

# Periodontics News

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### LARRY FRANKEL, D.M.D., M.S.D., '77, '81



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

#### 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.

One of the crucial tasks in building and sustaining a solid academic curriculum 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 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.

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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 Skillicorn, an associate professor in periodontics.

Adds 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 who helped introduce him to the profession. As an undergraduate at Miami University of Ohio, he recalls, "I had a friend whose father was a dentist. One day, he came down to school, and we talked. I remember thinking, 'I'd like to do that.'" His friend was going to follow his father's footsteps into the profession, but instead, he eventually followed a path into veterinary medicine, and Frankel went to dental school. He has no other dentists or periodontists in his extended family, but it is rife with physicians. His brother, two of his uncles and several cousins are medical doctors.

#### Two Separate Faculty Stints

He has served as an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Periodontics in two separate stints. He began teaching almost immediately after earning his graduate degree 17 years ago, and continued to do so for nearly a decade, as he slowly built his private periodontal practice through referrals from dentists. For a few years, the growth of his practice as well as of his family (he now has three grown children) prompted him to take a pause from his teaching career. About three years ago, however, he was at an event at which he bumped into Dr. Nabil Bissada, who invited him to return to the faculty. Dr. Frankel took him up on the offer.

He now spends each Wednesday working with about a dozen students. "It's all in the clinic, mentoring them on the technical skills," he explains. He says he sees the fruits of the new curriculum when he watches students navigate their way around the clinic. "By working with the students, I can see they're really well-trained. Each year, they get better and better." But he notes that the learning goes in both directions. "They really keep you on your toes," he says. "They ask probing questions about your treatment plans, and it keeps you thinking. It's very rewarding. I always tell them — 'I learn as much as you do.'"

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER 2007 CELEBRATION DINNER



*The graduates and friends of the Department of Periodontics presented Dr. Nabil Bissada with a \$20,000 check to the department.*



*Lawrence Frankel, D.M.D.,  
M.S.D., '77, '81*

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## PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

**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.

**Kiarash O, Arauz-Dutari J, Askari A, Bissada NF.**

Impact of Anti-TNF Therapy on Periodontitis in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients.

**Weitzel K, Palomo L, Palomo J, Hans MG, Bissada NF.**

Maxillary Sinus Measurements Using CBCT for Implant Therapy.

**Palomo L, Palomo J, MG Hans, Bissada NF.** Image Guided Placement of Temporary Anchorage Devices for Tooth Movement.

## MEET THE CLASS OF 2010



**Everett Wu**, from Mississauga, Ontario, received his dental degree from CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2008. He also holds a degree in kinesiology from York University. He has worked in the CWRU community dentistry program, where he spearheaded a reading program for inner city youth.

**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.



## 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.

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1983

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

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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*.

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](mailto:drtom@bodnarperiodontics.com)

2000

**Anca Bazile** married Jeffrey Lemler on May 24, 2008 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.

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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.

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.

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