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Subject Passing of Dr. Richard J. Oringer, School of Dental Medicine

Dear members of the Stony Brook family,

It is with great sadness that we share in the loss of one of the School of Dental Medicine's faculty, Dr. Richard J. Oringer who died suddenly in a tragic car accident as he was leaving campus on Thursday.

To appreciate the significance of this loss, one needs to understand Dr. Oringer's personal attributes and contributions to Stony Brook. His brilliance was coupled with a considerate and humble personality.

He was always the first to give praise but never the one to seek it.

As a leader of the Department of Periodontics, he dramatically transformed its tone to the highest level of academic achievement. He was an incredible asset to both the Department and the School. He was so loved by students that he was selected as Marshall or Grand Marshall at graduation in 2000, 2002, and 2003. He was selected to be the Grand Marshall this coming June. His tireless dedication to academic programs also resulted in the receipt of two faculty awards for teaching excellence and two yearbook dedications.

Dr. Richard J. Oringer received his B.S. degree summa cum laude (1988) and D.D.S. degree (1992) from Stony Brook University and certificate in Periodontology and D.M.Sc. in Oral Biology (1996) from Harvard University. Following a one year teaching fellowship at Harvard, Dr. Oringer joined the periodontal faculty of the School of Dental Medicine as an Assistant Professor in 1997 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2003. Because of his teaching prowess and excellent organizational skills, he was appointed Director of Predoctoral Periodontics in 2000. His teaching ability was recognized at the national level when he was awarded the prestigious Bud and Linda Tarrson Fellowship in 2001 by the American Academy of Periodontology. As Program Director, he translated his innovative teaching methodologies into practice including an interactive CD Rom technology, practical outcome assessment tools, a smoking cessation program and periodontal medicine. He also contributed to the clinical and didactic teaching components of the advanced education program in periodontics. His clinical proficiency resulted in the achievement of diplomate status by the American Board of Periodontology in 1998.

Always driven to excel, Dr. Oringer committed his time and efforts to further hone his research skills which resulted in an impressive portfolio of research activities. He was the Principal Investigator of two major randomized controlled clinical trials on a minocycline periodontal therapeutic system and on the evaluation of rhBMP-2/absorbable collagen sponge as a suitable bone graft material for sinus floor augmentation. At the end of 2003, he received notice of a K23 award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. The project entitled "Dendritic Cells in Periodontal Health and Disease" would have availed him of the tremendous opportunity. This application received the outstanding score of 1.6

from Study Section. He was often called upon by the industrial sector to investigate the clinical significance of new therapeutic modalities. His publication in peer-reviewed journals was extensive.

Notwithstanding his teaching and research commitments, Dr. Oringer was active in his regional and national periodontal organizations. He was often asked to speak on his clinical and research activities and was selected to be the major speaker at the 2003 spring meeting of the Dutch Society of Periodontology on the role of risk assessment in periodontology. His professional endeavors resulted in his being elected in 2001 to the Board of Directors of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists. He was on a fast track to become a leader in organized periodontics.

Dr. Oringer was married to Dr. Erin Riley, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs at the School of Dental Medicine. They have one son, John, 4 1/2 months of age. They live in East Setauket. A campus memorial service will take place in the Student Activity Center's (SAC) Auditorium on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 2:00pm. A reception will follow in Ballroom A.

We encourage those of you who might wish to share recollections, anecdotes and other memorial statements to visit the following web site: <http://www.pbases.com/dentite/richard> this site contains photographs of Dr. Oringer and a place for your personal contribution. We plan to assemble the contributed materials in a printed volume for Dr. Erin Riley to share with John Riley Oringer.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made payable to SBF/Richard Oringer Scholarship Fund, SBF/The John Oringer College Fund, or the American Heart Association and sent to:

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