



Bringing

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# Enhancing Our Impact

We aspire to be the most student-centric faculty of dentistry in Canada, with graduates who are future-ready leaders. We will achieve this through exceptional educational and clinical experiences, with the best facilities and latest technologies. We will strive to be inclusive and provide students with opportunities to work with and learn from patients from a wide range of lived experiences. And we will offer the support students need—whether academic, professional or financial.

## 1. Simulation Lab expansion —\$3M

Our Simulation Lab is an essential focal point for pre-clinical and continuing education, offering students and alumni a bright modern space where they can practise and upgrade their skills. Having quickly outgrown our existing facility, we will expand this state-of-the-art lab to ensure that members of our dental community have access to the space and technology they need to develop and hone their skills.

## 2. Improving clinical experiences — \$1.6M

A key part of our students' exceptional education is the clinical work they start in their very first year. Working with simulated and real patients, students develop their skills in our labs and clinics under the guidance of our skilled faculty. Campaign funding will help make this

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# Where hands-on experience meets community impact

**Mya Haidar** (BScK'22) always had an interest in dentistry. Growing up she loved helping out in her mother Dr. Nada Haidar's (BSc'93, DDS'97) dental office. But it was when she travelled to other countries on service visits—including one with her mother to Honduras—that Mya decided she was going to become a dentist.

“Standing there next to the dentist and being able to assist as much as I could—having that hands-on experience was when I really decided this was the end goal for me,” Mya says.

When the pandemic prevented further trips abroad, Mya looked for ways to volunteer closer to home. Responding to a posting for volunteers for the North End Community Health Centre Dental Clinic, Mya and her mother signed up for a shift. They loved it so much they returned every week after.

Now in her second year of dentistry at Dalhousie University, Mya is broadening her hands-on learning experiences in the classroom, the lab and occasionally in the dental clinics assisting upper classmates.

Thanks to her pre-clinical trrlauul #Lang (en-US)/MCID 178 BDC BT0 0 0 10 49.5 430.1961 Tm[2er mo)20 (theskETic)41nicoca-6 (l)26n.5 (ho)fi5 (-11 (a) (t)2.her pr)4.1 (e) (ng f)5lr(a)4.t (ar 12 (f)26orkETicD 1moad,)5.113.5 (atis)72 (c (al tr)i(t)4.5 (c.5 (s.( )w)11.5



### 3. Digital dentistry — \$0.5M

Advances in digital dentistry are helping us reach beyond what is possible with traditional methods, allowing for faster, less invasive and more precise techniques. To ensure that our faculty and students are leaders in using and developing these evolving technologies, we will significantly expand our digital capacity, improving teaching and clinical treatments, and creating new opportunities for research and innovation. Enhancements will include hand-held intra-oral scanners, intra-oral cameras, new 3D capabilities, direct radiographic sensors, a digital probe system, radiology equipment and upgrades, and digital tools for restoration and prostheses fabrication.

### 4. Recruiting and mentoring equity-deserving students — \$0.5M

A recruitment and mentorship program aimed at high school and university students from equity-deserving groups will encourage and support aspiring dentists and dental hygienists. The program will include entrance bursaries/scholarships, oral health camps for Indigenous, African Nova Scotian and Francophone students, and a new community engagement and outreach staff position.

### 5. Student research — \$50K

New studentships will provide valuable research experience and enhance evidence-based practices, while providing student employment and increasing the Faculty's research capacity. Students will research such areas as oral cancer, biomaterials, improving health outcomes and population oral health.



**THE VERY BEST DENTAL EDUCATION ... INCLUDES WORKING FROM THE START WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY.**

— DR. THORA HUNTER

#### Where generosity meets innovation

Dr. Thora Hunter (DDS'05) is a long-time supporter of Dalhousie Dentistry, most recently focusing on digital dentistry.

"Digital dentistry is becoming more and more significant in our practices. It increases precision and accuracy, and can improve accessibility and create comfort for our patients. Like many of my peers, I am introducing more digital in my own clinic.

"I feel very strongly that the education I received at Dalhousie prepared me extremely well for private practice. That is why it is so important to me that I support the Faculty of Dentistry.

"As a proud Dal Dentistry alum, I want to help students access the very best dental education, which includes working from the start with the latest technology. Practising dentists need grads with experience and confidence to work



### 1. Biomaterials research — \$5M

Biomaterials are revolutionizing the way we treat diseases and can lead to more effective and affordable health care. Dentistry's interdisciplinary biomaterials team is a leader in this progressive field, advancing research into real-life solutions that are changing the face of health as we know it. We envision creating a space where biomaterials researchers, clinicians, students and partners can develop innovative, next-generation technologies and devices that address patient-centred health-care needs. This campaign will fund a chair in translational research, a training program, biomaterials research projects, and lab renovations and equipment.

### 2. Oral cancer research — \$1.3M

Oral cancers pose a major public health challenge, particularly in Atlantic Canada. Our researchers are working to improve early detection and management of oral cancers. We are uniquely positioned to be leaders in this field and coordinate interdisciplinary regional and national strategies. The **Bringing Worlds Together** campaign will fund lab equipment, research assistant and postdoctoral fellow positions, and a new graduate student training and awards program.

### 3. Oral health research for priority populations — \$1M

Good oral health is critical for good overall health, yet many people encounter significant disparities in oral health care. Research can help us improve care and access for priority populations who face these disparities, including Indigenous and African Nova Scotian people and communities, the frail elderly, people with special needs, and those affected by equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility considerations. We will expand our research in this field to improve evidence-based care. Funding will allow us to conduct targeted research projects at our outreach clinics and create new research positions for postdoctoral fellows, research associates, research assistants and graduate students.



**AT DALHOUSIE, WE HAVE  
THE EXPERTISE TO LEAD  
RESEARCH WITH THE  
POTENTIAL TO TRULY**



## **1. Community engagement and outreach — \$2.4M**

With campaign support, we will expand our community outreach and partnerships, strengthening their sustainability and creating opportunities to provide oral health care to more patients in need. We will create new chair and coordinator positions and increase research funding in community engagement and outreach. These opportunities will help us attract leaders in this field, increase the number of patients from high-risk groups who are able to receive clinical care, facilitate population health research and better promote oral health initiatives. We will enhance services with a new patient navigator at our clinic for immigrants and refugees and improve electronic records capabilities in the North End Community Health Centre Dental Clinic. Accessible equipment for patient transfers will allow for safer care for patients of all abilities. And funding for a new Dental Hygiene Public Health (DHPH) group and student-led oral health promotion initiatives will help our students help our communities even more.

## **2. Adult Special Needs and Paediatrics program — \$3M**

There is a shortage of facilities where dental treatment can be carried out under sedation for adults with severe disabilities and special needs, and for paediatric patients. With generous donor funding, we recently established two surgical suites that are specially equipped to deliver care under deep

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