



Dr. Anthony M. Iacopino

“This special edition features a variety of articles from University of Manitoba faculty members that illustrate our past accomplishments, exciting new directions and overall visions going forward.”

Our Legacy and Our Future

The University of Manitoba faculty of dentistry is thrilled and honoured to be featured in this special edition of *JCDA*. It is a magnificent way to conclude our 50th anniversary year and to continue our “Drive for Top Five” campaign. The faculty has been celebrating its traditions of excellence and rich history of accomplishments and leadership in teaching, research and service throughout the year, with a series of events called “Symposium 50.” We also launched our campaign to become one of the top 5 dental schools in North America, through 9 “Pillars of Innovation” that represent unique initiatives that will build on our strengths and maintain our reputation of excellence far into the future. I summarize these efforts in a feature article on page 873. This special edition of *JCDA* also features a variety of articles from University of Manitoba faculty members that illustrate our past accomplishments, exciting new directions and overall visions going forward.

Dr. Doug Brothwell’s article about our Centre for Community Oral Health (p. 879) describes one of the most comprehensive and sophisticated outreach infrastructures in North American dental schools. The centre has a proven track record of administering community dental programs, and many of our graduates who participated in these programs are currently providing oral health services to underserved populations in inner-city, rural and First Nations communities. The students’ descriptions of their service learning experiences provide an important perspective and validate our efforts to take the centre to a new level.

Professor Salme Lavigne’s piece on oral health in personal care homes (p. 899) presents some interesting arguments about whether preventive oral health services for older adults, particularly those in personal care homes, should be publicly funded. Our newly launched Centre for Oral-

Systemic Health will help the faculty assume an international leadership role on such important professional issues. Through the centre, the faculty has been working with governments and the regional health authority to develop a national model for medically necessary oral health care for high-risk populations in order to improve quality of life and reduce cumulative medical expenditures. The centre also provides a regular column in *JCDA* about the latest news and developments in oral-systemic health (p. 886).

Dr. Elliott Scott’s article about our dental student research experience (p. 883) highlights the rapid progress made by the faculty in promoting and supporting student research. I was pleased that our faculty played a leadership role in establishing the national Student Research Group of the Canadian Association of Dental Research. A record number of our students are now undertaking a research experience as part of their dental education and the influence of our student mentors has also increased dramatically.

Drs. Noriko Boorberg and Lawrence Stockton provide a look into our innovative preclinical education program (p. 877). The faculty has long been recognized as a leader in producing effective teaching and learning environments. As part of this approach, the use of simulation technologies has been explored since their inception more than 10 years ago. The technologies used in our teaching laboratories provide our dental community with the most current teaching and learning tools available in dental education.

Continuing with the theme of innovative dental education initiatives, Drs. Randy Mazurat and Dieter Schönwetter summarize the curriculum mapping process employed at our faculty (p. 886). This unique project takes a systematic approach to ensure that what is being taught in our DMD program meets the 47 core competencies required of all new dentists in the modern practice environment.

Finally, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Dr. Catalena Birek, a professor in our oral biology department and *JCDA* editorial consultant. Dr. Birek has been instrumental in guiding this special edition through to completion. We hope that you enjoy reading about developments at our faculty and I would invite you to learn more by visiting our website at www.umanitoba.ca/dentistry.

Anthony M. Iacopino, DMD, PhD
Dean, University of Manitoba faculty of dentistry