Fall Greetings from the Interim Dean

I love the fall of the year when the landscape explodes with vibrant colors of red, yellow, and orange and the leaves begin to descend effortlessly from the trees. All of this activity heralds the beginning of the holiday season. Fall is an exciting time of the year - our students are back in full force with all the inherent challenges of their robust academic schedules.

Fall 2016 is a particularly exciting time for our college as we have completed our self-study and are eagerly awaiting our accreditation site visit slated for September 2017. The accreditation process offers educational quality assurance to students, faculty, staff, and society in general. For the accredited body, this recognition serves the purpose of instilling public confidence in the program, institution, and organization. Under the disciplined direction of Dr. Tariq Javed, the myriad of coordinated efforts that underwrite a successful accreditation experience have appeared virtually seamless. Through an extensive and introspective self-evaluation, our institution compared our programs and services to established standards. An equally important facet of the self-study process is the opportunity to identify areas of strength and needed improvement.

At our most recent faculty retreat which was devoted exclusively to the accreditation site visit process, it was obvious that the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine is prepared to meet each of the Commission on Dental Accreditation standards but more importantly each of our 35 competency statements that define our educational program. In fact, in many ways, we are already working toward the 2024 accreditation site visit. With major curriculum upgrades and the planned development of a classroom designed to enhance collaborative and innovative learning, our college is setting the example for colleges across the MUSC enterprise as well as for dental colleges across the country.

For the important work that lies ahead, I am pleased to announce the appointment of two new deans to address some of the emerging needs of the college: Associate Dean of Curriculum and Strategic Communications Dr. Theresa Gonzales and Assistant Dean for Financial Affairs and Administration Ms. Monica Gardner. Dr. Gonzales’ background as the director of strategic communication for the Office of the Army Surgeon General will greatly enhance our efforts to update our communications platforms to provide the college information in real time and to provide an information-rich portal to tell the college’s story. Monica Gardner’s 20-plus years’ experience in financial management across the MUSC enterprise affords the basis for establishing stronger lines of accountability and transparency within the financial structure of our college.

Most deservedly, Dr. Tariq Javed has been advanced to the position of vice dean and will continue to serve our college in the manner that has characterized his devoted service for more than 30 years. Dr. Lindsey Hamil will serve as the director of education and will work in concert with Drs. Javed and Gonzales in continuously evaluating our undergraduate and graduate dental programs. With these leaders and our cadre of dedicated and capable faculty and staff, the College of Dental Medicine is poised to continue to attract highly qualified applicants for our undergraduate and graduate training programs. All of these efforts will assure our sustained ability to graduate premier clinician-scholars and thereby enhance the MUSC brand. We are primed to take our college to the next level in our ongoing mission to serve the citizens of South Carolina and beyond.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of our alumni and friends at a reception hosted by Dr. Richard Boyd and his indefatigable wife, Stacy. I cannot remember a time when I felt more welcome or more comfortable at a social event. Thank you, Richard and Stacy, for all you do for our college. There is something quite genuine about southern hospitality that cannot be duplicated. As I continue to travel the state, I am encouraged by the palpable commitment of our alumni and friends across all domains of support for our college. It is truly refreshing.

Happy and safe holidays to all and let this season kindle the flame of charity in the heart and hospitality in the hall.

Patricia L. Blanton DDS, PhD
On September 29, Dr. Richard (Class of ’82, Legacy Society, part-time faculty) and Stacy Boyd (Legacy Society) graciously opened their home and hosted a reception to introduce more than 100 alumni and friends to Interim Dean Patricia Blanton.
On September 22, Benco Dental hosted The Lucy Hobbs Project Celebration to honor recipient of the 2016 Industry Icon Award Dr. Theresa Gonzales (Class of ’84, assoc. dean of curriculum and strategic comm.) and recipient of the 2015 Woman to Watch Award Dr. Amanda Seay (part-time faculty). The mission of the Lucy Hobbs Project is empowering women in dentistry to drive change and deliver success through networking, innovation, and giving back. MUSC’s first female dental graduate Dr. Cathy Moss (Class of Dec. ’73) introduced Dr. Gonzales. Interim Dean Patricia Blanton was the continuing-education and keynote speaker.

