

Forsyth

Discovery+Innovation+Wellness

FORSYTH'S OBJECTIVE is to lead the discovery, communication and application of breakthroughs in oral health and disease prevention that will significantly improve the health and well-being of our nation and the world.

OVERVIEW

Originally named The Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children, Forsyth, founded in 1910, focused primarily on the oral health needs of Boston's disadvantaged children. Forsyth embarked on its first scientific research program in the early 1930's, and in the 1950's was a pioneer in discovering the first connections between dental decay and fluoride, nutrition and bacteria. As a result of these important discoveries, the dental profession was inspired to examine the scientific basis for oral disease.

With the realization that the need for dental care far exceeded Forsyth's capacity, the organization expanded its mission in the 1960s to include scientific research. In 1996 Forsyth changed its mission to reflect its commitment to research. Today, Forsyth is dedicated to advancing human health and well-being through scientific discovery, investigation, education, and public health outreach programming.

SELECTED AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Oral-Systemic Disease Connections—unlocking the relationships between the mouth and the body including linkages to heart disease, stroke and diabetes.
- Minimally Invasive Diagnostics/Treatments—using saliva to diagnose diseases such as oral cancer, diabetes and gum disease.
- Regenerative Medicine—with the potential to repair the effects of cancer, birth defects and injury.
- Immunology—this includes work to develop vaccines to prevent diseases such as tooth decay and tuberculosis.
- Skeletal Biology/Biomineralization—looking at the causes and potential treatments for bone loss.
- Other areas include: molecular microbiology; patient-oriented research; education and oral health prevention.

FACULTY AND AFFILIATIONS

Currently, 34 principal investigators, each of whom has at least one doctorate-level degree and substantial research experience, are members of the Forsyth staff. Forsyth, an independent organization, is affiliated with Harvard University and has collaborations with university and corporations around the world. Forsyth global connections range from broad new prevention and education initiatives in Latin America to a longstanding clinical program for children in Kuwait, from research connections with colleagues in every corner of the world, to our Scientific Scholars program, which offers opportunities for very promising high school students from the Boston Public Schools to work in Forsyth laboratories under the mentorship of our senior scientists.