

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

SDM's Professor Patricia Diaz Receives \$7.8M from National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



Patricia Diaz, SUNY Empire Innovation Professor, School of Dental Medicine, and director UB Microbiome Center

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research has awarded two grants totaling more than \$7.8 million to UB, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine to explore the influence of the oral microbiome on both the risk of developing oral thrush during cancer treatment and the risk of infection with cancer-linked human papillomavirus (HPV) among people with HIV.

The projects are co-led by principal investigators Patricia Diaz, SUNY Empire Innovation Professor in the UB School of Dental Medicine and director of the UB Microbiome Center, and Nicolas Schlecht, professor of oncology at Roswell Park and research professor of epidemiology and environmental health in the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions. Robert D. Burk, professor of pediatrics, microbiology and immunology, and epidemiology and population health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a member of the Cancer Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Program at Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center, is also a principal investigator on the project to investigate HPV-associated oral cancers.

"We are very excited about these newly funded clinical studies on oral infections and the microbiome," says Diaz. "We expect these studies will reveal important information on how the oral microbiome interacts with opportunistic pathogens, whether it's fungi like Candida or host-associated viruses like HPV."

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UB Dental Alumna Elected to National Academy of Medicine



Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, '92, DDS, PhD

UB alumna Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, deputy director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Election to the National Academy of Medicine is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Membership recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care and public health.

Webster-Cyriaque was recognized for making groundbreaking contributions to the understanding of the role of virus-host interaction in oral disease. Most notably, she showed that oral Epstein-Barr virus permissive infection was a lytic and transforming infection, and she described oral Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus replication and oral iatrogenic Kaposi's development.

She earned a DDS degree and a bachelor's degree in biology and interdisciplinary sciences from UB. Other UB dental alumni to receive membership in the National Academy of Medicine include NIH acting director Lawrence Tabak and the late UB faculty member Robert Genco, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Oral Biology, Periodontics and Microbiology.

"This is wonderful news from several aspects," says Stefan Ruhl, interim dean and professor of oral biology. "We all here at the UB School of Dental Medicine are extremely proud of our class of '92 graduate, Dr. Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, who was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. What a great acknowledgement also for dentistry. It highlights the importance of our discipline as an integrative part of overall medicine."

[Click here to learn more.](#)

UB Dental Celebrates 2022 Sterilization Professionals Week



Members of the SDM Dispensary Office

Pictured L-R: Irma Reed, Bob Whiteside, Jay Bantle, Deb Mordino, Dave Horbinski, Yvonne Cox, Lola Shittu, Christina Lopez, Matt Deck, Erin Edwards and Kim Swiniarski

Sterile Professionals Week is held the second full week in October every year. **October 10-15, 2022** was designated by the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) American Dental as the perfect time to acknowledge and the committed specialists that fill Sterile Processing departments and make a difference in patient care.

A week-long celebration was held. SDM's Sterilization Professionals were given small tokens of appreciation each day and at end of the week luncheon, where Robert Whiteside, Instrument Management System Manager and Matthew C. Deck, Director of Clinical Operations, thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

"The week enabled us to thank all of our staff for the diligent work they do," remarked Whiteside. "We appreciate the effort each of member of the sterile processing staff puts in which enables us to provide the safest instruments and equipment to UB Dental's patients, students, staff and faculty."

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

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