

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



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

The periodontics program continues to receive national and international recognition. For example, the "Watch Your Mouth" program, which the department produced in conjunction with the local PBS station (WVIZ-TV) and NPR, gained us a great deal of positive attention from local and national media. The program's focus on periodontal health emphasized its importance to overall health. The program also

featured Aaron Weinberg, D.M.D., Ph.D., who explained, "Gum disease equals inflammation, and inflammation equals trouble for the rest of the body." The program has resulted in a significant increase in referrals to our clinics.

The department was also featured in the October 2011 issue of *Inside Dentistry*, where we explained our research findings concerning the association between gum disease and prostatitis. Our findings indicate that periodontal health and disease have consequences for health in many other bodily systems. In our study, patients were divided into two groups: no to mild periodontitis, and moderate to severe periodontitis. The PSA levels in the men with moderate to severe periodontitis were higher, indicating that PSA might be a general inflammatory marker, similar to other markers in the body, possibly warning of systemic inflammation.

Our departmental training continues to be innovative. Collaboration with several research activities groups at University Hospitals and the Cleveland Clinic in rheumatology, urology, orthopedics, obstetrics and cardiology is very impressive, and helps us better manage our patients with periodontal disease and implant placement. The department is also making strides in dissemination of our research findings through publications by our faculty and graduate students, in several medical, dental and periodontal journals.

Four of our graduates have been named diplomates of the American Board of Periodontology: **David Z. Diamond, D.D.S., M.S.D. '09**, **Nishant Joshi, D.M.D. '06, M.S.D., '09**, **Bana Anbari, D.D.S., M.S.D., '04**, and **Naheed Mohamed, D.M.D., M.S.D., '10**. To all these individuals I offer my congratulations.

Special congratulation also goes to **Leena Palomo D.D.S. '00, M.S.D. '04**, assistant professor in the department of periodontics for being selected by our School of Dental Medicine as the recipient of the 2011 Mather Award for faculty women's achievement at Case Western Reserve University.

I also would like to welcome our residents: **Braden Atkins, '11**, **AbdelAzeem Hazem**, and **Shahir Abdel Malek**.

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Periodontics News

FALL 2011

Staff Focus

Kimberly C. Harwell, CDA, has worked in the department of Periodontics for 10 years. She is a nationally certified dental assistant. She says that, "I've been doing this kind of work since I was 15 years old, when I took vocational classes in high school. It was either going to be this or I would have become a pediatrics nurse. Since I didn't like dealing with sick babies, the dental work won out."

In reality though, the choice was easy, she says. "This is what I've always wanted to do. I'm doing what I love." The dental school has broadened her horizons, says Kimberly. "I work with people from so many diverse cultures, it's as if I'm traveling every day. I learn so much from the people I work with who are from other cultures. I think they learn from us [Americans] too. We share a lot."

Kimberly enjoys working with the periodontic residents and watching them develop their practice skills. She also likes being a part of the team. "It feels good when the residents come to me and I can help facilitate their learning in their time here. Many of them grow in the program," she says. "I enjoy seeing them again after they have left the program and have established their practices. When they return, we share and interact on a different level. It is a pleasure to see them come back and contribute to our graduate program in Periodontics."

In her spare time, Kimberly likes to travel for real and spend time with her family.

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Kimberly C. Harwell, CDA

Periodontics News

FALL 2011

Perio Alumnae Give Back as Volunteer Faculty

Charlene B. Krejci, D.D.S., M.S.D. '84, '86, associate clinical professor of periodontics, continues to be involved with the department and the school. She volunteers in the periodontal graduate clinic at the school. In addition, she lectures at CWRU on the topic of regeneration procedures. She is a lecturer at Cuyahoga Community College and Lakeland Community College (Ohio) where she teaches about regeneration and restorative care to dental hygiene students. Dr. Krejci recently collaborated with Dr. Nabil Bissada on two review articles. One has recently been accepted by a journal, the other has been submitted to another.

Dr. Krejci has been in private practice as a partner at Western Reserve Periodontics for 25 years in Beachwood, Ohio. The practice focuses on a systemic approach to gum disease. "We emphasize the importance of good oral hygiene and its connection to overall health to our patients and colleagues. We also partner closely with our colleagues who provide restorative and aesthetic dental services."

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Hui-Jin Lee, D.D.S., M.S.D. '92, '95, has continued to volunteer at the school and teach part-time while maintaining her practice, Southwest Endodontics & Periodontics, in Ohio, with her husband, **Joong Hahn, D.D.S., M.S.D. '90, '92**, who is an endodontist. Half the practice is implants and the other half is conventional periodontic and aesthetic work. In addition, Dr. Lee runs a number of study clubs and currently serves as the secretary of the Ohio Academy of Periodontists.

In her teaching, Dr. Lee emphasizes that she works to give back to current students in the manner in which she learned. "I learned a lot from the part-time instructors when I was at CWRU," she says. Those instructors brought "real world" information. Similarly, Dr. Lee attempts to bring the same type of experience to her students.