On September 8, MUSC alumni and friends joined President David J. Cole and his wife, Kathy, at the Orangeburg Country Club for an evening of conversation about the future of MUSC.
Oral Health researcher excited about collaborative opportunities
by J. Ryne Danielson, writer for the Catalyst and MUSC News Center

Özlem Yilmaz, DDS, Ph.D., director of MUSC’s Center for Oral Health Clinical and Translational Research Core, joined MUSC in January. As the College of Dental Medicine’s newest faculty member, she believes MUSC represents a unique opportunity for clinician scientists like her.

“I believe MUSC has the right attitude and the right people,” she said. “The campus is beautiful, and having drug discovery, basic science, clinical science and the Hollings Cancer Center all within walking distance is a great benefit.”

Yilmaz believes having so many experts from dozens of diverse fields all working in close proximity to one another is unique to MUSC’s size and a boon for innovation and collaboration. “We have all the necessary elements and advanced technologies for cutting-edge science,” she said. “I don’t see MUSC as missing anything.”

Another reason she chose to bring her talent and R01 grant funding to MUSC was the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. “Not many health science centers have dental schools,” she explained. “But, we are becoming more and more aware that oral health is fundamental to overall health,” she said.

As head of the Center for Oral Health’s Clinical and Translational Research Core, she is highlighting the importance of oral health by working to build multidisciplinary research teams to holistically tackle chronic conditions like orodigestive cancers, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, and kidney and heart disease. Her research on oral microbes increasingly points to the large role oral health plays in these and other chronic inflammatory diseases.

After receiving her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the Istanbul University School of Dentistry in Turkey, Yilmaz practiced dentistry for five years in her native country, following in her father’s footsteps. “My father was a dentist,” she said. “As a kid I was always hanging out in his practice.”

She hopes her daughter, Lily Grace, 4, will likewise think about following in her footsteps.

While in dental school, Yilmaz’s best friend introduced her to her cousin, an American computer engineer turned intellectual property attorney, Carl Turk. The two developed a relationship, writing letters “the old fashioned way” and later emailing. “Carl was a prolific letter writer,” she said. “He wrote me hundreds of letters, and I still have them to this day.”

As their relationship developed, Turk introduced Yilmaz to a nascent technology called the internet as a way to better keep in touch. After dental school, the two married, and Yilmaz moved to the United States to pursue her Ph.D. at the University of Washington in Seattle.

“I was always a curious kid,” she said. “And, while I loved dentistry, I felt I was missing a deeper understanding of oral diseases. I wanted to know more. I wanted to challenge myself.”

While a Ph.D. student, Yilmaz received a K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health. This grant, she said, helped offset some of the financial burden that she and many scientists face in their careers. “Scientists don’t make as much money as practicing dentists,” she said. “Many dental students have tremendous debt, and, unfortunately, because of the current economic climate, many are reluctant to choose the dental-scientist pathway. There are mechanisms that support dentists who want to grow into scientists.”

The K08 is one of those mechanisms, but Yilmaz wishes there were more. She fears that future science may suffer without more clinically trained professionals going into research. “Scientists make for better clinicians and clinicians make for better scientists and teachers,” she said. “You need both sides.”

As a post-doctoral trainee, Yilmaz applied for her first R01 grant from the NIH. When she received word that it would be funded, something quite extraordinary for a post-doc, she was overjoyed and immediately began planning for the future. “At that point, I started looking for potential places to take this R01 and grow into an independent researcher with my own lab.”

continued on pg 11
Renovation Donations Still Needed for the MUSC Macaulay Museum of Dental History

by Susan Hoffius, associate professor and curator, Waring Historical Library

The Macaulay Museum of Dental History was founded in 1975 to serve as the university's repository for information and resources about the history of dentistry and dental practitioners. There is not a finer, more comprehensive collection of dental artifacts in the state. The museum houses an impressive collection of dental memorabilia, including historical tools and instruments, a 19th Century dental-office display, a collection of dental chairs and a traveling dentist’s chest from the Civil War era. Though its collection is both rich and expansive, the museum itself is unremarkable, having changed little since its dedication nearly 40 years ago.

A $400,000 museum renovation project began in 2015 and features redesigned exhibits for the history and evolution of dental education, practice, and professionalism in South Carolina, all passions of the museum’s founder Dr. Neill W. Macaulay. To date, $250,000 has been raised.

Establish a place for yourself on the timeline of dental history while helping preserve the museum for generations to come by permanently naming an area in the museum. With your gift we can honor Dr. Macaulay’s passion for dentistry and preserve and improve the rich, eclectic collection he spent a lifetime acquiring.

