President’s Message:

It is mid-July as I write this and the heat is on! It’s difficult to be thinking of next February, but we here at the MSP board level are doing just that to prepare an excellent meeting for you. Before we get to the meeting however, we have been working on something that will have an even greater impact for the future of the MSP. We are going to begin this fall with on-line dues payments and meeting registration. Almost all of the details have been ironed out, and we will be making final approval at the executive board meeting in Philadelphia, so watch for all the details in your dues statement and the winter newsletter. We will still be accepting checks for payment and registration, but we have had many inquiries for on-line/credit card payments and we are able to implement this for our members this fall.

As for the meeting in February, Clark Barco has been working hard on developing an interesting program. The speakers for the Saturday program are Dr. Ray Yukna and Dr. Mark Reynolds. The Sunday morning program will feature one of our own members, Dr. Robert Pick. The Friday program will again be sponsored by Sunstar Butler and the speaker will be Dr. Paul Rosen. As always the Friday program is a limited attendance feature, so be sure to register early if you plan to attend.

Congratulations go out to Jeffery W. Johnston and Stephen Meraw, the newly elected AAP Trustees from District 4. According to the AAP website participation in the 2013 election almost doubled from last year. I am a firm believer in organized dentistry, something that was instilled in me during my USAF AEGD residency by two periodontists. They showed me the benefits of organized dentistry, everything from providing CE to keeping us informed about the issues facing dentists as we navigate through our daily practice of one of the finest professions. The coming years will be especially challenging, as new rules and regulations regarding insurance issues will impact us personally and professionally, and dental education changes occur as more for-profit institutions arise. As individuals we often do not have the time to investigate issues in depth. I for one am glad that I have colleagues willing to take on these tasks for me. It is nice to know that there is staff at AAP who can help figure out insurance and coding issues for us when and if we need them. That alone can be worth your dues! I will get off my soap box now, with a thank you to all my colleagues past and present who have taken the time to take care of my profession. Wishing you all a great summer, with a chance to enjoy the warm weather. The annual meeting in Philadelphia is rapidly approaching. Hope many of you will be there. We are always looking for people willing to participate in the MSP, so please contact the MSP (msperio.org).
In Memorium

Periodontics lost a giant on July 22, 2013, with the passing of Henry M. Swenson. Henry was raised in Long Island, NY. He received his dental degree from the University of Illinois and furthered his studies in pathology at the Medical College of Virginia. He came to the Indiana University School of Dentistry in the 1940’s and helped to establish the Periodontal Department, the IUSD Dental Hygiene program (1950) and the post-grad periodontia degree program (1956). He was named Chairman of the Department of Clinical Periodontics at IUSD in 1961.

Dr. Swenson was one of the founders of the Midwest Society of Periodontology and served as President in 1961-62. He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology (1951) and a Director of the Board from 1962-69. He also organized the Indiana Society of Periodontists. He was a past president of the American Academy of Periodontology (1973-74), named a Fellow of the AAP (1976) and was awarded the Gold Medal (1985) and Presidential Award (1993).

Dr. Swenson maintained a private practice until 2007 and retired from the faculty of IUSD in June 2010 after 67 years of service. Henry was honored last by the Midwest Society at our Annual Meeting in 2011. We are all indebted to Dr. Henry Swenson and his contributions to Periodontology. We will miss this great pioneer in our specialty of Dentistry.

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Dr. Henry M. Swenson
Graduate Periodontics at UMKC is in transition. Our Graduate Director, Simon R. MacNeill resigned after a 13 year tenure of service and has started teaching undergraduate dental students. The Interim Director, Charles M. Cobb, started in June and will likely serve until the end of December. Hopefully, we will have a new director on board in January 2014.

The transition in directors has been relatively smooth and, consequently, has not interfered with the work and education of our residents. Currently, we have six residents:

Mike Norouzinia, a 3rd year resident came to us from San Antonio, TX. He is working on his M.S. degree and the title of his thesis is: “A Pilot Study Evaluating the Effect of Collagen Sponges on Post-extraction Alveolar Socket Healing and Post-operative Pain”

Sara Walls, a 3rd year resident is from UMKC and expects to establish a private practice in the Kansas City area.

