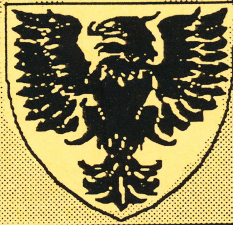


The voice of Dal Dental research



Stimulus &amp; Challenge

# Dental

## Research News

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### Research Strengthened.

The Research News is pleased to welcome three new faculty members who will significantly strengthen the research capability of the faculty. Two of these individuals hail from the University of Manitoba. Dr. Song F. Lee who has a joint appointment in the Departments of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry. Dr. Helen A. Lyttle, who joins our faculty as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The third individual is Dr. Kathy Russell, following her graduation from the Orthodontics Program at the University of Toronto, joins the Department of Pediatric & Community Dentistry as Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Orthodontics Undergraduate Program.

Kathy during her undergraduate program at Dalhousie developed a very strong scientific background in research and applied science. Kathy as a second and 3rd year DDS student was awarded MRC Farquharson Summer Research Scholarships. The MRC Farquharson Summer Undergraduate Research Scholarships aim to encourage undergraduates to consider careers in medical or dental research. Kathy Russell was also the recipient of the Warner-Lambert Award for her demonstrated aptitude in research. This recommendation

by the Research Development Committee enabled Kathy to attend the 25th Annual Dental Students Conference on Research at the School of Dentistry of the State University of New York at Buffalo. The basic objective of the conference is to expose outstanding dental students to dental educators, scientists and administrators and make them aware of the wide scope of careers available in dental research. Kathy was again an ideal choice as an outstanding student who had participated for three years in our summer research programme. The training and recruitment of manpower is of paramount importance to the expansion and improvement of dental and biomedical research. The most important source of future dental and biomedical scientists is our student population. It is clear that Kathy will have little time available in the immediate phase of her academic career with a full load of teaching and administrative responsibilities. However, we are confident that as she settles in she will be making her mark as a true academic with scholarly research contributions.

Dr. Helen Lyttle will also have to devote much of her early time at Dalhousie to her administrative responsibilities, however, we are confident that she too will be making her contribution to the research output from our faculty in the years to come. Helen has a

strong interest in educational research involving problem-based-learning. In addition, Dr. Lyttle's research interests also include interactions of *streptococcus mutans* in the oral flora with mercury from dental amalgam. This pertinent research also involves the effects of mercury on the growth, fermentation, hydrolysis and enzyme activities of selected oral microorganisms. It is clear that Dr. Lyttle's research interests in this area will be able to neatly interact with her Manitoba colleague who she will be joining at Dalhousie University, microbiologist Dr. S. F. Lee.

Dr. Song Lee's research in oral biology involves studies of the release of surface bound antibodies in the form of antibody-antigen immune complexes. His research aims to determine if this may be a strategy employed by the cells to enhance their ability to adhere to tooth surface. Dr. Lee, a well established basic scientist is currently funded with an MRC operating grant, "Mechanisms of attachment and release of cell surface proteins." Song was also the recipient of a prestigious MRC Development Grant while at the University of Manitoba. The Faculty of Dentistry is fortunate to have these three excellent new faculty members who bring with them considerable research potential and experience.

## Summer Research Seminar

An informal seminar will be held on Wednesday August 10th for Faculty and Summer Research Students. The objective will be to share some of the experiences and data gathering which has been undertaken in the eleven research projects being conducted in the faculty. The data will be presented and discussed by the various students and faculty supervisors involved. It is recognized that much of the presentation will involve only very preliminary data. However, the sharing of ideas and problems and even frustrations involving the projects will be beneficial to all involved. Plan to be there from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm.

### Challenging Process

"NSERC has added additional funds to the Research Grants Program every year until the most recent competition. Its budget stands at \$200M this year compared to \$129M ten years ago. The number of grantees supported by the program has grown every year for the last eight years. Council's overall funding level has not changed for the last two years. With the continued growth of the university research community, this makes the allocation process a challenging one, both within and among programs."

Nigel Lloyd,  
Director General, Research Grants,  
NSERC.

### "RESEARCH NEWS ITEMS"

Do you have any research news which you would like to share with your colleagues? If so, please forward such items to the Research Development Office. It would help if submissions were produced on a (Macintosh) disc in Microsoft Word: -or simply call 1675.

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## Six Hundred Not Out

This August 1994 issue brings the total of the number of pages published in the Dental Research News to over 600. The total number of pages since the first publication seven years ago in Septemehr 1987 is now 602.

### New SSHRC forms for 1994 Grants.

The Office of Research Services now has available the most recent forms and information for the upcoming Research and Strategic Grant competitions from the SSHRC. Dental faculty members should note that the strategic themes for this competition are: Applied Ethics; Education and Work in a Changing Society; Managing for Global Competitiveness; Science and Technology Policy in Canada; and Women and Change. With a little imagination several of these themes may very well be applicable to a dental interpretation.

Please ensure that you have the most up-to-date forms. You should also be aware that SSHRC will not accept applications on old forms. There are a number of amendments to this years programs. If you plan to submit an application please ensure that you get a copy of the amendments (June 1994) to the SSHRC Granting Programs: Detailed Guide (June 1993).

The Dalhousie internal deadline for all Research and Strategic Grant applications to reach the Office of Research Services is October 7th, 1994. Applications received by this date will be reviewed, signed and forwarded to the SSHRC by the SSHRC deadline of October 15, 1994.

You may contact Siobhan Lane of Dalhousie Office of Research Services for further information, and the SSHRC forms and guidebooks.



SMILE

## Research Definitions

*"It is clear that much additional work will be required before a complete understanding of the phenomenon is possible."*

means:-

I don't understand the data.

*"It is hoped that this study will stimulate more work in this field."*

means:-

This is an inadequate and unsatisfactory piece of research, perhaps someone else can do a better job. .

### Assistance With Stats

Do you have any problems with statistical analysis? If so do we have some good news for you. The Research Development Office of the Faculty of Dentistry is pleased to announce that Mr. Jim Warren will be available to assist faculty members with statistical analysis of research data for the period August 1994 through to April 1995. This will be a valuable resource for those faculty members evaluating the data from their summer research projects and in the preparation of statistical data for the writing of abstracts for upcoming research meetings. Requests for assistance from Jim should be made through Dr. Amid Ismail's office in the Department of Pediatric & Community Dentistry.

## Change

Academics and researchers in the university system are well acquainted with the fact that research funding and the pressures and restrictions affecting the quality of research and research productivity have been subjected to considerable change in recent years. Considerable change has been introduced into most research fields due to computerization for electronic data processing. The introduction of new technologies and equipment have been driven by computerization. To stay on the cutting edge has become more difficult as we ride the wave of the microchip revolution. Requirements for the funding for MRC and NSERC grants have undergone change. Considerable grass-root consultation has been undertaken within the research community about the need to make changes in the way that MRC funding is allocated. The federal agencies are now in the process of implementing further changes. Research funding is now much more competitive as increased numbers of researchers chase fewer research dollars.

One inevitable change which we have had to accept and adapt to is the concept of collaborative research. Significant emphasis is now placed upon obtaining research funding from the private sector. In recent years we have seen the emergence of the Centres of Excellence and University/Industry grants, these initiatives have changed and challenged the way in which we think about and look at research support within the university. From time-to-time certain types of research become popular and trendy and thus command a greater degree of attention. A much greater emphasis is now put on applied research than in the past. In times of economic restraint the concept of greater accountability for our university based research has become more of an issue. It is only natural that we tend to become rather concerned and uptight about the changes that affect the way in which we operate within our research field. However, it is well known that nothing is more consistent and more permanent than the change in human affairs

which affect our daily lives. The Globe and Mail of the 26th July quoted John Kettle's Future Letter, outlining 15 myths about change. We should perhaps not be intimidated by change, but be prepared to accept the challenges and opportunities presented by change. The many myths and misunderstandings which surround the concept of change should be recognized and dealt with accordingly. This is essential, if we are to survive in the changing world of academic institutions and the problems presented by limited funding and limited time in which to carry out our mandate of creating new knowledge by research and Scholarship. The 15 common myths about change are presented below. Our efficiency and effectiveness as researchers depends upon our ability to adapt to changes presented in the research environment in which we function. We should not have change for the sake of change. However, those who are not currently involved in scholarly activities have the greatest change of all to make.

### 15 Myths about Change

#### Myths

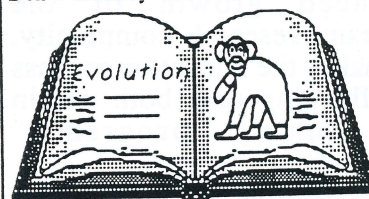
Change has to hurt.  
 Change is a one-time thing.  
 Change is radical.  
 Change must be imposed.  
 Everyone wants to buy in to change.  
 Everyone likes change so it's easy.  
 Change doesn't cost a lot.  
 Change is for the better.  
 Others have to change: not me.  
 Change is fast we can't fail.  
 Change won't be resisted.  
 People know how to change.  
 Change goes in a straight line.  
 People like to be first to change.  
 You gradually wear down resisters.

#### Realities about real change

Real change should be fun.  
 Real change is continuing, unfolding.  
 Real change happens in small steps.  
 Real change is self-motivated.  
 Real change has to be sold.  
 Real change is hard.  
 Real change is expensive.  
 Real change can make things worse.  
 I must change if I want them to really change.  
 Real change is slow; some failure is inevitable.  
 Real change is resisted.  
 People need skills to really change.  
 Real change zigs and zags.  
 No one likes pioneering.  
 You try harder, resisters get tougher.

Source: John Kettle's Future Letter.

Don't monkey around with the data



What about; the more things change the more they stay the same?

#### Real change