Naming opportunities are still available from $1,000 to $10,000. Please contact me at (843) 792-2290, hoffius@musc.edu or your alumni representative Stephanie Oberempt at (843) 792-6933, Oberempt@musc.edu if you would like more information. Or go to musc.edu/giving/macaulay to make a gift now. Also, please join us for a sneak-peek tour during the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine’s Alumni Weekend in April 2017, and for the rededication of the Macaulay Museum in September 2017.

50th Anniversary History of the College of Dental Medicine

by Dr. Gene Atkinson, Class of Dec. ‘73, college historian

As the four-year celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine continues into 2017, let us pause to reflect upon how this moment has arrived.

For many years there was a casual discussion about the need for a dental school in South Carolina. Finally in 1952 the movement began to become serious.

Dr. Joe Volker, the esteemed dean of the school of dentistry at Alabama, was hired to conduct a survey to illustrate the need for a dental school in South Carolina. His report, along with all the statistics indicating a serious need for more dentists in S.C., as well as a blueprint for establishing a dental school was overwhelmingly passed by the South Carolina Dental Association at a general membership meeting in December, 1952. (Note: Dr. Volker was the commencement speaker at the graduation of the College of Dental Medicine’s Class of December, 1973). Next the SCDA appealed to the Legislature where the creation of our dental school was passed and signed by Governor James F. Byrnes on April 15, 1953. Unfortunately the Legislature did not approve the requested funding for the next 10 years. Finally in 1964 and 1965, the Legislature approved funding to go with federal matching funds. As a result our school was founded in 1964 when Dean John E. Buhler was hired to start our illustrious school. After much groundwork, the first class was admitted in September, 1967.

Our James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine has always been considered to be one of the highest ranking dental clinical education schools in the nation. The history of our school has been outstanding over the first 50 years and promises to continue this illustrious tradition into the future. The timeline of our school follows on pages 6 and 7.

Memories. Milestones. Momentum.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the College of Dental Medicine, we want your memories and thoughts about your time here at the college! Please go to musc.edu/dental50 and share with us a memory or quote and upload photos.
1953: Dental School authorized by Legislature
1964: Legislature passed funding for dental school
1964: Dean John E. Buhler hired to start the school

1967: First dental class matriculated
1968: First residency program started in Oral Surgery
1967 to 1969: First three classes consisted of 24 students each
1970: First class of 48 admitted
1970, December: New Basic Science Building opened to house dental school

1971: Curriculum change, phasing into a 3-year curriculum
1971: First class graduated
1971: Dr. Herbert Butts named interim dean (January to July)
1971: Dr. John J. Sharry named dean
1973: Started prosthodontic and pediatric dentistry residency programs
c1975: General practice residency begins
1977: Class admitted now back onto a 4-year curriculum
1980: No graduating class due to curriculum change
1980: Periodontics residency begins
1988: First annual Dental Alumni Weekend
1989: Many departments combined to reduce the total number of departments.
Medicine Timeline

- 2000: Class size increased to 56.
- 2006, August: Groundbreaking for the new clinical building.
- 2008: Fifth-floor preclinical laboratory renovated as a simulation lab to accept larger classes and institute digital techniques.
- 2006: Orthodontics residency opened.
- 2009: New clinical building occupied. Class size increased to 75. Simulation lab expanded. Simulation support lab renovated.
- 2010 New Clinical Education Center Opened. College renamed for President Emeritus James B. Edwards. (Edwards pictured at grand opening with grandchildren and 2013 graduates Dr. Jeannette Wingate and Dr. Bryan Wingate).

- 2011: Renovation of old third-floor clinics into two large state-of-the-art lecture rooms
- 2011: AEGD residency begins
- 2014: Entire second floor of Basic Science Building renovated for expanded research by the college.
- 2015: Renovations to third and fourth floors of Basic Science Building begun.
- 2016: Dr. Jack Sanders retired. Dr. Patricia Blanton named interim dean.

MUSC President James B. Edwards with wife Ann

Dean Jack Sanders retired 2016. Patricia Blanton named interim dean
CuRE pursues development of new dental adhesive with STTR grant

Charleston-based startup draws on technology from MUSC James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina

Previously published online by EurekAlert! Science News on 8-Jul-2016

CuRE Innovations, LLC, a startup company founded in 2015 to develop advanced dental materials invented by Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) faculty, has entered the next step of product development for a promising adhesive as part of research sponsored by a Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

CuRE’s dental adhesive incorporates particles of copper iodide (CuI) that curtail infections, including the formation of tooth decay under existing dental restorations. With the $211,000 Phase I grant awarded by NIDCR in March, CuRE will evaluate the adhesive’s ability to inhibit development of marginal decay in restorations, while also ensuring the copper iodide particles do not impact the adhesive’s mechanical and bonding properties.

Upon successful completion of the research, CuRE will be eligible to apply for Phase II STTR funding for up to $1.5 million, which will position the company to submit the product to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for initial market approval.

MUSC’s Foundation for Research Development (FRD) has assisted the CuRE team, which includes faculty members of MUSC’s College of Dental Medicine, in many ways, including guidance with the STTR grant application. “A grant like this provides an incredibly valuable boost to a new company like CuRE,” said FRD Executive Director Michael Rusnak. “Now CuRE can explore a technology with the potential to positively impact the dental health of countless people.”

FRD has served as the university’s technology transfer office for nearly two decades, managing intellectual property based on MUSC research and finding corporate partners to translate technology into products. In November 2014, FRD launched a program to assist the MUSC startup community with STTR and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant applications. The impact was immediate: STTR and SBIR grant applications to advance MUSC intellectual property tripled from an average of five annually to 15 in fiscal year 2015, followed by 16 applications in fiscal year 2016.

CuRE’s Team

Top leaders of CuRE Innovations include:
- Chief Executive Officer Wally Renne, D.M.D., an associate professor with MUSC’s College of Dental Medicine in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation and director of CAD/CAM Technologies
- Chief Operating Officer Anthony Mennito, D.M.D., associate professor in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation
- Chief Scientific Officer Zach Evans D.M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Oral Health Sciences
- Chief Financial Officer Christine Dixon Thiesing, M.B.A., associate director, MUSC FRD

CuRE’s Technology

CuRE is capitalizing on the opportunity to transform dental materials through copper iodide particles. While copper has been used in dental materials in the past and continues to be used in some ways today, its use is limited by its drawbacks. The sustained antimicrobial effects of copper iodide, combined with the white appearance imparted by the copper iodide particles, will serve as key points of differentiation for CuRE’s materials. The CuRE dental materials platform is covered by issued U.S. Patent No. 9,034,354.

Bacteria play an important role in oral health and digestion. Yet proliferation of certain bacterial strains leads to acid production, which is a primary contributor to formation of caries (cavities). An acidic environment also degrades restoration materials and destroys healthy tissue, which breaks down the bond between the tooth and those materials.

All these factors contribute to the formation of secondary caries under existing restorations and restoration failure. “The reality is that the restorations dentists place have to survive in one of the harshest environments in the human body,” explained Renne, a founding member of CuRE. The technology platform developed by the CuRE Innovations team ultimately protects the tooth and extends the longevity of restorations, he said.

Product Pipeline

CuRE’s lead product, its dental adhesive, should extend long-term bond strength when compared to typical adhesives with the downstream benefit of reducing secondary caries. More than a quarter of the 120 million resin-based composite (RBC) restorations placed per year in the U.S. replace failed restorations resulting from recurrent caries. Due to this extraordinary failure rate, the cost to replace failing restorations in the U.S. surpasses $5 billion annually. In addition, CuRE is evaluating the benefits of incorporating copper iodide particles into pit and fissure sealants, dental implants, endodontic materials, crowns and resins used for dentures. CuRE is generating preliminary data for these other copper iodide products to serve as the foundation for either additional collaborations with leaders in the dental materials industry or future Phase I STTR submissions.

About CuRE Innovations, LLC

CuRE Innovations, LLC was founded in 2015 to develop disruptive technologies in the more than $1 billion dental materials industry. Through the incorporation of copper iodide (CuI) particles, CuRE’s platform technology holds the promise of an entirely new generation of dental materials that reduce infections, including caries (cavity) formation, while delivering the aesthetics valued by patients. Learn more at cure-innovations.com.

About MUSC Foundation for Research Development

FRD has served as MUSC’s technology transfer office since 1998. During that period, FRD has filed patent applications on more than 400 technologies, resulting in over 150 U.S. issued patents. Additionally, FRD has executed more than 150 licenses and spun out more than 50 startup companies. MUSC startups have had products approved by the FDA and acquired by publicly traded corporations while attracting substantial investment dollars into South Carolina. Innovations from MUSC, including medical devices, therapies and software, are positively impacting health care worldwide. Please visit us online at frd.musc.edu.
The College of Dental Medicine has given our family so much... 

...this is our way of saying, “thank you.”

