When the Periodontal Conference Room was first built, the Division had a superlative room with stunning décor and state-of-the-art electronics. After almost 20 years of use, the appearance of the room remains superlative but that could not be said of the electronics. We were dealing with electronic devices that failed to meet the needs of our students and failed to capture many of the data capabilities required for the 21st Century. To put it bluntly, the room had style but lacked function. However, several of our alumni came to bat for our students and provided the funding to update the audio-visual needs of the Periodontal Conference Room. Students now have a room that exhibits both style and function. I can’t express how much the faculty and I appreciate the help of our alumni to make this important change a reality. We really are the best place to educate students in the art and science of periodontology.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

It has been almost twenty months since the last issue of the Cutting Edge went to press and, as you can imagine, a lot has happened concerning the program since November of 2017.

Very sadly, one recent event is that we have lost - far too soon - one of our own. Dr. Lisa Palermo-Edwards (MS ’95), who upon graduation joined her father Dr. Jim Palermo (MS ’73) in his Columbus practice, passed away in May 2019. Lisa will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by her family, friends, colleagues, and all who had had the pleasure and good fortune to meet her or work with her.

Since our last communication, we had two classes that successfully completed their clinical training, defended their MS thesis or PhD dissertation, and received their certificate. Last year’s graduates were: Dr. Reem Andijani (MS ’18), who returned to her native Saudi Arabia and is engaged in full-time hospital-based practice; Dr. Sukirth Ganesan (PhD ‘18) who just completed a 1-year clinical and post-doctoral research fellowship at the NIDCR-NIH, in Bethesda, MD and joined the University of Iowa as full-time faculty; Dr. Vrisis Kofina (MS ’18), who started her career as full-time periodontal faculty at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI; and Dr. Christina Zachariadou (MS ’18), our 2017-2018 Chief Resident, who remained in Columbus to pursue a PhD degree in Oral Biology at OSU. This year’s graduates are: Dr. Chris Brett (MS ’19), who will pursue private practice in Oklahoma City, OK; Dr. Anuja Doshi (MS ’19), who will join the University of New England, in Portland (Maine) as full-time faculty; Dr. Najla Kasabreh (MS ’19), our 2018-2019 Chief Resident, who will be joining the University of Michigan as full-time periodontal faculty; and Dr. Elizabeth Nesmith (MS ’19), who will join Dr. Brian Roy (’16) in his practice in Toledo, OH. Congratulations to the classes of 2018 and 2019!! We all wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

During the same time period two new classes joined the program. The class of 2021, which joined us in June 2018, includes Dr. Lilia Ferral, a Texas native and a 2015 graduate of the School of Dentistry of the University of Nuevo León (Nuevo León, Mexico); Dr. Aakash Mehandru, a native of Ohio and a 2018 graduate of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) School of Dental Medicine (Bradenton, FL) who completed his undergraduate education with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Cleveland State University (Cleveland, OH); and Dr. Ying Wang, a native of Japan and a 2014 graduate of the Kyushu University School of Dentistry (Fukuoka, Japan). The class of 2022 joined us this past June. It is made up of the following four colleagues: Dr. Vinnie Joshi, a 1999 graduate of the KLE Institute of Dental Sciences, Karnataka University, in Belgaum, India, who completed a MS degree in Periodontology (2003) from Rajiv Ghandi University, in Bangalore, a MS degree in Oral Biology and Pathology from SUNY Stony Brook (2007), and a PhD degree in Periodontology from Rajiv Ghandi University (2017); Dr. Victoria Nguyen, from San Francisco, CA, a 2019 graduate of the Roseman University College of Dental Medicine (South Jordan, Utah) who completed her undergraduate education with a Bachelor of Biological Sciences (Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology) from the University of California, Davis; Dr. Kalia Theodoreou, a 2016 graduate of the School of Dentistry of the National University of Athens (Greece), who since graduation had been in general dental practice in her native Limassol, Cyprus; and Dr. Lindsey Williams, a Sacramento native, who received her Bachelor of Science (Health and Human Sciences) from Loyola Marymount University, and her dental degree in 2019 from the University of Southern California School of Dentistry, in Los Angeles.
Ross Gordon (’17), Vrisiis Kofina (’18), Allan Wattimena (’17), and Christina Zachariadou (’18) attained ABP Diplomate status after successfully challenging the oral examination of the Board. At the annual AAP meeting in Vancouver, Dr. Vrisiis Kofina presented her research as one of the finalists for the Balint Orban Memorial Award in Clinical Sciences. Dr. Kofina also won Honorable Mention at the Research Forum at the 2018 annual meeting of the Midwest Society of Periodontology. This past February, at the 2019 annual meeting of the Midwest Society of Periodontology, Dr. Najla Kasabreh received the first place at the Graduate Student Poster Competition. Dr. Sukirth Ganesan represented OSU as a finalist in the 2018 VOLPE Prize competition.

Recent graduates and faculty mentors have been actively pursuing publication of their work. The following is a selective list of articles from recent OSU graduates (names highlighted) published since November 2017:


Residents and faculty enjoyed presentations from guest lecturers, including Dr. Philipp Sahmann (University of Zurich) on the therapy of peri-implantitis; Dr. Samer Khoury (OSU ’07) on guided dental implant surgery and on the business aspects of periodontal practice; and Dr. Chun-Thee Lee (UTHSC) on conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

We look forward to seeing all OSU alumni and friends at our annual Buckeye Reception, which will be held at 7:00 pm on Saturday, November 2, 2019, during the upcoming AAP annual meeting in Chicago, IL. The reception will be held in the Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue. We hope all of you will be there to join us.
Greetings alumni, friends, and families of the OSU. I am excited to report that our predoctoral program stays strong and continues to offer high-quality periodontal education to our dental students. Our students keep up the good work on their National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE) part II (see below table). The scores of NBDE part II in periodontics from our students closely mirror how well they have been mentored and prepared by all periodontal faculty members. Below is the summary of their scores on NBDE Part II in Periodontics from 2013 to 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Periodontics</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three awards for excellence in periodontics were given to the graduating dental students of 2019 and presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony at Fawcett Center on May 2nd, 2019. The faculty members in the Division of Periodontology selected Dr. Nathan Loughridge as the recipient for the American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student Award for Achievement in Periodontology, Dr. Haella Holmes as the recipient for the Northeastern Society of Periodontists Senior Student Award and Dr. Zachary Heming as the recipient for the Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics.

As usual, we had five 4th year dental students from China Medical University School of Dentistry (CMUSoD) in Taichung, Taiwan as visiting student externs from August 20 to 31st, 2018. During these two weeks, they were arranged to observe in the Comprehensive Care Clinics, Advance Prosthodontic Clinic, and Postgraduate Periodontology Clinic. Again, there are five dental students from CMUSoD who will be visiting our college from July 15th to 26th, 2019. This type of observership has been offered to dental students in CMUSoD for ten consecutive years since 2010.

The Perio Interest Group and Honor Society is now a registered student organization within the OSU community. The office bearers are Emily Sexton (D4), Tony Matteoti (D4), Brett Freeman (D3) and James Kunzler (D3). The faculty advisor is Dr. Purnima Kumar. The group received funding from the university to host a speaker annually. This student organization fosters an interest in the specialty of Periodontology among predoctoral dental students. Members of this organization are introduced to current advances in periodontology (including therapeutic, diagnostic and surgical), encouraged to develop critical thinking skills in periodontal decision making and brought together to learn the latest technology and tools in Periodontology. This year, Dr. Leslie Winston (Director of Global Professional & Scientific Relations from Procter & Gamble) gave a seminar on “The secrets of partnering with industry to improve oral health”. Other engagements of this group included a lunch and learn with the periodontal residents titled, “Why I chose Perio?“.

