Chairman’s Corner

David L. Cochran, DDS, PhD

We are excited to bring you the latest information from the Department of Periodontics through our inaugural newsletter! We hope you will enjoy reading about our recent advancements and developments. As we bid farewell to another class of students and extend a hearty welcome to the matriculating dental students and graduate residents, I would like to convey three important messages. The first message is that the Department of Periodontics continues to flourish at a time when state resources have become relatively stagnant and the overall percentage of the school’s income has decreased each year. Consequently, the pool of dentists who consider academic careers has been greatly impacted, but fortunately, our Department has seen little turnover in the past several years. Stagnant state resources can also impact a department’s ability to “grow” but, in spite of these challenges, our Department continues to lead the way in research and to provide excellent training to its students.

My second message is that the Department continues to focus on the future of Periodontics. A number of years ago, the Department emphasized the study of microbiology and immunology. As the profession evolved, so did the Department’s emphasis, which now concentrates on the areas of implantology and tissue growth/turnover. For example, the Department examined the significance of the periodontal/systemic relationship. In turn, several large, multi-center projects were implemented which have resulted in over a million dollar’s worth of activity for our Department. The Department now feels that the study of inflammation and the processes involved in tissue formation/turnover and wound healing will likely be the most significant for our profession at this time. Departmental activities are beginning to include studies on angiogenesis and the molecular basis of tissue formation.

Through annual retreats, department meetings, and group discussions, the Department works hard to stay at the forefront of the profession. We also formed a task force to analyze the best-selling book Good to Great by Jim Collins in order to gain insight into the factors that can help keep the Department working and performing at the highest level. The last message I would like to leave you with is that the Department greatly appreciates your support. We strive to be the best; your thoughts and encouragement inspire us to excel well into the future. I am happy to say that I will present a new opportunity to support our Department in the near future. We’ll be in contact soon. Please let us know about any address changes or news that you’d like to share. It is indeed an exciting time in the Department and in Periodontics!

Let us hear from you!

Alvares Retires as Editor of Critical Reviews in Oral Biology & Medicine

Olav F. Alvares, BDS, PhD, MS, associate professor of periodontics, was recognized for exemplary service as the founding editor of Critical Reviews in Oral Biology & Medicine. The content of that publication is regularly featured in monthly editions of the Journal of Dental Research. Dr. Alvares, who is retiring as editor, served in that position from 1990 through 2006. He was recognized during the opening ceremonies by then-AADR president Dianne E. Rekow. (By Rosanne Fohn, reprinted with permission from HSC News.)

Willmann Receives National OKU Award for Teaching

Donald E. Willmann, DDS, MS, recently received the Stephen H. Leeper Award for Teaching Excellence from the Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) National Dental Honor Society. The Leeper Award, awarded to one OKU member per year, recognizes dental educators who adopt novel and creative methods to instruct students, faculty and administrators. Dr. Willmann received the award in New Orleans at OKU’s annual business meeting, held in conjunction with the American Dental Education Association annual meeting. (By Rosanne Fohn, reprinted with permission from HSC News.)

Valderrama Wins William B. Clark Fellowship

Postdoctoral fellow Maria del Pilar Valderrama, DDS, was honored at the 85th General Session of the International Association for Dental Research. Dr. Valderrama received the 2007 American Association for Dental Research (AADR) William B. Clark Fellowship. (By Rosanne Fohn, reprinted with permission from HSC News.)

2007 Balint Orban Memorial Research Competition Finalists

Christopher J. van Kesteren, DDS, MS, recent graduate, was selected as a Finalist in the Clinical Division for the 2007 Balint Orban Memorial Research Competition that will be held at the upcoming American Academy of Periodontology’s Annual Meeting in Washington, DC this October. Two of our Air Force residents were chosen as Finalists in the Basic Science Division: Dr. Michael J. Chung and Dr. Scott F. Gruwell. Our congratulations to the students, and also to all the faculty that mentored them.

UTHSCSA PERIO Alumni

Do you have a change of address?
E-mail Ms. Shirley Kraft at krafts@uthscsa.edu
Congratulations

Dr. Eric N. Kerr received his DDS degree from the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry; he will be an associate partner in a private periodontal specialty practice in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dr. Eric S. Browning received his DMD degree from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry; he will be an associate partner in a private periodontal specialty practice in Tuscon, Arizona.

Dr. Robert M. Michaud received his DMD degree from the Boston University School of Dentistry; he will be an associate partner in a private periodontal specialty practice in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Christopher J. van Kesteren received his DDS degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; he will be an associate partner in a private periodontal specialty practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Scott F. Gruwell is an Air Force/Periodontics Advanced Education Student who received his DDS degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; he will be assigned as an AEGD Instructor at Bolling AFB in Washington D.C.

Dr. Jody S. Harrison is in a combined Certificate in Periodontics and Masters in Periodontics program; he will teach and practice Periodontics at Dunn Dental Clinic, Lackland AFB, in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Dan K. Wong is an Air Force/Periodontics Advanced Education Student; he will be assigned as the Chief of Periodontics, 35th Dental Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Dr. Andrew C. Dreyer is an Air Force/Periodontics Advanced Education Student; he will be assigned as an AEGD Instructor at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana.

About Us

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Dental School MSC 7894
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas  78229-3900
Tel: (210) 567-3600
Fax: (210) 567-6858

Periodontics website: http://www.periodontics.uthscsa.edu/
UTHSCSA website: http://www.uthscsa.edu/

Contact Information

David L. Cochran, DDS, PhD, Chairman
cochran@uthscsa.edu

Brian L. Mealey, DDS, MS, Postgraduate Director
mealey@uthscsa.edu

N. Jodie Harrison, Department Administrator
harrison@uthscsa.edu

Dolores Garza, Administrative Assistant
Newsletter Layout and Design
garzad2@uthscsa.edu