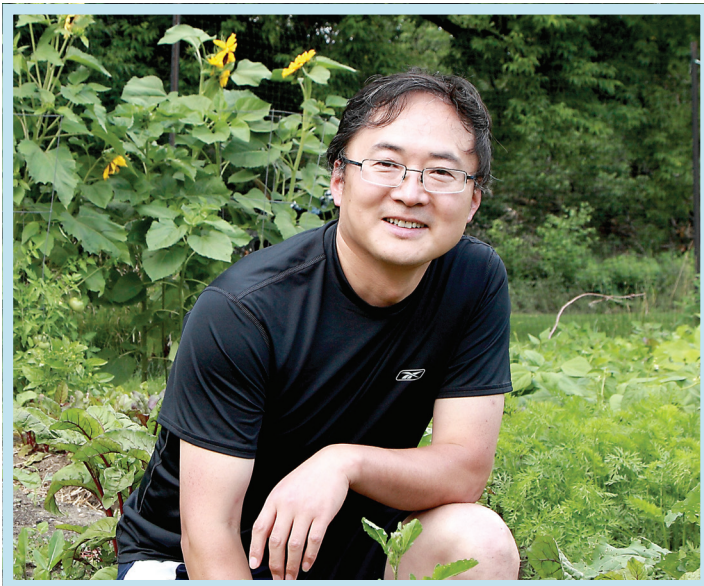


## Vermont dentists benefit from the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program

Delta Dental Plan of Vermont recently awarded a community match grant to four Vermont dentists for the 2014-2015 year. For four years, Delta Dental Plan of Vermont has contributed to the success of the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists by awarding matching grants. The University of Vermont College of Medicine Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) administers the program on behalf of the State of Vermont.

Through recruitment and retention, the goal of the program is to ensure a stable and adequate supply of dentists to meet the oral health care needs of Vermont citizens and especially to increase access for the Medicaid population. It provides loan repayment for dentists serving in designated shortage areas or in documented special need areas in the state. Recipients must sign a one-year service agreement and practice a minimum of 20 hours per week at designated sites.



### Zongjian Jia, DMD, PhD

Dr. Jia earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Engineering, a Master's of Science in Microbiology, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at universities in China, before immigrating to Canada. Scientific research at the University of British Columbia, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Cancer Institute, led to antibody therapy and disease prevention research at Arizona State University. Dr. Jia moved from research to dentistry because the work is interesting, varied, and allows him to benefit people every day. He earned his DMD at Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine in Phoenix. In his role of associate dentist at St. Johnsbury Dental Associates since June 2013, Dr. Jia provides comprehensive care to patients of all ages, financial challenges, and cultural backgrounds. He is committed to reaching an underserved and primarily rural patient population and particularly enjoys helping children. He and his family live in St. Johnsbury, where their outdoor activities include fishing and skating.

### Ronald St. John, DMD

Dr. St. John changed careers at age 40. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Biology at the University of North Florida as a prerequisite for dental school and volunteered and studied dental procedures at the Jacksonville Medical and Dental Clinic. He earned his DDS at the University of Florida. Dr. St. John first practiced dentistry at Birchwood Dental in Newport, where many of his patients were referrals from the local community hospital. In June 2014, he joined the team of dental professionals at Island Pond Health and Dental Center in Island Pond, Vermont, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving many Medicaid and Medicare patients in a rural, underserved region of the Northeast Kingdom. He is excited about opportunities to serve more patients, and he is currently researching participation in Vermont Head Start's Tooth Tutor program. Dr. St. John, his wife, and their two sons reside in Newport, where they enjoy a variety of sports, including cross-country skiing and cycling.



## Vermont dentists benefit from the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program



### Ruchi Grover, DDS

Dr. Ruchi Grover was born in India and pursued her educational goals in the United States. In the process of earning a Master's Degree in Neuroscience from the University of Hartford, Dr. Grover decided to pursue a degree in dentistry and continued her studies at the New York University School of Dentistry. After practicing briefly in Leominster, Massachusetts, she moved to northern Vermont to practice at the Highland Dental Center in Newport, a small town in northern Orleans County near the Canadian border. Dr. Grover especially enjoys working with young patients and making her patients feel comfortable. She encourages new Medicaid patients to use her services as part of her commitment to reach out to a largely underserved, rural population who need dental care in this part of northern Vermont. Dr. Grover enjoys the "laid back" lifestyle in northern Vermont, and is committed to practice there for the foreseeable future. She enjoys family activities, travel in the North Country, exploring the outdoors, lakes, and mountains.

### Brian Saltzman, DMD

Dr. Saltzman completed his undergraduate studies at the State University of New York and earned his DMD at Boston University School of Dentistry. His first dental practice was at Great Brook Valley Health Center in Worcester, Massachusetts, practicing general clinical dentistry with a specialty in oral surgery, after which he was in private practice for eight years in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he served pediatric patients and Medicaid patients in drug rehabilitation programs. In December 2007, Dr. Saltzman moved to Middlebury, Vermont, where he lives with his wife, and where he founded Saltzman Dental in the downtown area near Middlebury College. He treats a wide variety of patients, including local residents, college students, and those in need of oral and reconstructive surgery. Nearly 20% are first-time pediatric patients, and many are Medicaid patients. He is committed long-term to rural outreach and providing excellent oral health care in the region. His recreation includes playing golf and skiing.



Visit [www.vtahec.org](http://www.vtahec.org) for more information about the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists.