

Rebecca Berry, Department Assistant



Cleveland native, Ms. Rebecca Berry has been the Department Assistant for Dr. Bissada for nearly two years. She graduated from Ohio University in 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology and a minor concentration in geriatrics. Before coming to the department of periodontics in 2014, Rebecca worked in undergraduate admissions and at the law school, where she was exposed to healthcare law. She also worked off campus, managing her grandfather's business and working in a busy call center. Her love for the university brought her back to CWRU, and she has been working with Dr. Bissada as a Department Assistant since December 2014.

Rebecca's expertise lies at the intersection of healthcare and business administration. As a high school student, Rebecca volunteered at a local nursing facility in the advanced Alzheimer's unit. The experience stayed with her, and has remained one of her favorite experiences in life so far. Her business skills have always come naturally, and she has put them to good use in various administrative office roles over the years.

When she first met Dr. Bissada during her interview, she was not sure what to expect. Dr. Bissada needed someone to start right away, and Rebecca was a good fit, right from the beginning. On her first day, Dr. Bissada handed her two pages of notes and started

training her himself. Rebecca says they immediately found a rhythm, which made everything go smooth and easy. "He taught me how to work smarter, not just faster...he's a good leader and a great example."

One of Dr. Bissada's greatest achievements has been the globalization of the department, and Rebecca has been very involved with coordinating the details. From cross-cultural communications to hosting visitors from overseas, Rebecca has worked hard to make sure nothing is lost in translation and everything is done right. Rebecca has learned many things along the way, and she shares Dr. Bissada's passion for globalizing dentistry.

Dr. Bissada says, "With Rebecca's qualifications and past experience, she is doing a great job which is demanding and requires a high level of confidentiality. She is a good communicator and above all she has the ability to get along with all the members of the department."

Rebecca's future is bright. She plans to enroll in the healthcare administration masters degree program next fall. The program appeals to her because it uses her knowledge and experience in patient services as well as business administration, plus it is offered part-time for working professionals. She says Cleveland is "a mecca for healthcare," and she is excited to be part of the industry.

Rebecca's family has been in Cleveland for six generations. They are devoted Browns, Indians, and Cavs fans, including her new baby boy, Wesley.



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Welcome Our New Residents



Khawla Aljohani earned a BDS degree in 2013 from Saudi Arabia. She completed a one-year internship in Jeddah. Her current research focuses on the relationship between periodontal and systemic diseases.

Khawla believes that "periodontics is the foundation of dentistry, and my passion has always been firmly planted in it."



Shabnam Behdin earned a DDS degree from the University of Science and Technology in United Arab Emirates. Dr. Behdin also completed a one-year fellowship in the Department of Periodontics at

the University of Michigan.



Hussam Alqahtani earned a BDS degree in 2012 from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. After completing a one-year GPR program, he completed a one-year fellowship in dentistry in 2015 at Case Western

Reserve University. Currently, Hussam is working on research regarding dental implants.



Saad Usmani earned a BDS degree in 2012 from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He also had a fellowship in the Department of Periodontics at Case Western Reserve University. Saad speaks of his time at Case Western Reserve University,

"This fellowship changed the perception I had about periodontics, as it was a sparsely taught specialty in [my home country], and I am excited to learn from the best during my time at CWRU".

Periodontics News 2016



*Nabil F. Bissada,
DDS, MSD
Professor and Chair*

From the Chairman

Case Western Reserve University wants to build a dynamic international presence by offering culturally diverse education and training experiences for students and faculty. The Center of International Affairs is hoping this will inspire a culture of global understanding and responsibility. The School of Dental Medicine rose to the challenge, and we

are very proud of the progress we have made. I am happy to report that agreements for study abroad programs have been finalized with our friends in Cairo at Future University and in Saudi Arabia at Qassim University. We are not stopping here—we are actively seeking relationships with other universities in different parts of the world to expand our international presence. The main objective is to fill gaps in curriculum development, clinical training, research, and other key areas of dentistry, so the goals for each university are a little different.

The program at Future University is focused on curriculum review and an exchange program with faculty. Faculty from CWRU School of Dental Medicine will go to Future University in Cairo to see that the curriculum we have helped design is implemented. Students will take exams to see if the model is working. There will be opportunities for students to exchange research ideas at international dental society meetings as well.



Signing Ceremony at Future University in Cairo, Egypt

At Qassim University, the focus is on training junior faculty as specialists to become senior faculty after completing their training at our programs. We reviewed the curriculum and created training programs for residents (3 years) and fellows

continued



From the Dean Kenneth Chance, DDS '79

We continue to make progress on the plans to develop the new dental clinic. Paperwork and agreements with the city and community are moving along well, and are almost complete. We look forward to finalizing the building design plans and other details soon. Our corporate sponsors continue to provide support and encouragement for the new dental clinic and the Health Education Campus. For both projects, we are still on target for completion in 2019.

