

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

SDM's Laertis Ikonomou Leads New Perspective on Misinformation on Stem Cell Therapy Treatments for COVID-19 Treatments



Laertis Ikonomou, Associate Professor, Department of Oral Biology

The global race to develop new stem cell-based COVID-19 treatments during the pandemic was filled with violations of government regulations, inflated medical claims and distorted public communication, say the authors of a new perspective published Oct. 14 in the journal [Stem Cell Reports](#).

While stem cell therapy — using stem cells to promote regeneration, repair or healing — may be used to treat a limited number of diseases and conditions, there are currently no clinically tested or government-approved cell therapies available for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 or its long-term effects.

However, this has not stopped the emergence of clinics offering unproven and unsafe “stem cell” therapies that promise to prevent COVID-19 by strengthening the immune system or improving overall health, says lead author Laertis Ikonomou, associate professor of oral biology, School of Dental Medicine.

The article explores the negative effects that misinformation about cell therapies has on public health, as well as the roles that researchers, science communicators and regulatory agencies should play in curbing the spread of inaccurate information and promoting responsible, accurate communication of research findings.

“Efforts to rapidly develop therapeutic interventions should never occur at the expense of the ethical and scientific standards that are at the heart of responsible clinical research and innovation,” says Ikonomou.

“Scientists, regulators and policymakers must guard against the proliferation of poorly designed, underpowered and duplicative studies that are launched with undue haste because of the pandemic,

[Click here to read full article.](#)

SDM's Hispanic Dental Association Honors Dr. Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker



Dr. Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker, Interim Department Chair & Associate Professor, Program Director, TMD & Orofacial Pain, Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences

During this month, the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) honored the National Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting several events, including social, academic, and service-oriented outreach.

The HDA offered several Spanish classes, where students, staff and faculty were invited to learn basic clinical Spanish. These classes were well attended and will be offered throughout the month of November.

Salsa night promoted wellness, encouraged a sense of social integration, and exposed members of the SDM community to Latin American culture and music.

The outreach events provided students with opportunities to bring awareness to underserved communities in the Buffalo area, promote oral hygiene and dental education, and create long-lasting partnerships with different community centers and leaders.

"Hispanic Heritage Month provided us with an opportunity to highlight, learn and embrace the hispanic culture in the United States and UBSDM. Hispanics make up about 19% of the US population. Therefore, it is our responsibility, as future providers, to be well-rounded and informed individuals regarding the many issues that affect this community," stated Gabriel Valencia, '22, HDA president. "By doing so, we hope that all of us will go out in the world being culturally aware and compassionate clinicians."

Lastly, a celebration dinner was held on October 15th, at Hayes Hall, UB South Campus. During the dinner, the HDA presented Dr. Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker with the 2021 Leadership Award for her continuous support, guidance and mentorship to all of the HDA members.

All of the events were produced by the HDA officers, which include President: Gabriel Valencia, '22, President elect: Stephanie Loo, '23, Secretary: Catherine Payano, '23, Events Coordinator: Brian Cruz, '22 and Treasurer: Ramses Tamayo, '24.



Members of the Hispanic Dental Association, Buffalo Chapter and Dr. Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker (center)

CHICKEN BBQ

DINNER

CARRY-OUT OR DRIVE-THRU

(Pre-sale ONLY! Please order by 3PM on Friday, Nov 5th)*

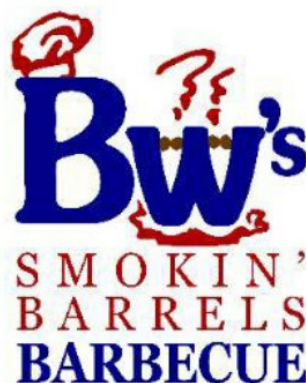
TUESDAY, NOV 9th, 2021

4-6PM

Pick up in front of Squire Hall, South Campus

- 1/2 BW's BBQ Chicken
- Potato salad
- Coleslaw
- Roll with butter

\$12⁰⁰



*Payment options: Cash or check, contact your Department Campaign Liaison
Credit/Debit purchases, see the following link:

<https://uwbec.unitedwavepledge.org/comm/SpecialEventRegPledge.jsp?Org=23093&Campaign=645127>

For questions please contact:

Theresa (829-3720, tkruse@buffalo.edu) or Pam (829-6417, pcjones@buffalo.edu)

This fundraiser benefits UB Employees Campaign for the Community

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

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