Periodontics News

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
LARRY FRANKEL, D.M.D., M.S.D., ’77 ’81

If the hallmark of a good professional education is absorbing a blend of theory and research on the one hand, and hands-on practical mastery of skills, on the other, then Dr. Larry Frankel is a crucial element in the preparation of graduate periodontal students.

For nearly 20 years he has served on the faculty of his alma mater while simultaneously building a private periodontal practice in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland. Fellow faculty members say he’s been a crucial part of their ranks. “With his vast knowledge of periodontics and excellent clinical skills, Dr. Frankel has taught the periodontal residents and cared for their patients in the graduate periodontal clinic with passion, friendliness, and kindness,” says his colleague, Dr. Robert Skillcorn, an associate professor in periodontics.

Add Dr. Leena Palomo, ’00, ’04: “He’s a great guy, and the students are always very excited to work with him. He’s a very good communicator and gets the material across so effectively.”

Dr. Frankel’s contributions were formally recognized this year by the American Academy of Periodontology, which conferred on him its Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics, given to one periodontal educator at each school who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching and an ability to communicate enthusiasm to students.

Like many who eventually enter the field of dentistry, Dr. Frankel latched on to an early guide that would be impossible to achieve in any field is finding the right balance between old and new perspectives, the right blend of research and technology on the one hand and more timeless professional knowledge and wisdom on the other. With all the advancements in the field of periodontics has seen in recent years, especially in the area of implants, we’ve spent much of our time and energy teaching the advanced techniques to our students. But if the hallmark of a good professional education is absorbing a blend of theory and research on the one hand, and hands-on practical mastery of skills, on the other, then Dr. Larry Frankel is a crucial element in the preparation of graduate periodontal students.

One of the crucial tasks in building and sustaining a solid academic curriculum in any field is finding the right balance between new and new perspectives, the right blend of research and technology on the one hand and more timeless professional knowledge and wisdom on the other. With all the advancements in the field of periodontics has seen in recent years, especially in the area of implants, we’ve spent much of our time and energy teaching the advanced techniques to our students. But we’re also equally intent on continuing to deliver the enduring lessons of our profession that will never change — dedication to the patient, a commitment to continuous learning and treating the whole person rather than only the mouth.

We’re eager to hear from you and to stay in touch with all your news and accomplishments, so please drop me a note if you’d like. It was great to see many of you at the event in Seattle in September.

E-MAIL: nabil.bissada@case.edu

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Pride in What We’ve Accomplished

We have many weeks to go before Thanksgiving, but as another school year begins, I find myself feeling so proud and thankful for what we’ve accomplished together in recent years. We’re so proud of all our graduates — whether they’re in private practice or pursuing careers on the administrative or academic sides of the profession. We’re particularly thankful for the incredible continuing support they and others have shown both the school and our department through selflessly sharing their time, treasure and talent.

We’re also proud of how the advanced program in periodontics has become a magnet for students from around the world. I count no fewer than 15 students who have come to our program from overseas and have subsequently returned to their countries to practice dentistry. At least an additional dozen students have come from elsewhere, but have subsequently decided to stay in this country after graduation.

These students hail from nearly every imaginable spot on the globe, including Lebanon, Greece, Brazil, Israel, the Netherlands, Taiwan, Iran, Palestine and the Philippines. In a world that’s becoming increasingly interconnected, their presence among us adds a unique richness to the campus experience that would be impossible to achieve in any other way.

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MEET THE CLASS OF 2010

Nabil Bissada spoke at several recent conferences, including the Fourth International Conference of the Jordan Royal Medical Services in Amman, Jordan, where he presented “Advanced Surgery for Correction of Periodontal Defects and Implant Placement” and “The Oral-Systemic Connection: A State of the Clinical Science and Dental Practice”; the First International Congress of the Faculty of Oral and Dental Medicine in Cairo, Egypt, where he presented “Advanced Periodontal and Implant Surgery”; and at the Kuwait University Faculty of Dentistry, where he presented “The Oral-Systemic Connection: A State of the Clinical Science and Dental Practice.” In September, he presented at the International Dental Conference, in Brazil, on “Periodontal Medicine: A Review and Update.”

Other Presentations at the 2007 IADR Meeting in New Orleans, LA:
- Tehrani E, Jasinevicius T, Bissada NF. Myocardial Infarction in Patients with Periodontitis, High CRP and LDL.

PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Ahmed Alzahrani received his dental degree in 2005 from King Abdulaziz University, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He has worked for the Saudi Ministry of Health and earned a scholarship from the Ministry of Higher Education to pursue his dental residency in the United States.

1998
Tom Bodnar enjoys spending time with his wife, Liza, and their new son, Julius, (born March 17, 2008) and four daughters, Olivia, Brooke, Paige and Chloe. Dr. Bodnar is an adventurous traveler, domestic and abroad. He cooks for friends, with an emphasis on Thai foods, and is an avid hiker, climber and skier. Tom is an advocate for a more peaceful and green planet. His office is in fact one of the first periodontal offices “going green.”

E-MAIL: drtom@bodnarperiodontics.com

2000
Anca Bazile married Jeffrey Lemler on May 24, 2006 in Central Park and both are periodontists with private practices in New York and Connecticut. Dr. Bazile is a clinical assistant professor for the Department of Implant Dentistry at NYU College of Dentistry.

E-MAIL: anca_bazile@yahoo.com

2002
Rebecca Davis serves as a general dentist in the United States Army Reserve Dental Corps and as an Assistant Clinical Professor at CWRU School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Davis and her husband, Gregory, currently live in Mayfield Village, Ohio.

E-MAIL: kkatmeh@hotmail.com

2006
Mohamed Al-Katma has become a diplomat after passing the board exam in 2007, and is now in the process of opening a private practice in Houston, TX.

E-MAIL: kkatmeh@hotmail.com

CLASS NOTES

1975
Mark Passel retired from his practice July 2007. He received a dental teaching fellowship at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for September-October 2008. He will begin teaching at the Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine in Glendale, AZ in the fall of 2008.

E-MAIL: azruth@cox.net

1983
Fady C. Atiyeh has been the dean of the School of Dentistry at Lebanese University since 2006.

E-MAIL: fadyatiyeh@googlemail.com

1994
Perry Westbrook is an assistant professor at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, teaching periodontics and periodontal surgery to dental students. He has articles published in the Journal of Periodontology and the Journal of Dental Research.

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