LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings again from the Department of Endodontics at the Case School of Dental Medicine. Another successful year has passed. Our growth, success, and progress have continued in all areas of our teaching concern. Our predoctoral classes are working hard to master the art of endodontics, and we are continually seeking ways to provide clinical experience to second-, third- and fourth-year students. Moreover, our Graduate Endodontics Program continued its award-winning ways in 2005 by amassing multiple research awards at the national meeting of the American Association of Endodontists and the state meeting of the Ohio Association of Endodontists.

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Our department, since 1967, has been blessed with an exceptional group of endodontic educators who have diligently worked to provide endodontic training to our D.D.S. and D.M.D. graduates. I would like to take a moment to recognize a few who have made lasting contributions over the years: First, Ted McKinley ’44, who preceded me here at Case and continued to teach until just recently. Second is Dr. Seymour Ullman, who referred my first patient to me at the school and who became a long-time instructor in this department. Next are Giedra Matas ’64, who taught for many years both in the lecture hall and in the clinic and Harris Levine ’74, who joined the department as director of the graduate program and remained for many years, even after André Mickel ’94, became the permanent director of the graduate endodontics program. For the last 39 years, we have provided continuous, high-quality graduate and undergraduate endodontic education at Case, and our work is not finished yet!

Dr. Mickel, who in 1996 became the first African American and the youngest director of an endodontic residency program, teaches Mandibular Molar Endodontics to the undergraduate dental students as well as courses in the classical literature of endodontics and clinical techniques encompassing all aspects of the specialty. No matter what the subject, Dr. Mickel’s students appreciate his commitment to drawing from “real life” patient practice management as he teaches the art and science of endodontics.

“Teaching allows me to share with my students all that I have,” says Dr. Mickel. “I love my students as if they were my own children. They are a part of my family.”

That commitment was recently recognized by the American Association of Endodontists, who awarded Dr. Mickel the Dr. Edward Osetek Award, given to the “most outstanding young educator in the field.”

Dr. Mickel characterizes his current research as “Clinical Therapeutics,” and he was selected by Cleveland Magazine as one of Cleveland’s “Fifty Most Interesting People” for his innovative clinical realization techniques to reduce the anxiety and perception of pain by root canal patients.

“Research is important so that we can remain on the cutting edge of endodontic technology,” he says. “I remain committed to making our program topnotch. We need not only my commitment, but also that of my fellow alumni. All of our support is critical and needed more than ever to keep our success and momentum going.”

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RESIDENTS’ PRESENTATIONS AT THE UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

VIKRAM BRAR
Restoration of Endodontically Treated Teeth: Objective Decision-Making for Ideal Post Selection.

CRAIG DUHAIME
Endodontic Treatment vs. Implants: Identifying Treatment Planning Differences Across Disciplines.

GISELLE C. BITTER
Endodontists Should Be Aware of the Recognition and Treatment of Substance Abuse Among Dentists.

DANIA KAFRI

JOSEPH LEE
A Descriptive, Cross-Sectional Analysis of Surgical Operating Microscope Use and Its Perceived Impact on Treatment Outcomes.

JUSSARA MORSANI
Genetic Predisposition to Persistent Apical Periodontitis.

BE THERE!

American Association of Endodontics Annual Meeting – Case Department of Endodontics – Alumni Reception

Thursday, March 30, 2006
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort
Honolulu, Hawaii

R.S.V.P.
T: (216) 368-3480 or (877) 468-1436
E: dentalalumni@case.edu
**RESIDENTS FOCUS ON RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Joseph Lee has developed a study to “address some of the retrofit fill material deficiencies through a new collaboration between faculty from the School of Engineering and the endodontics department.” Research will focus on “possible modifications to current dental materials at the nano-scale level to favorably influence the bulk properties of these materials in the dental setting,” Dr. Lee explains. “We hypothesize that the reinforcing effect of nanocomposite will substantially improve the bonding of material to dentin and will prevent the leakage better than currently available reina- modified glass ionomers.” Dr. Lee, who practiced general dentistry in the U.S. Army, plans to set up his endodontics practice in Maryland.

Downer’s Grove, Illinois, native Andrew Wright says, “My descriptive, cross-sectional survey determined how the relationship among a particular endodontic diagnosis, the surgical and nonsurgical endodontic procedure involved, and the perceived level of patient pain affects the practitioner’s view of the efficacy of individual or combinations of various commonly used narcotic and nonnarcotic analgesics for the situation at hand. This research is interesting for me in that understanding and managing patients’ pain is one of many aspects of endodontics that fascinates me.” The University of Michigan School of Dentistry graduate will be joining an endodontic practice in Wisconsin.

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**MEET THE INCOMING CLASS**

Arshia Kasravi, a graduate of University Southern California Dental School, became interested in endodontics by the challenge and satisfaction of the root canal cases she has handled as a general practice dentist. Her cousin, Bijan Pourjamasb ‘97, encouraged her to look at Case. “It was very clear during my visits to Case that the residents were very happy, very satisfied with the program,” she says. “That’s what sold the program for me.”

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Victor Peritore ’05, graduate of the Case School of Dental Medicine, is currently enrolled in a General Practice Residency in his native San Francisco. He credits his preclinical and research experience at Case with his decision to become an endodontist.

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“Immediately following my interview, I knew beyond a shadow of doubt that Case was the place for me,” says Sheleatha Bolden, who will graduate this spring from dental school at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Bolden, whose husband, Kevin, is also a dentist, became interested in endodon- tics as early as her second year in dental school.

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**CLASS NOTES**

2005

Kim Lindquist has purchased an endodon- tic practice in Duluth, Minnesota. Dr. Lindquist finds great satisfaction in helping eliminate the pain patients suffer from toothaches. Especially satisfying is “Being able to have a patient relax enough in the dental chair to fall asleep during endodontic treatment.” She adds, “Patients are amazed that having a root canal treatment does not have to be painful.” Look for Dr. Lindquist at the meeting in Hawaii. She has been selected to judge the postgraduate resident table clinics at the 2006 meeting.

E-MAIL: kdlindquist@yahoo.com

2004

Upon finishing residency, Michael J. Mindiola and his family returned to the heart of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco, California and spent the past year as a General Practice Resident at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. He will bring his wife and two sons with him to Cleveland for his residency.

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2005

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E-MAIL: kdlindquist@yahoo.com

2004

Upon finishing residency, Michael J. Mindiola and his family returned to the heart of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he is a regional consultant in endodontics for the Indian Health Service (IHS). One of the highlights of this past year was being selected to lead a dental team of Commissioned Corps dental officers to the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast region.

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Terry M. Crawford, who has been working as the Director of Endodontic Services for DenCor, a major dental corporation in Tampa, Florida since August, 2003, is planning to transition this summer into private practice in microsurgical endodontics. Dr. Crawford’s practice, to be called Trinity Endodontics in honor of his Christian faith, will be conducted in offices in Orlando and Lakeland, Florida.

On a personal note, Dr. Crawford is engaged to be married within the next year.

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