Leading the way.

Innovation in oral health care, research, and education at Eastman Institute for Oral Health
The Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) has internationally recognized dental residency programs, robust clinical services in all dental specialties, and vibrant oral biology research that is highly ranked in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) rankings.

Community-focused, inclusive care.

At EIOH, we are national leaders in community outreach dentistry, treating those who face overwhelming economic, social, and cultural barriers to care and who cannot find treatment elsewhere.

Patients with special needs, medically complex conditions, or older adults requiring additional attention, can visit our Specialty Care clinic, which offers high quality care from an interdisciplinary team of dentists, specialists, nurses, social workers, and physicians.

Through our teledentistry program—the first in the country more than 25 years ago—we set the standard for best practices, extending our reach to rural communities throughout New York and beyond.

Education of future leaders.

More than any other residency program, EIOH exposes our residents to complex diseases and cases, from oral cancer to pediatric onset conditions such as sickle cell anemia and cystic fibrosis, to bariatric and perinatal conditions, and trains them to provide exceptional care for both rare and common diagnoses. Residents participate in rotations, public health-related activities, and advanced clinical experiences, preparing them for a wide variety of careers in academia, research, specialty practice, and advanced general dentistry. With a dozen specialty opportunities, some of our diverse offerings include pediatric dentistry, periodontology, prosthodontics, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral and craniofacial biology, oral medicine, and urgent care.

EIOH offers two master’s degree programs and 10 postdoctoral dental education and residency programs. Our Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department recently added a six-year program that awards a medical degree alongside an oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) certificate and a three-year program awarding an executive master in business administration (EMBA) with an OMFS certificate.

“The depth of curriculum at EIOH sets our programs apart. It’s the reason so many faculty like myself are attracted to Eastman and continue to teach here, even as other institutions attempt to recruit our distinguished department chairs and program directors.”

— JACK CATON, DDS, MS
Professor and Chair, Department of Periodontics, Associate Director for Education
Internationally-regarded research.

EIOH research programs encompass an impressive array of specialties, from pain and oral infectious disease to craniofacial development. Our work spans basic and translational research and is highly interdisciplinary, drawing upon collaboration with faculty experts in cancer, pediatrics, engineering, and other areas.

This approach promises to address a wide variety of diseases and public health concerns. It includes clinical researchers like Dorota Kopycka-Kedzierawski, director of the clinical and translational research core, and Jin Xiao, associate professor and perinatal oral health expert, who has discovered that a simple antifungal rinse can eliminate the yeast that often leads to early childhood caries. Xiao was recently awarded a $3.5 million grant to conduct a first-of-its-kind study to examine early-life biological factors related to severe tooth decay among underserved racial and ethnic minority groups. Others are studying how microorganisms in the mouth can lead not only to oral diseases, but systemic diseases like heart disease, stroke, preterm birth, diabetes, and more.

Thomas Diekwisch, DMD, PhD, PhD, was recently named the Margaret and Cy Welcher Professor in Dental Research and the founding chair of the Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences. He is principal investigator of three federally funded grants totaling $4.7 million and will lead the development of high quality, strategic, and innovative oral health research at EIOH. Diekwisch works to discover novel therapeutic aids to improve the oral health of patients suffering from periodontal disease. Joining Diekwisch is another new recruit, Xianghong Luan, MD. Luan is the principal investigator of two federally funded grants totaling $3.8 million. Her studies focus on microRNAs and small molecule microenvironment design. Together they are helping to usher in a new era of interdisciplinary oral biology research at EIOH likely securing Eastman's top 10 ranking for many years to come. EIOH supporters help make this groundbreaking research possible by providing endowed research funds.
You can support innovative education, research, and care.

EIOH remains dedicated to our founding purpose of helping the underserved. The need for accessible, affordable oral health care will only increase as our population ages. Help us continue to drive advances in dental research and sustain our commitment to providing excellent care—without exception—to all members of our community. Private philanthropy helps us recognize outstanding faculty and residents, pursue ever bolder directions in research, and deliver the best care possible to patients in need.

Greatest areas of need:

**ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND FACULTY AWARDS**
Critically important to retain highly sought-after thought leaders

**RESEARCH FUNDS AND PILOT PROJECT GRANTS**
Opens doors to new research projects that can make a global impact

**UNRESTRICTED FUNDING**
Allows agility to pursue new opportunities, provide support for residents as they begin their careers, and respond to urgent dental health needs in our community

Community dentistry.

EIOH is the safety-net provider for our community. Helping people who cannot access or afford necessary dental care has always been an important part of our mission.

- 65% of our patients are underserved and 25% are outreach cases
- More than 30% of our patients have complex diseases and conditions that cannot be treated elsewhere.
- Most dental schools do not train providers to treat patients with special needs.
- As the life expectancy rises for older adults and patients with complex medical conditions, they have nowhere else to turn for their care.

**SMILEmobile program.**

For nearly 60 years, EIOH's SMILEmobiles have provided treatment to children and adults who wouldn't otherwise receive dental care. Today, the SMILEmobile travels to 15 city schools and three Head Start programs, as well as to area nursing homes, refugee centers, college campuses, high schools, and group homes.

For information on the many ways you can support the Eastman Institute for Oral Health, please contact Advancement and Alumni Relations at EIOHalumni@rochester.edu or (585) 273-1458.