T. Roma Jasinevicius, better known as Dr. J, has been a faculty member of Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine for over two decades. She received her DDS from CWRU in 1976 and her Master’s in Education from Cleveland State University. Although her publications include studies using skulls from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s The Hamann-Todd Human Osteological Collection, her research focus is educational methodology. Her University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education (UCITE) Grant evaluating Virtual Reality resulted in an article that received Journal of Dental Education’s Best Manuscript Award. She has served on the Editorial Review Board of Journal of Dental Education (JDE) and Quintessence International and continues to review for other journals. She is an active member of American Dental Education Association, and has served on committees for National Boards Part I and II.

Dr. J notes that it was an honor to be asked to serve as the interim chair of the Department of Periodontics and looks forward to working with the remarkable faculty. She mentioned she is excited to work with Dr. Bissada who was instrumental in her pursuit of a career in academia.

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From the Dean
Kenneth Chance, DDS ’79

After more than four decades, Dr. Nabil Bissada has stepped down as Chair after leading the Department of Periodontics. He is stepping up to a new challenge as our school’s inaugural Associate Dean for Global Relations. Bissada has been a major contributor to our school and played a pivotal role in catalyzing our new partnership with Future University in Cairo.

I am pleased to welcome Dr. Roma Jasinevicius as the appointed interim chair of the Department of Periodontics. “Dr. J” is an alumna and long-time faculty member. She is an accomplished researcher and teacher who has been dedicated to our students and school community. I am moved by Dr. J’s willingness to take on this new challenge. Please join me in thanking her.

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**Faculty & Staff Highlights**

**Leena Paloma, DDS, MSD, '00, '04**

Dr. Palomo (right) gave the Keynote Address at the Indiana University Periodontics Resident Graduation. At the American Academy of Periodontology Annual Session in San Diego, she gave two presentations, served as the Chair of the AAP Pre-Doctoral Program Directors Association and celebrated Lysie Sprouse (DMD '18) winning the Patty & Paul Levi Award for her research project mentored by Dr. Palomo. Dr. Palomo gave invited talks in Tokyo, Italy, Dubai, and Egypt. In the media, her professional opinions were featured in the *Plain Dealer, WEBMD, Dr Bicuspid, and The San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. Dr. Palomo also published three articles and a book chapter and was a board examiner for the American Board of Periodontology.

**Andre Paes, DDS, MSc, PhD**

Dr. Andre Paes is currently undergoing a three-part certification training course to be an instructor in LANAP, an FDA approved laser surgery, to treat periodontal diseases. Together with Dr. Paul Ricchetti, they are implementing a course including didactic and training of this procedure for our residents. Dr. Ricchetti and Dr. Paes will be conducting research projects evaluating the efficacy of this procedure in various levels of severity of periodontal diseases and conditions. Dr. Paes is currently conducting numerous research projects in collaboration with faculty in our school and overseas faculty (Turkey) including the following areas: microbiology of periodontal diseases and its association with systemic diseases and cancer; student interest in pursuing advanced education in periodontology, and prevention of periodontal diseases. Dr. Paes is the recipient of two outstanding awards this year, both locally and nationally – The Nevin’s Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship Award and the 2017 Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics.

**Paul Richetti, DDS, MScD**

After 38 years in full time private periodontal practice with a part time position in the Department of Periodontics, Dr. Richetti became full time in the department in 2016. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, supportive research duties, and part time practice, Dr. Ricchetti directs several courses and seminars for the residents, and is a member of several thesis committees. He is currently pursuing a joint research project with the Department of Biology on bone induction utilizing mesenchymal stem cells.

**Angel Watson**

Angel Watson is a Cleveland native. She graduated from Remington College Dental Assisting program in the fall of 2016 and is now currently a Dental Assistant in the Periodontics Residency Program here at Case Western University. Angel enjoys the dental field and helping patients feel comfortable and making sure they leave happy because they can enjoy their new smile. She plans to further her career in the dental field by becoming a Dental Hygienist.
Periodontal diseases and its association with systemic infections—focusing on the oral microbiome—continues to be an area of study. We have an ongoing project evaluating the efficacy of different treatments for periodontal disease, with the goal of improving patient outcomes. Dr. Ricchetti and Dr. Paes have published three articles and a book chapter, and Dr. Palomo has given invited talks in Tokyo, Italy, Dubai, and Egypt. Dr. Palomo also serves as a Director of the American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting, and Dr. Paes is currently conducting research projects evaluating the efficacy of new treatments for periodontal disease. Dr. Paes is the recipient of two awards: the 2014 Nevin's Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship Award and the 2017 Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics. Dr. Palomo is also a combat correspondent and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for her service in the United States Marine Corps. In 1997, Lea Atkins made a life-changing decision to leave the fashion industry and pursue a career in New York City. She worked as a dance/performance artist and later worked in the Public Affairs Office of the United States Marine Corps as a Combat Correspondent. During this time, she was awarded several service ribbons and medals, including two Navy Achievement Medals. In 1999, Lea Atkins was named the “1999 Military Woman of the Year.” She now works as a Dental Hygienist and enjoys her role as an Assistant in the Periodontics Residency Program at Case Western Reserve University.

