



# *Fast Forward*

*a college update from A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Dean, UF College of Dentistry*



To: UF College of Dentistry,

I am pleased to launch the first edition of a new, brief communication “Fast Forward.” Fast Forward is intended to quickly inform you about what is happening – our successes, challenges and changes -- and hopefully to engage you in shaping the future of the college, together, in the coming months and years. I will share with you the many exciting things happening throughout our school, campus, profession and beyond, and give you a sense of my vision for our collective future. I have been so impressed with the talents of the faculty, staff, residents and students. My goal is to spark the creativity of this talented group so that we can create new and unique solutions and opportunities in dental education, research and service.

### **Florida Dental Convention**

On June 11-13, I enjoyed attending my first Florida Dental Convention. The college traditionally hosts meetings for the Academy of Alumni & Friends Board of Directors, Class Leaders and the Development Advisory Board, and this year was no exception. I had the opportunity to provide an update on the college’s accomplishments and strengths during this meeting which was followed by a small group activity to generate feedback from our alumni and friends that I will use in the coming months in setting strategic priorities. Friday night the college hosted the Annual Gator Dentist Reception for alumni and friends. Our reception was extremely well attended and gave me more time to make new acquaintances. I also visited briefly our 1980 and 1995 class reunions, including quite a few of our faculty. While in Orlando, I also attended the Florida Dental Association Luncheon, and addressed the House of Delegates along with the dental deans from Nova and LECOM.

### **Clinical/Business Operations Action Team**

In late April, I asked Dr. Carol Stewart to chair a new group – the Clinical/Business Operations Action Team and they

launched their first meeting in early May. The team consists of a small group of faculty and staff who are following up on action items resulting from an axiUm consultant’s visit in March, executing the recommendations and ensuring that reporting for accreditation from the clinical management system was in order. The team is also examining, cross-cutting clinical and business operations in the clinical enterprise. Much has already been accomplished including finalization of reports for accreditation on patient visits, first time competency pass rates, procedures completed by DMD students, demographic profiles of DMD patients, special needs patient experiences in the DMD program, and the patient progression audit. Recall reminder letters are now being generated and sent routinely as well. Next, the team will utilize the consultant’s recommendations to implement a global check-in process, followed by other improvements related to both the clinical and educational missions.

### **axiUm Upgrade**

Along these same lines, in late September we will host another axiUm consultant site visit. The primary focus will be on clinical and business process improvements in Faculty Practice and the Business Office. In December, an axiUm consultant along with an axiUm trainer will help us prepare for a major upgrade to the software package planned for January 2016.

These are just a few of the efforts that are ongoing as we creatively solve problems and implement change. Next week’s Fast Forward will take a look at some of the exciting things going on in other areas of our mission. Have a great week!

Kind regards,  
Dean Isabel Garcia

June 17, 2015