



Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic

FALL NEWSLETTER 2022

LOMBARDO
PAVILION

RECONNECTION
CREATES
SHARED
SMILES



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NEW SEASONS OF CONNECTION

We are so excited to see our patients and families begin a brand-new school year. We wish all of our school aged children a wonderful and fun start to their learning adventures.

At the Clinic, we are also celebrating a return to in-person learning and collaboration. We are thrilled to welcome new members to our Board of Directors and honored to have had the support of others who have completed their service with us.

In April, our team participated in the first face to face national meeting of the American Cleft Palate Craniofacial-Association in two years, held in Fort Worth, Texas. July brought the return of our travels abroad as the team participated in the International Cleft Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland. We were proud to represent Lancaster and share several research projects that are ongoing at the Clinic. In October, members of our dental team will travel to Dublin, Ireland for a hands-on oral surgery course that is co-sponsored by the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.



Wayne Work, LCPC Board Chair, Dr. Roosevelt Allen, Chief Dental Officer, United Concordia, new LCPC board member, and Dr. Liz Prada, LCPC Executive Director



We look forward to sharing more time with our patients and supporters as well. On Sunday, September 11th, we hosted our first annual Ice Cream Social for team families at Long's Park in Lancaster. October 8th brings the Lititz Chocolate Walk, generously hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Lititz. This has become one of our largest in-person fundraising events of the year, and we are proud to receive support along with other great organizations such as Schreiber Pediatrics, the Manheim Township Public Library and Lititz Public Library. We are also participating again in the ExtraGive, another great fundraiser for hundreds of local charities planned for November 18th, 2022.

It has been a busy end to summer and start of the fall season, but we could not be happier to spend it re-connecting with our patients and colleagues after such a long time communicating "at a distance."

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth K. Prada".

Liz Prada, DMD, MPH
Executive Director and Pediatric Dentist

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CURRENT MEMBERS

- Wayne Work, *Chairman*
- Andrew J. Gordon, *Vice Chairman*
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- Johana Reynoso*
- Thomas D. Samson, MD
- Sarah Wentzel, DMD, MS
- Elizabeth K. Prada, DMD, MPH, *ex officio*

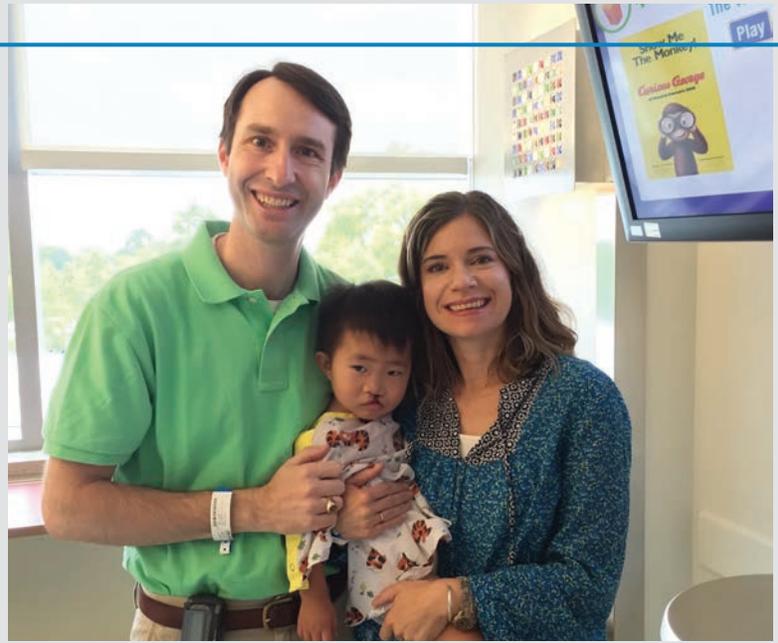
**Incoming Member*

DEPARTING MEMBERS

- Scott Fiore
- Howard L. Kelin, Esq.
- Kae G. Wagner

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICE!**





Connecting in Spite of Distance

FOR THE SAKE OF A SMILE

“You’ve got to go to Lancaster.”

These words were spoken to Jenny and Peet Dickinson by a friend of Jenny’s father, as they researched the best care for their son, Bo.

Bo was adopted from China when he was 21 months old and he had an unrepaired cleft lip and palate, so Jenny and Peet knew they’d need to be proactive in finding excellent care for him.

“My dad is an orthodontist,” Jenny explains. “When we found out about Bo’s cleft lip and palate, my dad started contacting friends and colleagues to help us determine what we should do and where we should go for care. One friend said, ‘You’ve got to go to Lancaster and see Rusty Long.’”