**Publications**

**ARTICLES (PUBLISHED AND IN PRESS)**

- **Vernon L, Paes B da Silva A, Seacat J**: 2017. In defense of flossing: Part II—can we agree it’s premature to claim flossing is ineffective to help prevent periodontal diseases? Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice. (in press)
- **Abst # 160477**
  - Smuthkochorn S, Palomo J, Hans MG, Palomo L: Differences in bone turnover markers in pre and post-menopausal women receiving orthodontic treatment. AJODO. (in press)
  - **Amin P, Bissada N, Ricchetti P, Paes A, Demko C**: Tuberosity vs Palatal Donor Sites for Gingival Grafting: A Split Mouth Clinical Study (submitted).
Welcome Our New Residents

**Dr. Ibrahim Al Ameri** graduated from the University of Baghdad, College of Dentistry in 2008. Upon graduation, he worked as a general dentist prior to moving to the United States following his dream to further his education in dentistry. Dr. Alameri has special interests in periodontics and implant dentistry.

**Dr. Leela Alluri** graduated from Kamineni Institute of Dental Sciences in India in 2010. She worked as a Research Extern at the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics, University at Buffalo. She received her Oral Medicine Fellowship training in Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences from the School of Dental Medicine, Case Western Reserve University.

**Dr. Asma Almijlad** is a graduate of Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy in Saudi Arabia class of 2012. After graduation she completed a one-year internship at Qassim University and was accepted as an instructor. She later moved to Cleveland for a Fellowship in Periodontics for 18 months. Dr. Almijlad explains, “The time I spent at the department changed my perspective on periodontics. I learned how to do a comprehensive treatment plan that encompasses all the patients’ needs, and I am looking forward to clinical and didactic excellence in periodontics.”

**Dr. Karim Basta** graduated from Ain Shams University in 2010. His interest in periodontics began in his earlier college years where he attended many continuing education courses in periodontics and. Dr. Basta was accepted and began his Fellowship in the Department of Periodontics in January 2017 at Case Western Reserve University, during which he developed a special interest in research.

**Dr. Shabnam Behdin** is a 2009 graduate of Ajman University of Science and Technology in Ajman, United Arab Emirates. Dr. Behdin practiced general dentistry for two years after graduation. She moved to the United States in 2013 to follow her passion in the field of periodontics after acceptance in the Periodontics Program at the University of Michigan. She is very excited to begin her next journey toward achieving her dream in periodontics at Case Western Reserve University.

**Dr. Hazem Saqqal** is a graduate of University of Kalamoon in Syria, class of 2012. Dr. Saqqal practiced general dentistry for two years after graduation. He was accepted in the Fellowship Program in Periodontics at Case Western Reserve University. Recently he received his Master's in Clinical Research. Dr. Saqqal feels it to be a great honor to have this opportunity to obtain a high level of education and accepted as a resident in the Department of Periodontics at such an amazing educational institute as CWRU.

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**Fellowship Program**

**Dr. Ahmed Alghamdi** is a 2014 graduate of Ibn Sina National College in 2014. He completed a one-year internship in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Following his internship, he worked at Ibn Sina College and at the Military Forces Hospital. Currently he is enrolled in the Periodontics Fellowship program at Case Western Reserve University and working on a research project involving Alveolar Ridge Augmentation.
We recently congratulated our graduating residents and fellows for a job well done. The international diversity of our postgraduates is something to behold. Almost nineteen countries are represented in our combined postgraduate programs and that is a testament to our impact on the world. Our popularity is directly associated with the quality of our faculty, which is highlighted on two formal occasions a year at our faculty retreat. During the retreat, we listen to almost twenty minutes of continuous accolades on scholarship, service, appointments and overall distinguished accomplishments by our faculty. The feeling of pride is almost palpable. Let us continue to celebrate our superb legacy every day and show immense pride for our recent 125th anniversary.

This has been another exceptional year and we look forward to what is in the future for the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine. We have done a dynamic job of taking on challenges and establishing an impacting presence within our profession. We are at the center of expansion and progression and I am excited for upcoming developments such as the new Health Education Campus and Dental Clinic that will open in 2019.

The School of Dental Medicine is on a path to innovation and is raising the bar in technology, therapy, and treatment. We recently transitioned to an electronic records database that will not only increase our efficiency but add convenience for our patients.

In other news, residents are doing well with publications. Several publications have been published during training, contributing major impact in the specialty of periodontics and implants. Our residency program also continues to garner recognition both nationally and internationally.

There have been a high percentage of graduates who have become board certified. Let’s congratulate them as well as all of the graduates for moving to the next phase of their professional careers. Incoming residents Ibrahim Al Ameri, Leela Alluri, Asma Almijlad, Karim Basta, Shabnam Behdin and Hazem Saqqal and fellow Ahmed Alghamdi are in great hands with the distinguished faculty and staff who continually deliver a quality clinical experience.

Let’s acknowledge and thank Dr. Leena Paloma and Dr. Robert Skillicorn for their commitment to teaching dental students. Your efforts have contributed to an increase in student interest in the area of periodontics. Our continued success and advancement is dependent upon great leaders and a strong foundation.

A big thanks to all of you for your support. Without your generous contributions we would not be able to provide high quality education to our students and great service to our patients. Your support allows us to achieve our goals. This has added more visibility to our school and to the Department of Periodontics.

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10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4905

Department Reception
Boston, MA • September 11, 2017

Save the Date
Join the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, for the 104th Annual Meeting to be held Oct. 27-30, 2018.