In other news, the globalization projects are working very well. We are in the process of submitting a report to Future University, and Qassim University post-grad programs are availing opportunities to select excellent candidates.

More updates will be forthcoming via email to keep you all informed of our progress on these exciting projects. Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

dean-sodm@case.edu.



In October 2017, the School of Dental Medicine will celebrate its 125th anniversary. We are interested in hearing from you about how your lives have been impacted by the school over the years. We are looking for stories, anecdotes, letters, archival photos and artifacts that highlight your personal connection to the school.

You can share your story by emailing us at Celebrate125SODM@case.edu or by calling 216-368-5758

GRADUATES IN PRACTICE

Anca Bazile, DDS '94, MSD '00

Dr. Anca Bazile is a general dentist turned periodontist who will forever love Cleveland.

Dr. Bazile practiced general dentistry in New York City for over two years before she came to Cleveland. She enjoyed her practice, but a mentor and well-known periodontist advised her to specialize. She took that advice and applied to CWRU. Dr. Bissada had an opening and offered her the opportunity. She accepted, not knowing exactly what to expect but trusting that her advisor was right about periodontics.



During her time at CWRU School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Bazile fell in love with the field of periodontics, even more than general dentistry. "I find peace and calmness when I do perio surgery," she says. She also fell in love with the city of Cleveland.

Dr. Bazile grew up in Paris, France and moved to New York City in high school. Compared to Paris and New York City, Cleveland offered a low-stress environment. New York was a tough adjustment coming from Paris, but Cleveland was a breeze compared to that, says Dr. Bazile. "I met the nicest, most well-rounded people in Cleveland. And, the Cleveland Clinic brings a huge community of international people to the area."

One of her favorite people in Cleveland is Dr. Bissada. She says, "Dr. Bissada is a great educator. He creates a small family you want to belong to. The size of the department of periodontics was small enough to do as much as you want, including research and clinical work."

After graduating from CWRU in 2000, she joined the faculty at New York University, where she and her husband met while teaching in the implant department. Today, the couple shares an office in Manhattan near St. Patrick's Cathedral. They also have a 4-year-old daughter.

In her current practice, Anca follows Dr. Bissada's traditional periodontics philosophy, which focuses on long-term predictability and stability that goes hand-in-hand with the advancement of implant dentistry. On the other hand, she finds it nearly impossible to close the gap between what her patients need and what health insurance will cover—a struggle that many periodontists can understand.

In addition to her practice, Dr. Bazile gives occasional lectures, sometimes internationally. Her interests include perio plastic surgery and implant surgery; however, the time she used to spend teaching and researching has been filled with juggling the demands of a growing perio practice and a young child.

Dr. Bazile plans to keep advancing professionally and personally. She will forever be a student, she says, and she enjoys going to national conferences. She regularly travels to Europe to visit her family. She misses CWRU, and hopes to visit soon and give an interesting lecture. She may even go back to teaching someday.

Her advice to incoming residents? "Explore every aspect of perio, but learn the core and be confident. The world is yours."

From the Chairman continued

(1 year). We are proud to announce that we have accepted our first fellow from Qassim University, Dr. Asma Almijlad.

Our efforts are helping build an international dentistry community with exciting opportunities to become better teachers, researchers, practitioners, and people. Students and faculty who participate in our study abroad programs will see how dentistry is practiced in other parts of the world. They will exchange ideas with international colleagues and experience the richness of other cultures. There are many challenges with traveling to a foreign country, but we believe the benefits far exceed the risks. We believe these programs will enhance the lives of those who participate both professionally and personally.

We must thank those who have donated their time and money to the department. Your generous



Signing Ceremony with Qassim University Delegates at Case Western Reserve University

contributions make it possible for us to reach beyond our borders. I am excited to see the international dentistry community expand, with our university leading the way. Please continue to give generously so we can achieve our goals.

In other news, the accreditation process with CODA/ADA is keeping the department very busy. We are finalizing documents for the Nov 1 site visit. Some of you may have received a survey as part of this process. If so, please fill it out.

Research Publications

Palomo L., DeBaz C., Lang L. Prevent peri-implant mucositis. *Decisions in Dentistry*. 2016; 2(1):12-16.