Trey Holt and McClain Woolsey are both 2nd year residents, both from UMKC. Trey will likely practice in the greater Kansas City area whereas McClain is looking at practice in the Destin, FL area.

Our 1st year residents are Nick Fuji from UMKC and Mike Fullem from the University of Louisville.

Our 2012 graduates, Adam McClellan and Mike Cady are in full-time private practice in Overland Park, KS and Pocatello, ID, respectively.

Mike Umaki, a 2011 graduate practicing in Honolulu, HI, successfully challenged the American Board of Periodontology exam and is now a Diplomate.

Faculty in the Department of Periodontics, along with several former residents, have published several manuscripts or have papers waiting to appear in print (i.e., in press):


Saint Louis University Center for Advanced Dental Education / Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine

News for the Midwest Society of Periodontology July 2013:

Our program welcomes three new residents: Dr. Zaid Abdulkhaliq graduated from the University of Baghdad in 2001 and completed his Master of Science degree in Prosthodontics from the same university in 2005. Dr. Hassan Asghar graduated in 2007 from Riphah International University in Pakistan. He is completing his MBA in Health Care Management. Dr. Kristin Rogers graduated from Howard University College of Dentistry in 2012 and completed a GPR this year from the same university. Three residents graduated from the program this year: Drs. Bader Abdeen, Justin Schlaikjer, and Spencer Shoff. They completed the following research projects as part of their Master’s degree: Age and calculus determinants of periodontal disease in baboons; Effect of gender on alveolar bone loss and calculus formation in a captive baboon population; Stain use and the effects on the periodontal status. Dr. Abdeen will be in private practice in Texas, Dr. Schlaikjer will be in private practice in St. Louis, and Dr. Shoff will be in private practice in Idaho.

Congratulations to our program alumni that recently passed the American Board of Periodontology certification examination: Drs. Azadeh Amin, Brandon Hull, Jeffrey Naylor and Mohamed Omran. Dr. Nathalia Garcia, previously a part-time faculty member in our department, was appointed to a full-time tenure track position. A program alumnus, Dr. Mohamed Omran, was also recently appointed as a full-time tenure track faculty member. Another alumnus from the same graduating class, Dr. Jeffrey Naylor, has increased his part-time teaching commitment. These faculty members have integral roles in our program and we appreciate their involvement.

We are sad to inform of the passing of Dr. William Killian. Dr. Killian was a faculty member in our program for many years. He was a true inspiration to everyone that worked with him. He will be missed by all.
Case Western Reserve University

Our graduating class of 2013 are: Dr. Martin Leybovich, who already started his private practice in Maryland. Drs. Nawwaf Al-Hamoudi and Naif Alwithanani, both will be returning back to Saudi Arabia to start teaching and practice. Dr. Sima Zitouni, will be joining her husband in practice in Omaha, Nebraska.

Selected Publications by the Graduate Students and Faculty:


Batista de Silva AP., Bissada, N., “Genetic and Behavioral Risk Factors Associated with Periodontal Disease”. In V.Anand & M. Gulatic (Eds). 2013 (text book chapter)

Presentations at National and International Meetings:

“Fusobacterium nucleatum promotes colorectal cancer”, 10th International Innate Immunity Conference. Kos, Greece. 2013 – Dr. Yiping Han

“Oral Bacteria in adverse pregnancy outcomes.” UMDNJ, Newark, NJ. 2013 – Dr. Yiping Han

“A tale of two diseases: pathogenesis mechanisms of Fusobacterium nucleatum in adverse pregnancy outcomes and colorectal cancer.” Columbia University Department of Microbiology and Immunology, 2013 – Dr. Yiping Han

“Oral bacteria in pregnancy complications.” American Academy for Oral Systemic Health (AAOSH) Annual Symposium, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, 2012 - Dr. Yiping Han

“Fusobacterium nucleatum promotes colorectal cancer”, 10th International Innate Immunity Conference. Kos, Greece. 2013 – Dr. Yiping Han

“The mobile oral microbiome: implication of oral bacteria in extra-oral infections.” University of Southern California School of Dentistry, 2012 – Dr. Yiping Han

“Perio Medicine: Daily Applications for Periodontics Residents.” Stony Brook University and Harvard University, 2013 – Dr. Leena Palomo

“Postmenopausal Women: Managing Multidisciplinary Surgical Cases Involving Chronic Conditions, Medications and High Expectations”; and Workshop “Surgical Planning with CBCT Imaging”. Future University 2nd International Dental Conference. Cairo, Egypt, 2013 – Dr. Leena Palomo


University of Missouri - Kansas City continued


Lastly, we have a few manuscripts in various stages of completion that will be submitted in the near future for consideration to be published.


