Despite vast improvements in America's dental care, significant disparities in oral health remain among certain races and economic groups, according to U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher. Although the report brings this problem to the forefront of national attention, the fact that poor people and members of minorities are more likely to suffer from oral diseases ranging from tooth decay to mouth cancer is not news to the Northern Manhattan Community Voices Collaborative.

The collaborative is one of 13 locations in the five-year Community Voices national initiative, which was launched in 1998 with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. At Columbia, the School of Dental and Oral Surgery has teamed with several local community interest groups to bring improved dental health and treatment to the people of Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem neighborhoods. Community Voices has spent the past two years fighting what Dr. Satcher called "a silent epidemic of oral diseases."

Perhaps most alarming to Dr. Satcher was his finding that more than a third of all poor children ages 2 to 9 had untreated cavities—almost double the number of untreated cavities among children who are not poor.

"These are kids that are sitting in class with toothaches," Dr. Allan Formicola, dean of the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, said in an interview with the New York Times. "It's a problem and it's neglected."

Dr. Formicola's remarks explain why Community Voices has sought to provide dental care primarily to children. The dental school's DentCare Network provides more than 10,000 oral health visits annually at
Gouaux and Honig Named Howard Hughes Investigators

Dr. Eric Gouaux, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, and Dr. Barry Honig, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, are among 48 scientists who have been selected in a national competition as Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigators. Drs. Gouaux and Honig are among 353 HHMI investigators across the United States, based at 72 medical schools, universities, and research institutions.

Dr. Gouaux earned an A.B. in chemistry at Harvard where he carried out research in organic chemistry. He remained at Harvard to pursue research in x-ray crystallography and complete a Ph.D. and one year of postdoctoral training. He then worked at MIT during two years of additional postdoctoral training before moving to the University of Chicago. He came to Columbia in 1996 and focused his studies on receptors of the nervous system. He will use HHMI support to study the relationships between structure and function of ligand-gated ion channels, molecules which are the electrical switches of nerve cells.

Dr. Honig graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in chemistry from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn; earned an M.D. and M.A. from Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. from the University/Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, with NSF graduate fellowships; and received postdoctoral training at Harvard as an NIH postdoctoral fellow. He was a lecturer for Columbia’s Department of Biological Sciences before holding professorships first at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and then at the University of Illinois, Urbana. He returned to Columbia, where he has held his current position for 19 years. Dr. Honig has received numerous professional honors, including an NIH Merit Award and a medal as a P&S Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer.

The Hughes Institute is the largest philanthropic organization in the United States and enters into long-term research collaboration agreements with universities and other academic research organizations where its investigators hold faculty appointments. P&S has two HHMI programs, one in molecular neurobiology and one in structural biology.
Russ Berrie Funds Diabetes Award Program

Russ Berrie, toy manufacturer and lead benefactor of the Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, along with his wife, Angelica, have pledged $550,000 to launch the Naomi Berrie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diabetes Research. The program rewards outstanding achievement in the field and encourages and fosters the careers of young scientists in diabetes research.

The recipient of this award will receive $100,000 to support a two-year fellowship for a doctoral student or postdoctoral fellow in his or her laboratory. The Russell Berrie Foundation also will fund a two-year Naomi Berrie Fellowship at Columbia. Because two new Berrie Fellows will be named annually, the program will be funding as many as four scientists during a given year.

The Naomi Berrie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diabetes Research will be given to a senior investigator chosen by a selection committee of five nationally recognized leaders in diabetes research. This researcher will receive the honor at an annual dinner and symposium funded by the program and then select a fellow in his or her lab as the Berrie Fellow. The winner will also join the award’s selection committee. The second fellow will be selected by the director of research at Columbia’s Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, now Dr. Rudolph Leibel, professor of pediatrics and medicine, in consultation with the center’s Scientific Committee.

Mr. Berrie founded Russ Berrie and Company with $500 startup cash and grew his company into a world-leading toy manufacturer. In 1997, he donated $13.7 million to help construct the Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion and establish the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, which is named for his mother who, like himself, was diagnosed with diabetes.

“I am happy to support this award that will recognize scientists who achieve excellence in diabetes research,” says Mr. Berrie. “This program will bring along new scientists in the field and expand interactions among leading laboratories in diabetes research.”

Legendary Neighborhood Eye Doctor Honored by His Son

Stephen Ollendorff, a 1960 graduate of Columbia College and 1963 graduate of Columbia’s law school, has given Columbia Health Sciences a second chance to recognize his father’s invaluable contribution to the health of the Washington Heights community. He established the Ulrich Ollendorff, M.D., Digital Diagnostic Imaging Center within the Flanzer Eye Center of the Eye Institute. Although Dr. Ollendorff practiced ophthalmology for 46 years and became a virtual institution in Washington Heights, he practiced during a period in New York City’s history when hospitals frequently denied affiliation to Jewish practitioners. Over the past three years, his son has worked with Columbia to rectify a past that both sides regret.