Palomo L., Aminoshariae A., Tulonoglu I., Alonzo A., Hernandez A., Reperto R., Occhionero RL. Physical Evaluation and Treatment Planning in Dental Practice. Eds. Terezhalmay GT, Huber MA., Garcia LT. 2nd ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2016 (in press).

Zhang CZ., DeBaz C., Bhandal G., Ali F., Buenocamino Francisco MC., Thacker H., Palomo JM., Palomo L. Buccal bone thickness in the esthetic zone of postmenopausal women: A CBCT analysis. *Implant Dent* 2016; 25(4):478-84.

Moussa E., Bissada, N. Comparative outcomes of class III miller gingival recession treatment utilizing the tunnel or CAF approaches. A case report. *Clinic Adv Periodontics* (accepted for publication, 2016).

Biswajit D., Dobrowolski C., Abdel-Malek S., Feng Z., Yu X., Sha J., Bissada N., Weinberg A., Karn J., Ye F. Short chain fatty acids potentially induce latent HIV-1 in T-cells by activating P-TEFb and multiple histone modifications. *Virology* 2015; 474: 65-81.

Leybovich M., Bissada N, Teich S., Demko C., Ricchetti P. Non-cariou cervical lesions treated by tissue graft or composite restoration. *Int. J. Periodontics and Restorative Dent* 2014; 34 (5) 649-645.

DeBaz C., Lang L., Palomo L. An individualized approach to peri-mucositis prevention. *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene* 2015;13(10):30-34.

AbdelAzeem H., Bissada N., Demko C., Paes A., Lang L. Comparison of pre-prosthetic implant complications and failures between obese and non-obese patients. *Int J Oral and Maxillofac Implants* (accepted for publication, 2016).

Estemalik J., Bissada N., Nishant J., Demko C., Bodner D., Shankar E., Gupta S. Presence of similar oral pathogens in dental plaque of patients with periodontal and prostate diseases. Submitted to *J Periodontol*, 2016.

Dababneh R, Al-Kaisi N, Haddad N, Al Khouri Z, Bissada NF. Aggressive gingival metastasis of adenocarcinoma of unknown origin: Case report. Accepted for publication, *J Int Acad Periodontol*, 2016.

Department News

▪ The School of Dental Medicine has signed a collaboration agreement with two dental institutions overseas.

- Dr. L. Palomo's recent activities include:
 - Board Member at the Health Legacy of Cleveland, a philanthropic organization aiming to bridge the gap in healthcare disparities through diversity and education (2016)
 - Chair of ADEA section on Periodontics (2015)
 - CODA Site Visitor for graduate periodontal residency programs (2015)
 - Chair AAP Predoctoral Program Directors Organization (2015)
 - Examiner for American Board of Periodontology (2015)

▪ Dr. Ricchetti has been appointed Director of the CWRU Graduate Periodontal Clinic.

▪ Dr. Ricchetti presented the lecture, "Osseous Surgery: Opportunities Missed" at the AAP Annual Meeting in San Diego this fall.

▪ Dr. Bissada was elected Secretary for the Midwest Society of Periodontology.

▪ Dr. Bissada was invited to join the Task Force for the 2017 World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions, jointly organized by the American Academy of Periodontology and the European Federation of Periodontology.

▪ John Estemalik became diplomate of the American Academy of Periodontology, 2016.

Congratulations to all on these successes and milestones!

Congratulations to the Graduating Residents



Ann Marie Adornato will be moving to Syracuse, New York for private practice. Ann's master thesis was, "Difference between cigarette and electronic cigarette smoking on inflammatory cytokines and oral epithelial cells."



Gazabpreet Bhandal plans to settle in Virginia for private practice. Gazab explains, "The experience at CWRU has been a unique one, where I got the opportunity to learn the art and science of periodontics under mentorship of some of the best clinicians and academicians of the country." Gazab's master thesis was "Kidney Stones and Dental Calculus: Are They Correlated?"

Ernest Erian (not pictured) plans to start a private practice in Cleveland, OH. His master thesis was on "Evidence of an Association between Thyroid Disorders and Periodontitis in Women."



Ehab Moussa will join LSU for a one-year fellowship in prosthodontics. Ehab's master thesis was "Does a History of Chronic Periodontitis in fully Edentulous Patients Represent a Risk Factor for Peri-implantitis?"

Welcome Our New Fellow



Asma Almijlad earned a BDS degree from Riyadh College of Dentistry, with a grade point average of 4.73 out of 5, second in her class. She completed a one-year internship from 2012-2013. She was an instructor at Alqassim University. Asma speaks of her time at Case Western Reserve University as "this is a very wonderful program. Dr. Bissada is a professional and role model, and I learned a lot from him."