Given the transition in leadership and the potential for confusion that sometimes can occur under such circumstances, we are blessed with good residents, good faculty, and a lot of loyalty within the departmental faculty. We look forward to 2014.
After 9 months in a temporary location, the department moved into their newly renovated clinical and academic spaces at the end of May. Thank you to all of our donors for the wonderful support. It will greatly enhance the learning experience for our residents and students. The department is planning an alumni gathering for the end of October to thank our alumni and donors.

In June, Dr. Satheesh Elangovan has received a two year $104,625 grant from the Osteology Foundation (Switzerland) for his research project, “A Novel RNA Based Biomaterial for Bone Regeneration” The goal of this research will be to develop a safe and efficient non-viral RNA delivery system in vivo for periodontal and bone regeneration and other orthopedic applications. Co-investigators include Dr. Liu Hong, Dows and Prosthodontics, Dr. Aliasger, K Salem, College of Pharmacy and Dr. Deborah V. Dawson, College of Dentistry. Drs. Georgia K. Johnson, Clark M. Stanford and Michael Kormann (Germany) are consultants in this project.

In July, we said congratulations and goodbye to our third year residents Drs. Joseph Capps and Leslie Mehalick. They will be a great addition to the Phoenix, AZ and Dallas, TX periodontics communities. With their departure, we welcomed two new residents to the program, Drs. Christopher Hutton (graduate of Marquette University) and Vrushali Abhyankar (from Mumbai, India). Both bring unique backgrounds to share with our current residents Drs. Christopher Poulsen, Monica Raina, Mitchell Gubler and Katherine Smith. We look forward to a successful year for all the residents.

July, also welcomed the start of our new UI Visiting Scholar Professional Development Program in Periodontics, an individualized professional development program for dentists and dental specialists. The main objective is to provide an outstanding and customized professional experience for dentists or dental specialists who are interested in advancing their knowledge in periodontics and oral implantology. Individuals participating in this program will have the opportunity to attend periodontal seminars and lectures, observe periodontal faculty members and/or residents in a clinical setting, and participate in research-related activities. They will not have patient care responsibilities. Participants may pursue either a six-month or a twelve-month program and receive continuing education credit for their participation.

Dr. Juan Gonzalez de Buitrago Garcia is the first participant in this new program. He earned his DDS from the University of Grenada (Spain) in 2008. He later initiated his doctorate studies in the same institution, which he combined with part-time private practice work. He also completed a periodontics expert course with Dr. Mariano Sanz at the University Complutense of Madrid in 2010. His research interests are in the area of periodontal and alveolar bone regeneration.

At the beginning of August, Dr. Satheesh Elangovan was selected as the winner of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Foundation’s 2013 Sunstar Fellowship. His fellowship includes $50,000 for his research project, “Sequential Delivery of Non-Viral Vectors for Enhanced Bone Regeneration.” Dr. Elangovan will be honored at the September AAP Foundation Signature Recognition Event and Awards Ceremony.

Department News:

Our recent graduates Drs. Everett Wu, Sarah Feteih, and Dima Lakkis became Diplomate of the AAP. Congratulations to all!

Dr. Nishant Joshi assistant clinical professor in the Department of Periodontics received this year the AAP award of Outstanding Periodontal Educator.

Dr. Leena Palomo was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Periodontics.

Dr. Yiping Han received an RO1 grant (one and half million dollars) from NIDCR for her research project on “Mechanism of Fusobacterium nucleatum in intrauterine infection”.

Dr. Palomo was elected to Periodontics Section Secretary of the ADEA.

