At the end of February, the faculty, residents, and visiting scholar traveled to Chicago for the Perio Midwest Society annual meeting. The meeting was very informative and a great educational experience for the residents. The faculty had the opportunity to see several alumni and catch up with their successes.

In March, Mrs. Nancy Slach was reappointed to the Iowa Dental Board for another three-year term.

On March 11, Dr. Satheesh Elangovan attended the IADR meeting in Boston. On March 11, Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz and Miguel Bustillos (visiting scholar) attended the Academy of Osseointegration annual meeting held in San Francisco, CA. On March 24, Dr. Avila-Ortiz traveled to San Sebastián, Spain to attend an implant course about the techniques and restoration of anterior implants.

At the beginning of May, Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar, a resident in the Department of Periodontics, 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.” She received a certificate and cash prize of $500. Co-authors on her table clinic include Dr. Carol Fischer, Dows; Amber Bates, PhD candidate, Dows; Prashant Nair, Robinson Vivda and Shwetha Chandrashekaraiyah, Cellworks Group, Inc.; Dr. Georgia Johnson, head of the Department of Periodontics; Taher Abbasi and Shireen Vali, Cellworks
Group, Inc.; and Dr. Kim Brogden, director of the Dows Institute and faculty in the Department of Periodontics. Dr. Brogden is Vrushali’s mentor.

On May 10 and 11, the department invited Dr. Giuseppe Intini, DDS, PhD (assistant professor of oral medicine, infection & immunity at Harvard School of Dental Medicine) to present lectures to the Periodontics faculty and residents, then a noon lecture to the college on “PRX1 Expressing Cells and Their Role in intramembranous Bone Formation and Regeneration.”

We would like to congratulate Sheena Houge (dental assistant) and her husband on the birth of their first son, Miles. Congratulations to Leslie (Mehalick) Carroll (Class of 2013) and her husband on the birth of their first son. Both boys were born the end April.

On May 15, we said goodbye to Kathy Schnoebelen (dental assistant), who retired after 11 years with the department. She was a great asset to the department and will be missed, but we wish her success in her next stage of life.

Recent Publications: