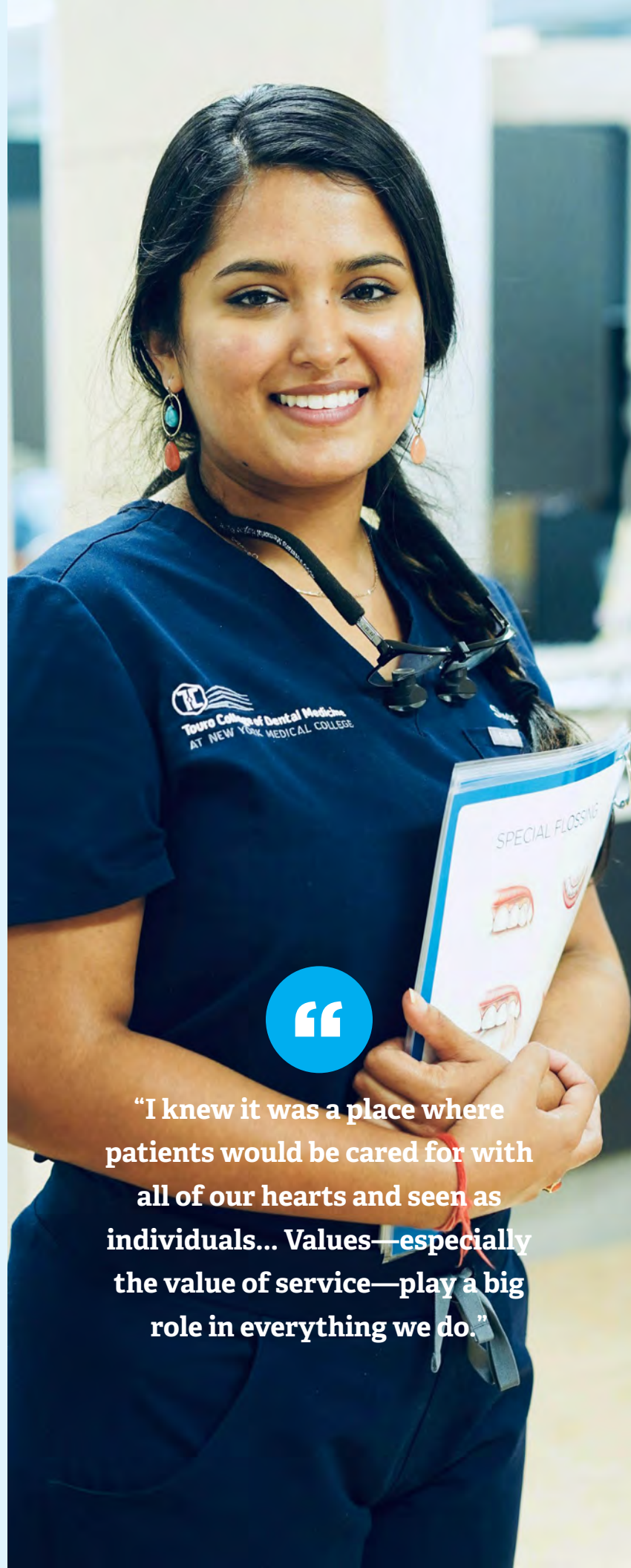
But she was particularly moved by the story of one patient, a woman who had survived the Holocaust. “I was so fortunate that she came to my chair on intake,” says Shreya. “To think of all she had experienced as a child, and to think that I am in a position to be of service to her—that was a big deal for me.”

The care is part of a TCDM partnership with The Alpha Omega-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program to increase Holocaust survivors’ access to oral care and enhance their overall quality of life. Because of trauma suffered in childhood, this population often faces poor oral health and too often does not access the proper care. TCDM is only the fifth American dental school to join more than 500 practicing dentists participating in the worldwide program. Touro’s Jewish auspices and commitment to communities in need make the program a natural fit.

For Shreya and her clinic partner Nicole Zimmerman, ‘21, the connection with Holocaust survivors is meaningful on both a personal and professional level. Applying her foundational oral healthcare knowledge to clinical practice, Shreya recognizes that extreme stress and malnutrition in the patient’s childhood have resulted in particular dentition problems later in life. Over the course of treatment, the patient shares her experiences with Shreya and other dental students. “She is very proud to tell her story,” says Shreya. “She’s like a grandma to us.”