Dr. Bissada was recently appointed Editor-in-Chief for the online “Dentistry Journal”.

Interviews and Media Attention:

“Oral bacteria could be culprit” – An article in the daily Cleveland Plain Dealer Newspaper, April 24, 2012 – Dr. Bissada

“Possible Link Between Gum Disease and Failed Joints”- WCPN 90.3 radio interview, April 19, 2012 - Dr. Bissada

“Mouths and knees” – an interview by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HealthBeat (HHS), 2012 – Dr. Bissada

New Faculty Appointments:

Dr. Jonathan Ross, will join our department in September, 2013 as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Periodontology. Dr. Ross received his DDS in 2006 (CWRU) and MHS (University of South Carolina).

Incoming Graduate Students:

Dr. AnnMarie Adornato – received her D.M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University in 2008 and general practice residency from Loyal University in 2009.

Dr. Gazabpheet Bhandal – received her B.D.S. from SGRD Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, India in 2010.

Dr. Ernest Erian – received his B.D.S. from Modern Sciences & Arts University, Cairo, Egypt in 2010.

Dr. Ehab Moussa - received his B.D.S. from Alexandria University, Egypt in 2009.
Mayo Clinic

We experienced another busy year at Mayo Clinic. Every year seems to be busier than the previous year. All of our postgraduate programs experience a bittersweet summer, graduating residents and welcoming new residents. We bid a fond farewell to Dr. Eddie Morales in June. Eddie will be practicing in a group practice in Wisconsin. Eddie is a hardcore diehard Notre Dame fan. He has not fully recovered from whipping his Alma Mater experienced at the hand of Nick Saban’s Crimson Tide. Eddie is a very good clinician, extremely hard worker, and a gentleman, the recipe for success. He is in the process of completing a very interesting research project evaluating the failure rate of wide platform implants.

Dr. Perl Lai, a graduate of the University of Colorado has assumed the responsibility of Chief Resident. Perl is working out the details to perform a literature review evaluating the immunological pathogenesis of periodontal disease.

The department welcomed Dr. Lauren Frizzo soon to be Dr. Lauren Sarowik a graduate of the University of Detroit. The last resident from this esteemed institution was accepted to the Mayo Residency 45 years ago, a gentleman by the name of Dr. Phil Sheridan.

Mayo is in the resident interviewing cycle. With two total residents, the program does not accept a resident every year. We are presently interviewing to select a resident to start the program in June 2014. At that time the program will have a first year resident and a second year resident, Dr Sarowik. No resident interviews will be conducted in 2014.

The graduate program is fortunate to have a close working relationship with both the Prosthodontic and Orthodontic programs. We learn from each other, and the residents gain invaluable clinical experience as a result of the close working relationship.

Dr. Phil Sheridan continues to set the standards by which we are judged. I doubt any of us will be able to provide the quality and quantity of compassionate care he provides on a daily basis. Phil is celebrating 45 years at Mayo Clinic. Despite persistent rumors, neither of the founding Mayo Brothers (Will and Charlie) were Phil’s patients.

Many changes are and will occur in the Department. Our Orthodontic colleagues will be offering extended hours to accommodate patient schedules starting in the fall. It is certain that more brainstorming will occur in an effort to best serve our patients.

Ohio State University

At The Ohio State University (OSU) Graduate Program, we recently welcomed the newest members of our Buckeye Periodontal family, the class of 2016: Dr. Lamees Alssum (King Saud University College of Dentistry; Saudi Arabia), Dr. Khaled Al-Tabtbaei (Kuwait University Faculty of Dentistry; Kuwait), Dr. Monica Gibson (Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences; India), and Dr. Brian Roy (University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, Detroit, Michigan).

In late May, we celebrated the graduation of the class of 2013. Dr. Alexandra Tsigarida, our 2012-2013 Chief Resident, will continue her periodontal career as faculty at Temple University. Dr. Suzanne Delima will be in private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Mariana Gil-Escalante will be returning to her native Costa Rica, to join her father’s private practice. Dr. Hsiu-Wan Meng will be entering private practice in Texas, after a brief return to her native Taiwan. All four of our 2013 graduates successfully defended their MS thesis and were awarded the MS degree along with their specialty certificate. Congratulations to the class of 2013!

