

Endodontics News

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

CASE ENDODONTICS PROGRAM



Jefferson J. Jones, D.M.D.

POSTDOCTORAL STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, PREPARE FOR DENTAL PRACTICE AT CASE

To all our colleagues, alumni, and students: Once again, I am pleased to offer you greetings from the Endodontic Department at the School of Dental Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

Our second-year post-doctoral students are diligently working on the last part of our dental simulator course and are preparing to begin their endodontic experiences on real people. It gives us great satisfaction to see their transformation from dental student to student doctor. We are confident that when they step into the clinic, they will be prepared to care for patients.

Leading up to the American Association of Endodontists Annual Session in Vancouver, our endodontic residents were finalizing their papers and projects.

Of the many Endodontic residents who presented at the AAE Annual Session in Vancouver, only ten received awards. Of those ten, three were from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine's Postgraduate Endodontic Program. Congratulations to these three residents who are listed below with their award placement and the title of their presentation:

Victor Peritore: Awarded **4th Place**
Poster Research Presentation
"Possible Combined Effect of Cytokine Polymorphisms on Persistent Apical Periodontitis"

Dustin Wirig: Awarded **6th Place**
Table Clinic Research Presentation
"Rapid Bacterial Sampling in Root Canal Systems Using the Profile®-1 Bioluminometer"

Sumesh Potluri: Awarded **10th Place**
Poster Research Presentation
"Assessment of Drug Elution Characteristics of Nanocomposite-based Endodontic Retrofill Materials"

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FIRST-, SECOND-YEAR RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE STRENGTH, QUALITY OF CWRU ENDODONTICS PROGRAM

The Endodontics program at the School of Dental Medicine at Case Western Reserve University is one of the best in the United States. This is due to many factors, but one of the key reasons for the program's quality is the caliber of residents who it attracts year after year.

Residents are here to learn, certainly, but they also contribute to the body of knowledge in our field through their own independent research projects and through their curiosity and drive. Here is your opportunity to meet our current residents.

Second-year residents and their research projects

Shaletha Bolden is focusing her research through the project, "Role of Cytokine Gene Polymorphisms in Healing after Surgical Root Canal Therapy." Shaletha will compare cytokine gene polymorphisms in patients who have had successful surgical root canal therapy with patients who have had unsuccessful surgical root canal therapy using buccal cheek swabs from those patients. The research is being conducted with Drs. Mickel and Chogle. Shaletha is a graduate of Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. She is married to a general dentist "and we have three beautiful girls," she says. "After completion of the program, I plan to practice in Nashville, TN."

Arshia Kasravi is conducting her research and focusing her thesis on cone-beam technology. Her project is entitled, "A Cone Beam Computed Tomography Study of Spatial Relationships Between Maxillary Posterior Teeth, Maxillary Sinus Floor, and Buccal and Palatal Bony Surfaces." Arshira is conducting this research in the Craniofacial Imaging Center of Case School of Dental Medicine under the direction of Drs. Mickel, Chogle, Jones, and Palomo. According to Arshia, "I will be using cone beam computed tomography to measure distances between root apices of maxillary posterior teeth and the floor of the maxillary sinus as well as the buccal and palatal cortical plates," she explains. The key question Arshia is asking in her research is which root apex is closest to the floor of the maxillary sinus, which is closest to the buccal cortical plate, and which is closest to the palatal cortical plate? She will be returning to Southern California to practice after she graduates this summer.

Victor Peritore is working on his project, entitled, "A Possible Effect of Interleukin-6 Gene Polymorphism on Persistent Apical Peridontitis." The key question Victor is asking in his research is whether the -174 G/C interleukin-6 polymorphism has a significant effect on healing after root canal therapy. After graduation, Victor is returning to the San Francisco Bay area.

Dustin Wirig's research concerns new technology that might allow for rapid and chairside bacterial detection in root canal therapy. His project, entitled, "Rapid bacterial sampling of root canal systems using a portable ATP bioluminescence assay system" involves working with *E. faecalis* and he is working with Dr. Mickel, Dr. Chogle as well as a private laboratory in Baltimore, MD. Dustin has also studied sample bias in the implant literature for which he placed in the Tulsa/Dentsply Resident Research competition at last year's AAE in Philadelphia. In addition to his clinical research, Dustin is a father of three (the latest child was born during his residency). He has been married to his wife, Kendra for 8 years. After graduation, Dustin plans to practice in San Francisco.

First-year residents

Kristina Hopkins is a graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. "Aside from expanding my knowledge of exciting and interesting topics as it relates to endodontics, the master's program has also introduced me to innovative topics in the fields of basic sciences and research," she says. Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Kristina intends to return to Birmingham to practice endodontics and to teach future dentists about the rewards of endodontics.