In class and in clinic, TCDM students learn to be sensitive to patients’ cultural experiences—which was true for Shreya from the start of her clinical experience, treating her father as one of her first patients. “He takes very good care of his teeth,” she says, but in examining him she found gingival issues. Throughout her treatment, she has been acutely aware of his childhood in India, brushing his teeth with antiseptic tree bark and herbs.

That personal attention and cultural and ethical awareness are qualities that drew Shreya, who graduated from Rutgers University, to TCDM. “I knew it was a place where patients would be cared for with all of our hearts and seen as individuals,” she says. “Values—especially the value of service—play a big role in everything we do.”



“

“I knew it was a place where patients would be cared for with all of our hearts and seen as individuals... Values—especially the value of service—play a big role in everything we do.”

Giving

2019 GALA

**THIS YEAR'S GALA—
WITH THE LARGEST
ATTENDANCE TO DATE—
HONORED TECHNOLOGY
INNOVATORS WHO
PARTNER WITH TCDM
TO KEEP STUDENTS
AND FACULTY ON THE
CUTTING EDGE OF
DIGITAL DENTISTRY.**

The event, which raises funds to support student scholarships and patient care, also paid tribute to trailblazers from the inaugural Class of 2020, soon to be TCDM's first graduates.

The Distinguished Visionary Leadership Award was presented to Tais Clausen, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **3Shape**, a global leader in digital dentistry. Other honorees included: Andrew Oransky and Ian O'Neill, of **Roland DGA**; Jerry Kent and Tony Rossabi, of **Tierpoint**; Behan Venter and Michael Schreiber, of **Hudson River CIO Advisors**. Golda Erdfarb, D.D.S., Associate Professor of Dental Medicine, received the Faculty of the Year Award.

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Dr. Jonathan Ferencz,
NYC Prosthodontics,
and Brian Alan,
Vice President,
Prosthetic Solutions,
Henry Schein, Inc.
with TCDM's Digital
Dentistry faculty.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Ronnie Myers, *TCDM Dean*, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Brockley, *TCDM Board of Advisors*, Dr. Alan Kadish, *President, Touro College & University System*, Drs. Jill and Evan Chafitz, *Chairman, TCDM Board of Advisors* and Dr. Edward Farkas, *TCDM Vice Dean*.



TCDM's Gala celebrated its inaugural Class of 2020 for their pioneering spirit and commitment to TCDM's growth and establishment as the nation's newest dental school.

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Anthony A. Scarpino,
Jr., Westchester County
District Attorney,
Dr. Haitham Ennabi,
TCDM Board of Advisors,
Dr. Edward Farkas,
TCDM Vice Dean.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Global leaders from the dental industry attended the Gala including David Kochman, Henry Shein, Inc., Jack Burlison, National Sales Manager, Brasseler USA, and Steve Sloane, Brasseler USA.



TCDM's Dr. Golda Erdfarb (center) was the recipient of the Faculty of the Year Award, nominated by TCDM students for excellence in teaching.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ron Bianco, Senior Account Executive, TierPoint, Dr. Edward Farkas, TCDM Vice Dean, Tais Clausen, Co-Founder and CEO, 3Shape, Behan Venter & Michael Schreiber, Co-Founders and Managing Directors, Hudson River CIO Advisors, Dr. Golda Erdfarb, Associate Professor of Dental Medicine, Ian O'Neill, Eastern Regional Sales Manager, Roland DGA, Dr. Alan Kadish, President, Touro College & University System, Dr. Edward Halperin, Chancellor and CEO, New York Medical College, Dr. Ronnie Myers, TCDM Dean, Dr. Evan Chafitz, Chairman, TCDM Board of Advisors.



Tais Clausen (center), Co-Founder and CEO of 3Shape, pictured with TCDM leadership, was presented with the Distinguished Visionary Leadership Award at TCDM's 4th Annual Gala.



Before the Gala, TCDM enjoyed a special visit from 3Shape Co-founder and CEO, Tais Clausen, who toured the school and met with students to discuss the future of digital dentistry.

WHY I GIVE

Haitham Ennabi, D.D.S. *Inspiring and Investing in the Next Generation*

Dr. Haitham Ennabi's father came to Westchester County from Jordan in 1977 with nothing—except the drive for his children to succeed.

More than forty years later, Dr. Ennabi has realized his father's vision, building a successful multi-specialty, multi-office practice, as well as building a regional and national reputation as a dentist committed to advancing health and wellbeing through dentistry. "I was 11 when I came from Jordan," Dr. Ennabi says. "It wasn't easy. I worked three or four jobs, but eventually I did it—I built my practice from scratch."

Throughout his career, he has dedicated his expertise to his community, as Chief Surgeon for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police. Now he is bringing that expertise to his partnership with TCDM, generously contributing both time and resources since the school's inception, serving on the Board of Advisors and committees for special events, interviewing student applicants for admission, and spreading the word about the school.

"Building a dental school in the heart of Westchester County is genius, especially a dental school like this, where the technology is just mind-boggling," says Dr. Ennabi, adding that the school's commitment to students also sets it apart. "At other dental schools, you're just a number. But not here."

Dr. Ennabi's enthusiasm has rubbed off on his oldest daughter, Emily, who had a dentist kit as her first childhood toy and always loved going into her father's office. When it came time to choose a dental school after graduating from Marist College with honors, she wanted to follow in her father's footsteps and set her sights on TCDM.

Now in her first year at TCDM, Emily Ennabi feels her father's influence everywhere, especially when she talks to fellow students he interviewed for admission. "Emily says to me, 'Dad, I love it here,'" Dr. Ennabi says. "That's what I want. I want every one of them to feel at home."



TCDM board member Dr. Haitham Ennabi, a supporter of the school since its inception, with his daughter Emily, a first-year dental student at TCDM.

"Building a dental school in the heart of Westchester County is genius, especially a dental school like this, where the technology is just mind-boggling ... At other dental schools, you're just a number. But not here."

HAITHAM ENNABI, D.D.S.

TOURO COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Building the Future

There are many ways to support Touro College of Dental Medicine as we fashion the future of dental education and oral healthcare in the United States.

Annual Giving: Your gift ensures the quality of a TCDM education by supporting every aspect of the student experience—in the classroom, in the lab and in the clinic.

Governance: Join our Dental School Board of Advisors as an advisory and financial resource for the Dean on matters of policy, direction, practice and effectiveness, while stewarding our mission and acting as a global ambassador through volunteer leadership.

Corporate Opportunities: TCDM can create a program that fits the needs of your corporation, from volunteer opportunities to special events, highlighting your brand's commitment to dental education and community care.

Naming Opportunities: Make a lasting impact and have your name associated with the leading edge of oral healthcare. As a new school there are many naming opportunities available, including dedicating a dental chair in our state-of-the-art clinical practice, with a prominent plaque in honor of, or in memory of a loved

one, or even a current student. Gifts of any amount will play a role in making a difference for our students.

Fundraising Events: Support fundraising for community outreach, patient care and other vital school needs by becoming a sponsor for a particular event or by serving on our event committees, taking a leadership role in supporting the students.

Tribute Memorial and Planned Giving: Make a gift to honor an individual's dedication to the field of dental medicine. These gifts can play an important role in your overall estate planning. As we endeavor to create a Legacy Society, you will play a definitive role in building a great future for TCDM.

To learn more about giving opportunities, contact:

Erica West, *Director of Institutional Advancement*

Phone: 914.594.2649 | Email: erica.west6@touro.edu

Give online: dental.touro.edu/giving





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Touro College of Dental Medicine

Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) is located in Westchester County on the campus of New York Medical College, which serves as the principal academic public health resource for the New York Hudson Valley and southwestern Connecticut. TCDM is dedicated to graduating outstanding dental professionals and conducting important clinical research, while providing vital dental health services to the public through its 109-chair dental education training facility. TCDM is the first new school of dentistry in New York State in almost 50 years and the first in the United States under Jewish auspices.

Touro College & University System

Touro is a system of non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was chartered in 1970 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American and global community. Approximately 19,200 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has 34 campuses and locations in New York, California, Nevada, Berlin, Jerusalem and Moscow. New York Medical College; Touro University California and Touro University Nevada; Touro University Worldwide and its Touro College Los Angeles division; as well as Hebrew Theological College in Skokie, Illinois, are separately accredited institutions within the Touro College and University System.