The only problem? The Dickinsons - Peet, Jenny, their 18-year-old and 16-year-old daughters, and Bo - live in South Carolina. But ultimately, the reputations of Dr. Long and Dr. Mackay convinced them to make the trek to Lancaster with Bo. “Dr. Mackay and Dr. Long have so much combined knowledge and expertise and that was the real draw for us!” shares Jenny.

“You could feel the comradery with the team in Lancaster,” says Peet. “We had a comprehensively good experience. Rusty was a consultant to us in the early days and he helped demystify it all.”

Ironically, Dr. Long was a classmate of Jenny’s dad, Dr. James B Macomson. They studied orthodontics together at UNC Chapel Hill. Jenny’s dad attends all of Bo’s appointments.

Bo is now 9 years old and he’s been visiting the Clinic for as long as he can remember. “We brought him home in March 2015 and visited Lancaster that May,” Jenny recounts. “His first surgery was in July and his second surgery



“His favorite part of going to Lancaster is seeing everyone at the Clinic,” Peet says. “He has no anxiety about going, and it’s because of the environment they create. You can tell everyone is on the same team. It’s a peaceful environment.”

was in August. The next summer, he had another palate surgery. His last surgery was in February 2020 for the bone graft. We had the most wonderful experiences in Hershey at the hospital. I can’t think of a single thing to complain about.”

Bo’s situation was a little unique. “At the time we adopted him, about 25% of children from China with cleft lips and palates had had no surgeries,” Jenny says. “The other 75% had had just the lip repaired. It was a little rare to have a child who had had no surgeries done but we were glad that Dr. Mackay could take it from the beginning.”

“They make it fun at the Clinic!” Bo shares. He loves staying in a hotel when they travel there for appointments, exploring Lancaster city, and visiting the market almost as much as he loves playing basketball.

“His favorite part of going to Lancaster is seeing everyone at the Clinic,” Peet says. “He has no anxiety about going, and it’s because of the environment they create. You can tell everyone is on the same team. It’s a peaceful environment.”

“It’s been worth the travel to be treated there,” Jenny agrees. “And having everyone on the team that you see in one day is super helpful – especially for out-of-town patients!”

The legacy and reputation of the Clinic continues to reach beyond Lancaster. Based on the experience that

the Dickinsons had, Jenny’s dad sent one of his more complicated patients to Lancaster. The patient reported a similar positive experience.

From the beginning, the Clinic has made the Dickinsons feel connected and supported, even from hundreds of miles away. The staff is available, helpful, and always willing to answer any questions or address any concerns. “I was worried about feeding before his lip was repaired,” remembers Jenny. “And it was really okay. They have people at the Clinic who specialize in that. There are people to help you with the things you’re nervous about. Having the team is key.”

To other parents whose child has a cleft lip or palate, Peet says, “It’s a long, steady journey in one direction and you have a good team you’re working with. Don’t despair.”

Jenny agrees. “It’s nothing to be afraid of. You’ll have lots of good people helping you.”

Bo remains grateful for all the wonderful experiences he’s had at the Clinic over the years and all of the people there who have helped him. “Thank you!” he says to the Clinic staff. “You’re the best.”

RENOVATING & RECONNECTING

Greetings friends and supporters of the Clinic.
I hope this update finds you and yours well.



I'm pleased to share that the Clinic continues to grow and thrive.

Our new treatment spaces have resulted in expanded specialized services, including speech pathology, feeding and pediatric medicine for even more patients. And also as a direct result, over the last

year we have been able to bring two new general dentists on board (in addition to those several who already periodically donate their services) and a new dental hygienist to grow these services. That's a welcome expansion indeed!

Yet increased services also create a greater financial need.

As you may know, the Clinic relies heavily on supporters of all kinds – individuals, businesses, and foundations – to make up approximately 25% of our \$2 million annual operating budget. The Clinic's policy has always been, and remains, that no patient is ever turned away for an inability to pay for services. To uphold this principle, donations are critical, especially considering that cleft lip/cleft palate corrections typically result in up to 20 years of healing for most patients and cost \$400,000 on average. These procedures and support services are not always covered by patient insurances.

Your personal support can help us help those who turn to our talented team for on-going treatment. If you have not made a gift yet this fiscal year, I urge you to consider doing so. All donations to the Clinic's annual campaign directly cover services for thousands of patients. Simply mail your gift in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter, or contribute online

at www.cleftclinic.org by accessing the ANNUAL GIVING tab at the top menu. We also accept gifts of securities — stocks, bonds or mutual funds — which may create a tax advantage for donors (always check with your accountant or other knowledgeable practitioner). Another possibility includes making a transfer from an IRA account with your Required Minimum Distribution if you have reached age 72 ½. Planned gifts are also welcome to bolster LCPC's endowment for the future.

No matter how you choose to make your gift, please know that your personal support can continue to help us help those who turn to our talented team for on-going, life-altering care. With questions or special requests, please contact me at dfoulk@cleftclinic.org.





A TRULY SWEET TREAT LITITZ CHOCOLATE WALK

On Saturday, October 8, Lititz, Pennsylvania – the “coolest small town” – will become the sweetest!

The annual Lititz Chocolate Walk, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Lititz, boasts over 25 locations and a seemingly endless sampling of delicious chocolatey treats, sure to satisfy even the biggest sweet tooth.

All of the funds raised from ticket sales each year are donated to Lancaster County charities that are children-focused. Again this year, Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic is one of the selected charities, an honor for which we are grateful!

So please help Kiwanis help the Clinic. Tickets may be purchased through their website at www.lititzchocolatewalk.com.

FIRST ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

A little rain did not keep staff and patient families from attending our first annual ice cream social on Sunday, September 11 at 1:00pm. A spirited group gathered under a pavilion at Longs Park in Lancaster in honor of National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness Month. Not only did we enjoy ice cream, but families took part in a few competitive yard games like corn hole toss and ladder golf. It was wonderful seeing families reconnect, meet each other for the first time and share stories about the journey they’ve been on.



A Bicycle for a SMILE

Looking to support the Clinic in a fun way, patient parent Derek DiMedio — proprietor of Hershey Cycles in Chocolate-town — donated a kid’s custom bike several weeks ago. This kind gesture came just in time to help us celebrate National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month in July. We set up a random drawing for team patients with July appointments. Congratulations to the winner, Jasmine Conklin, as she rides along on her new wheels!



Jasmin Conklin, her dad and brother receiving the bike





SOMETIMES THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE TAKES YOU TO UNEXPECTED AND EXCITING PLACES. FOR FOUR OF THE CLINIC'S TEAM MEMBERS, THAT PLACE WAS EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

A REASON TO SMILE

In-Person Conference Provides Education and Reconnection

Ross E. Long, Director Emeritus and Head of Research; Suzanne Woodard, Social Work; Brittany Bilitzo, Speech-Language Pathologist; and Rachel Sharnetzka, Audiologist had the opportunity to board a plane and travel abroad in order to learn, share, and gain insight into the growing research and progress of cleft lip and palate care.

The event they attended was the 14th International Congress on Cleft Lip/Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies (CFA), and anyone in the world involved with treating clefts or CFAs is welcome to attend. It is held every four years. "Theoretically, you're supposed to be a member of a national or regional organization dedicated to the care of individuals with CFA," Rusty says, "but since some developing nations do not have their own organizations, basically anyone can go. We (LCPC) are all members of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA)."

There were over 1,000 participants in attendance, and some tuned in virtually. The value of being surrounded by other like-minded and dedicated professionals can't be overstated. He shares that the conference is LCPC's "main opportunity to participate and learn about what's happening in the field of CFA internationally and maintain visibility on an international scale."

"Attending these conferences helps keep LCPC's name out there," agrees Brittany. "Being able to interact face-to-face with other providers is a way to discuss working together on research studies to continue to offer our patients the best care possible." The congress facilitates collaboration and support from providers around the world all united under common goals. That's why her favorite part of the congress was being surrounded by others who shared her same passions. "Everyone who attends this conference is dedicated to improving care for children with cleft/craniofacial disorders," she says.

"It is always educational and inspiring to see how other cleft teams support and engage their patients as they progress through their cleft care journey," Suzanne adds. "Each cleft center has its unique challenges, yet there are also many similarities regardless of language, culture, and country. We can learn from each other's successes and failures to improve the care we provide to LCPC patients."

LCPC had four papers from the Clinic and the AmeriCleft project which were presented by former residents who conducted their research with Rusty. He attended to support them. He also gave a tribute to Dr. Bill Shaw, his long-time friend and colleague of 30 years, who was responsible for helping him get AmeriCleft started at the Clinic.

Suzanne also shared a presentation at the congress entitled "The Value of Patient Advocacy by the Team Social Worker: A Case Study."

"I was honored to be able to present a poster detailing the cleft journey of one of our patients who is originally from Guatemala," she shares. "He was born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate, and accessing cleft care has been a challenge for his family from the beginning. He had his initial cleft surgeries with local doctors and Operation Smile in Guatemala before coming to Philadelphia when he was six. He was refused care by other cleft teams because he did not have insurance, and eventually found his way to LCPC. We have worked closely with the family to assist them in accessing insurance, scheduling dental and surgical care, and coordinating orthodontic care closer to Philadelphia with the Albert Einstein Medical Center Orthodontic Residency Program."

Suzanne is proud of LCPC's commitment to care for all patients regardless of their ability to pay.



Additionally, the UK presented findings from a major study that is similar to a grant the clinic participates in. "Learning what went well for them as well as their challenges was super helpful," Rusty shares. "Hopefully we can learn from them to better our study," adds Brittany.

In addition to being a time of learning and sharing, the congress was inspiring for the team members of the Clinic. "The degree to which my grandfather's concept of team care has become the worldwide standard for the treatment of patients with facial differences was inspirational," Rusty says. "Younger generations of providers take it for granted, yet many are clueless as to where or how it originated. Many developing nations are still struggling with the same problems Grandpa Cooper faced. We've got a long way to go globally, but congresses like this are critical to establishing team care and improving our outcomes worldwide."

"Attending the conference is very inspiring because you get exposure to experts from various disciplines who travel from all over the world to come together for the International Conference," shares Rachel. "I enjoy seeing how the same teamwork and collaborative spirit extends beyond our own clinic out into the larger world. It is exciting to see many great minds working together to help solve the challenges that can arise when treating patients with cleft lip and palate. It is also a special opportunity to bond with our own teammates outside of the office, which only serves to strengthen our team here at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic."

The 2025 congress will be held in Kyoto, Japan and the following one in 2029 will be in Brisbane, Australia.

VOLUNTEER DOCTORS CREATE A

LEGACY OF SMILES

Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic is a special place for many reasons, not the least of which is our pool of incredible volunteer doctors who give of their time to ensure that our patients keep smiling for years to come.

DR. PETE ROSS AND DR. GARY SELDOMRIDGE ARE TWO OF OUR VOLUNTEER DOCTORS THAT SERVE OUR PATIENTS REGULARLY THROUGH THEIR EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE.

Dr. Ross started his own practice – Lancaster Pediatric Dental Associates – in 1985, and it’s still in existence today though he sold that practice in 2019. He also worked at the Clinic in the 1980s. “That was when it was still located at 24 North Lime Street,” he reminisces. He also served on the LCPC board of directors for a time.

Dr. Seldomridge was also aware of the Clinic at a young age because his father worked across the street from the old office. But as a child, he initially considered architecture as a career. It wasn’t until he took a high school biology class that he realized how much he enjoyed science. That, coupled with some minor orthodontic work he had had done as a fourth grader, got him interested in dentistry. “I was queasy about blood,” he jokes. “So, I thought, ‘I’ll be a dentist – there’s no blood in teeth.’”

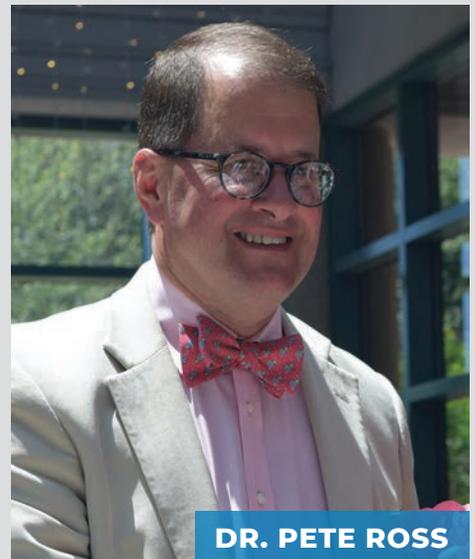
Dr. Seldomridge attended dental school and joined the Navy. One of the Naval officers wanted to help him secure a good job, so after dental school, he was assigned to a hospital which turned out to be a wonderful placement that provided him with a wealth of experience.

“I was the only general dentist there so it was like being in my own practice,” he recounts. “I got to assess each patient and do all the dentistry but I also helped my boss who was an oral and maxillofacial (OMFS) surgeon. He did bone grafting and jaw surgery to repair clefts and I had on the job training. As time went on and I saw what he did for these patients’ lives, I thought, ‘Maybe that’s what I want to do.’”

Following his residency in Jacksonville, Florida, including a cleft missions trip in Mexico, he took a private practice job in Allentown. “At that time, the northeast of PA was managed by Lehigh Valley Cleft Palate Team,” he shares. “One of the kids from Lehigh Valley had a bilateral cleft so I tried to refer him to Ray Fonseca in Philadelphia. He’s one of the top people in the world for repairing clefts. He called me and said he’d come and we could do the surgery together. He showed me exactly how he did it and it was so rewarding for me. I ended up doing all of the cleft bone grafts and jaw surgeries for 25 years until Lehigh Valley Cleft Clinic closed in 2014.”

His involvement with the Lancaster Cleft Clinic began when Lisa Snyder, LCPC Director of Operations, called and asked for his help. “They asked me for a day a month,” he says. “I volunteer two days a week at Union Community Care and I’m trying to help more at the Clinic now.”

Dr. Seldomridge primarily conducts consultations, extractions, and canine exposures. “I don’t do the cleft surgeries,” he explains. “That’s what Dr. Mackay’s group does for the Lancaster team.”



DR. PETE ROSS

Pediatric Dentist

Dr. Ross acknowledged that the Clinic had its financial ups and downs over the years, “but then Liz Prada came along,” he says. “She, along with supporters, successfully raised a \$4.5 million equity campaign, restructured, and reorganized the whole place.” Dr. Ross retired from his own practice, but when Dr. Prada shared with him that the Clinic had a hospital list that extended to the end of the year, he volunteered to help.



DR. GARY SELDOMRIDGE

Oral Surgeon

“I am at her beck and call!”

Dr. Ross says. “I see the hospital cases now – complex medical problems managed in a hospital setting with other healthcare providers. That’s what I like to do.”

Dr. Ross helps once or twice a week, depending on the needs of the Clinic. “I’ll help for as long as I’m doing some good,” he promises.

Helping other people is second nature to Dr. Ross. He has treated kids and adults with special needs for most of his career. “They have special meaning to me,” he shares. “It paid me in such dividends that no money could buy. I could do things for them that they couldn’t find anywhere else.”

He’s treated kids with complex congenital heart problems, skin problems, kidney problems, and cancer. “I’ve treated kids in the hemophilia center in Hershey,” he shares. “Back when AIDS was blowing up, I had the biggest collection of kids with AIDS in Pennsylvania – I had eight kids come to my practice.”

Now, despite being retired from his own practice, he is able to continue helping others. “It challenges me to use all of my faculties to provide safe and effective care for these kids,” he says.

Dr. Seldomridge and Dr. Ross believe wholeheartedly in the work that the Clinic is doing, the lives it is changing, and the smiles it is creating.

“Everyone is very nice at the Clinic,” says Dr. Seldomridge. “There’s comradery. And it’s very rewarding. That’s why you go into healthcare – to help people.”

“The Clinic is a Lancaster treasure!” Dr. Ross says. “It needs to be supported.”

We are so grateful for the incredible care that our patients receive through the selfless service of volunteer doctors like Dr. Ross and Dr. Seldomridge!

Welcome NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM



CRIS ESPINOSA, General
and OR Dental Assistant



SHALIMAR LEBRON-COLON
Patient Care Coordinator



EVELYN PICHARDO-BUENO
Expanded Function
Dental Assistant



JAHAIRA VERA
Ortho Technician,
Pediatric Dental Assistant

KIM MCDEVITT
Dental Hygienist/RDH



RECONNECTION
CREATES
SHARED
SMILES

SCHOOL DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN
WE ARE SO PROUD OF EVERY
MILESTONE OUR PATIENTS ACHIEVE.

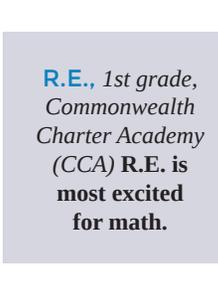
This year, we're cheering on our patients who are returning to school, and we share their excitement for all the things they will learn and accomplish!



Abigail, preschool, Children's Center in Hershey Abigail is most excited about making new friends and learning new signs.



Cheyenne, 4th grade, homeschool Cheyenne is most excited for science, trips to the pumpkin patch, and hunting.



R.E., 1st grade, Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) R.E. is most excited for math.



Ella, 1st grade, Fritz Elementary Ella is most excited to learn and meet new friends.



Kaiden, 4th grade, North Hills Elementary Kaiden is most excited to be in the intermediate school and with his best friend and cousin.



Marshall, kindergarten, Palmyra Area School District Marshall is most excited to learn how to read.



EXTRA
GIVE



A CALL FOR
YOUR SUPPORT



This year, we are once again participating in the ExtraGive!

Friday, November 18, 2022
from midnight to 11:59 p.m.

Join the community-wide excitement by supporting the Clinic with an online donation at www.extragive.org/organizations/lancaster-cleft-palate-clinic

Your gift makes a direct impact on the health and welfare of our thousands of patients and their families!

Clinic Corporate Sponsors

