

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



André K. Mickel, D.D.S., M.S.D., '91, '94

I write this message to you with exceptional joy. I am very pleased to announce that following a national search, I have been named as chairman of the Department of Endodontics as of January 1.

This appointment is both very exciting and humbling. I look forward to leading this outstanding department into a new era of excellence by building on the powerful foundation left to me by my predecessors.

I would like to thank our school's dean, Dr. Jerry Goldberg, and Barbara Snyder, president of Case Western Reserve University, for this wonderful opportunity.

It's important to me to acknowledge that I did not do this alone. I am particularly grateful to my friend, mentor, and colleague, Dr. Jefferson Jones, who paved the way for me. I would also like to express my thanks to God almighty, for providing me with the gifts of teaching and sharing. I will use those gifts to the best of my abilities as department chairman.

I'm pleased to mention that I have taken on important roles in two organizations that are dedicated to the advancement of the field of endodontics. I am now president and chairman of the board of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics. The mission of the College of Diplomates is to encourage educationally qualified endodontists to pursue diplomate status, and make available diplomates to mentor candidates throughout the certification process.

I am also honored to be serving as president and chairman of the board of Health Legacy of Cleveland, a private, nonprofit foundation with the mission of increasing the pool of African-American physicians and dentists in the greater Cleveland area.

The field of endodontics, our department, the university, and society as a whole are all moving forward in exciting new ways, and I am thankful to be able to play a role in shaping that future. I am also truly blessed to be associated with this department's great faculty, staff, volunteers, students, and residents. When I look around me, I see a future that is bright indeed.

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SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
 CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
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Endodontics News

SPRING 2011

Gladys McDowell: The Oil in the Smooth-running Machine *continued*

In 1986, McDowell joined the Department of Endodontics under chairman Dr. Jefferson Jones. Among the students she saw come through the department over the years was a sharply dressed young doctor named André Mickel.

"I remember Dr. Mickel was always very stylish, and he always walked very fast. He would zip past you on the way to the dispensary to get something for his patient, and then he would zip back. But he has always been very nice, and he has this smile that makes his eyes crinkle in the corners. You can always tell if a person is genuine if you look in their eyes when they're smiling at you, and Dr. Mickel is definitely genuine."

Today McDowell not only keeps the department running smoothly, she also works closely with the residents to help ensure they are keeping pace to earn the proper number of credits and seeing enough cases to graduate. If there is one change at the dental school that stands out to her over the years, it's how serious the residents have become.

"It's a very demanding program and the residents work very hard," she says. "They have to see 300 cases over the course of a two-year program. Two years isn't a lot of time to see 300 people.

"It can be a little sad," McDowell adds, "you get to meet so many outstanding people from all different cultures, and they're here for two years and then gone. But I

want them to know that during those two years, I'm here for them."

McDowell says she likes to learn things from everyone she encounters, and Drs. Jones and Mickel are no exceptions.

"I think the main thing I learned from Dr. Jones was perseverance," she says. "He knew times could be tough, but Dr. Jones always said you just live your life and don't worry about the ups and downs. Worry won't change anything. If you can't change it, forget it."

Dr. Mickel, meanwhile, has impressed McDowell with his ability to help people think things through on their own. "He doesn't lock you into things," she says. "If you ask him something, he'll find out first what you would do about it. He might end up telling you, 'That's not the answer I was seeking,' but he makes you think and gives you the opportunity to come up with a solution for yourself."

McDowell is excited about working with Dr. Mickel as department chairman. "I've been with him as an undergrad, then I had him as a resident for two years. Then I watched him become a diplomate, then director, and now chairman. I won't be here for another 32 years, but I hope I've got another five or six to enjoy working with Dr. Mickel."

Endodontics News

SPRING 2011

Gladys McDowell: The Oil in the Smooth-running Machine

After 32 years at the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine, 25 of which have been in the Department of Endodontics, Gladys McDowell knows just about everything there is to know about the department — except her title.



Gladys McDowell

"It's funny, but I really don't know," McDowell says when asked. "Office manager? Department assistant? Basically everything I do is to make sure the department runs like a well-oiled machine every day, so maybe the best title for me is 'the oil in the machine.'"

McDowell originally came to the School of Dental Medicine in 1978. She was just completing her studies at the Cleveland Institute of Dental-Medical Assistants, and one of the instructors in the dental assistant program worked at the dental school. She invited McDowell and a few of the other students from the program to visit the dental school and speak to the fourth-year students.

"We came in to educate the dental school students about the importance of having a good assistant," McDowell recalls. "We wanted them to know what dental assistants coming straight out of dental assistant school had to offer them."

While visiting the dental school, McDowell got a look around and liked what she saw. "I found out there was an opening working with students. I had never done that before, but it sounded like fun, so I filled out an application," she says. "I went home, they called me that same afternoon, and here I am telling that story 32 years later."

During her first seven years at the school, McDowell "worked the floor" with the undergraduate students, practicing four-handed dentistry. "It was my job to hand the student doctor what I knew he was going to need next, in the order that he needed it," she says. "I had my own roll-around with a crown and bridge drawer, an operative drawer, and a perio drawer, and I really enjoyed doing that because it was always something different."