Mahmoud Modareszadeh says that "My first year in endodontic program was really tough but at the same time exciting as it helped me to refresh my basic science knowledge and in many instances clarify the points that were not so clear until I attended these advanced courses in anatomy, pathology, pharmacology, etc. I anticipate a hard working time next year as I shall review a great amount of endodontic literature, preparing my thesis and looking for a job opportunity either in an academic or a clinical position."



Sumesh Potluri is a graduate of Case School of Dental Medicine. He says that "the master's program helped me to get the insight in basic science and research for the past nine months along with the panoptic view of Endodontics." He is currently working on the research project entitled "Drug Elution Characteristics of Nanocomposite-based Endodontic Retrofill Materials."

Endodontics News

SPRING 2008

RECENT DEPARTMENT FACULTY ADDITIONS



Igor Kantorovich, joined our Endodontic family after a successful graduate program. He has been appointed to the rank of Assistant Clinical Professor. He works with the first- and second-year residents teaching in all areas of Graduate Endodontics education.

Dr. Kantorovich's wife, Dr. Elena Furman, is finishing a Graduate Periodontic residency here at Case Western Reserve University

School of Dental Medicine, and they have two lovely children.

Nadia Ibrahim, has accepted a position of Assistant Clinical Professor in the Endodontic Department. She has a varied academic background with Graduate Endodontic training from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey at Newark. She has additional training at the University of Michigan and the University



of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ibrahim was recently practicing Endodontics at Riyadh Dental Center in Riyadh and at King Fahad General Hospital in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. She most recently was an Endodontic Consultant at King Fahad General Hospital Center in Jeddah.

She is working with the Predoctoral Mentoring Clinic Program and the postdoctoral junior and senior students.

Both Dr. Kantorovich and Dr. Ibrahim are welcome additions to our Endodontic Department.

MEET THE INCOMING CLASS



Tasneem Ahmad is a graduate of Nishtar Medical College in Multan, Pakistan. Tasneem completed a general practice residency at Nishtar Hospital Multan,

and is currently enrolled in the AEGD Fellowship Program (2006-2008) at the Case School of Dental Medicine. "The two years of my dental education at Case has been very important in my understanding of the different treatment modalities in dentistry," says Tasneem. "Not all teeth are the same and the challenges that go along with treating teeth endodontically are what I enjoy most." Tasneem cites the "commitment and dedication of the residents and the reputation of the endodontic faculty at the school were the most important factors that drew me to the program." Tasneem visits family in Canada on a regular basis and one of his goals is to learn French.

Ryan Duval is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He has been a general dentist for the last three years in Ellensburg, Washington. "I was attracted to Case because of their reputation for clinical excellence and a strong literature/research-based education," says Ryan. "I look forward to the challenge of the next two years and to contributing to the winning tradition at Case Western Reserve." Ryan lives with his wife, Jennifer, and his boxer, Patton.



Jose Ferrari is originally from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. He was graduated from the Meharry School of Dentistry in Nashville, TN. "My interest in becoming a resident at Case is based on the fact that I anticipate a complete program that will prepare me to be a great clinician," says Jose. "Most important though, is the fact that the master's component will give me the tools

necessary for my future teaching responsibilities." When he completes the Endodontic program, Jose plans on practicing in Puerto Rico and on teaching other dental students in a university setting.

Chandra Sykes is a native of Columbia, South Carolina. She is also a graduate (2006) of the Meharry School of Dentistry in Nashville, TN. "I am currently in my second year of a General Practice Residency at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, NY," she explains. "I became interested in the Case Endodontic program when I spoke to a fellow classmate, **Shaletha Bolden**, who spoke highly of the program and the faculty. The all-day interview and meeting with the first- and second-year residents was the 'final sale' of the program to me. I was pleased to see a group who worked well together and was extremely efficient in study a field of dentistry that has interested me since my second year in dental school."



CLASS NOTES

1995



John Nardi has been in practice for more than 17 years. He is a member of the American Dental Association, Ohio Dental Association, Cleveland

Dental Society, American Association of Endodontists and the Loran County Dental Society. Away from his office in Westlake, OH, John enjoys outdoor activities, music and physical fitness.

2000

Eugene Choi is currently a faculty member at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine where he instructs predoctoral dental students in the field of Endodontics.

He is also a member of the American Dental Association, the American Association of Endodontics, the Massachusetts Dental Society, the Massachusetts Association of Endodontists and the West Metropolitan



Dental Society. Outside the office, he enjoys basketball, golf, fishing, and traveling.

2005

Allen Colic married his wife, Sara, in September 2007. He currently is part of a group practice in Seattle, WA which he joined in 2005.