Another aspect of teaching that she brings to bear is her perspective as a woman in the dental profession. "Not only do I talk to students about issues such as buying and selling a practice, how

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Perio Alumnae Give Back as Volunteer Faculty

Krejci continued

The education she received at CWRU's periodontics department was a choice that was helped along by "members of the individual faculty who took an interest in my career," says Dr. Krejci. The education she received in the periodontal department dovetails with her other expertise, which is in nutrition. Dr. Krejci is a registered dietitian who has done undergraduate and graduate work in the field. In fact, prior to entering dental school, she was the director of nutritional services at the Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Krejci is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and the recipient of the prestigious Balint Orban Memorial Award. In addition to her academic appointments and her private clinical practice, she is on the staff of Meridia South Pointe Hospital. When time allows, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and trying to perfect the art of juggling personal and professional activities.

Lee continued

to price your services, and how to build relationships with patients and referring colleagues, I also talk about work-life balance," says Dr. Lee. "This is important for everyone, but for women, there is more of an issue with family obligations." She notes that compared to when she graduated from the program, there are many more women in the field today.

The main thing that Dr. Lee wants students to get from her teaching is similar to what she got from her teachers at CWRU: "I try to go beyond surgeries. Certainly, I want my students to be fine clinicians and good surgeons. However, it is also important to treat the patient as a whole."

Periodontics continues to appeal to Dr. Lee for the same reasons she went into the field. "When I was graduating from high school, I wanted to be an artist, but my parents would not support that career choice," she says. "When I was in college, a friend of mine was in dental school, and as I learned more, I saw how I could combine my love of the artistic with the chance to work with my hands. Also periodontics gives me a challenge in that you must know about different aspects of dentistry." She adds, "The artistic piece comes into play when I can see an outcome in my head and then create it for a patient."

Meet the Class of 2013

There are three new residents in the department who are participating as first-year graduate students. **Braden Atkins '11, AbdelAzeem Hazem and Shahir Abdel Malek.**



Braden Atkins '11

Braden graduated from the University of Utah in 2008 with a B.S. in medical biology. He then came to CWRU for dental school. "After spending four years at the dental school here, I came to know the quality of the perio program. I am excited to be here for another three years," he says. He is married to Emily for almost 6 years and they are the parents of a baby boy. Braden enjoys music, bicycling and reading.



AbdelAzeem Hazem

AbdelAzeem is from Egypt. He graduated dental school in 2006, and studied operative technique at Cairo University. He also worked as a teaching assistant until 2010. He wants to learn what he can so he can take his skills back to his home country of Egypt. AbdelAzeem also used to be a regular practitioner of judo. He started at the age of 5 but had to quit when he sustained a shoulder injury. But all is not lost. Now, he says, "I am a huge soccer fan."



Shahir Abdel Malek

Shahir tells us, that "perhaps because I was once told that 'periodontists are the physicians of the mouth' I decided to embark on a master's degree in periodontics. After getting my dental degree from Egypt, I had the privilege of studying under Dr. Bissada during a 6-month fellowship and became increasingly convinced that Case Western Reserve would be the ideal institution to pursue my master's degree.

"I was also drawn to the institution as it was one of the few in which the chairman, a pioneer in the field of periodontics, is physically present three times a week to supervise, encourage and lecture his students. My hope is to one day enter the domain of research in Perio and thus give back to it what it has given to me."

We enjoyed seeing you!

Thanks to all who attended our annual departmental reception at the Lowes Beach Hotel in Miami at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology. If you missed it, we hope to see you at the next one!

Class Notes

1975

Mark Passell (also D.D.S. '71) retired from private practice in 2007. He is currently assistant professor at Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine. He lives in Arizona, and has 8 grandchildren.

1976



Neal C. Murphy was a recent keynote speaker at the Indian Orthodontic Society meeting and at Hong Kong University. He was appointed full professor at the University of Southern California in May of 2011. He is also working on a movie, "Periodontal Disease: The Silent Smile

Killer" due for release in 2015, and he has written a book chapter entitled, "Periodontal Stem Cell Therapy in Orthodontic Cases." If that's not enough, he also has a blog, www.universityexperts.com.

1981

Kerry Damascus has been placing dental implants for more than 25 years. He recently lectured at CWRU (April 2011) and spoke at the Big Apple Dental meeting in March. He lives in Bronxville, NY, with his wife, Pam, and their family.

2006

Khaldoun al-Katma still enjoys working with perio every day, and is going to volunteer as part-time faculty at the University of Texas. "My future goal is to move back home to establish and improve perio [care] in my country." Khaldoun also plans to get married by the beginning of 2012.

SEND US YOUR News

If you have news to share, send it to us. Please include the following: name, class year, full address, phone number and email address. Send it by email to dentalalumni@case.edu or mail to Class Notes Editor; CWRU School of Dental Medicine; Office of Development and Alumni Relations; 10900 Euclid Avenue; Cleveland OH 44106-4905. Photographs are always welcome.

Congratulations

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