The HISTORY OF ORAL SURGERY

at The Ohio State University

by

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The Section on Oral Surgery, College of Dentistry and the Oral Surgery Service and the Clinical Division of Dentistry in University Hospital at The Ohio State University originated and developed as parts of the College of Dentistry, College of Medicine, and the University Hospital. Earlier medical colleges had developed, merged, and eventually the present structure evolved.

From 1836 through 1946 the Willoughby Medical College functioned in Willoughby, Ohio. The Willoughby Medical College closed in 1847 as the Starling Medical College in Columbus, Ohio. From 1870 through 1892 the Columbus Medical College operated in Columbus, Ohio. The Starling Medical College, initiated in 1847, merged in 1907 with the Columbus Medical College forming the Starling-Ohio Medical College. Coincident with these developments, steps were initiated in 1899 for incorporation of The Ohio Medical University, located at Park Street and Goodale Avenue, stating "...the purpose for which said corporation is formed is the originating, conducting, and maintaining a medical university consisting of a School of Medicine, a School of Dentistry, a School for Midwifery, a Training School for Nurses, and...conferring upon such persons as are qualified the degrees of Doctor of Medicine, the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery, the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy, the degree of Bachelor of Science, the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, and the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery..." This is the first evidence of formal academic dental education in Ohio.

Many changes were taking place during these years. The state legislature granted in 1818 to The Ohio State University the right to establish "Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry." In 1814 the Starling-Ohio Medical University joined with The Ohio State University and a College of Dentistry was started. During the following years dental faculty were on the staff at University Hospital, The Ohio State University, but there was no formal hospital dental service until July 1, 1935.

There is some confusion about names for early dental administrators. A. F. Emminger, D.D.S., was a Trustee of The Ohio Medical University 1843-1845. According to most historical accounts of the Ohio Medical University, Dr. Emminger was the first Dean of Dentistry, 1842-1895. The Deans of the School of Dentistry and of the College of Dentistry at The Ohio State University were all instructors in Dentistry and the delivery of oral surgery to dental students, and were members of the staff of the Associated Hospital. These included Dr. A. F. Emminger, D.D.S., 1843-1895; Dean A. C. Ross, M.D., D.D.S., 1895-1897; Dean Otto Arnold, D.D.S., 1897-1901; Dean L. P. Bexeth, M.D., L.B., 1901-1907; Dean Harry Seaman, D.D.S., 1906-1938; Dean Wendell Postle, D.D.S., 1938-1965; Dean John A. Wilson, D.D.S., 1965-1974; Acting Dean William R. Wallace, D.D.S., 1974-1975; Dean Charles Howell, D.D.S., 1975 to present.

The Ohio State University
The College of Dentistry and The College of Medicine

In 1914 the Starling-Ohio Medical College and University joined with The Ohio State University to form a School of Dentistry and for Medicine, names were changed from schools to colleges, and each college was designated as a University Department. Actually, a bill was passed in the Ohio State Assembly in 1914 that limited the right by the Ohio State University to establish in 1913 "Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry..." Dr. Seaman remained Dean of the College of Dentistry until 1935-1936, Wendell Postle, D.D.S., held an appointment as Instructor in Oral Surgery and was appointed Dean of the College of Dentistry in 1936 and served as Dean until 1963. A. O. Ross, M.D. D.D.S., second Dean of the College of Dentistry also was first Professor of Oral Surgery 1937-1938, W. J. Means, A.M., M.D., was Professor of Oral Surgery 1950-1953. In 1953, John W. Means, A.M., M.D., was Professor and Lecturer in Oral Surgery 1951-1953 and Assistant Professor in Oral Surgery 1953-1956. Dr. Means later practiced his general surgery.

Morgan L. Allison, D.D.S., named Associate Professor and Chairman of the Section of Oral Surgery and Anesthesia, College of Dentistry and Chief of Oral Surgery, University Hospital on July 1, 1953. Also, on this date a Clinical Division of Dentistry and a Section of Oral Surgery were established in University Hospital and Associate Dean Hamilton B.G. Robinson, D.D.S., was named Chairman of the Clinical Division of Dentistry, University Hospitals. Also, July 1, 1953 a three year oral surgery graduate training program was initiated in University Hospital and a Graduate Academic Program for Oral Surgery was approved by the Graduate School, The Ohio State University. In 1957, Dr. Allison was appointed Professor and Chairman of Oral Surgery and in 1959 Dr. Allison was appointed Regents Professor. In 1971 he was made Director of Clinical Division of Dentistry for the University Hospitals. Dr. Allison also was appointed Chairman of the new autonomous Section of Anesthesiology, College of Dentistry and Director of Continuing Dental Education in 1971.

Dr. D. P. Snyder, Chairman of Oral Surgery from 1927 to 1953.

Dick P. Snyder, D.D.S., was appointed Instructor to the faculty of the College of Dentistry in 1913 and taught local anesthesia and exodontia from 1916 to 1953. He was Professor and Chairman of Oral Surgery and Anesthesia in the College of Dentistry from 1927 to 1953 and Dr. Snyder was Senior Dental Surgeon at University Hospital during these years. In 1953 Dr. Snyder initiated a mixed dental internship at the College of Dentistry, half time in Oral Surgery and half time in prosthodontics. Two interns were selected each year and the program continued through 1973.

Dr. Bill Wallace, Chairman of Oral Surgery from 1931 to the present.

Dr. Orville Russell became full time Professor in Oral Surgery in 1971 after previously serving half time in Anatomy and half time in Oral Surgery. Dr. Rous held a Chair in Undergraduate Oral Surgery. He was later promoted to the rank of Full Professor. The Section of Oral Surgery was reassigned to the College of Medicine in 1974.

In 1978, Dr. Gary R. Rausch was appointed Associate Professor in Oral Surgery and is full time on our faculty. He was the Dean of the Graduate Training Program in Oral Surgery until 1980. Dr. Rausch holds a D.D.S., Ph.D., (Pharmacology) was appointed Associate Professor in Anesthesiology and Pharmacology and Director of Hospital Dental Service for Dental students. Dr. Weaver is full time with us in Oral Surgery.

In 1977 sixty two dentists have completed the three year oral surgery training program; thirty seven of these are Diplomates of the American Board of Oral Surgery and fifty are members of the American Society of Oral Surgeons. There are currently nine dentists in the Graduate Oral Surgery Residency Training Program, also referred to as Post D.O.S. Training in Oral Surgery.

There are many members on our faculty in Oral Surgery with a variety of educational backgrounds and different hospital oral surgery training. Five are full time and ten are part time. Teaching includes includes physiology, pharmacology, anatomy of Medicine and Dentistry. In M.D., D.D.S., second Dean of the College of Dentistry also was first Professor of Oral Surgery 1937-1938, W. J. Means, A.M., M.D., was Professor of Oral Surgery 1950-1953. In 1953, John W. Means, A.M., M.D., was Professor and Lecturer in Oral Surgery 1951-1953 and Assistant Professor in Oral Surgery 1953-1956. Dr. Means later practiced his general surgery.

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EDITORS NOTE: This paper was researched and published in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Oral Surgery Residency Program at The Ohio State University.

A man with his work... Dr. Morgan L. Allison, Chairman of Oral Surgery 1953 to 1971.