Several notable achievements by program alumni occurred during the last year. Dr. Alexandra Tsigarida (’13) was the winner of the 2013 Best Poster Presentation Award at the annual Academy of Osseointegration meeting (Tampa, FL, March 7-9, 2013). Drs. Holly McKnight, Connie Lee, Samir Shah, and Ioanna Tsolaki, the four members of our 2012 class, attained ABP Diplomate status this past May. In addition, Dr. Samir Shah was the 2012 winner of the Balint Orban Memorial Competition (Basic Science category), at last year’s AAP meeting in Los Angeles. Congratulations to our alumni for their successes!

We look forward to seeing all OSU alumni and friends at our annual Buckeye Reception, which will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2013, during the upcoming AAP annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The reception will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott (Headquarters Hotel).
We said farewell to our seventh graduating class. We had three students graduating this year. Dr. Kai-Chiao J. Chang, will be joining a periodontal practice in California. Dr. Joanne Yihan will be staying in Michigan and pursuing private practice and Dr. Nikko Vanderburg is also moving to California to pursue private practice.

Resident and Faculty Publications:


- Neely AL. Essential oil mouthwash (EOMW) may be equivalent to chlorhexidine (CHX) for long-term control of gingival inflammation but CHX appears to perform better than EOMW in plaque control. J Evid Based Dent Pract. 2012 Sep;12(3Suppl):69-72.


Incoming Graduate Students:

We welcomed our first year graduate students. Dr. Hana Gadalla who received her BDS from Garyounis University, Benghazi, Libya in 2007. She worked in Libya as a general dentist followed by a 1-year fellowship in periodontology at the University of Florida, prior to joining the graduate program at University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. Dr. Fatima Tiwana received her BDS from Jinnah Dental College in Karachi, Pakistan. She graduated at the top of her class with distinction and honors. Dr. Tiwana then worked as a general dentist in Pakistan prior to joining our graduate program. Dr. Deinea Zimmerman received her DMD from University of Pennsylvania Dental School in 2011, followed by a GPR at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA prior to joining our graduate program.

Faculty and Graduate Student News:

Dr. Monish Bhola was nominated and elected as the Vice-Chairman Post-Graduate Directors Organization at the 2012 AAP Meeting. Dr. Kai-Chiao J. Chang our recent graduate and currently a member ADEA house of delegates, was the recipient of the 2012 American Academy of Implant Dentistry Foundation Research Award for his research titled: Inflammation Mediator and Osteoblastic Protein Levels in Peri-Implant Crevicular Fluid.

We all wish the district IV graduate programs a successful year ahead.

Graduate Class of 2013:

We have recently bid farewell to four graduating students: Drs. Dena Khoury, Duane Bennett, Matt Rowe, and Muynneel (Moin) Hassan. Dr. Dena Khoury will be joining a group periodontal practice in Port Huron, MI. Dr. Duane Bennett will be joining a practice in Seattle, WA, and Dr Matt Rowe will be joining a practice in Ft. Wayne, IN. Dr. Moin Hassan is still exploring his post-graduation opportunities at the time of this writing. We wish all of our graduates the best in their future endeavors and look forward to future successful achievement of ABP Diplomate status.

As of late-July, Dr. Dena Khoury successfully defended her research project, submitted a manuscript for publication and was awarded her MSD degree. Drs. Hassan, Rowe and Bennett are in the final stages of completing their research projects and are expected to be finished by the time this newsletter is distributed. Dr. Khoury’s research project explored the effects of nicotine and cigarette smoke condensate on the binding of periodontal pathogens to Fusobacterium nucleatum. Dr. Bennett examined the post-extraction ridge dimensional changes associated with socket compression. Dr. Hassan compared ammonion chiorion allograft membranes vs. dense polytetrafluoroethylene membranes in ridge preservation procedures. Dr. Rowe developed and evaluated characteristics of a dimensionally stable and bioactive electropor membrane for periodontal regeneration.

