



Periodontics News

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

LEENA PALOMO, D.D.S., '00, M.S.D., '04



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

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Perio Department Reaches 100 Grads

It is a great pleasure to announce that the Graduate Program of Periodontics now has 100 alumni. To commemorate this important milestone, the Department will host a dinner during the 93rd annual meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology in Washington, D.C. We hope you will be able to join us.

We will be honoring our alumni in an exquisite venue, but the evening will not be stuffy or formal. I invite all alumni who attend to stand up and make a comment or two. You are the reason this program is so successful. We want to hear from you, both at the dinner and whenever there is an issue you'd like to address.

If you attend, you will be among other accomplished friends and colleagues. Many have achieved national and international prominence as educators, administrators, and clinicians. Some notable examples: **Mohammad Al-Zahrani '00**, chair of the Division of Periodontics at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; **Fady Atiyeh '83**, Professor and Director of post-graduate programs, Department of Periodontics, Lebanese University School of Dentistry, Beirut; **Henry Greenwell '82**, chair of the Department of Periodontics and director of the graduate program at the University of Louisville Kentucky; **Uri Hangorsky '78**, dean for clinical affairs at the University of Pennsylvania; and **Hom-Lay Wang '87**, professor and director of the graduate program at the University of Michigan. Some are dual specialists, such as **Fitin Aloufi '04**, (orthodontics), **Neal Murphy '76**, (orthodontics), **Andrew Steinhilber '89**, (oral and maxillofacial surgery) and **James Wallace '00**, (endodontics).

I also want to thank our teaching faculty in the Graduate Program. Without their dedication, this important milestone would not be possible. Thank you to **Jeff Becker '96**, **Constantin Farah '88**, **Larry Frankel '81**, **Lee Hui-Jin '95**, **Charlene Krejci '86**, **Neal Murphy '76**, **Imad Nouneh**, **Leena Palomo '04**, **Clair Pernsteiner**, **Paul Ricchetti**, **Fred Rosenberg**, **Stuart Sears**, **Burt Siegel**, **Bob Skillicorn** and **Tom Wilko**.

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After being named a diplomate by the American Board of Periodontology, Dr. Palomo returned to join the faculty at Case. In her two years on the faculty she published seven articles in medical, dental and pharmaceutical journals and has obtained two grants. Additionally, she has been invited to present at national and international meetings. Her commitment to students has been recognized by the American Academy of Periodontology.



Leena Palomo, D.D.S., M.S.D.

Why teach here?

Dr. Palomo returned to her alma mater as faculty to be a part of "the contribution that this periodontics department has, not just in the United States, but all over the world," she says. "This program has recently sent out its 100th graduate. That is amazing to me. I think of every graduate and all the people they see in their private offices, then I think of the graduates who are academicians and all the additional students, residents and other clinicians impacted by their work, and of course all of the quality investigational outcomes that trickle down to affect just about everyone in dentistry. The sum total impact of this program blows my mind. I am proud to be a part of something so productive."

She also wanted to give back to the school. "As a student and resident, I never fully realized the commitment to my education made by the faculty, staff and alumni," says Dr. Palomo. "It takes an incredible amount of human capital and concrete resources to support the development and education of even one dental student or resident. I felt it was important that I return to give back to the place where I received so much.

"It takes a tremendous team effort on the part of faculty, staff, and alumni to transform a college student coming into our program into a dentist and then, into a periodontist," she adds. "We need the participation of our alumni so that this program can — through its superior graduates — continue to shape the future of periodontics."

Inspired by her mentor

"I remember the first day of dental school — my very first class — with Dr. Bissada," says Dr. Palomo. "In his lecture, he linked research, clinical practice, and surgical intervention. That was it for me. I saw what I wanted to do. I wanted to be a professional who could link these important components. Now I internalize that evidence shapes the way that clinicians work, so I just try to do what I can to be a part of investigational projects and brainstorm what else might be a good idea."

The experience inspired her teaching philosophy: "Ask questions. Get students to think about, 'What is the best way to approach this problem?' I prefer to direct them to outcomes that are research- and evidence-based," she says. "These days with information so prevalent with the capabilities of the internet, I think it is important for developing clinicians to differentiate reliable evidence from opinion, or less-documented sources," says Dr. Palomo.

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BE THERE!

The Department of Periodontology Invites You to Attend a Dinner

Celebrating 100 Graduates of the Periodontics Program of
Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine
during the American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting

Monday, October 29, 2007 • 5:30 p.m.

Renaissance Washington DC Hotel • 999 9th Street NW • Washington, DC
\$45 per person

*RSVP by Friday, October 19th. Payment must be received in advance.
We are unable to accept any payments at the event.*

(877) 468-1436

Periodontics News

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PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2007 IADR meeting, New Orleans. Six graduate students and faculty members from the Department of Periodontics made presentations.

2007 Graduate Research Program of the Midwest Society of Periodontology. **Omid Kiarash** made a presentation, which garnered an Honorable Mention.



Leena Palomo spoke at three recent conferences: The 17th Annual Review of Rheumatology, where she presented "Bisphosphonate-Associated ONJ"; the Annual Session of the National Sjogren's

Syndromes Association, Cleveland, where she presented "Healthy Mouth/Healthy Teeth With Sjogren's Syndrome"; and at the Computer-Assisted Radiology and Surgery Annual Meeting, Berlin, where she presented a review, "Three-dimensional TAD Placement Protocol."

"Recent Findings Linking Oral Health to General Health" was presented by **Nabil Bissada** during the 2006 Daniel Vern Symposium in Cleveland, as well as the 15th International Dental Congress in Alexandria, Egypt, and the First Middle East Symposium in Dental Medicine in Jerusalem.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Al-Zahrani M, Kayal RA, Bissada NF. Periodontitis and cardiovascular disease: A review of shared risk factors and new findings supporting a causality hypothesis. *Quintessence Int.* 2006;37(1):11-18.

Tietmann C, Bissada NF. Aggressive periodontitis in a patient with chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus: A case report. *Quintessence Int.* 2006;37(5):401-8. (Appearing also in *Lupus Now*, Fall 2006.)

Al-Katma MK, Bissada NF, Bordeaux J, et al. Control of periodontal infection reduces the severity of active rheumatoid arthritis. *J Clin Rheumatol.* 2007;13(3):134-7.

Palomo L, Liu J, Bissada NF. Skeletal bone diseases impact the periodontium: A review of bisphosphonate therapy. *Expert Opin Pharmacother.* 2007;8(3):309-15.

Dababneh R, Al-Wahadneh AM, Hamadneh S, Khouri A, Bissada NF. Periodontal Manifestation of Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency Type-I: Case Report. To be published in the *Journal of Periodontology*, 2007.

Palomo L, Palomo JM, Hans MG, Bissada NF. 3D image Guided TAD Placement. *Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery.* June 07, 424-426.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2009



Dima Lakkis received her dental degree with honors from Beirut University in Lebanon in 2006.



Cecilia Perea received her dental degree from Santa Maria University in Venezuela in 2004. Before joining our program, Dr. Perea worked as a registered dental hygienist in Florida.

Naheed Mohammed received his B.Sc. degree with honors from the University of Toronto in 2002 and his D.D.S. from Boston University in 2007.



Luis Pires received his dental degree in 2000 in Brazil, and did his post-graduate training in OMF surgery from the University of Michigan in 2001 and his M.S. in Implantology in 2006 in Brazil.



CLASS NOTES

1986

Charlene B. Krejci is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and the recipient of the prestigious Balint Orban Memorial Award.

She enjoys spending time with her family, reading (whenever time allows!) and trying to perfect the art of juggling personal and professional activities.

E-MAIL: ckrejci@gumdrs.com

1987



Hom-Lay Wang is Professor of Dentistry and Director of Graduate Periodontics at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. In 2006, he received an

Honorary Ph.D. from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timi-oara, Romania
E-MAIL: chomlay@umich.edu

2002

Suresh Goel serves as a consultant to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Bath, NY. He founded Progressive Implantology & Periodontics in 2005. He is fully trained and certified to perform periodontal therapy. He and wife, **Cheryl Brunnell '98**, live in Webster, NY.
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