-Dr. Isaiah L. Davis, Sr., Dental Medicine ’82, with his family Isaiah L. Davis, Jr., Dental Medicine ’12, Deborah J. Davis, Medicine ’82, and Melissa A. Davis, Medicine ’09

Leave Your Legacy
by naming MUSC as the owner of your life insurance policy

Dr. Ike Davis chose to make the MUSC Foundation the owner and beneficiary of his life insurance policy. He will continue to own this asset during his lifetime. Through this gift, he will create an endowed scholarship for students, giving others the opportunity to further their educations, a gift that he once received as a College of Dental Medicine student at MUSC.

Like Dr. Davis, you can name the MUSC Foundation as the owner and/or beneficiary of your policy and the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine will receive the gift through your estate.

Did you know that you can also name the MUSC Foundation as owner or beneficiary of wills and trusts, IRAs or retirement accounts, and retirement annuities?

To explore making a legacy gift in honor of our 50th Anniversary, contact:
Stephanie Oberempt
Director of Development
843-792-6933
oberempt@musc.edu
Visit www.MUSCGiving.org to learn more.
Tariq Javed, D.M.D., M.S.D., M.S. has been selected to serve as vice dean for academic and student affairs of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Javed has served with distinction as associate dean for Academic and student affairs for the college since 1994. His areas of expertise include College of Dental Medicine administration, dental curriculum, accreditation, predoctoral student recruitment, promotion of diversity and student affairs. He is a member of the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure and serves as a consultant to the Commission on Dental Accreditation. He is also a consultant to the national and international Colleges of Dentistry in relation to predoctoral curriculum review, development and accreditation.

Theresa S. Gonzales, D.M.D., M.S., M.S.S. has been selected to serve in the newly established position as the associate dean for curriculum and strategic communications for the College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Gonzales brings more than 31 years of administrative and educational experience from her distinguished service to this nation in the United States Army Dental Corps. In 2010, Colonel Gonzales was the nominate selection to serve as the director of communications for the Office of the Surgeon General and she brings a robust communications capability to our institutional footprint. Theresa graduated from the College of Dental Medicine in 1984 and in 2013 she returned to her alma mater as a professor in the Department of Stomatology. She has chaired the curriculum committee since November 2015 and she is recognized as an innovator in education and an accomplished administrator and communicator.

Lindsey Hamil, Ph.D. will serve as director of education for the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Hamil is an assistant professor and education specialist for the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. She earned a B.A. in English, an M.S. in Communications, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education. She joined the faculty in 2010. Dr. Hamil serves the faculty and students of MUSC through her work with teaching, learning, outcomes assessment, and faculty development. Lindsey is classically trained in education and assessment. Her unique skill set is invaluable to our institution as we prepare and deploy culturally and clinically competent clinician-scholars for the benefit of the citizens of South Carolina and beyond.

Ms. Monica Gardner was recently named as the new assistant dean for finance and administration at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. After receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Health Administration, and Master of Business Administration, she spent 23 years of her professional life working in health administration. Ms. Gardner has served as department administrator for the combined Department of Neuroscience/Neurology/Neurosurgery for the last 10 years, where her role included the oversight of the clinical operations-practice plan, research, and academic business for these departments. Over her 20 years at MUSC, she worked as a business and grants manager in the College of Health Professions, Foundation for Research Development, the Center for Health Care Research at MUSC, and the VA Medical Center.

Ashley Martindale has recently joined the College of Dental Medicine as the senior director of finance and administration. Ashley began her career with the Medical University in the College of Health Professions in March 2011 when she was hired as an accountant and fiscal analyst. While there, she worked with the college strategic forecasting model and streamlined financial statement processes. She also generated many analyses in regard to tuition, faculty and staff salaries, and responsibility-centered management as the university moved toward implementing the principles of funds flow. In March 2013, she assumed the role of dean’s office business manager and fiscal analyst and in July of 2015, she was promoted to finance manager. Ashley brings with her a background in audit and accounting. Prior to joining MUSC she worked as a state tax auditor and a federal auditor.

In August, Ms. Felice Hirsch (former faculty, Legacy Society) was made Director Emeritus for her service to the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation Board. MUSC Foundation CEO Tom Anderson is shown awarding the honor to Ms. Hirsch.
Dr. William Curtis Wise, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Dental Medicine, retired from MUSC in October 2016 after a 49-year career. About his retirement, Dr. Sanders, Dean Emeritus of the College of Dental Medicine said: “I want to sincerely thank Dr. Wise for all he has done for MUSC, the College of Dental Medicine and me, personally. I was fortunate that he put off retirement to spearhead the new construction and remodeling of the College of Dental Medicine. There is no question that we could not have done it without him.”