Every two years, the Division of Periodontology hosts a 5-day continuing dental education course for dentists from Taiwan. Beginning this year, an international partnership agreement has been signed in April by Mr. Michael Papadakis (Senior Vice President & CFO from OSU) and Dr. Jiann-Juh Chen (President from the Dental Alumni Association of China Medical University, Taiwan). The name of the CE course is “Education Program in Periodontology and Implant Dentistry” and this course will be given from September 23rd to 27th, 2019. This 5-day intense course includes in-depth and up-to-date lectures given by outstanding professors in College of Dentistry. This year, we added a one full-day shoulder-to-shoulder hands-on workshop on dental models and pig jaws right before the hands-on on human head. The full-day hands-on human head workshop will allow course participants to practice on several soft tissue-grafting techniques in the morning and hard tissue-grafting procedures in the afternoon. This is our 4th time to offer a continuing education course to general dentists from Taiwan. All seats (32) have been sold out and we look forward to working together with the course participants to improve their surgical skills in periodontology and implant dentistry.
Dr. Lisa Palermo Edwards, 55, of New Albany, passed away at her home with her family by her side on May 25, 2019. She was born in Columbus on May 2, 1964, to James M. and Patricia A. (Busse) Palermo. She is survived by her parents, along with her daughters, Alyssa and Sarah, who are the light of her life. In addition, she is survived also by their father, Martin Edwards, fiancé, Mark Tucker, brother, and his children: Michael, Sydney, and Jamie Palermo; cousins Kelly, Scott, Laura, Bret, Chanda, Amanda, and Clayton; as well as many friends. Lisa was preceded in death by her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Michael Palermo and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Busse, aunt Anne Wilson, and uncle John Busse.

Lisa earned her DDS degree from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1992, where she then completed her residency in Periodontology. In 1995 she received a Master of Science, and then began her private practice which is limited to periodontics and dental implants in Reynoldsburg. She is a current member of the American and Ohio Dental Associations, Columbus Dental Society (Board of Directors ’14, ’15, ’16), American, Ohio, and Columbus (past President) Academies of Periodontology.

Outside of her career, she enjoyed her girls and her family, the girls’ activities, her practice, the beach and her many friends. She loved life and lived every day to the fullest, with a wonderful attitude and a wonderful smile. Visitation will be held Thursday, May 30, 2019 from 6-9PM at SCHOEDINGER NORTHEAST 1051 E. Johnstown Rd., Gahanna. A Mass of Christian Burial service will be observed Friday at 11AM at Church of the Resurrection, New Albany. Entombment will follow at Forest Lawn Memorial Garden and will be private, limited to immediate family only.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to The Ohio State University, College of Dentistry, Dept. of Periodontology at 305 W 12th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210.
Recent Awards to Faculty and Students

Dr. Vrisiis Kofina
2018 Orban Prize finalist at the AAP meeting

Dr. Vrisiis Kofina
Honorable Mention, MSP annual meeting 2018 Research Forum

Dr. Najla Kasabreh
First place, MSP annual meeting
2019 Graduate Student Poster Competition

Dr. Sukirth Ganesan
2018 VOLPE Prize finalist

Achievements

2018 Diplomates

Dr. Guo-Liang Cheng
Dr. Mariana Gil Escalante
Dr. Ross Gordon
Dr. Allan Wattimena

2019 Diplomates

Dr. Reem Andijani
Dr. Sukirth Ganesan
Dr. Vrisiis Kofina
Dr. Christina Zachariadou
AWARDS

Awards for excellence in periodontics were given to the graduating dental students of 2019 and presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony at Fawcett Center on May 2nd, 2019.

Dr. Chien with Dr. Haella Holmes (upper left) as the recipient for the Northeastern Society of Periodontists Senior Student Award; Dr. Nathan Loughridge (upper right) as the recipient for the American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student Award for Achievement in Periodontology, and Dr. Zachary Heming (Lower left) as the recipient for the Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics.
New Graduate Students Reception (Class of 2021)

Dr. Lilia Marcela Ferral

Dr. Aakash Mehandru

Dr. Ying Wang

Reception at the Faculty Club.
First year residents on their first day of clinic!

Picnic for first year residents! Class of 2021!
New Graduate Students Reception (Class of 2022)

Dr. Victoria Nguyen

Dr. Kalia Theodorou

Dr. Lindsay Williams

Dr. Vinayak Joshi

Reception at the Faculty Club.
First year residents (Class of 2022) at their “Welcome Picnic.”

The cake!
Visitors From Taiwan 2019

CMU dental students with periodontal residents and Drs. Coffelt and Chien.

