

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

UB School of Dental Medicine Receives Nearly \$735,000 to Expand Dental Care for Patients with Disabilities in WNY



The funding will help provide dental care to patients with disabilities in the University at Buffalo mobile dental clinic. Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine has received a nearly \$735,000 grant from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation to increase the delivery of critical dental treatment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Western New York, as well as to help grow the oral health care workforce prepared to treat this population.

The funding will help resume and expand a previous initiative between the UB School of Dental Medicine's S-Miles To Go program and nonprofit Arc GLOW that provided dental care to patients with disabilities in the university's mobile dental clinic. The grant will broaden services to reach nearly 2,000 individuals with disabilities served by Arc GLOW in Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming counties.

"We are very grateful to the support provided by the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation. The Foundation has made it possible for the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine to continue its important outreach activities in providing access to dental care to underserved populations throughout

Western New York," says Joseph J. Zambon, PhD, DDS, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and dean of the UB School of Dental Medicine.

"We are proud to partner with the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine to improve the oral health of those in need throughout Western New York," said Kenzie Ferguson, vice president of Foundation and corporate social responsibility for Delta Dental of California. "The partnership helps us achieve our broader mutual goals of increasing access to oral health care across a variety of underserved communities."

"It is our hope that this type of clinical-based rotation – in which students are treating patients in an environment that emphasizes their ability rather than their disability – will inspire dental students to be part of the solution to improving access to care," Stephen N. Abel, senior director of community and professional initiatives at the UB School of Dental Medicine.

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UB SDM Dental Alumnus Tabak Named Acting NIH Director



[Dr. Lawrence Tabak](#)

UB dental alumnus Lawrence Tabak, who also served on the UB dental faculty during the 1980s, has been named acting director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to an announcement this week by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The appointment was made by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Tabak, who currently serves as principal deputy director at the NIH, assumes the role on Dec. 20, and will serve while the administration conducts a search for a successor for Director Francis S. Collins.

"I am so pleased that Dr. Tabak has been named the incoming acting NIH director," says Allison Brashear, vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB. "His appointment is testimony to his successful, distinguished leadership roles within the NIH and commitment to the importance of basic, clinical and translational research. We are proud to have Dr. Tabak as an alumnus of the UB School of Dental Medicine."

Tabak has held positions at the NIH since 2000, including deputy ethics counselor and director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. He earned a doctoral degree in oral biology in 1981 and an advanced certificate in endodontics in 1985, both from the UB dental school.

Prior to joining the NIH, Tabak was senior associate dean for research and professor of dentistry, biochemistry and biophysics in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester.

His research focuses on the structure, biosynthesis and function of glycoproteins. He continues work in this area, maintaining an active research laboratory within the NIH Intramural Research Program in addition to his administrative duties.

Tabak is a recipient of the 2015 UB Dental Alumni Association Honor Award.

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