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We now have three new graduate students who joined the program in July. Dr. Archana Venkataraman completed her dental training in India in 2004. Dr. Tsuyoshi Tanaka is a 2010 graduate of Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Dr. Santiago Ocampo completed his dental training from Pontificia University Javeriana in Colombia and just completed a 3 year prosthodontics and IUSD. We are excited about them joining the program in light of their diverse training and backgrounds.

Student Awards:

The recipients of the Henry M. Swensen Awards for Clinical and Didactic Excellence in Graduate Periodontics for 2012-2013 were third year residents, Dr. Duane Bennett and Dr. Matthew Rowe. Dr. Mohamed Khaled (2012) was a finalist in the AAP Balint Orban Competition in Los Angeles for his research on resolvin D1 and human gingival fibroblasts. Congratulations to all student award recipients for all of their hard work and effort.

ABP Results:

Drs. Jason Au-Yeung (2012) and Elizabeth Ramos (VA 2006) successfully passed the ABP Qualifying (Written) Examination given last August.

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Drs. Peter Smith (2009), Vikas Puri (2011) and Jason Au-Yeung (2012) are newest Diplomates of the American Board of Periodontology since last year. Congratulations to Peter, Vikas and Jason for their truly outstanding efforts in preparation to successfully challenge this examination.

Recent Publications:


We wish all District IV graduate programs a successful upcoming year and look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia in September and at the Midwest Society of Periodontology Annual Meeting in February 2014.

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This year we have accepted 4 exceptional students from the candidates we interviewed: Guo-Hao Lin DDS from National Yang Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan, with 1 year of private practice experience. Alberto Monje, DDS from the Universidad Europea de Madrid, Spain, Alexandra Plonka, DDS graduated in May 2013 from the University of Michigan, and Fernando Suarez, DDS from Universidad Europea de Madrid, Spain. Dr. Suarez and Dr. Monje were also two of our former Postdoctoral Scholar Students. Joining them in our Postdoctoral Scholar Program this year will be: James Mailoa, DDS from Universitas Trisakti, Jakarta, Indonesia, Kuniyasu Mori, DDS from Osaka University, Suisa-Shi, Japan, Ching Yu Tsai, DDS from National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.

We are saying farewell to Dr. Suzanne Mason who is going to practice in Northern Michigan, and Dr. Yung-Ting Hsu, who will be finishing her research project and then setting up her practice in Taiwan. Dr. Suzanne Mason (outgoing 3rd year student) was selected as the recipient of the Siguard P. Ramfjord Award for Excellence. Dr. Tapan Koticha (2nd year resident) was awarded the Benson Duff Fellowship. Dr. Andrew Barnett (2nd year Resident) and Dr. Jeff Li (1st Year Resident) were awarded the School of Dentistry Distinguished Periodontics Graduate Student Fellowship.

Program Accomplishments:

All students who took the ABP Diplomate Board Examination successfully passed and have become new Diplomates, they are: Drs. Lauren Anderson, Bina Oh, Jia-Hui Fu and Manar Aljateeli. Congratulations to all!!!!

Dr. Lauren Anderson was the 2012 Dr. And Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence Recipient from the American Academy of Periodontology.

Dr. Suzanne Mason was the winner of the 2013 MSP Graduate Student Research Competition.

Dr. Hector Rios (our Faculty) won 1st place for the 2013 PRD Symposium Poster Research Competition.

Our Residents in the program have also published more than 30 papers in the 2012-2013 calendar year.
We wound up a busy year at UIC with the recent graduation of our senior residents Dr. Nima Ebrahimii, Dr. Nisha Maniar and Dr. Whitney Weiner. We wish them the very best in their life and career! We recruited an outstanding group of residents and welcomed Dr. Ankur Patel, Dr. Jennifer Shango, Dr. Sami Suleiman and Dr. Scott Drucker to the UIC Periodontics family. With the incoming residents, our total number of residents in the program reaches twelve.

We welcomed Dr. Salvador Nares as the new Head of Periodontics. Dr. Nares joined us following an illustrious tenure at the University of North Carolina as Graduate Program Director.

