



University of  
Pittsburgh

School of Dental Medicine



**NOVEMBER 2023**

## Meet the Dean: Marnie Oakley, DMD



After serving twice as interim dean over the course of nearly two years, Dr. Marnie Oakley describes officially assuming the role of dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine as both “surreal” and a “true professional honor.”

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## Assistant Professor Receives AAOF Award



*Orthodontics Chair Dr. Wellington Rody, Dr. Alice Goodwin, Dean Marnie Oakley*

Dr. Alice Goodwin was recently awarded the Graber Family Biomedical Research and Teaching Award from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) for \$40,000, which will be used in her lab to study how a small and retrognathic mandible causes cleft palates in conditions such as Pierre Robin sequence utilizing mouse models. Dr. Goodwin is thrilled to have received this award to help jump start her project as she establishes her new lab. Congratulations, Dr. Goodwin!

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## Two Pitt Dental Medicine Students Earn Schweitzer Fellowship



Each year, the Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program provides exceptional students with the opportunity to design and implement projects to improve the health and well-being of underserved communities in southwestern

Pennsylvania—please join Pitt Dental Medicine in congratulating Sindhu Gopaldaswamy and Shobena Jeevan on earning this prestigious fellowship!

### ***Sindhu Gopaldaswamy, BDS, MS***



Sindhu’s project focuses on the dental management of participants with special needs and their caregivers. She will hold sessions to discuss the practice of preventive oral health care and the different ways to maintain good oral health for her participants. Sindhu plans to review and have her participants and caregivers practice brushing and flossing as well as discuss how diet plays a role in dental health.

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### ***Shobena Jeevan, BDS***



Shobena’s project, Operation Healthy Smiles, is designed to serve underserved children throughout the Pittsburgh region. Her project addresses oral health care needs and the influence of nutrition and diet on dental health. Shobena will provide resources and individualize plans to address the needs of each child. She will work to improve dental hygiene and nutrition among children and provide dental products needed to implement hygiene plans.

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## **Get to Know James Mancini, DDS**

Dental health care can be hard to come by in rural areas, so many Pitt Dental Medicine graduates have made it their mission to address this lack of access, including the newest member of the Dental Alumni Association Board, **Dr. James Mancini** (A&S '82, DEN '87). Dr. Mancini recently closed his private practice in Pittsburgh, where he currently lives, after about 20 years of business; he now practices in Meadville, PA, a town closer to Erie than it is to Pittsburgh.

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## **Save the Dates: 2024 Alumni Receptions**

Pitt Dental Medicine will be hosting an alumni reception in **March** in New Orleans during the 2024 American Dental Education Association Annual Session & Exhibition—registration details to come!

Pitt Dental Medicine will be hosting an alumni reception in **April** in Los Angeles during the 2024 American Association of Endodontists Annual Meeting—registration details to come!

Pitt Dental Medicine returns to New Orleans in **May** for an alumni reception held during the 2024 American Association of Orthodontists Annual Session—registration details to come!

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### Friday, March 1, 2024

Do Your Dentures Suck?...They Should! Achieving Suction the Digital Way  
Ronni A. Schnell, DMD, MAGD, FICD

[Register Now](#)

### Friday, March 8, 2024

The Esthetic Revolution  
James Braun, DDS, MS

[Register Now](#)

### Saturday, March 23, 2024

Periradicular and Peri-Implant Extended Lesions (In 2D and 3D)  
S. Craig Schneider, DDS, MAGD, LLSR

[Register Now](#)

### Saturday, April 20, 2024

Actions and Algorithms for Medical Emergencies: How to Save a Life (Including Your Own)  
Daniel G. Pompa, DDS

[Register Now](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to get involved with Pitt Dental Medicine? Along with the Dental Alumni Association, we are working to build a community of mentors for current students and recent graduates. These opportunities include one-on-one time, school events, sporting events, virtual opportunities and more.

For more information, please email Alumni Coordinator Gionna Pitrone at [gmp83@pitt.edu](mailto:gmp83@pitt.edu).

## Update Your Info

The Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) Beta Chapter is updating our contact information to modernize our distribution list. In the new year, we will be sending members a newsletter to keep you informed on chapter and membership news. We will also be implementing an electronic payment method for your annual dues. We hope that you will continue to support our chapter!

[\*\*Take the Survey\*\*](#)