



Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

THE CRANIOFACIAL CENTER CHRONICLE



Dr. Mimis Cohen

MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

2015 was another great year for our Craniofacial Center!

More patients were treated last year than ever before. Our patient volume increased by nearly 10% compared to the previous year.

We continue to fulfill our mission and provide our patients with state of the art multidisciplinary care from birth to adulthood. It is a great joy to see a dedicated team of specialist providing the best possible care and to observe our patients grow up and live normal and productive lives.

Our ongoing efforts to improve care and services continued last year. We established a Pediatric Dentistry Program within the Center under the leadership of Drs. da Fonseca and Kratunova from the College of Dentistry at UIC. They and their residents are providing much needed dental consultations for our patients. In addition, our Prenatal Program was expanded and streamlined in cooperation with Dr. Laura DiGiovanni, an expert in Maternal Fetal Medicine in UIC's Department of OB/GYN. Expectant mothers with sonographic diagnoses of clefts and other craniofacial anomalies are given the opportunity to meet with our team, better understand the diagnosis, learn the immediate and long term treatment needs as well as the benefits of team care. We are able to educate the parents prior to their child's birth and ease their minds with the assurance that their infant will be cared for by a team of experienced specialists providing state of the art care.

Hemifacial Microsomia is a complex craniofacial condition affecting both function and appearance. Appropriate care requires a coordinated effort for planning for the multiple and performing the multiple procedures required from birth to achieve habilitation.

Because of the many such patients referred to the Center each year,



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MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR CONTINUED

we have established a new multidisciplinary program under the leadership of Dr. Pravin Patel. We will now be able to address the multiple and complex needs of this very special patient population.

With expanding services come the need for additional skilled personnel. A new prosthodontist, Dr. Nancy Rosenthal has already been hired and will begin working with our prosthetics team in March. An additional speech pathologist will be joining the Craniofacial Center (CFC) team in a few months.

Last year our pediatrician of 25 years, Dr. Maya Shahani retired. Her dedication to our patients' care and the personal support she provided to our patients and their families was recognized in a moving ceremony at the Center. As a token of appreciation the pediatric room in the Center was named for her.



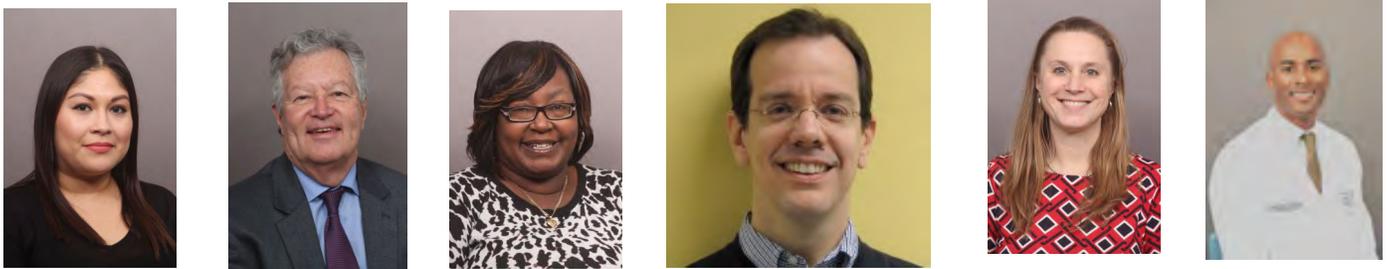
Despite our busy clinical schedules we continue to fulfill our mission of research and education. Many of our team members had research papers published in scientific journals and were invited speakers at related professional conferences. A CFC Research Forum was also established and coordinated by Drs. Patel and Zhao to identify new projects for research, discuss grant opportunities and monitor ongoing projects.

The holiday party sponsored and organized by members of the board and volunteers of Face the Future Foundation was a great success. Over 400 patients and their families were given the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season, have fun and receive presents from our very own Santa, Mike Judge, president of the Foundation.

Thanks to the generous support given to the Center by the Mitzenmachen Trust, plans are under way for a complete renovation of our reception and waiting room area. This project will provide our patients and their families with a truly child-friendly environment. Plans are also underway for renovation of our examining rooms and expansion of our prosthetics lab to expand our digital capabilities and upgrade our current equipment to allow us to further improve our services for our patients.

The great work of the Craniofacial Center is only possible through the generous support of many individuals and groups that share our vision of quality care of all patients. Key among these is the Face The Future Foundation. Their commitment to CFC is the reason we are here today. We want to thank them from the bottom of our hearts!

MEET THE CRANIOFACIAL CENTER'S TEAM MEMBERS



CLEFT ANIMATION PROJECT BY DR. PRAVIN PATEL

Children born with facial clefts have multiple and complex problems that require the need of many specialists and health care professionals. Patients and parents often have little or no understanding of the challenges ahead or how to cope with them. This is especially true for the 75% of our families who are low-income and do not generally have experience with or easy access to information about the complex issues their child faces.

When parents and children meet with their surgeon and supportive treatment team to discuss treatment, the families often come away from the initial consultation with a gap in understanding of the intricate medical journey that lies ahead. Our current educational materials rely on verbal and written information which presents a challenge. Surgery, especially cleft surgery, is very difficult to describe in words. The vocabulary is complex and technical, which presents a significant barrier for many parents whose educational backgrounds did not prepare them for this level of reading and/or for whom English is a second language (over one-third of patients' parents). As for the children, most are unable to read or comprehend this material.

The Cleft Animation Project is meant to bridge this gap through a visual approach. Simple animations can describe the complexities of surgery, thereby reducing fear and anxiety and engaging parents as partners in their child's care. With the Craniofacial Center's patient population being multiracial and multicultural and from a wide range of socio-economic means the availability of these unique visual animation easily crosses language and educational barriers.



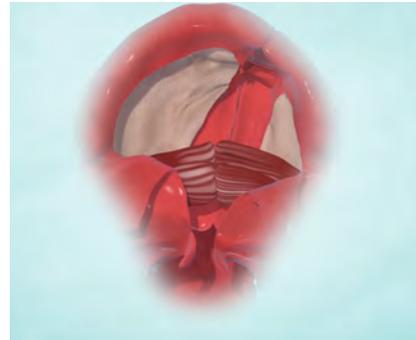
The surgeons and treating professionals at the Craniofacial Center have worked closely with medical artists of UIC's Biomedical Visualization Program to develop a series of 4 different animations: the cleft lip repair, the cleft palate repair, velopharyngeal speech surgery and the cleft alveolar bone graft. These animations, no longer than two minutes each, are designed so that parents and children will easily follow and understand them. Currently, the animation storyboards have been approved along with the initial three-dimensional renderings of various components of the animation. A professional voice has been approved to narrate each of the animations. The animations will be shown at a formal presentation at the 73rd annual meeting of the American Cleft-Palate Craniofacial Association, April 6-9, 2016, Atlanta, Georgia.

Innovative programs like the Biomedical Animation Program address patient and family concerns while facilitating surgical and functional treatment. The program offers a path of understanding to parents and patients who are frightened and unsure about next steps. Putting patients at ease is key to helping them navigate their medical journey because when patients and parents understand what is expected, they are more active participants in their own care. We truly believe that these animations will not only ease the minds of those already committed to their

CLEFT ANIMATION PROJECT CONTINUED

child's treatment but also convince some reluctant parents that this is the best course of action.

We are grateful to the ongoing generous support of philanthropic grants that allow us the ability to develop these innovative educational tools for our children and our parents. We believe as Walt Disney one stated, "Animation can explain whatever the mind of man can conceive....[it] offers a medium of story telling which can bring pleasure and information to people of all ages everywhere in the world."



SONOGRAPHY CONSULTATIONS BY TERRI KAISLING, RN, MBA

When a couple learns they are expecting, a variety of emotions present themselves; from elation to fear. Will my child grow normally? Will everything be okay? Is it a boy or girl? How do I find these things out? Many of these questions can be answered through sonography.

This is an assessment tool that is utilized throughout the pregnancy, as deemed necessary by the physician. Fetal ultrasound is a safe, nonsurgical procedure that provides the doctor and the family with valuable information about the fetus.

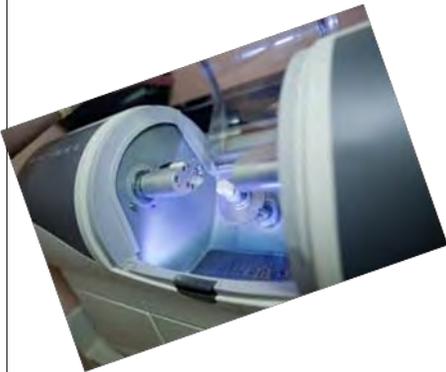
By partnering with the UIC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Dr. Laura DiGiovanni (an expert in fetal diagnosis and the management of pregnancies complicated with high-risk conditions) these sonograms allow for identification of anomalies and an early referral to the Craniofacial Center can be made.

The families gain early access to specialty care, allowing many questions to be addressed prior to the birth and thus decreasing anxiety and stress of the parents. The family, who will soon be delivering an infant with a craniofacial condition such as cleft lip and palate will be better informed and educated about the immediate and long term needs of their infant and about procedures that will be required.

The team at the Craniofacial Center is experienced in the care of infants and children with all types of conditions that cause a facial difference. The information gained through the sonogram is a valuable tool in improving the overall care of the patient.



DIGITAL DENTISTRY BY DR. DAVID REISBERG



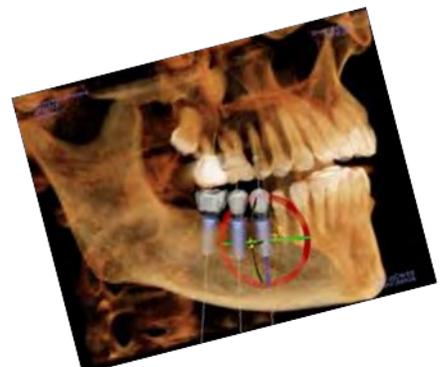
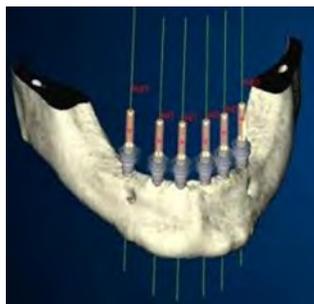
The Craniofacial Center

officially welcomes the digital age to its Maxillofacial Prosthetics Clinic (MXP). For many years, dental implants and porcelain crowns and veneers have been an integral part of the comprehensive care provided to children with cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial conditions. These oral prostheses are used to replace and restore teeth that are either missing at birth or malposed or misshapen. Following orthodontics and surgery our adolescent, teen, and young adult patients are seen in MXP to put the finishing touches on their care; giving them that winning smile.

In the past, we have had to make molds of the mouth and then trust our eyes to match a shade of porcelain to the adjacent natural teeth. Then off to the dental lab to pour plaster into the molds to make models on which we would then construct the porcelain teeth. Then we would recall the patient and try the prostheses in the mouth and spend time adjusting the fit.

Now with oral scanners we can make a virtual impression in seconds by passing a light wand over the teeth of interest. At the same time, the scanner makes a computer recording of the shade of an adjacent natural tooth. Then this digital information is transferred to a computer that is programmed to mill or 3d print a porcelain crown or veneer. We can even use the scanning image to combine with a 3d x-ray to evaluate the jaw bone and place dental implants.

All of this means a more accurate, reliable and lifelike restoration. A better outcome in less time. Now that's progress! Stay tuned as we report on even more exciting developments in MXP in future newsletters.



DENTAL SCREENING NOW OFFERED BY ELIZABETH ELLEVOG

This fall the University of Illinois College of Dentistry pediatric dentists began performing dental screenings for patients in the Craniofacial Center. Often, our patients do not have a pediatric dentist let alone a pediatric dentist with experience in treating patients with craniofacial conditions. This collaboration between The Craniofacial Team and the pediatric dentists allow our patients full access to dental care with specialists, all in a single location. This also provides an opportunity for the College of Dentistry residents to see many rare craniofacial conditions and experience patient care in a team-oriented environment.



FACE THE FUTURE FOUNDATION 2016 HOLIDAY PARTY

The Face the Future Foundation is an organization that The Craniofacial Center could not live without. We are so grateful for all that they do for us. Each December the Face the Future Foundation hosts a holiday party for the patients and their families. Below are pictures of the December 2015 holiday party; another huge success.



The Craniofacial Center

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[http://
hospital.uillinois.edu/
Patient_Care_Services/
Craniofacial_Center.html](http://hospital.uillinois.edu/Patient_Care_Services/Craniofacial_Center.html)



Take a tour of 'The Face the Future' Foundation's website:
[http://
facethefuturefoundation.org/](http://facethefuturefoundation.org/)



AWARDS AND RECONGNITION

- Congratulations to Dr. Mimis Cohen and Dr. Pravin Patel who have been named “Top Doctors 2015” by Castle Connolly. Each was nominated by their peers, evaluated by a physician-led research team and voted on by other “Top Doctors” award recipients across the nation.
- Dr. David Reisberg completed his second term on the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (AAMP) and was elevated to the position of Vice President-elect. He will also be program chair for the AAMP scientific session in 2017 and will be president in 2019.
- Each month, UI Health gives out the CARE award (Communicate, Acknowledge, Respect, and Excel). It is given to employees who demonstrate UI Health's care standards and have gone “above and beyond” to help patients and staff members. Several CFC clinicians were recipients of this award. In September 2015 Terri Kaisling, RN was recognized and in November 2015, Dr. Cohen, Dr. Reisberg, Terri Kaisling, RN and Alma Moya, RN received the CARE Award.



- Dr. Siddharth Mahajan, CFC's research fellow received an award from the UIC College of Medicine for his research this February on “Volumetric Analysis of Alveolar Bone Grafts by CBCT— Replacing Autographs with the Cadaver Bone Grafts.” He collaborated with Drs. David Reisberg, Pravin Patel, David Morris, Linping Zhao, and Yao Duan.

