



Bringing
WORLD
Together



Dalhousie's campaign for transformational change

Making the world brighter, one smile at a time

For over 100 years, Dalhousie University's Faculty of Dentistry has been a leader in Canadian dental education. We are proud to be at the forefront of the latest innovations in curriculum, clinical practice and technology.

Dalhousie Dentistry is the only dental school in Atlantic Canada. Students from around our region and beyond are attracted to our outstanding dentistry, dental hygiene, and specialty programs like oral surgery and periodontics. We're known for small class sizes and extensive community outreach programs that accelerate and enrich our students' education. Our ultra-modern clinic and exceptional clinical training enable us to provide comprehensive care to patients in our community.

Oral health is a critical component of overall health, and we work every day to improve access to quality oral health care for all. By offering outstanding evidence-based learning and clinical experiences grounded in a culture of care for our diverse communities, our students become knowledgeable and compassionate dentists, dental hygienists and specialists who are ready to lead in their professions. Our efforts are fuelled by innovation, vital research and interprofessional collaboration.

This campaign will see investment in resources and opportunities that help our students flourish as highly competent, culturally aware and collaborative health professionals dedicated to providing exceptional care. It will enable our talented researchers to deliver health outcomes that matter, here and around the world. It will encourage more diversity within our professions and expand our outreach, so we can have an even greater impact on our communities and the vulnerable populations we serve.



Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders

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1. Simulation Lab expansion — \$3M
2. Improving clinical experiences — \$1.6M
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2. Adult Special Needs and Pediatrics program — \$3M
3. Dentistry Building entrance/lobby renovation — \$1.5M

Enhancing Our Impact

Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders

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 hands-on experience even better for our learners.

- **Expanded clinical outreach to vulnerable populations** — Our outreach clinics help those who lack access to oral health care. Students assess and treat patients from diverse backgrounds

and see a wide range of oral and public health concerns. These clinics help our students achieve a depth of learning, practice and cultural awareness that is second-to-none. We will enhance and expand our outreach programs serving new immigrants and refugees, at-risk youth, Indigenous communities, rural communities and remote international locations.

- **Interprofessional clinics** — Interprofessional interactions help all students better understand the important link between oral health and overall health. They also show the value of providing holistic care. Funding for new equipment and faculty supervision will create more opportunities for our students to collaborate with other health professions at the Nova Scotia Health Newcomers' Clinic and the NS Cancer Care Centre in Halifax.
- **Student clinic supports** — Funding administrative supports in the clinics will allow students to focus their clinic time on learning, rather than on booking appointments and managing clinic calendars and resources.



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 training, Mya is gaining the skills and confidence to start working more directly with patients in Dal's outreach clinics for underserved populations. There, she will start with tasks like patient cleanings and screenings so that their appointments with upper-year dental students are more focused and efficient.

“Everyone's oral health is important, but it is neglected a lot of the time,” says Mya. “These clinics provide such a valuable service for people who might have limited means or access. And along with giving us students excellent hands-on experience, the clinics also give us an appreciation that everybody is the same and should have access to exceptional, kind treatment.

“The people who come in are so lovely and very understanding and patient — they are always willing to help the students learn,” she adds. “It's truly inspiring and encouraging for us as learners.”

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— MYA HAIDAR

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 with these evolving digital dentistry tools. We want new dentists, hygienists and dental assistants who can bring that knowledge to our offices and lead us to an exciting future with great potential to improve oral health care for everyone.”

Engaging in High-Impact Research

Faculty of Dentistry researchers work collaboratively with our partners, taking bold steps to address gaps and opportunities that affect health regionally and nationally. Growing our research capacity will enrich training for our students and have a positive impact on health outcomes in our communities and across Canada.

1. Biomaterials research — \$5M

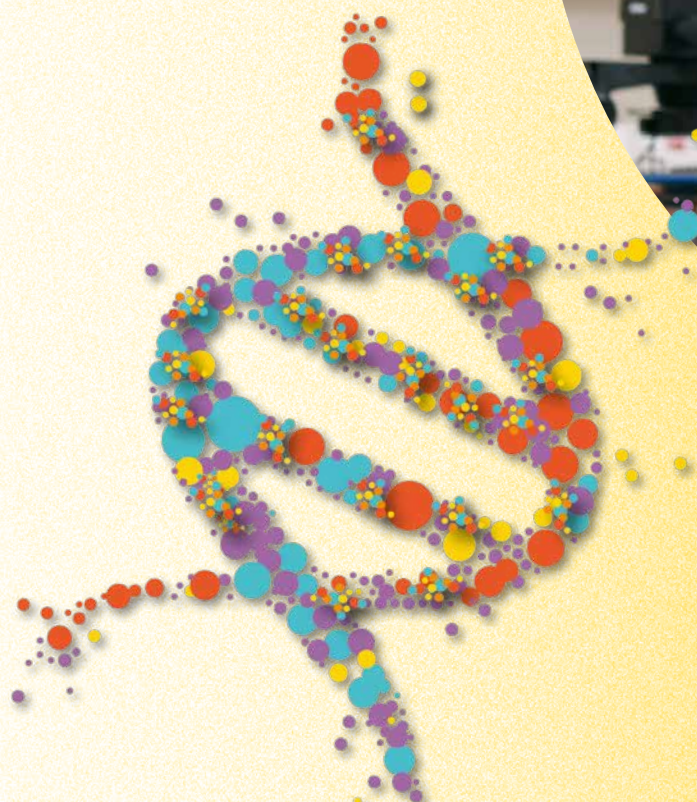
Biomaterials are revolutionizing the way we treat diseases and can lead to more effective and affordable health care. Dentistry's interdisciplinary biomaterials team is a leader in this progressive field, advancing research into real-life solutions that are changing the face of health as we know it. 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 CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

— DR. LEIGHA ROCK

Where research meets hope

Dr. Leigha Rock, Director of the School of Dental Hygiene, aims to better predict a person's risk of developing oral cancer through her research. This work could lead to "personalized" therapies. She's also exploring how a common diabetes drug may prevent oral cancer.

"Outcomes for oral cancer can be very grave — even for survivors as it affects things like facial appearance, speaking and eating. And it's far more common than people realize, especially in Atlantic Canada.

"At Dalhousie, we have the expertise to lead research with the potential to truly change people's lives and bring hope to patients living with this insidious disease."

Lifting Our Communities

The Dalhousie Dental Clinic and our many outreach programs provide exceptional dental care to thousands of patients each year, including many from vulnerable populations who would otherwise not have access to these services. Our outreach programs truly lift our communities by providing excellent care where it is needed most, while also helping students gain clinical skills and develop compassion and cultural competencies.

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

sedation or general anesthesia. These facilities have the potential to treat up to 1,000 patients per year from these underserved populations. Campaign funding will allow us to operate and hire dedicated staff — such as a nurse, patient navigator and dental assistant — for this important program.

3. Dentistry Building entrance/ lobby renovation — \$1.5M

This area will be renovated to improve comfort, safety and accessibility for all patients. It will provide a welcoming waiting area for our dental hospital and a vibrant communal space.



IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH DALHOUSIE AND OBSERVE FIRST-HAND THEIR COMMITMENT TO FURTHERING SOCIAL EQUITY.

— SUSAN KEATING-BEKKERS

Where accessibility meets oral health care

Susan Keating-Bekkers (DDH'91) is a dental hygienist, a past Dalhousie faculty member, a clinic volunteer and a community outreach donor. She supports the Faculty's efforts to make outstanding oral health care accessible to disadvantaged populations.

"The Faculty of Dentistry outreach clinics have a positive impact for all involved. The students are able to master their clinical skills and gain valuable experience that will serve them in their future practices. Simultaneously, the students offer life-changing treatment to individuals who face considerable barriers in accessing oral health care in our local communities. It has been a pleasure to work with Dalhousie and observe first-hand their commitment to furthering social equity and the positive outcomes of their initiatives."

Healthy smiles mean healthy communities

Enriching education and empowering students to be leaders in their communities, removing barriers to oral health care for vulnerable populations, improving health outcomes through groundbreaking research — there are many ways that the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry is working to create a brighter future.

Our goals are ambitious, but achieving them is within our reach, with your help.

Together we can prepare our students to be highly skilled and compassionate professionals. We can foster an atmosphere where research thrives. We can serve our regional and local communities and promote health, wellness, diversity and continuous learning.

You can help us provide healthy smiles and brighter futures. To find out how, please contact us.

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