



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Bethann Dacey  
(800) 342-8747

**Dental Personnel Presented with Massachusetts Dental Society Award**

Two members from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine have been named recipients of the 2009 Richard Allard Award, which is presented by the Massachusetts Dental Society's (MDS) Committee to Prevent Abuse and Neglect.

Kanchan Ganda, MD, and Gülsün Gül, DDS, were honored for their work with the Tufts Dental Outreach to Survivors (DOTS) program, which provides referrals for free, confidential dental care to survivors of domestic violence. The patients are referred to DOTS by area hospitals, community centers, and shelters. Dr. Ganda, professor in the Department of Public Health & Community Service, and Dr. Gül, formerly an assistant professor of general dentistry and currently a graduate student in pediatric dentistry, established the program in 2003.

The committee presents the Allard Award to an individual or group whose efforts have heightened awareness with regard to abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, and the disabled, as well as domestic violence. The award was named in memory of Dr. Richard Allard, a founding member of the committee, for his many contributions and outstanding accomplishments in promoting the message of mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect within the dental community. Dr. Allard, a pediatric dentist, was very influential in introducing the message of abuse and neglect within the curriculum of dental schools.

The awards were presented in May at the Massachusetts Dental Society's Annual Session Awards Luncheon held at the Burlington Marriott.

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The Massachusetts Dental Society is a 5,000-member professional association and statewide constituent of the American Dental Association.