“This diagnostic center, together with the lecture series, gives recognition to my father’s career serving Washington Heights,” says Mr. Ollendorff. “Every image produced by the new machinery will have my father’s name printed on it, and that will finally join my father with this medical center.”

This latest gift of $100,000—given by Stephen, his wife, Bjorg, and his mother, Anne—builds on the Ollendorff legacy at Columbia, which was started in 1997 when Dr. Ollendorff’s son donated $50,000 to endow the annual Ulrich Ollendorff, M.D., Visiting Lectureship. The new center was unveiled at the third installment of the lecture in May, along with the unveiling of a sculpture that Mr. Ollendorff commissioned for the Eye Institute.

During the 1930s, Dr. Ulrich Ollendorff was on his way to a successful career as a professor in ophthalmology in his native Germany when the rise of the Nazi regime forced him to immigrate to the United States with his wife and son. He began his Washington Heights practice in 1940 and gained respect and adoration from the community over a 46-year career. Dr. Ollendoroff earned a reputation for altruism by traveling throughout the neighborhood on countless house calls and often accepting modest payments—including an apple pie—from patients with low incomes.

Stephen Ollendorff is an attorney in New York City and a patient of Dr. Stanley Chang, Harkness Professor and Chairman of Ophthalmology.
The Fannie E. Rippel Foundation has awarded Columbia University’s Center for Women’s Health a $240,000 grant to help develop a two-year fellowship program in women’s health, the first of its kind in the New York City area.

The importance of specialized training in women’s health care has grown increasingly important as the baby boom generation ages, according to the center’s director, Dr. Elsa-Grace Giardina, professor of clinical medicine. The fellowship will provide training that bridges the completion of residency training with an independent career addressing interdisciplinary issues specific to women’s health.

The Rippel Foundation supports quality of life issues in medicine, with specific interest in women’s health and preventative care. With this support from the Rippel Foundation, the Center for Women’s Health will establish a model training program in women’s health. Dr. Giardina commented that funding will give the program an opportunity to develop its educational mission for future generations of physicians in women’s health.

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For the second year, a Columbia Health Sciences team of volunteers participated in the 2000 Revlon Run/Walk for Women, an event designed to raise awareness and funds to fight women’s cancers, in New York City on May 6. Annie Shane, communications specialist in the Office of External Relations, organized and served as captain of the group, which included Columbia employees and some of their family members.

The race through Central Park attracted more than 40,000 participants. The Health Sciences 20-person team raised thousands of dollars for the cause.

Celebating the first Tapley Award are, from left, Dr. Thomas Morris, Neighborhood Fund co-chair; Caroline Tapley, the late Dr. Tapley’s wife; Dr. John Oldham, Neighborhood Fund co-chair; Jean Armitage, Neighborhood Fund officer; and Ken Moss and Greg Bynum of the Morris-Jumel Mansion.
Ellen Spilker: 21 Years and Counting

If you are a medical or dental student, chances are you’re dealing with significant tuition bills. If you are a recent graduate, chances are you’re carrying a significant debt. Either way, Ellen Spilker has probably become invaluable to you, as she has for countless other P&S and dental school students over the past 21 years.

As director of Student Financial Planning, Ms. Spilker has helped students deal with ever-increasing medical school tuition and costs since her arrival in August 1979. Serving both P&S and the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, her office helps countless students deal with millions of tuition dollars.

She still remembers her first experience at P&S 21 years ago, and how it might have helped her choose her career with Columbia. “It was a very hot August day when I came up out of the subway station on my way to inter-view with Dr. Linda Lewis,” she recalls. “I’ll never forget our meeting, because we were briefly interrupted when she had to take a phone call from a patient. Although Dr. Lewis took great care not to mention anything specific about this person’s condition, I could tell that, whatever it was, it was probably quite severe. And I was truly taken by the way Dr. Lewis cared for the patient and how she did so much to comfort this person.

“For some people, I suppose the benefits and vacation days are good reasons to come to Columbia and stay here. For me, I feel fortunate to have been able to work for such wonderful people.”

With more than 25 years of experience in medical and dental school administration and student financial aid, Ms. Spilker has often been recognized on a national level for excellence in her field. She has been selected to several nation- and university-wide committees, most recently the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Task Force on Defining Disadvantaged Students, and also participates in various fund-raising and recruitment activities. She sits on the Alternative Dental Education Assistance Loan Program Advisory Committee and recently joined the Access Group’s Medical/Dental Financial Aid Advisory Committee.