The new Predoctoral Implant and Innovations clinic opened this spring. The clinic provides opportunity for our residents to work with the predoctoral students in a state of the art facility for interdisciplinary implant related care. Our postgraduate clinic is slated for renovation this fall. The renovations will increase our clinic footprint by more than 50%. The state of the art clinic will feature fifteen surgical operatories for our residents, three advanced surgical operatories, a new waiting room for our patients, a redesigned reception area, all operatories fitted with new digital radiography equipment, and a new residents’ room that will feature office and learning space twice the size of their current space. The postgraduate program is in the process of hiring new faculty to continue in its path of growth and eminence.

Both graduates from our class of 2012 successfully challenged the American Board of Periodontology and are Diplomates now! Please join us in congratulating Dr. Sonia Belani and Dr. Fadi Masoud and wishing them success in all their endeavors.

Graduates have co-authored 13 articles in referred journals and 3 chapters in textbooks since 2012

Articles in referred journals:


Chapters in textbooks:


Sophia Karadimitriou is from the University of Athens in Greece. Dr. Karadimitriou’s research is investigating whole exome sequencing for the identification of the gene in autosomal dominant mesomandibular fibro-osseous dysplasia. Dr. Koutlas and Sophia are attempting to find the gene/genes that might induce this dysplasia in newly born infants that tends to integrate with the surrounding bone and become of normal appearance with age.

Popi Stylianou is from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece. Dr. Stylianou is working with Dr. Koutlas to identify the whole exome sequence for autosomal dominant focal palimplantar and gingival hyperkeratosis.

Ryan Wolff is from the Twin Cities area. Ryan Wolff is pursuing a research project under the direction of Dr. Wook-Jin Seong, a faculty member in the division of Prosthodontics. This clinical research investigation is comparing bi-cortically placed implants in the posterior maxilla to implants placed with either an indirect sinus lift or uni-cortically fixated implants. The implant stability and potential complications will be assessed at the one-year post restoration of implants placed in this study. We hypothesize the bi-cortically placed implants will be as stable as the implants placed with a sinus lift and endo-sinus bone growth will be evident at the one year follow-up with bi-cortically placed implants.

During the past year, Dr. George Kotsakis continued to publish and present his research on bone regeneration using resorbable carriers for the delivery of bone substitute biomaterials. Dr. Kotsakis served as a reviewer for the Journal of Oral Implantology this year.

Dr. Kotsakis had one abstract selected as an oral presentation and presented at the Clinical Innovations section of the American Academy of Osseointegration meeting, in Tampa, FL (2013). Dr. Kotsakis is currently working on two different projects as fulfillment of his MS requirements. In the first project he is evaluating the effect of different chemotherapeutic agents on the disinfection of titanium disks. This in vitro project aims at identifying disinfecting agents that maintain the biocompatibility of titanium fixtures and allow for new bone growth following decontamination. Results from this study can be applied to surgical treatment of peri-implantitis.

The purpose of his second project is to quantify the rate of tooth movement in orthodontic patients following selective corticotomies, or conventional orthodontic treatment. This randomized, controlled, clinical trial will also evaluate the fate of the alveolar bone following the corticotomies for acceleration of orthodontic treatment.

Micah Chan’s research project is Proximal caries and bone loss detection accuracy using intraoral and extraoral bitewing radiography. This study is being conducted by Dr. Mansur Ahmad B.Sc., Ph.D, an associate professor in the Department of Diagnostic and Biological Sciences and Dr. Chan. The goal of this study is to evaluate if there is any difference in the diagnostic accuracy between x-rays taken extra-orally and x-rays taken intra orally for the diagnosis of caries and bone loss.

Alejandro Kovacs DDS, MS, has his Master’s in Prosthodontics. His research is a a case report describing full mouth reconstruction of a patient with Sjogren’s syndrome.

Thomas Nguyen is from Canada and his research project is on the use of MRI in the diagnosis of periodontal disease. We are investigating how the MRI could successfully distinguish between the different layers of soft tissue, attachments and bone level of the periodontium. The benefits of this new technology will be that it will not expose the patient to any radiation, it will be more accurate, more reproducible, quicker and less painful for the patient. Since the beginning of periodontology, the only way to assess the pocket depth and attachment level was by probing. This technique is fairly time consuming, uncomfortable to the patient and varies between observers. If successful, the use of MRI could change the way in which periodontal diseases are diagnosed.