A Love of Learning and Teaching Still Strong after 43 Years

After 43 years of practicing periodontics, Fred Rosenberg, DDS ’68, has learned a few things. Perhaps one of the most profound lessons he learned and regularly passes on to his students came from his then-five-year-old granddaughter. “She was observing me trying to figure out why the light on one garage door wasn’t working,” he explains with a laugh. “She looked at me and said, ‘Gramps, why don’t you look at the other side that working and see what looks different?’” Using this logic, he frequently advises his students, “when you see a problem on one side of the mouth, look on the other side to see what is happening there.”

While he is retiring from his private periodontal practice in Beachwood, Ohio, Dr. Rosenberg has no plans to slow down. He continues his teaching duties both at Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine as well as mentoring young dentists about periodontics in the general practice residency program at the VA Medical Center in Cleveland.

Dr. Rosenberg attended The Ohio State University from 1964 through 1968 and then entered dental school at CWRL, graduating with his DDS in 1968. He then completed a general practice residency at the VA in Cleveland. “That was a very interesting time,” he says. “The Vietnam War was winding down, and it was a wonderful place to train.” Seeking additional training in general anesthesia, Dr. Rosenberg continued his education for six months at University Hospitals. He then went on to the University of Kentucky to obtain his Certificate of Training in Periodontics.

After completing his periodontal training, Dr. Rosenberg returned to Cleveland, and along with Stuart Sears, DDS ’84, began their periodontal practice in Maple Heights, Ohio. Charles Kneja, DDS ’74, MD ’74, joined the practice in 1986, and in 1987 they moved to their current Beachwood location. Dr. Sears retired in 2001, and in 2011 Dr. Sasha Ross, who also happens to be Dr. Rosenberg’s cousin, joined Western Reserve Periodontics.

Dr. Rosenberg’s love of teaching is not likely to diminish any time soon. “I very much enjoy passing on knowledge,” he says. “It was instilled in me during my formative years that if you have the opportunity to receive excellent training, you have the obligation to pass it on.” He cites this as the key reason that he plans to continue lecturing at CWRL and consulting at the VA. “It really keeps me fresh,” he says. “It’s not one year repeated 43 times; it’s really 43 years of continued learning.”

And although he misses his patients and his staff, many of whom have been with the practice for more than 20 years, he is looking forward to spending more time with his family and his somewhat uncommon hobbit. “I love repair antique clocks and am currently rebuilding and restoring the sewing machine that belonged to my grandfather, who was a tailor.”

Dr. Rosenberg and his wife look forward to taking advantage of the many continuing education opportunities at CWRL and in Greater Cleveland. “The opportunities to learn and grow here are phenomenal,” he says.
With a thriving practice that includes three office locations in Michigan, teaching and volunteering are priorities for Dr. Ng. “I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of such a great practice and to be able to teach,” she says.

Dr. Ng is a partner in Dr. John Estemalik’s practice, whose offices are located in Livonia, Canton, and Grand Blanc, Michigan. She lectures once a month at the University of Michigan, where she has been an adjunct clinical professor for the past ten years and occasionally lectures at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, where she is an assistant clinical professor. “To me, you can’t really separate practicing dentistry and teaching. Being able to teach what I do in my own practice comes very naturally.”

Originally from Hong Kong, Dr. Ng moved to the United States in high school. She recently obtained her U.S. citizenship, a fact she proudly shares. “I will be certain to keep you informed as plans are finalized. I know I want to pursue periodontics during the third year of dental school. In the clinic, I was fascinated by the foundation of periodontics in terms of overall dental health.”

Despite her hectic schedule, Dr. Ng has always made volunteering a part of her professional life. She has been very involved with the professional dental associations in Michigan, including the Michigan Periodontal Society. She recently completed her second three-year term as a board member of the dental school’s alumni association. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology.

Beyond her professional life, Dr. Ng and her fiancé keep quite busy with the lives of their three teens and enjoy traveling as much as possible. “I still get very involved at CWRU as an alum. It’s been very rewarding for me.”

Dr. Ng encourages her fellow alumni to get involved as she has done. “There is so much opportunity to get involved at CWRU. It’s an alarm, it’s been very rewarding for me.”

John Estemalik is staying in Cleveland, with his wife, Caroline, an endodontist, to begin their private practice. John’s master thesis is on “Presence of Similar Oral Pathogens in Periodontal and Prostate Diseases: A Pilot Study.” Dr. John Estemalik is staying in Cleveland, with his wife, Caroline, an endodontist, to begin their private practice. John’s master thesis is on “Presence of Similar Oral Pathogens in Periodontal and Prostate Diseases: A Pilot Study.”

Dr. Amer Shatta completed a fellowship program in Dentistry last year at CWRU. He graduated from Mar. University for Science and Technology in Egypt in 2013. Amer chose CWRU for his residency because, “My goal is to be the best in my field, and to achieve this, I chose the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, which has an excellent reputation.”