



Editorial

Dr. Ramón González

Since its foundation in 2013, the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) has worked to establish communication and collaboration networks among its member countries. These networks have been augmented by COHI's forming of collaborative ties with the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), with whom we (COHI) are now closely communicating and collaborating. At the beginning of 2019, we invited the government representatives of oral health, who visited Puerto Rico and discussed several possible collaboration agreements.

At this meeting, visiting representatives were also presented with some community work projects aimed at improving oral health, some of which had already been implemented by several countries interested in improving the overall health of the population. In the same way that this Initiative works to establish a consensus for the diagnosis of dental caries in the different regions of the Caribbean, we have also collaborated on and participated in workshops and trainings to establish a consensus in the area of periodontics with Latin American countries.

This newsletter details the activities in which we participated in 2019—not only with our fellow Caribbean communities but also with various countries in Latin America—in accordance with the mission of our organization. I am grateful for the collaboration of the board of directors, which has been essential to the success and achievement of all these activities, and I thank them for their participation and commitment.

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Latin American Consensus in Periodontal disease

On January 30th, members of the **Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI)** attended the regional symposium of the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA); it was entitled: **"Periodontal disease and its impact on general health in Latin America – Latin American Consensus."**

The aim of this symposium was to develop a regional plan to address gingival health issues in Latin America. Leaders of dental and periodontal associations in Latin America were invited to participate in this symposium.

Among the invited guest were:

- Representatives from 18 countries;
- 15 Latin American Periodontal Associations;
- Representatives of the IberoPanamerican Federation of Periodontics (FIPP).
- Representatives of the Divisions of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) from Caribbean and Brazil;
- Brazilian Association of Dental Education (ABENO);
- Latin American Dentistry Federation (FOLA);
- Members of the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI);
- Members of the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) and
- Members of Colgate-Palmolive Company.



Brushing at School – Puerto Rico

On Friday, February 8, 2019, an activity called “My people smile: You are special” was held during the Caribbean Oral Health Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The activity was organized by the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative and was attended by dental officials from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico.

The activity aimed to demonstrate, using a select group of participants under specific conditions, the training and implementation strategies of the School-based Prevention Model created by Dr. Elaine M. Pagán. This model has already been successfully implemented and continues to be used in the municipality of Coamo, Puerto Rico. The Caribbean Oral Health Initiative is a main contributor to this program, which aims to train participants to transmit what they’ve learned to other populations, both in Puerto Rico and other Caribbean regions.

The children who participated belonged to the Rostro, Cuerpo y Alma Foundation led by Dr. Natalio Debbs and the Face Genes study led by Dr. Carmen Buxó. The children and their parents enjoyed the activity while also being its focus.

The Caribbean dental officials who attended agreed to collaborate on the implementation of this model in their respective regions in the future.



Celebrating OUR
COLLABORATIVE
Spirit

2019 ADEA ANNUAL SESSION & EXHIBITION
MARCH 16-19 | CHICAGO, IL

Workshop:

Dental public health interventions should engender a collaborative spirit among community stakeholders, academia, corporate philanthropists, and policymakers. The NYU College of Dentistry, the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative of the UPR School of Dental Medicine, and Colgate-Palmolive Company have developed successful programs that combine service, education, research, and advocacy that have succeeded in achieving sustainable improvements in the health of their respective populations while also enriching dental students' experience. In this workshop, moderators from each organization had the opportunity to draw upon examples of successful and unsuccessful collaborations in the Caribbean and Latin America, leading attendees in an exploration of the best practices for sustainably in terms of meeting the oral health needs of underserved communities while simultaneously training the next generation of health providers.

Presenters:



Rachel Hill,
M.P.H.

**New York University
College of Dentistry**



Ana Lopez Fuentes,
D.MD, M.P.H.

**ADEA UPR School of
Dental Medicine**



Stuart Hirsch,
D.D.S.

**New York University
College of Dentistry**



Bernal Stewart,
B.S. Eng, M.Sc, PhD.

Colgate-Palmolive Company

Latin American Oral Health Association Summit

Members of the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) participated in the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) Summit, which was held in São Paulo, Brazil, on May 17th and 18th, 2019, at the Dental School of the São Paulo University. The theme was "Moving from Research to Practice."

The summit attendees were formed into four groups, each of which was directed to consider one of the following topics: consensus outcomes, tele-dentistry, dental education, and daily brushing. With those topics in mind, the respective groups were asked to a) identify opportunities to influence changes in oral health policies, in academia, and in the dental profession; and b) coordinate a regional oral health strategy between LAOHA and COHI.

As a closing event, the groups presented work proposals that would be developed over the next few years for both Latin America and the Caribbean, the regions represented by the two organizations.





COHI participates in the Research Forum of the Dental Medicine School of the University of Puerto Rico






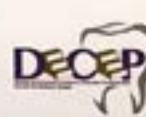
On June 13 and 14, 2019, the 6th Annual Research Forum of Postdoctoral and Doctoral Students of the Dental Medicine School of the University of Puerto Rico was held.

Ten postdoctoral students and eight dental students presented their research projects. Doctors Otto Fernández, Erika Alfaro, and Sylvia Gudiño, all from the University of Costa Rica, were the invited speakers. During the opening of the Forum, Dr. Ramón González, President of COHI, described the scope of the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative. COHI has supported this research and training activity for the past four years.



UPR School of Dental Medicine
6th Postdoctoral and Doctoral Research Forum & ICDAS Workshop

June 13, 2019 (8 CE credits)	Auditorium Dra. Araceli Ortiz (B-103) & (B-119) 1 st floor, G. Arbona Building 8:00 am - 3:00 pm (Breakfast and Lunch)	June 14, 2019 (4 CE credits)
<p>Guest Speakers</p> <p>Dr. Otto Fernández López, DDS, MSD Professor University of Costa Rica <i>"Biomedical Concerns in Osseointegrated implants"</i></p> <p>Dr. Sylvia Gudiño Fernández, DDS, MPH, MSc., Mphil Professor University of Costa Rica <i>"Avances en la Cariología Contemporánea Aplicados a la Práctica Clínica"</i> (B-119)</p> <p>Dr. Erika Alfaro Mayorga, DDS, MSD Instructor University of Costa Rica <i>"Evaluation of the degree of conversion and microhardness of dual cure resin cements using different polymerization protocols"</i></p> <p>Máximo Soto Ortiz, DrPh (c) UPR- School of Dental Medicine / Capella University <i>"Reproductive Maternal history and the risk of Oral Clefts in Puerto Ricans"</i></p>	 June 13, 2019	<p>Guest Speaker (AM)</p>  Dr. Carmen Buxó, DrPH, MPH, MSc <i>"Caribbean Dental Biorepository (CarriDen)"</i> <p>Dental Students (AM)</p> <p>Natalia Cruz, DSI Eliás Pabón, DSIV Zareth Jana, DSIV Emeri Jiménez, DSIV Francisco Castillo, DSI Néstor Álvarez, DSIV Luis Hernández, DSIV</p> <p>ICDAS Clinical Implementation Workshop (PM)</p>
<p>Prosthodontics (AM)</p> <p>Dr. Ana M. Hernández Dr. Naydan Vargas Dr. Fernando Pino</p> <p>Orthodontics (AM)</p> <p>Dr. Johanna Rivera Dr. Daniela Amaya</p> <p>Pediatric Dentistry (PM)</p> <p>Dr. Jessica Laguna Dr. Natalia Barea Dr. Damaris Cruz Dr. Zaida Nieves</p>		

Participation of the Caribbean in the IADR, Vancouver

In June, the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) held its 97th general session, this time in the city of Vancouver, Canada. At the meeting, members of COHI from all over the Caribbean presented their various research projects.

Presentations from Caribbean universities at the IADR, Vancouver:

University of Puerto Rico:

Two oral presentations and seven posters.

Universidad Iberoamericana, DR:

Three poster presentations.

Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, DR:

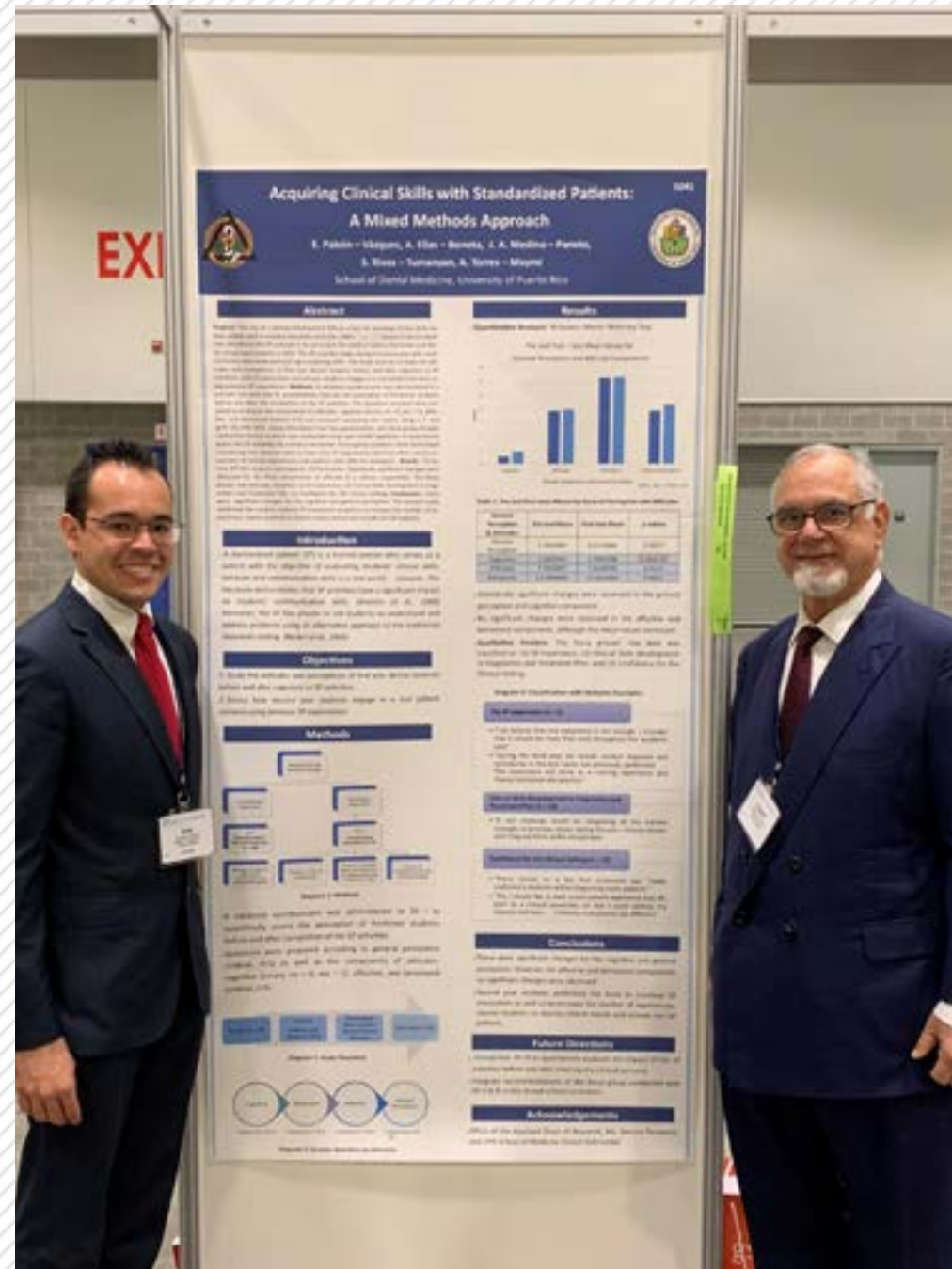
Three poster presentations.

University of the West Indies, Jamaica:

One poster presentation.



Dr. Anna Polanco, Dr. Laura Polanco, Dr. Natalia Forastieri, Dr. Publio Batista



Dr. Elías Pabón and Dr. Elías Boneta



Dr. Leandro Félix-Matos, Dr. Ninoska Abreu-Placeres, Dr. Franklin García Godoy



Dr. Mel Mupparapu and Dr. Babu Santosh

COHI's participation at the Congress of the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA)

The 66th version of the Congress of the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA) was held in Cartagena, Colombia, in July 2019. Cariology researchers from around the world attended this important event to share their knowledge about the latest trends in cariology research.

At the ORCA 2019 conference, the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative had the privilege of presenting on the seventh educational platform entitled "Advances in Education in Cariology: Experiences of Latin America," one of the educational projects that had been carried out in the region in recent years. This project was the Consensus in Cariology Teaching for Undergraduates in Caribbean Nations. Dr. Ninoska Abreu-Placeres, from the Dominican Republic, was in charge of both the presentation and the project from which it derived; working with her was a diverse team of researchers from several Caribbean universities.



First Congress of the International Association for Dental Research, Caribbean Section

On October 3rd and 4th, 2019, the first meeting of the International Association for Dental Research, Caribbean section (IADR-CS), was held; Its theme was "Oral Health Research in the Caribbean: Challenges and Achievements." The meeting was held in conjunction with the Congress of the Dominican College of Dentists (CDO, by its initials in Spanish).

The venue for this first IADR-CS/CDO meeting was the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM); the meeting was sponsored by several academic institutions in the Dominican Republic as well as elsewhere in the Caribbean and in Latin America. The meeting had around 200 attendees, including dental researchers, educators, and undergraduate and postgraduate students.

It is important to note that the presentations evidenced high levels of scientific excellence, with 13 invited speakers, coming from not only the Dominican Republic but also around the world. In addition, there were 12 oral presentations of research projects and 26 presentations of research posters.

These presentations were made by researchers from the United States, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the conferences and



presentations, two 2-hour research workshops were taught, garnering wide interest from undergraduate and postgraduate dental students. One of these workshops was taught by Dr. Gabriel Sánchez, executive director of the IADR, Latin America, and president of the IADR, Argentina; his workshop was entitled: "Presentation of scientific posters: How to achieve visual and oral excellence. The second workshop was taught by Dr. Marcela Hernández from Chile and was entitled: "Preparation and publication of a scientific article: keys to success." Similarly, Dr. Arvind Babu, secretary of the IADR-CS, made a general presentation about the IADR and its objectives.

Finally, within the activities carried out during the meeting, the IADR-CS board received recognition from Dr. Gabriel Sánchez, executive director of the IADR, Latin America, and president of the IADR, Argentina, for having held the first IADR-CS meeting in the Caribbean. In addition, Dr. Augusto Elías-Boneta, researcher and dean of research at the University of Puerto Rico, was recognized for his contributions to dental research in the Caribbean.



ICDAS calibration exercise

The School of Dental Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico, in collaboration with the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI), carried out a calibration exercise during the week of October 21 to 25, 2019. For this activity, we were privileged to have Dr. Andrea Zandona, Professor at the School of Dentistry at Tufts University, Boston, MA. Dr. Zandona participated as a reference examiner for this exercise. Dr. Rosana Hanke, Dr. Milagros Toro, and Dr. Lydia M. López del Valle, who are members of the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Puerto Rico, participated in the exercise. Dr. Zandona offered a conference on ICDAS and minimally invasive dentistry, as well as facilitated in-vitro laboratory training for dental practitioners and clinical module managers. It should be noted that this activity, attended by sixty participants, lasted five days. The results of the calibration were successful; the training insures that the UPR School of Dental Medicine and COHI/LAOHA will have the staff to carry out epidemiological and clinical studies and will be able, as well, to educate dental students in the clinics. Also participating and lending a hand were scorers, research assistants, and dental assistants from the research program for undergraduate students who wished to venture into the area of dental medicine.



COHI Publications 2019-2020

Collins, J. R., Elías, A. R., Brache, M., Veras, K., Ogando, G., Toro, M., ... Rajendra, A. B. (2019). Association between gingival parameters and Oral health-related quality of life in Caribbean adults: a population-based cross-sectional study. *BMC Oral Health*, 19(1), 234. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12903-019-0931-1>

Santosh, A. B. R., & Ogle, O. E. (2020). Oral Diseases for the General Dentist. *Dental Clinics of North America*, 64(1), xiii–xv. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2019.09.001>

Santosh, A. B. R., Boyd, D., & Laxminarayana, K. K. (2020). Clinical Outline of Oral Diseases. *Dental Clinics of North America*, 64(1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2019.08.001>

Santosh, A. B. R. (2020). Odontogenic Cysts. *Dental Clinics of North America*, 64(1), 105–119. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2019.08.002>

Santosh, A. B. R., & Ogle, O. E. (2020). Odontogenic Tumors. *Dental Clinics of North America*, 64(1), 121–138. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2019.08.008>

Reddy, B. V. R., Kumar, K. K., & **Santosh, A. B. R.** (2020). Benign and Malignant Lesions of Jaw. *Dental Clinics of North America*, 64(1), 39–61. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2019.08.005>