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# RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

The Department of Endodontics consistently conducts and presents more research — and wins more awards for that research — than any endodontics program in the country. The research that will be presented by the department this year at the annual session of the American Association of Endodontists includes:

**A comparison of the antimicrobial effectiveness of Hoshino's paste with and without barium sulfate, against an *Enterococcus faecalis* biofilm using scanning electron microscopy (SEM)**

Johnson M, Mickel A, Jurevic R, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

**Antibacterial effectiveness of triple antibiotic paste, 2% chlorhexidine gel and calcium hydroxide against *E. faecalis* in the presence of dentin powder using the radial diffusion assay technique**

Reese R, Duval R, Mickel A, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

**Study of spatial relationships between the root apices of maxillary anterior teeth and the floor of the nasal cavity using cone beam computed tomography**

Wilde J, Ahmad T, Mickel A, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

**Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) examination of the antimicrobial efficacy of various endodontic irrigants and their associated pH changes due to the presence or absence of dentin**

Morris D, Mickel A, Montagnese T, Aminoshariae A

**Effect of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), an omega-3 fatty acid, on the expression of IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, IL-8, and TNF $\alpha$  in normal and LPS treated MG-63 human osteoblasts using reverse transcriptase-PCR.**

Solanki P, Mickel A, Jin G, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

**A comparison of the cytotoxicity and pro-inflammatory cytokine production of EndoSequence Root Repair Material<sup>®</sup> and ProRoot<sup>®</sup> MTA in human osteoblast cell culture using reverse transcriptase-PCR.**

Ciasca M, Mickel A, Jin G, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

**An in vitro biocompatibility comparison of commonly used retrofill materials and two new materials: a MTA/IRM<sup>®</sup> mixture and EndoSequence Root Repair Material<sup>®</sup>**

Galsterer M, Mickel A, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

**A comparison of cone-beam computed tomography scans and direct digital radiography in detecting experimental lesions on radicular tooth structure**

Webb B, Ferrari J, Mickel A, Aminoshariae A, Montagnese T

## Incoming Residents



**Thomas R. Bigelow** grew up in Stanwood, WA. He attended Everett Community College, then transferred to Idaho State University after a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Bigelow and his wife then moved to Pittsburgh, and he earned his D.M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 2008. "The CWRU School of Dental Medicine was always a top choice for my endodontics training because the school has a great reputation for upholding high scholastic and moral standards," he says. Bigelow is interested in regenerative endodontics, and plans to enter private practice after completing his residency.



**Sheetal Kalokhe** was born and raised in Pune, India. After completing five years of dental school at Dr. D.Y. Patil Dental College and Hospital in Pune, she worked both in private and hospital-based dental practices for nearly two years. Kalokhe became interested in endodontics during her third year of dental school. "I decided to pursue my master's in endodontics at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine not only because of the school's reputation, but also because the program is evidence-based and provides extensive clinical knowledge," Kalokhe says. "I believe that I will be able to fulfill my goal of becoming an excellent endodontist here at CWRU School of Dental Medicine with my hard work and guidance from the faculty." Kalokhe was scheduled to enter the endodontics program last spring, but put the plans on hold for a year as she and her husband welcomed a daughter, Vedika.



**Samer Safadi** earned his D.D.S. from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2003, then moved to Phoenix, AZ, where he has owned a successful general dentistry practice for eight years. The native of Damascus, Syria, also holds a master's degree in oral sciences from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. Safadi is interested in researching the differential diagnosis between endodontic pain and other orofacial pain conditions, and improving the role of 3-D beam imaging in endodontics. "As a CWRU dental student, I gained a wealth of knowledge that allowed me to start a very successful dental practice immediately after graduation," Safadi says. "The education we received as CWRU dental students, especially from Dr. Mickel and the endodontics department, was top notch. When it came time for me to further my postgraduate education in endodontics, my alma mater, CWRU, was my number one choice."



**Madhavi Setty** graduated from dental school in Karnataka, India, then obtained a California dental license and began practicing in the Golden State. "Endodontics has always been my passion, and studying endodontics at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine was one of my top priorities because it offers the most diverse and inclusive program," she says. "Also, after reading the bullet points by Dr. Mickel in his chairman's message of the department's spring 2010 newsletter, I was thrilled by his positivity. I am very happy to join this program under his guidance." Setty would like to conduct research about intracanal medicaments in endodontics and their antimicrobial effects on endodontic pathogens.

## Join Us!

April 14, 2011

Reception at the American Association of Endodontists

Annual Session

Marriott Rivercenter

101 Bowie Street

San Antonio, TX

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

## SEND US YOUR News

If you have news to share, send it to us. Please include the following: name, class year, full address, phone number and email address. Send it by email to dentalalumni@case.edu or mail to Class Notes Editor; CWRU School of Dental Medicine; Office of Development and Alumni Relations; 10900 Euclid Avenue; Cleveland OH 44106-4905. Photographs are always welcome.