To the right: Dr. Chien, Dr. Lee and Dr. Zheng with visiting students from Taiwan.

Dr. Hall and Dr. Chien at the GPR Clinic with CMU dental students.
Class of 2019 Farewell Dinners!

Turkish dinner at Dr. Binnaz’s house celebrating the graduating residents!

Perio family.
Dr. Kumar’s residents farewell dinner.

“Dear friends,
There is an ancient Indian saying that goes
“He who does not eat a farewell dinner cooked by his Indian faculty does not fully graduate from his periodontal program.”

Purnima Kumar

Graduating class with Dr. Kumar.
Dr. Tataki is hosting a graduation dinner at his home.

Lunch with Dr. Wang.
Class of 2019 Graduation Dinner

The Class of 2019 with the OSU ~ Division of Periodontology Faculty.

Dr. Alger and the Class of 2019.
Meetings!

2018 AAP Meeting in Vancouver.

Residents also have fun!
Class of 2019, GO BUCKS!!
Honor Roll of Giving

Gifts to the Division of Periodontology can be conferred to the following funds:

**Endowed Chair for Periodontology:** To help ensure the long-term health and stability of the Division of Periodontology at The OSU College of Dentistry, alumni and friends of the division have established a campaign to raise $1.5 million to create an Endowed Chair in Periodontology. For the division to not only retain outstanding faculty, but to also recruit new faculty to fill the open positions today and in the future, it must distinguish itself even further from the other periodontal programs across the country. One of the best ways to do this is through the establishment of an endowed chair. For more information on what an endowed chair is and does or to talk about your interest in supporting this campaign, please contact Ted Backus, Senior Director of Development, at (614) 292-9307.

**The George R. App Periodontal Endowment Fund:** Interest from the Endowment is used to support graduate student education and development with special interest in providing funds for travel to meetings by The Ohio State University periodontal graduate students.

**Division of Periodontology Fund:** This fund is used to support a wide variety of periodontal activities by the Division of Periodontology in the College of Dentistry. More specifically this fund is used for but not limited to the purchase equipment for the graduate program, support of alumni activities (e.g. the annual AAP Buckeye Reception, CE courses, mailings, etc.), endowment of graduate research projects, purchase of food for graduate student activities, etc.

**The Lewis Claman Periodontal Endowment Fund:** Interest from the Endowment will be used to support an award for OSU dental students who exhibit clinical excellence in periodontics. Special consideration will be given to

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**Honor Roll of Giving 2017-2019**

Fred O. Sakamoto
Kelsey Perioontal Group LLC

Timothy C. Hall
Capitol Perioontal Group

Joseph A. Koberlein
Hua-Hong B. Chien

Griselle C. Ortiz
Colorado Periodontal Associates

Anthony R. Volpe
Christine Y. Freytag

American Academy of Periodontology Foundation
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Donald J. Morrison

Periodontal Health Center PL
Michael Palermo

Patricia B. Palermo
Binnaz Leblebicioglu

Monica P. Brady

* This list was carefully prepared from the Development Office in the College of Dentistry. If you have donated to the Department and your name does not appear on the list, please let us know so that
It’s Noteworthy

**The Cutting Edge** is available electronically! If you would like to receive it by email, please email us at osugradperio@osu.edu and let us know where you would like it delivered. It can also be accessed on the web:

We encourage all alumni of our program to visit The Division of Periodontology on the OSU College of Dentistry Website. The website has been recently updated and is very detailed.

1. The web address of the college is [http://dentistry.osu.edu](http://dentistry.osu.edu)
2. Click on Academic Sections
3. Click on Periodontology and you will be on Periodontal Homepage

You can then navigate to the Division of Periodontology’s History, Faculty, Staff, Predoctoral Program, Postdoctoral Program, Research, Service, Continuing Education, Alumni, and Patients.

To access current or past Cutting Edge issues:
1. Click on alumni
2. Click on The Cutting Edge
3. Click on any issue to open or download

The direct Web address for the Cutting Edge is: [http://go.osu.edu/perio-cuttingedge](http://go.osu.edu/perio-cuttingedge)