Dr. Wise received his A.B. in math, physics, chemistry and biology from Transylvania University. During his undergraduate summers he did research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and worked as a physical chemist. He went on to complete his Ph.D. in physiology and biophysics from the University of Kentucky and then took a position with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Later, he worked at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis during which time he oversaw the development and production of Skylab, the Apollo/Skylab, and lower body pressure suits.

In 1968, Dr. Wise was recruited by the MUSC College of Medicine, Department of Physiology, and taught renal physiology, cell biology and space physiology to medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, and graduate students for 40 years. He received a five-year NIH Research Career Development award from the National Cancer Institute and was funded by NIH research grants for 30 years. Additionally, Dr. Wise has written more than 100 publications in cancer and shock research.

When the MUSC Hospital was moving into the computer age, Dr. Wise was asked to help select the first complete hospital system and spent two years as the chief information officer of the MUSC Hospital. He then spent six years as associate provost for Information Technology. As the College of Dental Medicine’s first IT director he brought the college into the digital age. He also served as its “construction foreman” and meticulously oversaw numerous construction projects in the Basic Science and Dental Clinics buildings.

For those of you who might have been around since the mid-1980s, who can forget the infamous “Camp Macintosh” where Dr. Wise introduced faculty and staff to the marvels of the then little-known Macintosh computer. In the early 1990s he led the team that created the college’s homegrown and first electronic dental record system that managed clinic enterprises for 10 years. In 2001, Dr. Wise directed a team to implement axiUm, dental software by Exan, a leader in dental management software.

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Mark Barry said of Dr. Wise: “I thank you for your service and genuine desire to always make things better at the College of Dental Medicine. Your efforts over the years have made our college a better place. On a personal level you have been a great mentor, leader, and friend.”

“There is no question that we could not have done it without him.”

-Dr. John J. Sanders, Dean Emeritus

Yilmaz chose the University of Florida, where she pioneered some of the first molecular studies of oral pathogens in the country. Her research has helped uncover how bacteria and other microorganisms that live in the human mouth affect health and well-being throughout the body. After a decade at the University of Florida, she is excited to continue this work at MUSC.

“The feeling is mutual, said Keith Kirkwood, DDS, Ph.D., associate dean for research, chairman of the Department of Oral Health Sciences and director of the Center for Oral Health Research. “Özlem is an outstanding dentist-scientist whose international reputation in the area of host-pathogen interactions is well respected. She has already made significant contributions to the research culture of our college.”

One of those contributions is in her approach to teaching. While balancing teaching and research can be a challenge, Yilmaz thinks it’s important to take teaching seriously. “Research without teaching is a dead end,” she said. “We have to train the future generation of scientists and clinicians.”

Yilmaz said she enjoys teaching and often finds that she learns as much from her students as they do from her. “When I’m teaching, questions coming from students sometimes really make me think and help me formulate better research questions for my own work.”

Grateful to MUSC for allowing her to pursue that work in an innovative and welcoming environment, she hopes that both she and the Medical University will continue to meet new challenges and together grow. “There are a great many opportunities at MUSC,” she said. “We have the ability to accomplish so much together.”

**Oral Health researcher excited about collaborative opportunities**

James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine
Memories. Milestones. Momentum.

Save the Date: April 28-30, 2017
ALUMNI WEEKEND
JAMES B. EDWARDS COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
Alumni Awards Luncheon
12 – 1:30 pm Charleston Marriott
Dean’s Welcome Reception
7:00 – 10:00 pm Francis Marion Hotel Carolina Room

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Continuing Education
8:30 am – Continental Breakfast/Registration
9:00 – 12 noon CE Charleston Marriott Topaz Room
12:30 -2:00 pm Dental Alumni Board Meeting Charleston Marriott Room TBA
5:00-6:30 pm Class Parties & Wine Tasting H&I Quarters/Charleston Naval Base
6:30 -9:30 pm Alumni Lawn Party H&I Quarters/Charleston Naval Base

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
ASDA Golf Tournament
9:00a Shotgun start Location TBA

The Link is a publication of the MUSC James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. For more information, contact Stephanie D. Oberempt, senior director of development and alumni affairs at Oberempt@musc.edu or (843) 792-6933.