

Periodontics News

PROFILE OF DR. ROBERT ("BOB") SKILLICORN



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

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings! As I look ahead to the 2006-2007 academic year, it gives me pleasure to realize that next spring will see the graduation of the 100th resident from the Case Western Reserve University Periodontics program. It humbles me to realize that I have been a part of the residency training of 100 fine periodontists in my more than 30 years at the School of Dental Medicine, and this milestone strikes me as the perfect opportunity to celebrate all of our first 100 graduates.

Please make space in your calendar for next October (2007), as we are planning a grand reception for all Perio alumni in Washington, D.C., during the annual AAP Meeting. One highlight will certainly be the opportunity to hear for yourselves about the changes to, and progress of, your program and the new state-of-the-art clinical laboratory and computing facility in the extension to the Periodontics Lab, which has been under construction since 2005, and which will be completed by May 2007.

It would be an honor to see each and every one of you at the reception, and I look forward to hearing your suggestions as to what would make the event most meaningful and most likely to draw alumni back to celebrate their alma mater.

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ANNUAL MEETING

BE THERE!

September 18, 2006
 Alumni Reception at the
 American Academy of
 Periodontology Annual
 Meeting
 Manchester Grand Hyatt
 San Diego, CA
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

RSVP to dentalalumni@case.edu or
 toll free at (877) 468-1436

During three decades of private practice, during which he worked Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and devoted Wednesday mornings to teaching in the Periodontics Clinic at Case, Dr. Bob Skillicorn looked forward to time off. Now, having taken life easy since retiring in 2004, he looks forward to coming to work in the morning.

"At a perio meeting a year after retirement, Dr. Bissada asked me if I'd like to get back into teaching," says Dr. Skillicorn, who started back at the Dental School one day a week in January and has committed to four days a week beginning this summer. "Before retirement I *kind of* liked teaching, now I *really* like it."

Dr. Skillicorn, who thoroughly enjoys working with predoctoral dental students, finds that "great colleagues and responsible residents create a great working and teaching environment" at the Dental School. "But mostly it's the students themselves who make teaching fun," he adds. "They are knowledgeable, enthused about learning, and have a good attitude."

Dr. Skillicorn relishes teaching students a problem-solving approach to dentistry. When he consults with students on a case, he takes them on a "journey" of discovery, starting with the current complaint, going back through a patient's history, then moving on to diagnosis and prognosis to develop an action plan.

Torie Cox, a third-year dental student who plans to practice General Dentistry, was impressed with Dr. Skillicorn's enthusiasm for his students' learning. "Dr. Skillicorn truly has our best interests at heart," she says. "He is always willing to impart some knowledge and provoke interest in periodontics, so much so that he has given up his lunch hour on numerous occasions to help students with their scaling and probing techniques, review bone loss on radiographs, and calculate clinical attachment loss."

In perhaps the highest compliment a student can pay a teacher, Ms. Cox adds that she hopes one day to follow in her mentor's footsteps. "I'd like to help instruct and mold future dental clinicians," she says. "I would like to inspire others as Dr. Skillicorn has inspired me."

Dr. Bissada, Chair of the Periodontics Department, is thrilled to have someone with Dr. Skillicorn's expertise and experience make a commitment to full-time teaching. "Because of the big gap financially between private practice and education, there is a shortage of periodontists who are willing to spend the time to be teachers to the next generation," Dr. Bissada explains.



Robert Skillicorn, D.D.S.



Noting Dr. Skillicorn's "patience with patients and students and his willingness all the time to go the extra mile to do what is needed," Dr. Bissada nominated his colleague for the American Academy of Periodontology Best Teacher Award for 2006, which will be presented at the annual meeting this September.

Dr. Skillicorn advises Everett Wu '08 in the clinic.



CASE

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

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Periodontics News

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CASE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE ARTICLES PUBLISHED AND IN PRESS 2005-2006

Palomo L, Bissada NF, Liu J. Periodontal Assessment of Postmenopausal Women Receiving Bisphosphonate Therapy. *Menopause*. 2005;12(6):685-690.

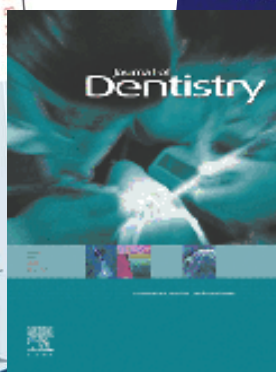
Han YW, Ikegami A, Bissada NF, Herbst M, Redline RW, Ashmead GG. Transmission of an Uncultivated *Bergeyella* Strain from the Oral Cavity to Amniotic Fluid in a Case of Preterm Birth. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2006;44(4):1475-1483.

Al-Katma K, Bissada NF, Bordeaux J, Sue J, Askari A. Control of Periodontal Infection Reduces the Severity of Active Rheumatoid Arthritis. *J Clinical Rheumatology*. 2006 (In Press).

Palomo L, Bissada NF, Liu J. Bisphosphonate Therapy for Bone Loss in Patients with Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease: Clinical Perspectives and Review of Literature. *Quintessence Int*. 2006;37(2):41-45.

Al-Zahrani M, Borawski E, Bissada NF. Increased Physical Activity Reduces Prevalence of Periodontitis. *J Dent*. 2006;33:603-610.

Al-Emadi A, Bissada NF, Farah C, Siegel B, Al-Zahrani M. Systemic Diseases Among Patients With and Without Alveolar Bone Loss. *Quintessence Int*. 2006;37(10):41-45.



CLASS NOTES

1985



“My practice is busy and continues to grow with an increasing volume of the implant portion of the practice,” says **Richard Bobulsky**, currently in his 20th year of private practice in Parma, Ohio. He adds that his Periodontics residency “laid a good foundation of periodontal theory and clinical practice that has allowed me to develop an expanding practice. The varied backgrounds of the clinical instructors teaching in the program at that time gave me a broad educational experience to develop a good practice based on sound periodontal philosophy and contemporary treatment techniques.” Dr. Bobulsky and Denise, his wife of 21 years, have two daughters and a son. Their eldest daughter will be entering Marquette University this fall.
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1987

James Wallace is the Director of Endodontics at the University of Pittsburgh. His private practice includes both Endodontics and Periodontics and both are doing very well. Of his Case experience, he says, “Dr. Bissada provided me with a very good didactic and clinical periodontal education for teaching and advancement. His present and past students are fortunate to have him as their mentor.”

2005

Khaldoun Al-Katma, a native of Damascus, Syria, is currently working in a few practices in Houston, TX. He hopes soon to move toward more time for teaching and research. Dr. Al-Katma says the best thing about the residency program is its “being very balanced in teaching us both clinical and theoretical education compared to other programs which concentrate on only one of them.”
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2006

Nomith Ramdev recently bought a private practice in Dover, NH, where he is working full-time. He and Sabgeetha, his wife of 13 years, have two daughters (Maya is 4, Riya is 1). A 1993 graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, and Tufts School of Dental Medicine in Boston, Dr. Ramdev completed a one-year residency at Harvard Medical School in hospital and taught Oral Medicine at Harvard Dental School for three years before coming to Case.
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