Greetings from the DEO

This year has brought us many opportunities to improve our educational programs and to advance periodontics through research and professional service.

Dr. Lewis Humbert, our residency program director, is an excellent mentor for our six residents, who are graduates from Creighton, Indiana, Iowa, Marquette, UCLA and Medical College of Virginia. We are proud that the number of graduates attaining Diplomate status is growing, with 75% of our graduates over the past decade achieving board certification!

The collegiate building renovations are on schedule; this summer saw the completion of the Galagan auditoriums, and the entire clinical renovations will be completed in Summer 2016. In our area, we are enjoying the difference that these updates are making in education and patient care. I invite you to visit us and see the college’s “new look”.

Over the past 5 years, over 30 talented new faculty have joined the collegiate ranks; we have a tremendous mixture of vitality, talent and experience, making the future bright! Your support is appreciated. On behalf of our faculty, residents and staff, best wishes for a wonderful holiday and for good health and happiness in 2016! Cheer the Hawks to a victory in the Rose Bowl!

Best wishes,

Georgia

Congratulations to Faculty and Staff

Congratulations to Drs. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz and Satheesh Elangovan who were both promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, effective July 1, 2015! This is a major career milestone for both of these outstanding faculty members.

On November 5, Drs. Satheesh Elangovan and Paula Weistroffer were inducted as members of the International College of Dentists, with the ceremony being held in Washington DC.
Impacting Clinical Periodontics Nationally and Worldwide

Our faculty are involved in exciting research projects that have far-reaching implications for improving patient care outcomes. These include:

• “A Novel RNA-Based Biomaterial for Bone Regeneration”. Dr. Satheesh Elangovan is the lead investigator on a grant ($406,285) from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. This innovative research utilizes delivery of chemically modified RNA of growth factors to enhance bone regeneration. A provisional patent on this concept has been issued. Co-investigators on Dr. Elangovan’s research project include Dr. Liu Hong, Dr. Deborah Dawson, and Dr. Aliasger Salem.

• “A Comparison of the Efficacy of Two Different Surgical Approaches to Increase Peri-Implant Mucosa Thickness”. Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz received a $40,000 grant from BioHorizons Inc. to conduct a randomized clinical trial comparing autogenous to allograft soft tissue augmentation around implants. Dr. Christopher Hutton, a second year resident, is co-investigator, and this project is in conjunction with his Master of Science degree in Oral Sciences.

• "Comparison of Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines and Bone Metabolism Mediators Around Laser-Lok and Machined Transmucosal Abutments: A Pilot, Randomized Clinic Trial." In November, Dr. Christopher Barwacz, Dental Research and Department of Family Dentistry, and Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz and Dr. Kim Brogden, Department of Periodontics, received a two-year, $64,248 grant from BioHorizons, Inc.

Dr. Kim Brogden, Periodontics and Director of Dows Institute, and his team of researchers have collaborated with scientists at Cellworks Group, Inc. to develop a computer generated model to accurately predict in vivo cellular response to drugs and biologic agents. He presented, “Predicting Non-Responders to Immunotherapy Treatments through Simulation of NGS Information” at the 57th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting and Exposition Meeting held in California on December 5. This technology is provisionally patented.

Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar, Periodontics resident, was a finalist in the Basic Science Category at the 2015 American Academy of Periodontology Research Poster Forum in Orlando, FL. She also received first place at the 2015 Iowa Dental Association Meeting for her table clinic, “The Chemokine and Cytokine Response of a Keratinocyte, Dendritic Cell, and T-cell Co-culture Model Treated with Porphyromonas gingivalis Hemagglutinin B.” Her mentor is Dr. Kim Brogden.

Dr. Satheesh Elangovan has been appointed editor of Essentials in Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry. This quarterly information portal will serve as a premier go-to source for dentists, dental and postgraduate students to get evidence based clinical information on a wide range of topics. Dr. Michael G. Newman serves as the editor-in-chief, and Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz serves on the Editorial Board. http://www.essentialsindentistry.com/

In October, Dr. Paula Weistroffer, Pre-doctoral Clerkship Director, presented a poster, “A Short Interactive Case Study Using the Interprofessional Collaborative Competencies Assessment Survey” at the Collaborating Across Borders Conference in Roanoke, Virginia.
Alumni and Friends at the Iowa Reception at the AAP Meeting in Orlando!

Dr. Chris Hutton (resident), Rachel Hutton, Dr. Paula Weistroffer (2004), Corey Borsheim, Dr. Vrushali Abyhankar (resident).

Bruce and Dr. Karen Wolf (2001) and Dr. John Bissell (2002).

A “Winning Team Iowa Perio” Team


Dr. Erika Ringdahl (M.D., IA), Dr. Bruce Ringdhal (1994), Mary and Dr. Henry Espinosa

The Department celebrated Halloween with a “Sports Theme”. L to R, Front row: Dr. Georgia Johnson, Terri Shay, Amy Carmichael, Sheena Hogue, Dr. Marion Antonius (resident), Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar (resident), Emily Meyer, Nancy Slach; Back row: Lori Chalupa, Dr. Paula Weistroffer, Dr. Chris Hutton (resident), Kyla Miletich, Tracy Just, Amanda Shumaker, Dr. Steve Clark, Dr. Satheesh Elangovan
Congratulations!

Our long term clinic clerks, Mari Whets-tine and Rich Stream officially declared June 30, 2015 “Freedom Day” with their retirements. We appreciate their outstanding support and wish them all the best!

Thank you to our Adjunct Faculty Members

The Department recognizes the excellent support over the past year from our loyal group of adjunct faculty members. These include Drs. Derek Borgwardt, Mike Franzman, Adrienne Gunstream, Truman Johnson, Quinn Morarend, Ann Romanowski and Jo Rummelhart.

Our 2015 Graduates, Drs. Katie Smith and Mitch Gubler, are shown here with Dr. Georgia Johnson and Lewis Humbert on Graduation Day. Katie joined a practice in Edina, MN, and Mitch started a practice in St. George, Utah.