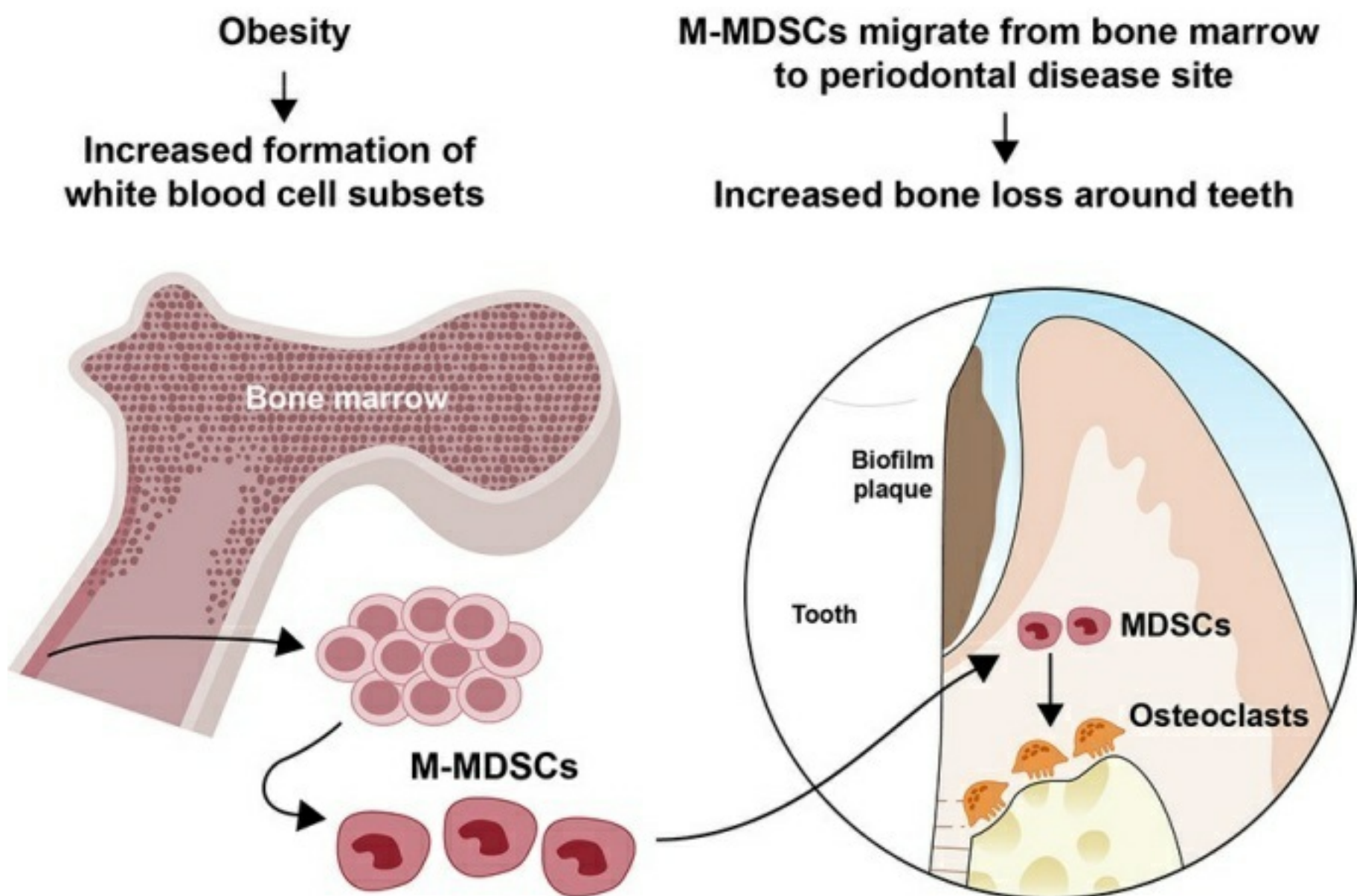


SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

UB SDM Study Finds Obesity Raises Risk for Gum Disease



The graphic demonstrates how MDSC expansion during obesity to become bone destroying osteoclasts during gum disease is tied to increased bone loss around teeth. Image: Keith Kirkwood



[Keith Kirkwood, Interim Chair Department of Periodontics & Endodontics, Professor, Department of Oral Biology](#)

Chronic inflammation caused by obesity may trigger the development of cells that break down bone tissue, including the bone that holds teeth in place, according to new UB research that sought to improve understanding of the connection between obesity and gum disease.

The study, completed in an animal model and published in October in the [Journal of Dental Research](#), found that excessive inflammation resulting from obesity raises the number of myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSC), a group of immune cells that increase during illness to regulate immune function. MDSCs, which originate in the bone marrow, develop into a range of different cell types, including osteoclasts, a cell that breaks down bone tissue.

Bone loss is a major symptom of gum disease and may ultimately lead to tooth loss. Also known as periodontal disease, gum disease affects more than 47% of adults 30 years and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Although there is a clear relationship between the degree of obesity and periodontal disease, the mechanisms that underpin the links between these conditions were not completely understood,” says Keith Kirkwood, professor of oral biology in the School of Dental Medicine.

“This research promotes the concept that MDSC expansion during obesity to become osteoclasts during periodontitis is tied to increased alveolar bone destruction. Taken together, this data supports the view that obesity raises the risk of periodontal bone loss,” says Kyuhwan Kwack, postdoctoral associate in the Department of Oral Biology.

[Click here for full article.](#)

UB Dental Alumni Association Reunion Dinner Dance and 2021 Alumni Awards

On Friday, November 5, 2022 the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association celebrated the School of Dental Medicine’s alumni and honored guests during our Reunion Dinner Dance Gala at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. We celebrated the reunion classes from the cancelled event in 2020 along with this year’s reunion classes. It was great to be back together again!

[Click here to view UBDAAs Reunion Dinner Dance](#)



Frank C. Barnashuk, DDS '80 - Honor Award

The Honor Award is given to an individual whose enthusiastic and untiring endeavors have helped to promote continued growth, development and success of the UB School of Dental Medicine (UBSDM).

Pictured: Carl M. Embury, '13, President, UBDAA and Frank C. Barnashuk, '80, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Restorative Dentistry



Joseph E. Gambacorta, DDS '93 - Humanitarian Award

The Humanitarian Award is given to the alumnus who best exhibits the following characteristics: unselfishness, concern for others, commitment to dentistry, commitment to and involvement in their community, is of high moral character and is someone who through their actions has distinguished themselves as a leader in their community.

Pictured: Carl M. Embury, '13, President, UBDAA and Joseph E. Gambacorta, '93, Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs



Carl M. Embury, DDS '13 – President's Award

The President's Award is given in appreciation for service and outstanding leadership as President.

Pictured: Joseph S. Modica, '82, Board Member, UBDAA and Carl M. Embury, '13, President, UBDAA

Charles A. Marchetta, DDS '79, FACD - Distinguished Service Award (NOT PRESENT)

The Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding dedication, commitment and support of the UB School of Dental Medicine and the Alumni Association.

SDM's Dentistry Smiles on Veterans Featured in UB Now



Featured in UB Now, Dean Joseph Zambon speaks at Dentistry Smiles on Veterans—a day of free dental care for local veterans. Photos: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki.

[Click here to view slide show.](#)

If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Kelli at natale@buffalo.edu.

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