



WELLNESS GROUP – MARTIN LEVIN & NEIL STARR

May 1 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm \$28



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Preserving Dentition for Life

Life expectancy has doubled in the past 100 years as a result of improved medical care with the development of vaccines, medications, medical technologies, improved hygiene measures, healthier diets and increased physical exercise. Dentistry maintains the philosophy of “preserving the patient’s dentition for life.” So as patients are living longer, their dentists need strategies to construct, preserve and maintain oral health, function and esthetics. **Martin Levin** (‘08) and **Neil Starr** (‘20), who both hold DDS degrees, will discuss both diagnostic and clinical treatments that support the aging patient’s dental needs for a longer, healthier life.

As the adult population ages, individuals will be affected by dental conditions associated with aging including dry mouth, caries and periodontitis and may show increased sensitivity to drugs used in dentistry. Critical to dental wellness is an understanding of how aging affects the salivary glands. While studies show that salivary gland function is relatively unchanged in the healthy geriatric population, many medications may cause a reduction in salivary flow resulting in dry mouth, taste aberration and poor oral hygiene greatly affecting quality of life.

If their teeth and gums are weak and compromised, individuals as they age are less comfortable chewing food and tend to have more frequent sores in their mouths due to the thinning of their tissues. This discomfort affects their ability to enjoy their meals. Their nutrition often suffers, and their level of frustration often has a strong psychological impact. These patients often have shorter life expectancy.