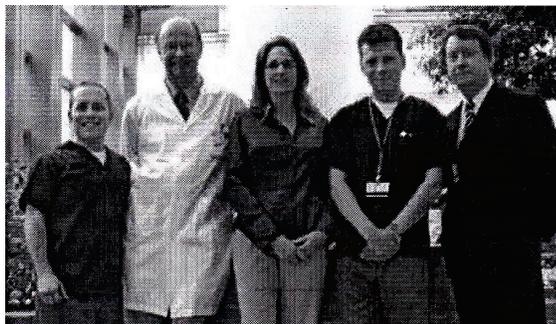




Craniofacial Teams that Deal with Prosthetics

...continued from newsletter

The Craniofacial Prosthetic Unit in Toronto - by Todd M. Kubon, BA, MAMS



The Craniofacial Prosthetic Unit (CPU) is a part of Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre and is located on what use to be an enormous estate farm in the central part of the city. Most of the estate now makes up Sunnybrook Park and is adjacent to the hospital immersing the campus in nature and making it difficult to believe that you are in the heart of Toronto. As an advanced specialty care hospital, Sunnybrook and Women's is a fully affiliated teaching hospital of the University of Toronto. The importance

placed on teaching and research excellence has helped to establish six major program priorities at Sunnybrook including: Aging, Community Health, Heart and Circulation, Mental Health, Trauma and Cancer.

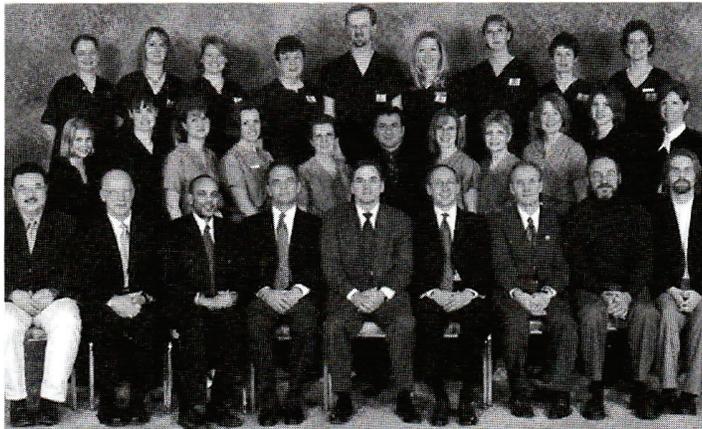
As part of the Cancer Centre the CPU provides custom dental and facial prosthetics for facial differences resulting from birth, cancer, or trauma. Craniofacial prostheses are artificially created ears, noses, eyes or complex dentures that replace the missing or deformed craniofacial structures. Prostheses allow patients to live their lives without the encumbrance of substantial facial deformity or missing facial structures that typically cannot be restored through surgery.

The CPU was established in 1996 as a consolidation of services that brings together the skills of several health care professionals for a truly multidisciplinary and unique service for the people of Ontario. Patients who are referred to the clinic receive a simultaneous assessment of their needs so that the opportunity can be utilized to have all of their questions asked and answered with all providers present. To say the least, this is extremely comforting and convenient for the patient. The CPU is one of only two sites in Canada dedicated to providing this unique service. Our core team consists of 2 Anaplastologists, a Prosthodontist, Surgical Oncologist and Unit Coordinator. The CPU also shares a partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children. In addition to multidisciplinary treatment planning the Microtia Clinic holds a class room session to provide information and support to parents of newborn children. The relationship with the Hospital for Sick Children was established in recognition of the different social needs of children. Our pediatric team also includes an Audiologist, Plastic Surgeon, and Otolaryngologist. Social Workers and Psychologists are available for additional support when needed.

In addition to our clinical services the CPU has gained an international reputation for excellence in research, education, and community outreach. Surprisingly enough this small unit is large enough to service the entire province of Ontario and also receives out of province and international referrals. The demand for this type of service is not great, as the numbers of those in need are small. However, the value of prostheses of this type to the lives of the patients we serve is immeasurable, unquestionable and profound.



COMPRU - Centre of Excellence - by Roxana Anderson, Patient Representative



COMPRU is the acronym for the Craniofacial Osseointegration and Maxillofacial Prosthetic Rehabilitation Unit located at the Misericordia Community Hospital and part of the Caritas Health Group, in Edmonton Alberta. From humble beginnings on the University of Alberta Campus in 1989, Dr. Gordon Wilkes and Dr. John Wolfaardt have established COMPRU as a highly specialized clinical and research facility. COMPRU is a province-wide service dedicated to caring for patients requiring rehabilitation of head and neck through

the use of bone-anchored implants. Today COMPRU is an internationally recognized reference centre for the use of bone anchored implant biotechnology for attaching prosthetic noses, eyes, ears or hearing aids. Patient treatment at COMPRU includes diagnostic and digital treatment planning, pretreatment education and functional outcome assessments.

COMPRU uses an interdisciplinary team approach with a comprehensive team of professionals who provide a full range of treatment expertise. COMPRU operates within a patient-centered model of care that incorporates various patient treatment clinics. These clinics include:

- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid Clinic
- Head and Neck Reconstruction Clinic
- Dermatology Clinic
- Functional Assessment (speech, swallowing and chewing) Clinic
- Craniofacial Osseointegration Clinic
- Autogenous Auricular Reconstruction Clinic

Interdisciplinary teams offer opportunities for mutual support for health care professionals as well as an understanding of each other's knowledge. Interdisciplinary teams also benefit patients by enabling them to see several specialists at one time and in one setting, eliminating the need to educate their health care professionals multiple times about their condition. Furthermore, patients only have to call one central location with questions or concerns.

COMPRU has an active Implantable Devices Research Group (IDRG). Areas of research include bioengineering, clinical functional development, digital and advanced technologies for clinical procedures. COMPRU shares this knowledge by organizing and presenting at international conferences, workshops, providing training to clinical specialists and hosting international visitors to the unit.



Another initiative undertaken by COMPRU was the development of a quality patient care management system, and in 1997 COMPRU received ISO 9001 registration. With this system the patient becomes the centre of all activity and decision-making. Patients can have confidence that COMPRU staff will say what they do, do what they say, record what they did, check on the results and act on the difference. The ISO 9001 system provides a solid foundation for management, self-assessment, and continuous improvement of patient care and treatment processes.

The full time staff within the clinic is small in number but very busy with everyone having a specific role. The full unit consists of many dedicated people that could be grouped into the following categories:

- Clinical and /or Research Fellows (medical specialties and engineering)
- Clinical Assistants
- Operating Room staff
- Laboratory Technology staff
- Administrative staff

How times have changed! In 1985 I had my eye and surrounding tissues removed after being diagnosed with cancer. My first prosthetic eye was made from an industrial silicone, colored in a freehand manner using pigments and was held in place with glue. Today it is securely held in place using bone-anchored implants, made from a medical grade silicone and colourized with the help of computers. I have been a patient at COMPRU since 1990. I have always appreciated their caring staff and have certainly benefited from their ongoing pursuit of excellence. To learn more about COMPRU, visit their website at: www.caritas.ab.ca/compru.