Rebecca Barry, Department Assistant

Cleveland native, Ms. Rebecca Barry has been the Department Assistant for Dr. Bissada for nearly two years. She graduated from Ohio University in 2008 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 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 wasn’t 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 herself. Rebecca says they immediately found a rhythm, which made everything go smoothly 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 members of the department.”

Rebecca is excited to be part of the industry. Bissada’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.

periodontics News 2016

Welcome Our New Residents

Khalwa 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. Dr. Aljohani believes that “periodontics is the foundation of dentistry, and my passion has always been firmly planted in it.”

Hussam Alhajjini earned a BDS degree in 2012 from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. After completing a one-year GPR program at Case, 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 DDS degree in 2012 from Jeddah, 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, changed the perception he had about periodontics, as it was a sparely taught specialty in [his home country], and I am excited to learn from the best during my time at CWRU.

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.

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 we 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 moving along well. We are in the process of submitting a report to Future University, and Qassim University post-grad programs are making opportunities to select excellent candidates. More updates will be forthcoming via email to keep you all informed of our progress on these exciting projects. Please feel free to email me with any questions.

dean-so-md@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 Celebrate125DMD@case.edu or by calling 216-368-5758

From the Dean

Saud Usmani earned a DDS degree in 2012 from Jeddah, 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, and he changed the perception he had about periodontics, as it was a sparely taught specialty in [his home country], and I am excited to learn from the best during my time at CWRU.
During her time at CWRU School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Bazile fell in love with the field of periodontics, even more so than general dentistry. “I find peace and calmness when I do peri-surgery,” she says. She also fell in love in 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 was a breeze compared to that, says Dr. Bazile. 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.

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 practitioners can understand.

In addition to her practice, Dr. Bazile gives occasional lectures, sometimes internationally. Her interests include peri-implant surgical 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, however, the time she used to spend giving 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. We appreciate CODA/ADA’s efforts to keep everything moving forward.

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