In January, the Office or Research and Economic Development launched the Dare to Discover campaign, which promotes UI faculty from all areas of the campus. The stories of these scholars, creators and researchers are represented in a series of 40+ black and gold banners that can be found in downtown Iowa City, along Park Road, and in the University Capitol Centre (UCC). The banners were produced by the UI Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OVPR&ED) to publicize the works of these faculty – researchers, scholars and creators – including three faculty affiliated with the College of Dentistry: Dr. Nathan Holton, Department of Orthodontics; Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, Department of Periodontics; and Dr. Aliasger Salem, joint appointment, Colleges of Pharmacy and Dentistry. OVPR&ED worked with the City of Iowa City, the Iowa City Downtown District (ICDD) and Iowa City graphic designer Robyn Hepker to develop the series. Nancy Bird, executive director of the ICDD, said, “We’re pleased UI chose to promote it through the downtown banner system to engage the larger community and the million-plus people who visit downtown annually.” The banners will remain in place through February, then many will be displayed inside of the UCC.

Several College of Dentistry faculty attended the Midwest Society of Periodontology Meeting in Chicago, February 26-28. Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz (Department of Periodontics) served as program chair and moderator for this year’s Midwest Society of Periodontology (MSP) meeting. On Friday, February 26, Dr. Chris Barwacz (Department of Family Dentistry) presented a lecture and hands-on course on “Dental Implant Provisionalization – Protocols for Maximizing Peri-Implant Mucosal Outcomes.” Saturday’s speakers included Dr. Anton Sculean (University of Bern, Switzerland), who spoke on regenerative and periodontal plastic surgery, and Dr. Massimo Simion (University of Milano, Italy), who lectured on vertical ridge augmentation. Dr. Mike Franzman (adjunct faculty, Department of Periodontics) moderated the Graduate Student Research Forum held in conjunction with the meeting. At the business meeting, Dr. Paula Weistroffer was installed as the new president of the
Midwest Society of Periodontology, and Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz was elected to the Council. In addition to the outstanding educational program, faculty and residents enjoyed a dinner together on Saturday evening.

Dr. Gustavo Avila, Department of Periodontics, has been elected as a member of the Osteology Expert Council by the Osteology Foundation. He has played an important role in the publication of “Osteology Guidelines for Oral & Maxillofacial Regeneration” and the development of ‘The Box,’ an Osteology online community platform which was launched this spring. The Osteology Expert Council was established in 2010 to expand the Osteology Foundation’s international network of collaboration. The Osteology Foundation promotes partnerships between universities and industry in research and education on oral tissue regeneration with the goal of bridging the gap between scientific advances and clinical practice.

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, Department of Periodontics, participated in the International Osteology Symposium, held in Monaco from April 21-23. This scientific meeting was attended by over 2,500 dental professionals from all around the world. One of the highlights of this event was the official launch of ‘The Box,’ which is the representation in the Internet of the Osteology Foundation Global Community. Dr. Avila Ortiz had the privilege to be selected as one of the six members of an international team that collaboratively worked on the creation and development of The Box. The Box is a platform that contains a plethora of tools and functions designed to enable practitioners, researchers and educators to connect, share information and learn all together. Registering and using The Box is free of charge. For more information and to register, click here: http://box.osteology.org/

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz participated in the Oral Clinical Research Forum at the Academy of Osseointegration (AO) Annual Meeting, which was held in San Diego on February 19, 2016. His presentation, “Efficacy of Socket Grafting for Alveolar Ridge Preservation: A Randomized Clinical Trial,” was awarded first prize, Best Oral-Clinical Research Presentation. This large randomized clinical trial was completed at the College of Dentistry and was supported by a grant from Osteogenics Biomedical. Dr. Avila-Ortiz’s collaborators included Drs. Mitch Gubler (2015 Periodontics certificate and MS in oral sciences), and currently in private practice in St. George (Utah); Chris
Barwacz (Department of Family Dentistry); Miguel Romero-Bustillos (PhD student in oral sciences), Veeratrishul Allareddy (Department of Oral Pathology, Radiology and Medicine); and Bridget Zimmerman (ICTS).

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz participated as one of the keynote speakers in the 2016 Osteogenics Global Symposium, held in Scottsdale, Arizona, on April 1-2. The focus of this biennial symposium is to provide the attendants with an update on key factors affecting comprehensive treatment related to various grafting and augmentation techniques for implant site development, with a strong emphasis on the integrating the latest research technologies, materials and techniques into the therapeutic process. Dr. Avila-Ortiz's presentation was “Alveolar Ridge Preservation: Contemporary Evidence and Clinical Research.” The scientific meeting was attended by more than 450 dental professionals, including general practitioners, specialists and dental hygienists.

Drs. Chris Barwacz, Department of Family Dentistry, and Dr. Avila-Ortiz (shown above), gave a joint, full-day presentation for the study club of Dr. Tony Skinner (DDS ‘01, MS periodontics ‘04), in Edina, Minnesota, on April 15. Their program was entitled “Tooth Replacement Therapy with Dental Implants: A Team Approach Based on Current Evidence.” The session was sponsored by Dentsply Implants and was attended by a group of more than 100 dental professionals, including general dentists, periodontists, oral surgeons, and staff members. Dr. Avila-Ortiz has been invited to become a member of Platform for Exchange of Education, Research and Science North America (PEERS NA), the global platform of Dentsply Implants for key opinion leaders, researchers and speakers. Dr. Barwacz is also a member of PEERS NA.

Dr. Satheesh Elangovan, Department of Periodontics, has been appointed as an assistant editor of Newman and Carranza’s Clinical Periodontology (13th ed.) planned for a 2018 release by Elsevier. This textbook is the most popular resource utilized nationally and internationally in predoctoral periodontal education and is the recommended text for our dental students. In addition to traditional didactic information, the digital format of the text contains videos of procedures, animations, downloadable images and PowerPoint presentations. Dr. Elangovan is also the editor for the Elsevier online resource center, Essentials in Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (http://www.essentialsindentistry.com/) and associate editor for Trends in Clinical
Periodontology and Implant Dentistry
(http://www.trendsperioimplantresourcecenter.com/), which aims to provide dental, graduate and practicing dentists with up-to-date evidence-based clinically relevant information.

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