

Welcome the new Cluster Hire Faculty in the School of Dental Medicine

By Karla Perelstine, M.Ed.



Dr. Mariana Bezamat
Hire Date: December 1, 2021

Dr. Mariana Bezamat, a trained dentist is a Postdoctoral Fellow with appointments in both the School of Medicine and the School of Dental Medicine. She earned her DDS at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and PhD at the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently working on a project that focuses on individuals who were diagnosed with cancer and treated at the School of Dental Medicine, looking at the relationship between cancer, genetics and oral health.

Dr. Bezamat says that her journey with the University of Pittsburgh has been great. Being hired as Pitt faculty with the Oral and Craniofacial Sciences Department has been truly an honor to her. It has allowed her to continue her research into the alterations in the periodontal complex of patients diagnosed with cancer as well as the chronology and frequency of oral conditions and cancer diagnosis.



Dr. Renato Silva
Hire Date: January 1, 2022

Dr. Renato Silva serves as the Department Chair in the Department of Endodontics in the School of Medicine as well as interim graduate program director. Having received his DDS from the University Gama Filho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and his MS in Endodontics as well as PhD in Oral Sciences from University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Dr. Silva has an international reputation as a clinician-scientist. Dr. Silva is no stranger to the University of Pittsburgh, as he completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Human Molecular Genetics at Pitt. Dr. Silva's research aims to propose more effective treatments to prevent bone loss associated with root canal infections. As part of the hiring cluster at Pitt, Dr. Silva wishes to expand interdisciplinary collaborations as well as future interaction with different schools.



Dr. Ana Rodriguez
Hire Date: January 17, 2022

Dr. Ana Rodriguez serves as a faculty member within the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Born in Camaguey, Cuba, she immigrated to the United States as a young adult. She completed a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Biology, at Florida International University and attended University of California San Francisco School of Dentistry where she obtained a Doctor in Dental Surgery degree. She completed a residency in Pediatric Dentistry at the New York University College of Dentistry.

Dr. Rodriguez says that the training and career experiences she has had have provided a broad exposure to the field of pediatric dentistry and familiarized her with issues related to access to care and its implications on pediatric populations. Her research focuses on evaluating the quality of life for patients needing to wait a prolonged period of time for necessary dental treatment. Dr. Rodriguez hopes to impart her clinical experiences and research to students and help develop their interest and appreciation for the field of pediatric dentistry.



Dr. Wellington Rody Jr.
Hire Date: February 1, 2022

Dr. Wellington Rody is the Chair of the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He is proud to call himself a translational scientist whereby he has a master's degree in oral biology and many years of experience in clinical orthodontics. Dr. Rody's research group has recently concluded a NIH-sponsored study that aimed to identify biomarkers of tissue destruction in individuals affected by a less common form of periodontal (gum) disease that mainly affects children of African descent. In addition, Dr. Rody is heavily involved in the overall clinical training and didactic education of dental students and orthodontic residents. Having lived and worked in three different countries: Brazil, Canada and the United States, Dr. Rody believes his diverse background and academic experiences will serve to build on the department's existing clinical and research strengths while also providing an inspiring work environment that fosters collaboration, inclusion, and innovation.