



Periodontics News

RETURNING TO A SPECIAL PLACE: JEFF BECKER, D.D.S., M.S.D. '96



Nabil F. Bissada, D.D.S., M.S.D.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There's an old saying, "A little hard work never killed anyone." Why does that saying portray hard work in such a negative way? I believe we should welcome the opportunity to work hard, and enjoy all the rewards hard work brings.

Hard work turns the doctoral and post-doctoral students at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine's Department of Periodontics into excellent clinicians. Hard work by the loyal and dedicated faculty maintains the school's position as one of the finest in the country. And hard work by our graduates contributes to the betterment of the profession.

One example of this is the research conducted by Paula Ortiz, D.D.S., M.S.D. '08, that examined the effect of non-surgical periodontal treatment on the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis. The article generated from the research was recently published as the leading article in the *Journal of Periodontology* (2009; 80(4): 535-540).

Numerous other Periodontics Department graduates have their important work published in leading journals, and make presentations at national and international meetings. It's amazing when you attempt to document all the hard work — and all the rewards being accrued from it — by the students, graduates, faculty and staff of the Periodontics Department. It's a tremendous source of pride.

We are also proud to welcome several new faculty additions to the Department of Periodontics.

Jeffery Becker, D.D.S., M.S.D. '96, has recently joined the department as an assistant professor in the Graduate Periodontics Department.

Bana Anbari, D.D.S., M.S.D. '06, has been appointed clinical assistant professor; Hymie Akst, D.D.S., also joins us as a clinical assistant professor; and Anthony Ficara, D.D.S., will serve as an adjunct associate clinical professor.

Finally, I was recently invited to serve as an external examiner at Kuwait University Dental School, the only dental school in that country. This honor reflects the high regard enjoyed by the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and the Department of Periodontics not just nationally, but internationally as well. Rest assured we will all continue our hard work to ensure that remains so.

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Jeff Becker is glad to be back.

Dr. Becker, D.D.S., M.S.D. '96, has a special place in his heart for the CWRU School of Dental Medicine's Periodontics Department. The newly appointed assistant professor in the Graduate Periodontics Department knows how important the dental school and the Periodontics Department have been in his life, and he wants to make sure each student he encounters has the same opportunity to be inspired.

"My goals are to provide great service to patients, and to prepare the students for their careers," Dr. Becker said. "It's truly exciting to think I have an opportunity to help mold the future periodontists that will come out of this program."

Dr. Becker graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1986. He practiced general dentistry for seven years at The Dental Specialty Group, with offices in Norwalk and Avon. Although he still maintains that practice, it became clear to him over the years that his real love was periodontics.

He attended the CWRU dental school and earned his M.S.D. in 1996. It was while he was at the school that he met the man who changed his life: Nabil Bissada, D.D.S., M.S.D., professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics.

"I'll always have a student-teacher relationship with Dr. Bissada," says Dr. Becker. "I truly believe I would not be where I am today without him. He was and still is my mentor, and has encouraged and inspired me in so many ways. He's one of the main reasons I returned to the school." The other main reason Dr. Becker returned is the students. "The students at the CWRU dental school are skilled and motivated, open-minded and receptive," he says. "And as a center for research the school can't be beat. It's really wonderful to have the combination of such strong didactic and clinical programs."

Dr. Becker is teaching the students all of the areas of periodontics that he finds fascinating, including dental implants, bone grafting, sinus augmentations, preparing areas for implantation, gingival grafting, osseous surgery, occlusion, and intravenous sedation.

He is enthusiastic about the future of periodontics and wants his students to be aware of how bright the outlook is for the specialty.

"I think as periodontists we're extremely well-positioned," Dr. Becker says. "We got into implants at the right time, when they were starting to gain some attention. Now they're growing in popularity each year, and the students here couldn't be in a better place learn all the latest techniques and technologies. In fact, we're developing many of those techniques and technologies right here."

After the excitement of helping mold the periodontists of the future, Dr. Becker likes to relax at home in the good company of his three dogs: Newfoundlanders weighing in at 200, 180 and 30 lbs. The 30 lb. "puppy" is only 10 weeks old.

"I'm just very fortunate to be here, in this place at this time," Dr. Becker says. "It's an honor to have the opportunity to inspire the students here the way Dr. Bissada inspired me."

Dr. Becker is a member of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, Academy of Osseointegration, American Academy of Periodontology, and the American Dental Association. He has had articles published in the *Journal of Dental Research* and the *Journal of Periodontology*.



Jeff Becker, D.D.S., M.S.D. '96

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ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH • 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

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Periodontics News

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THE GRADUATING CLASS



David J. Diamond, D.D.S., J.D., is interested in site development for dental implant therapy and bone tissue regeneration, using cone beam computed tomographic analysis. After graduation, Dr. Diamond plans to move back home to Ontario, Canada, and provide dental service to patients by way of full-time clinical periodontal-implant dentistry practice, part-time clinical teaching, and his part-time legal practice.

Ahmed El-Halaby, D.D.S., has been conducting microbiological testing to examine the relationship between failed hip and knee joint implants and the periodontal condition of the individuals receiving the implants. He says his studies



at the CWRU dental school have enhanced his ability to accurately diagnose and identify problems, and apply the most suitable treatment modality in an evidence-based approach.



Nishant Joshi, D.D.S., plans to pursue a private practice in the Cleveland area after graduation. In his practice, "Patients will not only receive the best possible care, but will also be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve," he says. His research project at the CWRU dental school was a collaborative effort between the Department of Periodontology and Department of Urology at University Hospitals. It involved assessing the association between periodontitis and prostate-specific antigen levels in chronic prostatitis patients.

CLASS NOTES

1982

Roger S. Karp, D.D.S. '79, M.S.D. '82, is practicing at The Dental Implant & Periodontal Center in Parma. Dr. Karp has a faculty appointment from the CWRU dental school, is on the staff of MetroHealth Medical Center, and is a fellow of the prestigious Midwest Implant Institute.



1989

Hom-Lay Wang, D.D.S. '87, M.S.D. '89, is endowed collegiate professor of periodontics, and professor and director of graduate periodontics at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. He has authored or co-authored 20 book chapters or invited reviews, and more than 180 scientific articles. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Wang has given more than 400 lectures at professional and scientific congresses/courses and universities worldwide.



1996

Ajay B. Setya, D.D.S. '90, M.S.D. '96, is practicing in Mission Viejo, CA. He is married with three children, and his interests include tennis, hiking, biking, and travel. He is a member of the California Society of Periodontology, American Academy of Periodontology, International Congress of Oral Implantologists, and the Academy of Osseointegration.

PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

National Presentations

The graduate program in periodontics was well represented at the April 2009 IADR 87th general session in Miami, FL. Presentations were made by **Dr. Leena Palomo**, for the abstract, "Comparing Two Radiographic Techniques to Evaluate Mandibular Incisive Canal Prevalence," and **Dr. Elena Furman**, who presented the abstract, "Virtual Reality Distraction for Pain Control During Periodontal Treatment."

Dr. Paula Ortiz was awarded the Midwest Society of Periodontology Resident Research Forum, and Ashley E. Gibbs, CWRU dental school class of 2010,

received the Johnson and Johnson Preventive Care Award.

International Presentations

For the Beirut Arab University 1st International Dental Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, May 2009, **Dr. Nabil Bissada** presented, "Advanced Surgery for the Treatment of Periodontal Conditions and Implant Placement."

As the keynote speaker for faculty and students of Future University, Cairo, Egypt, in April 2009, **Dr. Bissada** presented "Periodontal Disease Influences the Expression of Coronary Arterial Disease and Heart Attack."

MEET THE CLASS OF 2011



Sarah Feteih, B.D.S., is completing her two-year residency program and earning her master's degree in advanced education in general dentistry at the

University of Maryland, Baltimore. Her B.D.S. is from King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Prior to attending the University of Maryland, she worked as a general dentist at King Faisal Specialist

Hospital and Research Center in Jeddah for three years.



Anh (Joe) Nguyen, D.M.D., is originally from San Diego. He graduated in 2004 from the University of California at Riverside with B.S. degrees in neuroscience and environmental toxicology, and received his D.M.D. degree from Boston University in

May 2009. "I chose CWRU for its excellent reputation and emphasis on clinical teaching," Dr. Nguyen says.

Faisal Al-Qassar, B.D.S., is joining the Department of Periodontology after completion of a fellowship in periodontics from the CWRU dental school. Dr. Al-Qassar received his B.D.S. from the Faculty of Oral and Dental Medicine, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt in 2005, and has been a general dental practitioner with the Ministry of Health, Kuwait.