Department of Periodontics  
Dr. Georgia Johnson

On June 30, we wished a happy retirement to our longtime clinic clerks, Mari Whetstine and Richard (Rich) Stream (PHOTO). Mari is staying in the Iowa City area but is planning to travel more. Rich and his wife have moved to Denver, CO to be closer to grandkids. With their departure, we welcomed Amy Carmichael and Lori Chalupa to our department. Both have been with the college for numerous years, so they bring good experience to our department.

The fall has brought the residents into full swing with academics, patient care and research. Our current residents have selected a wide range of research topics, which include:

- Controlled release of antimicrobials via implant abutment coating for the prevention of peri-implant diseases: a split-mouth, pilot randomized clinical trial (Dr. Kelsey Tengan mentored by Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz).
- Comparison of two different surgical approaches to increase per-implant mucosa thickness: a randomized controlled clinical trial (Dr. Chris Hutton mentored by Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz).
- Periodontal phenotype and supracrestal soft tissue dimensions: clinical correlations and their impact on post-extraction volumetric changes (Dr. Sarah Rinehart mentored by Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz).
- The chemokine and cytokine response of a keratinocyte, dendritic cell and t-cell co culture model treated with Porphyromonas gingivalis hemagglutinin B (Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar mentored by Dr. Kim Brogden).
At the beginning of September, we selected the new residents who will begin July 1, 2016. We will be welcoming Nick Salava (AT Still University) and Joseph Ballatore (University of Connecticut). They will make great additions to the postgraduate program.

Dr. Satheesh Elangovan was recently appointed editor of Elsevier’s third dental resource center titled *Essentials in Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry* *(CPID)*. The publishers of Carranza’s *Clinical Periodontology*, 12th ed. (Elsevier) and *Journal of Evidence Based Dental Practice* (Elsevier) created this as a premier go-to source for dentists, dental and post-graduate students to get evidence-based clinical information on a wide range of topics. Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz is also a big part of this effort and serves on the editorial board of *Essentials CPID*. The link to this portal is: [http://www.essentialsindentistry.com/](http://www.essentialsindentistry.com/).

Congratulations to Drs. Satheesh Elangovan and Paula Weistroffer who were inducted as members of the International College of Dentists at the ceremony being held in Washington, D.C. on November 5.

Kudos also to Drs. Christopher Barwacz, Department of Family Dentistry, and Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, Department of Periodontics, who were awarded a two-year, $64,248 grant from BioHorizons, Inc. for their research, “Comparison of Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines and Bone Metabolism Mediators Around Laser-Lok and Machined Transmucosal Abutments: A Pilot, Randomized Clinic Trial.”

Several faculty members made continuing education presentations this fall in various locations. Dr. Kim Brogden spoke at the September 26 GE Lilly Pregame professional program on “Computational *in silico* Co-culture Simulation Models to Predict Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Treating Cancers and Auto-inflammatory
Diseases in the Oral Cavity.” Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz presented programs September 18 at the Illinois Society of Periodontology in Chicago and on September 21 at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City on “Management of the Extraction site: Current Evidence and Therapeutic Considerations.” Dr. Weistroffer shared a poster at the national interprofessional education meeting in Richmond, VA on a survey she conducted on student perspectives on interdisciplinary health care. Dr. Georgia Johnson lectured on peri-implantitis and soft tissue grafting in Madison, Wisconsin on October 21 at the Gundersen Clinic’s 25th Dental Symposium.

In October, Dr. Paula Weistroffer attended the AxiUm electronic record users meeting in Vancouver, B.C., and Dr. Georgia Johnson contributed to an American Board of Periodontology workshop in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz traveled to Switzerland to work on an exciting Osteology Foundation project called ‘The Box,’ which will be unveiled at the Osteology International Symposium next spring in Monaco. Ms. Slach also participated in several Iowa Dental Board meetings.

We had a departmental Halloween potluck on October 30 with lots of good food, and we had a sports theme for our “costumes” this year.

The Department was well represented at the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) meeting November 14-17, which was held in sunny Orlando. Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar, one of our residents, was honored to be one of eight individuals selected to compete in the Research Poster forum; her project was entitled “The Chemokine and Cytokine Response of a Keratinocyte, Dendritic Cell, and T-cell Co-culture Model Treated with Porphyromonas gingivalis Hemagglutinin B.” Dr. Kim Brogden is her mentor. Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz was the moderator for an educational
session on future horizons in periodontology, at which Dr. Satheesh Elangovan was one of the presenters. His lecture featured his team’s research, “Novel Molecular Approaches in Bone Tissue Engineering.” Dr. Paul Weistroffer represented Iowa at the State and Regional Assembly and attended the Midwest Society of Periodontology executive meeting in conjunction with the AAP meeting. Dr. Georgia Johnson participated in the American Board of Periodontology examination development workshops held prior to the meeting. Drs. Steven Clark, Weistroffer and Johnson attended the Predoctoral Educators’ Workshop, and Drs. Lewis Humbert and Johnson participated in the Postdoctoral Educators’ Workshop. We had a wonderful time renewing friendships with several Iowa alumni who joined us at our Iowa Reception.

Recent Publications:

Atluri K, Seabold D, Hong L, Elangovan S, Salem AK. Nanoplex-mediated codelivery of fibroblast growth factor and bone morphogenetic protein genes promotes osteogenesis in human adipocyte-derived mesenchymal stem cells. Mol Pharm. 2015, 12, 3032-3042.

