



THE SLAVKIN YEARS 2000-2008

PATIENT HEALTH • EDUCATION • RESEARCH • OUTREACH





“As one of the USC School of Dentistry’s most distinguished alumni, Dr. Harold Slavkin added distinction to his school by serving as an internationally renowned scholar, and as director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; he added further distinction to the School by serving as its dean since 2000.

“In an era in which most universities pay lip service to the concept of interdisciplinary collaborations, Harold Slavkin was a pioneer – both as a researcher and as a dean. He has advanced the academic mission and intellectual culture of USC in lasting ways.”

C. L. Max Nikias
Executive Vice President and Provost
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Top row, left to right: the USC School of Dentistry; Dr. Harold Slavkin in action as dean. Middle: Dr. Slavkin at USC, 1985. Bottom, left to right: Slavkin with colleague, 1964; opening of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology, 1990; Dr. Slavkin in his lab, 1978; one of his watercolors.

DEAN HAROLD SLAVKIN:

SINGULAR LEADER FOR A SINGULAR SCHOOL

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply.
Willing is not enough; we must do.”

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

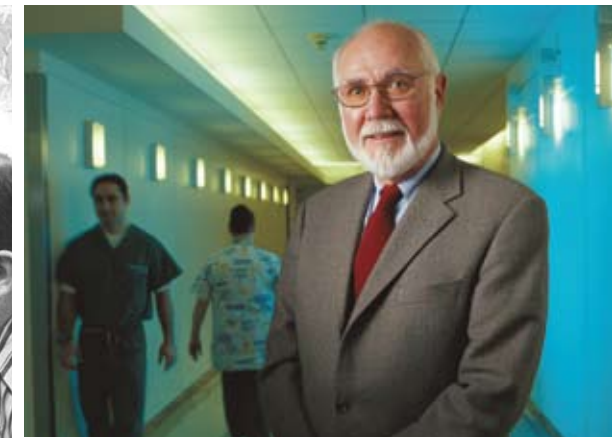
A philosophy of doing infused every aspect of the tenure of Harold C. Slavkin, DDS, as dean of the USC School of Dentistry from 2000 to 2008.

Dr. Slavkin is a true visionary, always looking five to ten years ahead. He brought passion, generosity, and energy to his office. His ability to embrace the future – and the ways the School of Dentistry can help shape our tomorrows – has furthered the school’s prominence on national and international stages.

Growing up in Chicago as the eldest child of Russian immigrant parents, Dr. Slavkin inherited two core beliefs that have served as lifelong guideposts: *Anything is possible* and *You must do your share*.

He first contemplated becoming a fine artist, but an unexpected turning point brought a different path. At 17, he began training as a technician in the U.S. Army Dental Corps.

In 1961, he came west to attend the University of Southern California (USC), where he majored in English Literature, then enrolled in the USC School of Dentistry. Almost immediately, science captured his imagination the way art had. The first time he stepped into a laboratory, he recalls, “it was like going into a bakery knowing nothing about baking, then wanting to be a baker.”



From left to right: Slavkin at USC, 1957. Middle, Dr. Slavkin with Pablo Bringas, lab manager, 1970. Right, top: Dean Slavkin. Right, bottom: Slavkin as watercolor artist.

His sheer joy in research echoed throughout his 40-year career at the School of Dentistry, and marked his time as dean. Early mentors provided other pivotal turning points, and so he learned the importance of mentoring. During his tenure, Dr. Slavkin championed the recruitment and nurturing of talented faculty, which further enriched the school’s scholarship.

Prior to assuming the deanship in 2000, he took a five-year leave of absence from the school to serve as director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He returned to USC with an even deeper awareness of public health issues and the need to increase access to oral care, a long-standing priority for the School.

Having stepped down as dean in 2008, Dr. Slavkin leaves a school that places an emphasis on learner-centered education, professional leadership, and meaningful innovation, coupled with a deep sense of community and a global perspective. It’s a combination that he deems essential.

To this passionate scientist, educator, and humanitarian, oral health serves as “a canary in a coal mine” – a harbinger of how well society is meeting the needs of its citizens. “Our current century will surpass the past for remarkable advances in the human condition,” he says. “We are learning, and eventually we will formulate strategies that optimize the human experience around the world.”

“There is no one like Hal Slavkin. Hal is incredibly unique, creative beyond creativity, and inspirational to all who meet him.”

Dushanka V. Kleinman, MScD, DDS
Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN
PERFORMANCE**



Above: Hal Slavkin, U.S. Army Dental Corps, 1955. Top, right: Slavkin at USC School of Dentistry, 1962. Bottom, right: On a European sabbatical.



2000

First White Coat Ceremony to mark incoming students’ entrance into the dental profession



2001

School of Dentistry’s first Strategic Plan, *Shaping the Future 2001-2006*



First International Memorandums of Understanding established with Japanese schools of dentistry: Niigata University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences and Fukuoka Dental College.



2002

Neighborhood Mobile Clinic begins at local elementary schools.



School of Dentistry completes USC University Academic Program Review.



2003

State-of-the-art Oral Health Center opens in University Village.



Dental Explorers Program created for college-bound high school students.

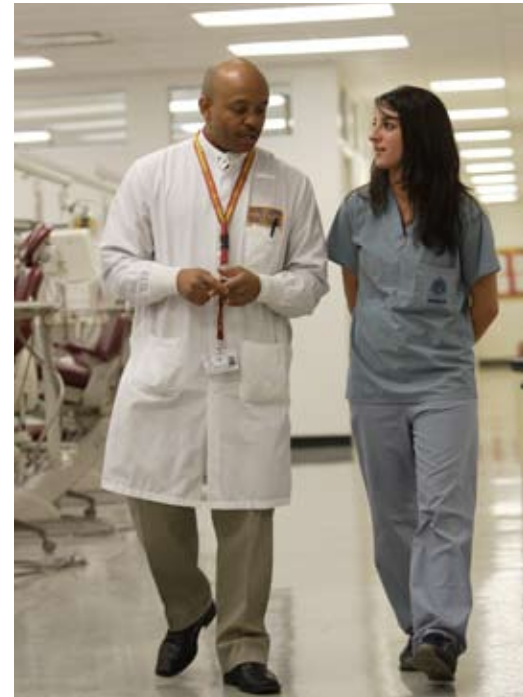
- Founded in 2007, the Student Professionalism and Ethics Club at the USC School of Dentistry was one the first dental student clubs of its kind nationwide.



LEADERSHIP

For more than a century, the USC School of Dentistry has helped define what is thought, taught, and practiced in the oral health profession. Buoyed by the School's accomplishments during Hal Slavkin's time as dean, we are continuing this leadership role in partnership with colleagues worldwide.

In one of his first actions, Dr. Slavkin worked to affirm the School's existing Code of Ethics guidelines by instituting a zero-tolerance policy, holding students, faculty, and staff to the highest standards of professional conduct. He led the School's efforts to create



"Hal is true visionary leader, a man of great integrity and energy, and perhaps one of the most gifted speakers we have had in our profession."

Dominick P. DePaola, PhD, DDS
President Emeritus
THE FORSYTH INSTITUTE

our first Strategic Plan, *Shaping the Future 2001-2006*. The School's second plan, *Shaping the Future, Phase 2, 2008-2012*, reflects multiple voices and sets the stage for a dynamic future.

Another door opened for fresh collaborations in holistic and systemic health in 2006, when the School of Dentistry aligned itself with USC's top-ranked divisions of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, and Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy.

Throughout Dr. Slavkin's tenure, the School displayed leadership on a wider stage, becoming involved in the formation of legislation to address oral health. Among other efforts, we successfully advocated to fluoridate drinking water from Santa Barbara to San Diego, require oral screenings for children before they enter kindergarten, and improve the California State Dental Licensure Examination.

Dr. Slavkin's vision has encouraged the School's Associated Student Body to spearhead initiatives and forums that address oral health issues on a national level, including the Licensure Forum in 2006 and the Access Care Forum in 2007. USC dental students have taken on leadership roles in numerous state and national dental organizations, including the California Dental Association, American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and American Student Dental Association (ASDA). In 2006, Joseph Field (DDS Class of 2008) was elected ADEA Vice-President of Students, becoming the first USC student to hold this position, and Michael Meru (DDS Class of 2009) was elected ASDA president in 2007, another first for USC.

This legacy reflects Dr. Slavkin's priorities: "Our goal is to educate and foster leadership, through critical thinking, problem-solving, cultural competencies, and a shared desire to improve the health of all people."

EDUCATION

In 2001, the USC School of Dentistry made a bold commitment to an innovative, learner-centered curriculum by becoming one of the first dental schools in the country to adopt problem-based learning pedagogy for the doctoral dental program. This pedagogy places our student-learners front-and-center in their own educational journey.

The transformation in educational approach reflected Hal Slavkin's vision of the school as a place "dedicated to our own ongoing learning, flexibility, comfort with change, and openness to new ideas." In this setting, students develop problem-solving skills, learn to access and analyze data, and integrate basic science with clinical experience.

The School launched two new, progressive dental hygiene degree programs during his tenure: a Masters of Public Health and a Masters in Gerontology, along with a Minor in Occupational Sciences. Faculty at the



School also were instrumental in the development of a Minor in Craniofacial and Dental Biotechnology in the Department of Biomechanical Engineering at the Viterbi School of Engineering.

Since 2000, the School has experienced tremendous growth in the number of DDS students who seek post-graduate specialty training. Dr. Slavkin's vision of lifelong learning also can be seen in the explosion in Continuing Education (CE) at the School – now one of the largest programs of its kind among U.S. dental schools. Since 2003, our CE offerings have risen 500% and enrollment more than 400%. More than 6,000 learners from four continents sign on each year. The program also has designed offerings specifically for international learners, such as "USC Advanced Training in Modern Dentistry" for Japanese Dental Practitioners.



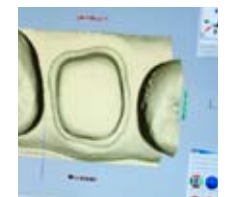
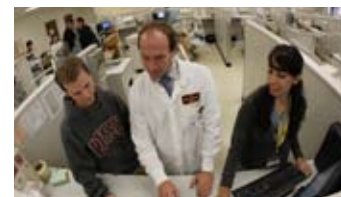
- Applications to the School of Dentistry have doubled since 2000, from 1,700 to 3,400 in 2008.

- 93% of the DDS Class of 2010 passed the National Dental Board Examination Part I on the first attempt.

- In 2008, 93% of all USC Dentistry students taking the Western Regional Examining Board passed on the first attempt.

"Dr. Hal Slavkin has been a major force in dentistry for several decades. Early on, he recognized the need for expanding the knowledge base upon which the dental profession is based and he acted to see that it happened. We are all indebted to him."

Albert H. Guay, DMD
Chief Policy Advisor
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION



Beauchamp Family Foundation pledges \$1 million to establish Charles M. Goldstein Endowed Professorship.

Eugene Sekiguchi, Associate Dean, International, Professional and Legislative Affairs, president of American Dental Association, 2003-2004

Four-year, \$1.2 million grant from the California Endowment targets minority recruitment to address access to care.

Axiom electronic patient management system introduced in dental clinics

2004

USC's two-year, dual certificate Orofacial Pain and Oral Medicine Program is the first of its kind in the United States.

Hughes family establishes \$1.1 million L. Edna Hatcher Hughes full-tuition, four-year scholarship honoring one of the school's earliest female graduates.

2005

First full problem-based learning DDS class graduates.

Gift from Patterson Dental Supply establishes Patterson Technology Center.

► The USC Mobile Dental Clinic grew from one trailer in 1968 to a fleet of seven trailers with 21 chairs, plus 24 portable dental units by 2008.

► Community-based service-learning at the School of Dentistry increased from seven programs in 2001 to 11 by 2008.



“Hal, thank you for helping us help the children of L.A. find great dental care. You are a true embodiment of Ella’s words: ‘Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.’”

THE ELLA FITZGERALD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

“Dr. Slavkin has been instrumental in raising community awareness of the epidemic in children’s oral health.”

Mark Eiduson

THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY/PATIENT CARE

The USC School of Dentistry has been an agent of change for more than four decades, working to increase access to care for the underserved. Since 1965, The Mobile Clinic, the flagship program for the School of Dentistry Community Programs, has served more than 81,000 low-income children in urban and rural areas of the state – from San Luis Obispo to the Mexican Border – providing more than \$1.5 million in free oral health care each year.

While director of the NIDCR in Washington, D.C., Hal Slavkin spearheaded the first Surgeon General’s report on oral health in America. The landmark report served as a wake-up call that access to dental care had not kept pace with advances. “Along the way, we have failed to include the entire society in our progress,” said Dr. Slavkin.

He brought a willingness to act to his position as dean of the USC School of Dentistry. Under his leadership, the School doubled its community programs and activities and formed new community partnerships.

In 2000, the School partnered with the Union Rescue Mission to create the first-ever comprehensive dental clinic on Los Angeles’s Skid Row and serve a growing homeless population, including children and families. In 2002, our Neighborhood Mobile Clinic began its regular visits to local elementary schools, reaching out to children in surrounding communities.

More benefits came from our emphasis on service learning, which links education and community service, giving students the chance to learn in the real world. Before 2000, service learning was voluntary at the School of Dentistry. Dr. Slavkin made it a requirement. “To learn effectively,” he said, “our students need to go where the problems are – in the community.” Following this example, the School’s newest divisions – Biokinesiology & Physical Therapy



and Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy – recently introduced community health programs that serve USC neighborhoods and provide service-learning opportunities for students.

Access to care grew on other fronts during the Slavkin years. New clinic renovations included the Redmond Imaging Center and Patterson Technology Center. A new state-of-the-art faculty practice opened in 2003. The USC Oral Health Center, now the primary home of the USC School of Dentistry Faculty Practice, has grown from five faculty to 30 and from a \$1 million annual practice to \$5 million.

Each year, our various clinics now handle more than 68,000 patient visits and serve nearly 13,000 low-income individuals – from preschoolers to senior citizens. The school’s impact on the broader community and on patient care continues to reverberate and expand, touching many lives in the process.

RESEARCH

Hal Slavkin is one of the world’s leading pioneers in craniofacial development and genetic birth defects. As dean, he encouraged a dynamic research environment noted for its cross-disciplinary collaboration. Among recent examples is the Bisphosphonate-Osteonecrotic Jaw Disease Group, which brought together interests in dentistry, chemistry, physical therapy, medicine, and pharmacy. Numerous collaborations have involved colleagues from the Viterbi School of Engineering, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, Annenberg School of Communication, and the Keck School of Medicine.

Dr. Slavkin promoted USC-wide core facilities for biomedical researchers and scientific partnerships with industry. Student research also won added support, reflected in establishment of the DDS Summer Research Fellows Program and the Student Research Group.

The School of Dentistry has been home to breakthroughs in craniofacial biology, tissue engineering, biomineralization, occupational science, and physical therapy, among other areas, along with profession-changing clinical innovations. The Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology, which Dr. Slavkin helped found in 1989, now is recognized worldwide.

A number of basic, translational, and clinical researchers have earned significant renown during this period. They include:

- ✦ **Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, PhD:** sensory-motor integration, the mirror neuron system, symbolic representation, laterality
- ✦ **Yang Chai, PhD, DDS:** molecular biology of craniofacial development
- ✦ **Casey Chen, PhD, DDS:** genetics and genomic comparison of oral bacteria

- ✦ **Florence Clark, MS, PhD:** development and dysfunction of sensory integration in children, maternal role behavior, acquisition of independent living skills among adolescents with disabilities, health promotion in the elderly, spinal cord injury, and occupational science
- ✦ **Steven Goodman, PhD:** gene expression and genetic regulation of oral bacteria
- ✦ **Tina Jaskoll, PhD/Michael Melnick, PhD, DDS:** genetics and viral causes of abnormal craniofacial tissue development
- ✦ **Janet Moradian-Oldak, PhD:** biochemistry and cellular synthesis of enamel
- ✦ **Songtao Shi, PhD, DDS:** tissue engineering/stem cells to re-grow tissue lost to disease or trauma
- ✦ **Malcolm Snead, PhD, DDS:** molecular, cellular, and genetic approaches to enamel biomimetics
- ✦ **Francisco Valero-Cuevas, PhD:** biomechanics, neuromuscular control, and clinical rehabilitation of complex neuromuscular systems
- ✦ **Carolee Winstein, PhD:** motor control and learning with particular emphasis on movement disorders, recovery, and rehabilitation of function/motor learning after neurological insult

“My early questions led to other questions, which led to additional questions,” Dr. Slavkin said. “Ironically, the questions remain the same, but has the answers change as we get better tools.” As we move forward, our scientists are equipped with the best tools of all: inspiration and curiosity.

► The School of Dentistry ranks in the top quartile among dental schools nationwide in funding from the NIH.

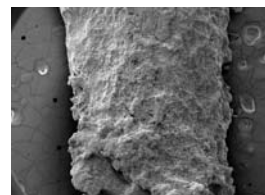


“The legacy of Hal Slavkin provided solid building blocks for the NIDCR today. His work as a research grantee, advisor, Director, and an ambassador for the Institute serve as a valued and critical part of our history.”

Lois K. Cohen, PhD

*Consultant & Paul G. Rogers
Ambassador for Global Health Research*

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**



Center for Biofilms debuts.



Colleagues in Dental Hygiene and the USC Century Club merge into single support organization.



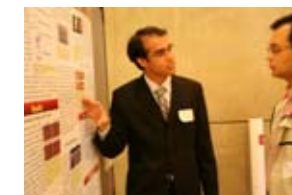
2006

Division of Biokinesiology & Physical Therapy and Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy align with School of Dentistry.



2007

Interdisciplinary collaboration with USC Viterbi and USC College establishes new Minor in Craniofacial and Dental Biotechnology.



First school-wide Research Day showcases work of students and faculty.



Rex Ingraham Second Floor Clinic Renovation Campaign begins.



Masters in Public Health for Dental Hygiene established.



Student Professionalism & Ethics Club forms.

► The School of Dentistry's Advanced Standing Program for International Dentists attracts students from more than 20 countries



INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

The USC School of Dentistry looks beyond our immediate landscape to spark the kind of dialogue that expands the horizons of professional education, clinical practice, and scientific understanding.

While dean, Hal Slavkin encouraged a global exchange of ideas, people, and research. Since 2001, the School has forged memoranda of understanding with more than 20 dental schools and universities around the globe, including China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Russia.

Today, the School attracts more than 300 candidates annually for 32 positions in our two-year DDS program for foreign-educated dentists – a program that began in 1964. Each year, postdoctoral fellows from other countries engage in basic and translational research in the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology. At the same time, our faculty and dental students participate in a variety of educational exchanges, oral health initiatives, and research projects abroad. In addition, our Continuing Education program draws learners from at least 25 nations.

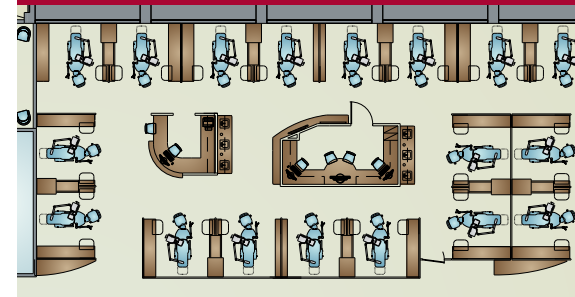
Our dedication to improving health care access isn't limited by geography. In the past few years, dental students and faculty have participated in volunteer missions to Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, and Mexico, among other destinations.

Meanwhile, Lifestyle Redesign® programs developed by our Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy are being adapted to cultures in the United Kingdom, Norway, Georgia, Portugal, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

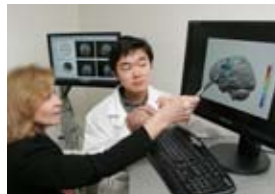
The result is a conversation without borders, giving rise to the best ideas – and increasing the potential for better care, worldwide.

"Dr. Hal Slavkin is profoundly committed to solving oral health access problems, working with great effect at the community, state and national levels. Hal is not just a great leader in our field, he inspires our humanity."

Peter A. DuBois
Executive Director
CDA/CDA FOUNDATION



In 2007, under the leadership of Dr. Harold Slavkin, the USC School of Dentistry launched an initial \$3 million fundraising campaign to replace the equipment in the Rex Ingraham Dental Clinic – located on the 2nd floor of the Norris Dental Science Center. For more than 50 years, this clinic has been the principal training ground for USC's dental community. Currently hosting 152 operatories, the Rex Ingraham Dental Clinic treats more than 10,000 patients annually and serves as the launch pad for more than 170 DDS graduates each summer. Dr. Slavkin's vision to update the clinic will come to fruition in the near future as the School approaches new fundraising objectives and redesigns thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends.



2008

Interdisciplinary collaboration between Biokinesiology & Physical Therapy and the Keck School of Medicine creates Phillips-Fisher Center for Brain Repair and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Hal Slavkin receives William J. Gies Award for lifetime achievement, the highest honor from the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Charles Goldstein Mobile Clinic Endowment Fund launches.

Dr. Hal Slavkin steps down as dean of the School of Dentistry.