Faisal A. Quereshy grew up in a family of doctors. His mother who practices family medicine in Canada, was his earliest mentor. Her stories about patients and ability to be a strong provider for the family inspired young Faisal to follow his mother’s footsteps. Today, Dr. Quereshy is doing more than just offering care. He is inspiring young minds to achieve higher levels academically and professionally. Dr. Quereshy wanted to be a doctor, but he also wanted to work with his hands, to be artistic, perhaps. He needed a niche. A cousin introduced him to dentistry which was a perfect fit. His first exposure to oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) came early in dental school at State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. After speaking with faculty and residents about the scope of OMFS, he knew this would be his specialty, his niche.

“Oral and maxillofacial surgery is a bridge between dentistry and medicine, allowing me to use my training in both areas. I chose OMFS because the focus is on the face, not just teeth,” says Dr. Quereshy.

Motivated by success, driven to achieve higher levels academically and professionally. Dr. Quereshy has remained dedicated to training the next generation of oral and maxillofacial surgeons for the past 16 years. He manages his own experience by the accomplishments of his residents, many who have become very successful junior faculty. As a whole, the department has a reputation as thought leaders both nationally and internationally, thanks to the work of Dr. Quereshy, Dr. Dale Baur, and others.

Dr. Quereshy also does private practice two days a week in addition to his role at CWSU. He works with a group in Medina, where he uses his edge technology and specialized care to a growing community.

Dr. Quereshy is also committed to working with the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (IAOMS) and expanding the scope of cosmetic surgery with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). Dr. Quereshy says, “oral and maxillofacial surgeons have the training that plastic and cosmetic surgeons receive for craniofacial procedures. As experts of the face, mouth, and jaw, it falls within the scope of our specialty.”

Over the next five years, Dr. Quereshy has plans for publications, lectures, writing, surgery clinics, and continuing education activities in Europe, Australia, and the US.

Finding his passion for surgery and education has earned Dr. Quereshy one of the highest honors in the industry. As many of you know by now, Dr. Quereshy is one of three nominees for the Director of the AAOMS. Many say that being nominated is the biggest honor, because it was chosen by his peers. He is the second faculty in the history of the department to be nominated. Dr. Baur was the first. The election will be held at the annual meeting in Las Vegas on September 28.

Dr. Quereshy’s experience as an OMFS resident at CWSU had a major impact on his career path. He enjoyed the hands-on, chair-side training in the OR. As a junior resident, he admired the senior residents as mentors, and when it came time for him to pass down knowledge to younger residents, he loved it. The best feeling would be those “aha!” moments when when residents see the trainee gets it, says Dr. Quereshy. Those moments were enough to get him hooked on teaching.

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Dexter Mattes is originally from coastal Georgia. He studied biology and geology at the University of Georgia and graduated magna cum laude in 2011. He went on to the Dental College of Georgia, where he was active in the OMFS club and many other activities. Dexter finished his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 2016, and will be attending CWRU School of Dental Medicine for his OMFS residency. Dexter plans to join Jeff Capes, DMD, MD (CWRU Alumni), resident grad ’05, and practice at Coastal Oral Surgery in his hometown of Saint Simons Island, Georgia.

“I am proud to be following in the footsteps of my mentor Jeff Capes, DMD, MD, with my training at Case Western Reserve University’s Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program. I look forward to a variety of challenges at University Hospitals, the Cleveland Clinic, the Cole Center and the School of Medicine. As a native of southeastern Georgia, I am perhaps a bit concerned about the upcoming winter! Outside of oral surgery, my free time is spent with my wife, Kiley. We enjoy walks with our dog, Camden, and cooking.”

Alaina Pirista is from Bayonne, New Jersey. She studied biochemistry and molecular biology at Drew University for her undergrad, finishing in 2011. She graduated from Rutgers Dental School of Medicine with her DMD degree in 2016. Alaina was active in the OMFS Journal Club and Italian Dental Society at Rutgers, and was honored with the AAOMS Dental Student Award.

“My decision to attend CWSU was based on the undeniable excellence of the program in conjunction with the outstanding and reputable attendings. I was overjoyed and extremely grateful to accept a position as an OMFS Maxillofacial Surgery resident here at CWSU. During the course of my training, I am excited to be given the opportunity to enhance my skills with the integration of a vast amount of medical knowledge. In addition to my passion for OMFS, I am also an avid rock collector with an interest in all things Russia, and alternative rock. I am excited to begin this new chapter, continue my professional education and to pursue my interests at CWSU.”

Petra Dilovic is originally from Canada. She studied life sciences and psychology at McMaster University before coming to CWRU School of Dental Medicine. She graduated with her DMD degree in 2016, and has been working as an OMFS resident at UH Case Medical Center ever since. She was honored to receive an award from the AAOMS for her exceptional interest and accomplishments in dental radiology.

“During my dental school rotations at CWSU, I was so excited to have the opportunity to work with the OMFS and Maxillofacial Surgery program, not just during school, but for the next five years. I ultimately chose CWSU for its’ ability to increase my awareness of the field in every aspect of the profession. I look forward to the next five years with the faculty and my co-residents. Whenever time allows, I like to home veggie cupcakes, and for a mental recharge I enjoy long distance running.”

*continued on next page*
Haeuser Blackhaw, DDS, and Sean will return to Michigan to cheer on your Wolverines this year. The OMS Graduation celebration continues to be supported by Dr. Joseph Helman (Former Chair University of Michigan), Dr. David Hauser (Beachwood, OH), and Sean will return to Michigan to cheer on our alumni and friends. Many hours and dollars have been donated. Your contributions have helped to make this an annual event for our current residents. Our continuing education events are also supported by donations. I encourage you to support this annual donation to the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery department and volunteer with students. Attend grand rounds or CE events. Your contributions, whether it be time or money, help provide an educational experience for the dental students in the nation.