The Department of Periodontics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is proud to announce the establishment of the Endowment for Periodontal Excellence campaign. In an effort to further advance the field of Periodontics, this Endowment will provide financial support to the areas of teaching, scholarship, research, and patient care. “Making lives better” has long been the foundation for the hard work and great progress made by the faculty and students of the Department of Periodontics.

Excellence through Perseverance

As a graduate, friend, or supporter of the Department of Periodontics, you know what it means to excel and you know what “excellence” means to us here at the University. Our department is recognized as one of the premier periodontics programs in the country. The Specialist division trains Periodontists who have become award-winning leaders in their field. The Predoctoral division educates dental students to diagnose and treat mild forms of periodontal diseases and refer moderate to severe cases to their Periodontal specialist. Scholarly activity through our Research division continues to build on a long history of funded, external grants. By ensuring that we have the most up-to-date technology at our training facility, our faculty and students have the freedom to explore new approaches in science which, in turn, paves the way for new methods of treating patients. With a highly-trained faculty we can concentrate on providing the best clinical setting for our students and patients. Your financial contribution to our Endowment will benefit our department for years to come and every dollar spent will be carefully managed by the Department of Periodontics. In addition, you can designate your gift in honor of Dr. James T. Mellonig for his contributions to the Specialist division over the past 17 years. Consider, too, making the legacy last by including the Endowment for Periodontal Excellence in your will and estate planning.

Giving is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Pay online at www.uthscsa.edu/univrel/philanthropy/. It’s safe and easy! Click on the ONLINE GIVING banner at the top of the website. Select the Endowment for Periodontal Excellence option.


3. Pay by credit card

If you have questions regarding donations, please contact Ms. Sara Piety, Dental School Development Director, at (210) 567-6536 or e-mail at piety@uthscsa.edu. Information about planned giving opportunities and tax benefits can also be accessed online at www.uthscsa.edu/univrel/philanthropy/.
Dean Kenneth L. Kalkwarf and Dr. Cochran announced recently that Thomas W. Oates, DMD, PhD, will be assuming two new responsibilities within the Dental School. He will be serving as Vice Chair of the Department of Periodontics. In that role Dr. Oates will assist with leadership, provide support in the oversight of Departmental operations, and maintain continuity in departmental activities when Dr. Cochran is engaged in national and international activities.

Dr. Oates will also be assuming the role of Assistant Dean for Clinical Research for the Dental School. In that position, he will be responsible for leadership of the School’s direction and support for clinical and translational research, as well as management of the infrastructure supporting these endeavors.

Please join us in congratulating Tom and assisting him in transition to his new roles.

SAVE THE DATE

Volunteer for the ADA Annual Session by visiting the website www.tda.org and click on Members to log in. Then click on Current Issues-Volunteer for ADA 08 Annual Meeting.

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E-mail Ms. Shirley Kraft at krafts@uthscsa.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION
David L. Cochran, DDS, PhD, Chairman
cochran@uthscsa.edu
Donald E. Willmann, DDS, MS, Predoctoral Director
willmann@uthscsa.edu
Brian L. Mealey, DDS, MS, Postgraduate Director
mealey@uthscsa.edu
Stephen E. Harris, PhD, Research Director
harris@uthscsa.edu
N. Jodie Harrison, Administrator
harrison@uthscsa.edu
Dolores Garza, Administrative Assistant
Newsletter Layout and Design
garzad2@uthscsa.edu

Faculty Profile:
Employees Making A Difference

Referred to as ‘the McGyver of Perio’ by residents and staff, Michael P. Mills, DMD, MS, is both resourceful and experienced in solving problems around the graduate clinic. As Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Mills’ teaching responsibilities are concentrated in the Postdoctoral Division of the Department of Periodontics. Dr. Mills received his dental degree from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1970 followed by his specialty training and Master of Science degree. Prior to joining the faculty at UTHSCSA in 2000, he served as the Chairman and Program Director of the United States Air Force Periodontics Residency.

“I have known Dr. Mills for 23 years. I have never known a more dedicated educator and clinician. He lives and breathes teaching every single day—in the clinic or the classroom. Ask any resident who has been through the programs that Dr. Mills has been associated with and you’ll hear that, ‘He’s the best teacher I’ve ever had.’ Now, that’s the truth. He is indispensable to graduate periodontics. He has promised me that he will never retire. (I wish),” says Dr. Brian L. Mealey, Graduate Program Director.

"He lives and breathes teaching every single day..."

Dr. Mills and his wife Nancy have been married for 35 years. They have two sons, Theo and Thomas, both Longhorn grads who live and work in the Austin area. Their daughter Teresa shares a home with her husband in Fort Smith, Arkansas with the couple’s two children, Bailey and Pearl Abella. Dr. Mills and his wife will soon welcome another grandchild into the Mills clan courtesy of Theo and his wife Bonny.

Although hobbies have come and gone over the years, a self-professed “wiser and somewhat older” Dr. Mills has always considered snow-skiing and woodcrafting to be his lifelong leisure pursuits.