She pins much of her office’s success not only to her staff, but also to other departments in Health Sciences. “One quality that makes us different from many other medical schools is the tremendous support my office receives from our development and alumni offices,” she says. “We work closely with donors, and they are constantly connecting my office with any new scholarships or other funding leads.”

More than 20 years ago, she began developing a comprehensive debt management program. This interest in the broader aspects of financing a professional school education and the impact of high debt on a student’s future led her to devote much of her career helping medical and dental school graduates manage their debt. She was honored as the only non-faculty nominee for Teacher of the Year and received an honorable mention for dedication by the Class of 1987.

Ms. Spilker’s future goals include expanding ways her department can use the internet to reach more applicants, students, and graduates. She notes that the average debt carried by medical school graduates is $89,000, and it is even higher for dental school graduates ($132,000). She hopes to increase debt management services for Columbia graduates as well as the medical center’s house staff.

**Advisory Council Meeting (continued from page 1)**

through the first three years of a child’s life. Working with renowned leaders in early childhood, key policy-makers, and media partners, I Am Your Child provides parents and caregivers with the information and resources necessary to promote healthy development and school readiness in our nation’s youngest children.

“Physical wellness, mental health, school readiness,” explained Mr. Reiner, “they should all be integrated. If we can all come together and frame this important work as education, we can get the help we need from policy-makers and effect change.” Mr. Reiner pointed to parental education as a critical first step in achieving better school-readiness of the nation’s youth, which in turn can serve to build better communities around successful education.

The spring meeting of the Advisory Council presented as its theme the work being done at Health Sciences in the field of child development. Presenters included Dr. Peter S. Jensen, Ruane Professor of Psychiatry; Dr. Myron Hofer, professor of psychiatry; Dr. Myrna Weissman, professor of psychiatry and epidemiology; Dr. Mary D’Alton, professor of obstetrics and gynecology; and Drs. Patricia Hametz and Susmita Pati, instructors in clinical pediatrics.
JUDY CHEN, a May graduate of the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, received the American Association of Dental Schools Preventative Dentistry Award. The award recognized her research investigating the association between periodontal disease and preterm birth in minority teen-agers. Ms. Chen analyzed data from more than 200 subjects and found statistically significant elevations in the prevalence and severity of caries and periodontal disease in these young women when compared to national data.

VELISSE FAIRCHILD has been promoted to assistant vice president in the Office of External Relations. The promotion recognizes her achievements and the evolution of the public affairs program under her leadership as its director. Ms. Fairchild has established strong working relationships with local community leaders, and her office has become a central point for the development of a number of programmatic initiatives.

DR. MICHAEL D. GERSHON, P&S professor and chairman of anatomy and cell biology, received the Henry Gray Award at the 113th annual meeting of the American Association of Anatomists. The honor recognizes unique and meritorious contributions to and achievements in anatomical sciences by its most distinguished members. It is the association’s highest honor.

DR. H. THOMAS LEE, research fellow in the Department of Anesthesiology, received the Vivien Thomas Young Investigator Award, which acknowledges the accomplishments of young investigators focused on fundamental and applied surgical research. Dr. Lee received a plaque and a cash award of $1,500.

DR. JAY H. LEFKOWITCH, P&S professor of clinical pathology, was among 10 recipients of the Columbia Alumni Federation’s Alumni Medal. Presented at a special luncheon following the University’s 246th commencement, the medal is an acknowledgment of exceptional service and commitment to Columbia. A 1976 graduate of P&S, Dr. Lefkowitch has been an active member of the school’s Alumni Association. He is currently chair of his P&S Class Fund and serves on several committees.

DR. THOMAS Q. MORRIS, interim dean for clinical and educational affairs, has been named Alumni Professor of Clinical Medicine. As the new Alumni Chair, Dr. Morris succeeds Dr. Donald Tapley who died in December. Dr. Morris began his career with P&S after graduating from the school in 1958. Over the years, he has become a dedicated and respected leader at Columbia-Presbyterian. His career has been marked by numerous leadership positions, including serving as vice dean of the Faculty of Medicine and president of Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Morris recently assumed the position of interim dean, which he shares with Dr. David Hirsh, interim dean for research.

DR. CHARLES J.H. STOLAR, P&S professor of surgery and pediatrics, has been appointed chief of pediatric surgery for the Children’s Hospital of New York (formerly Babies & Children’s Hospital of New York). Dr. Stolar will be responsible for directing and developing pediatric surgical services at both Columbia-Presbyterian and New York Weill Cornell Medical Centers. He will continue in his current academic appointment at P&S.

NARSAD Awards to 14 P&S Researchers

NARSAD, the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, has awarded 14 grants to researchers at P&S. Five scientists received Distinguished Investigator awards, more than any university or medical center nationwide. An additional nine researchers received Young Investigator grants.

The following are Columbia researchers who received Distinguished Investigator awards and their fields of research:
- Dr. Jack Gorman, schizophrenia
- Dr. Eric Kandel, anxiety disorders
- Dr. Donald Klein, schizophrenia
- Dr. Myrna Weissman, panic disorder
- Dr. Lorna Role, schizophrenia
- Dr. Mymy Weissman, panic disorder

The following are Columbia researchers who received Young Investigator grants and their fields of research:
- Dr. Tai Burt, bipolar disorder
- Dr. Lisa Kotler, co-occurrence of mood and eating disorders
- Dr. Diana Martinez, schizophrenia
- Dr. Lilianne Mujica-Parodi, schizophrenia
- Dr. Mitchell Nobler, depression
- Dr. Ramon Parsey, depression
- Dr. Gorazd Rosoklija, mood disorders
- Dr. Luca Santarelli, depression
- Dr. Helen Verdelli, affective disorders
From Psychology to Photography

The photographic works of Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, P&S assistant professor of clinical psychology, is featured in an exhibit in the Hintersteiner Gallery, which is located on the ground floor of the Armand Hammer Health Sciences Center.

"Silhouettes, Shadows, and Reflections" will be open through July and showcases 55 black and white and color photographs. Dr. Johnson has pursued his primary career in psychiatry at Columbia-Presbyterian since 1992. As a photographer, he has participated in more than 15 group art exhibitions in New York, Washington, D.C., Phoenix, Moscow, and Berlin. This is his first solo exhibit.

"I am glad to be having my first solo show at CPMC," he says. "I have developed a deep affection for the institution and the people who work here. Having an art exhibition, particularly a solo show, is a very meaningful experience, and it is gratifying to have the opportunity to contribute to the life of the CPMC community beyond my work as a research scientist.

"The work has a psychological aspect, and I hope that it stimulates a certain amount of reflection or introspection or increased awareness of how one perceives."

To see more of Dr. Johnson’s work, go to his web site: http://home.earthlink.net/~theridgest/jeff1.htm.

A SAMPLE OF Dr. Jeffrey Johnson's photographic work.

Partnership Celebrates Three-Year Anniversary

More than 200 medical professionals, industry executives, Columbia faculty members, and women’s health experts gathered Feb. 10 to celebrate the third anniversary of the Partnership for Women’s Health at Columbia University. Jane Pauley served as honorary chair of the event, with proceeds funding the M. Irené Ferrer Professorship in Women’s Health and Gender-Specific Medicine.

The Partnership for Women’s Health at Columbia University is the first collaboration between academia and the private sector focusing on gender-specific medical research and educational programs for health care professionals and the public. Dr. Marianne Legato, P&S professor of clinical medicine, is founder and director of the Partnership along with associate directors Drs. John Bilezikian and Michael Rosen.

P&S Hosts Special Lecture

DR. DONALD A. HENDERSON, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies, gave the Samuel Rudin Distinguished Visiting Professorship Lecture, "Biological Weapons: Challenge or Threat to Medicine and Public Health," on April 25. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Thomas Morris, interim dean for clinical and educational affairs, Dr. Henderson, Samuel Rudin, and Dr. Allan Rosenfield, dean of the School of Public Health.

Surgeon General (continued from page 1)

local schools. With dental facilities at six school-based sites, DentCare is able to follow up on children’s dental treatment over years of education. Thanks to Dr. Satcher’s report, the dental needs of minorities and the poor can now be addressed beyond Northern Manhattan and the 12 other Community Voices locations.

"The community told us where services were needed and we listened. That’s what made our program a success," says Dr. Formicola. "The report by the surgeon general indicates that he is listening and calling on the oral health community to respond."

Dr. Formicola was selected as a reviewer of Dr. Satcher’s report, as was Dr. Ira Lamster, vice dean of the School of Dental and Oral Surgery. Dr. Irwin Mandel, professor emeritus of dentistry, was a contributor and coordinating author.
Columbia-Presbyterian lost one of its historians. For 35 years, Elizabeth Wilcox captured the life and times of Columbia-Presbyterian. Her dual passions for this medical center and photography combined to create a breathtaking collection of more than 100,000 images featuring the faces and locations surrounding Columbia Health Sciences and New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

On May 6, Ms. Wilcox died at 84. In 1991, she donated her entire collection, which includes some images taken by her husband, Herbert B. "Bud" Wilcox (also deceased) who was a P&S faculty member and 1934 graduate, to Health Sciences Archives and Special Collections. Accessible by faculty, staff, and students, the Wilcox Collection is housed in the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library.

As the medical center's "unofficial" photographer from 1957 to 1991, the legacy of her devotion has made this column, and countless other historical representations of Columbia-Presbyterian, possible.