This past fall, the department of Periodontics has invited several guest lectures to the college. On August 5, 2014 Dr. Pablo Galindo-Moreno, DDS, PhD, Associate Professor in Oral Surgery and Implant Dentistry, from the University of Granada (Spain), visited the College of Dentistry on August 5, 2014. Dr. Galindo-Moreno gave a lecture on peri-implant marginal bone loss, which was attended by faculty and residents from the Departments of Periodontics and Prosthodontics. Among other information pertinent to the topic, he presented the results of an interesting publication recently accepted in the Journal of Dental Research.

This is Dr. Galindo-Moreno’s third visit to the College since February 2013 when he spent a week in the Department of Periodontics with the support provided by the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation through the Charles Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant. We hope this strong connection with Dr. Pablo Galindo-Moreno and the University of Granada keeps on bringing enriching academic experiences to our College.

Drs. Hector Rios and Erika Benavides, faculty members in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, visited our College invited by the Department of Periodontics on October 17th.

Dr. Rios gave a presentation in the morning entitled ‘Regenerative Sciences: Past, Present and Future’ in which he highlighted current and emerging approaches in the context of periodontal regeneration, including stem cell therapy, bone anabolic agents, genetic approaches, and nanomaterials, among others. In the afternoon, the faculty and residents of Radiology joined the session for Dr. Benavides’ presentation, which was entitled ‘Enhancing Patient Care through Imaging’. In her presentation, Dr. Benavides stressed that, through the integration of technology, it is possible to obtain critical information about the structure and properties of hard and soft tissues in the maxillofacial complex that can be used to enhance patient diagnosis and treatment planning.


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Dr. Leandro Chambrone, a periodontist in Sao Paulo, Brazil and served as an Assistant Professor at Guarulhos University. He is widely recognized for clinical research in periodontics and for his contributions to evidence-based dentistry, visited the college on November 24 and 25, 2014. He presented a lecture to the residents and faculty on the importance of evidence-based dentistry, and in its chief tool, the systematic review. Comments on the structure and main steps expected by well-designed systematic reviews will be depicted, as well as, examples of the clinical application of the information gathered by them, as part of the decision-making process.

The 100th meeting of American Academy of Periodontology was held in San Francisco, CA September 19-22. The Academy was established by Drs. Gillette Hayden and Grace Rogers Spalding in 1914, and in 1947, the American Dental Association recognized Periodontics as a specialty. Today the AAP has over 8200 members in over 75 countries.

The meeting was attended by several individuals from the Department of Periodontics. Dr. Gustavo Avila, Chair of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation’s New Century committee, moderated a continuing education session which highlighted recent Foundation award winners. Dr. Satheesh Elangovan began his term as a member of the Balint Orban Awards committee; Dr. Georgia Johnson attended two days of exam writing workshop’s as a consultant to the American Board of Periodontology. Drs. Clark, Weistroffer and Johnson represented Iowa at the predoctoral educators’ workshop that focused on faculty calibration. The postdoctoral workshop featured a forum on selecting residents who have attended a dental school using a pass/fail system and was attended by Drs. Humbert and Johnson.

Faculty members and our senior residents enjoyed meeting with several Iowa Alumni at the Iowa reception held Saturday, September 20.

Ms. Kate Zimmerman (D4) presented her poster entitled ‘Correlation between radiographic marginal bone loss and inflammatory biomarkers’ at the 100th American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting that was held in San Francisco (CA) from September 18th - 22nd. She presented the results of her study, which aimed at investigating the association between peri-implant bone loss and pro-inflammatory cytokines, as well as key bone remodeling markers, present in peri-implant sulcular fluid collected from a total of 42 patients enrolled in a periodontal maintenance program at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Clinics.

Her co-mentors are Dr. Satheesh Elangovan and Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz (Department of Periodontics). Other collaborators in her research project are Dr. Kim Brogden (Dows Institute), Ms. Keyla Pagan-Rivera and Dr. Deborah Dawson (Biostastics Unit and Department of Pediatric Dentistry).

Erica Recker (D2) has a new publication online in the September 30 [early bird] issue of Journal of Periodontology: “A cross-sectional assessment of biomarker levels around implants versus natural teeth in periodontal maintenance patients.” Co-authors on the article include Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, Periodontics; Dr. Carol Fischer, postdoctoral research fellow, Dows; Keyla Pagan-Rivera, graduate research assistant, Dows; Dr. Kim Brogden, interim associate dean for research; Dr. Deborah Dawson, director, Biostatistics Unit; and Dr. Satheesh Elangovan, Periodontics. Drs. Brogden and Elangovan are Erica’s mentors. Erica attended the 20th Hinman Student Research Symposium in Memphis, Tenn., which was held October 31-November 2, 2014. and gave an oral presentation on “Biomarkers of
Inflammation Around Implants Versus Natural Teeth.” Her mentors are Dr. Kim Brogden, interim associate dean for research, and Dr. Satheesh Elangovan, Department of Periodontics.

The department has received several acknowledgements and awards this fall as well. On September 12, 2014, Dr. Lewis Humbert received the James H. McLeran Faculty Award. Dr. Humbert attended the UI College of Dentistry on an Air Force scholarship and received his DDS in 1975. For the next 29 years, he served in the U.S. Air Force at several bases in Korea, Texas, Arizona, and Nebraska. Dr. Humbert also received his MS and certificate in periodontics in 1985. During his Air Force career, he gained trauma experience and became assistant base dental surgeon at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. At Luke AFB in Phoenix, Ariz., Dr. Humbert established the periodontics residency program (sedation and surgical skills). After being transferred to Offutt AFB in Omaha, Neb., Dr. Humbert taught in the AEGD program. In 1992, he was transferred to Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he was chief of the periodontics department, interim hospital commander, and dental squadron commander. From 1999-2004, Dr. Humbert directed the AEGD residency program at Lackland AFB, taught, and was a member of the dental executive committee. In 2004, as Lewis Humbert was retiring from the Air Force, Dr. Georgia Johnson, head of the Department of Periodontics, had a faculty opening and offered Dr. Lewis the position. Today Dr. Humbert is the program director for the Periodontics department. He encourages the residents to publish and enter national competitions.

Since 2006, 90 percent of the periodontic residents have passed the American Board of Periodontology. Says Dr. Humbert, “It is a very high compliment to receive the McLeran Award. We can teach our students and resident all of the technical skills but I want them to also learn caring, compassion and empathy for the patients they treat so they’ll have the ethics and integrity to do what is right.”

Dr. Paula Weistroffer, Clinical Associate Professor, Periodontics, was the recipient of the 2014 Collegiate Teaching Award. Dr. Weistroffer is highly engaged in clinical and didactic teaching in the predoctoral and postdoctoral programs and is playing a leadership role in the development of interprofessional health professions education in our College. She is Co-chair of the Collegiate Dental Interdisciplinary Planning Group and has been the Dental College’s representative on the University’s Interdisciplinary Planning Group since 2010. She has actively pursued teaching developmental opportunities and was a recipient of an American Academy of Periodontology Foundation scholarship to the AAL/ADEA Academy for Teaching and Learning Institute in 2011. In 2008 Dr. Weistroffer was recognized with the prestigious America Academy of Periodontology Foundation Teaching Fellowship. Dr. Weistroffer’s philosophy of education reflects a model that integrates excellence in patient care and education, and her unique focus in interprofessional education has tremendous implications for improving patient-centered health care in the future.

Dr. Kim Brogden, director of Dows, and professor, Department of Periodontology, received the Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence during a banquet held Oct. 7, 2014, at the Levitt Center for University Advancement. He was one of six faculty who received the award. The Iowa Board of Regents, in cooperation with the Faculty Senate, honors faculty members who have made important contributions to excellence in public education through teaching, research and service. In 2012, the American Academy of Periodontology gave Dr. Brogden the Educator Award in Recognition of Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics. That same year, the Iowa chapter of the American Association for Dental Research Student Research Group gave Dr. Brogden the Student Research Group Mentor of the Year Award. Dr. Brogden’s area of research focuses on the ability of peptides in saliva (defensins, histatins, etc.) to serve as upstream suppressors of cytokine signaling to recombinant hemagglutinin B (rHagB) and recombinant Fimbrillin (rFimA) from the periodontal
pathogen Porphyromonas gingivalis. Dr. Brogden currently has more than $3 million in NIH grant funding.

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, Department of Periodontics, has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Dental Research (JDR), effective January 1, 2015. Board members serve a three-year term. Dr. Isabelle Denry, Department of Periodontics and Dows, and Dr. Deborah Dawson, director of the Biostatistics Unit and professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry are also currently serving on the JDR editorial board. Dr. William Giannobile, University of Michigan, is currently editor-in-chief of JDR. Dr. Giannobile was the invited keynote speaker for this year’s annual meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research.

Tracy Just, dental hygienist, received the College of Dentistry Ambassador award for 2014. The award is given to a staff member who Inspire confidence by their effective communication and work, competence, exhibit a special commitment to patient care and/or the educational and research programs of the College of Dentistry, consistently promote the welfare of the College of Dentistry’s patients and visitors, demonstrate pride in themselves and in the College of Dentistry, realizing that they are the College to whom they meet, is friendly, courteous, considerate and cooperative, is respectful and understanding of the concerns and feelings of others, and should advocate an atmosphere of team support for fellow employees. Tracy was nominated for the award by several faculty, staff, and patients.

Dr. Jo Anne Rummelhart ('81 DDS) has given the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation AAP) a $250,000 gift to establish a $10,000 Dr. James T. Mellonig Regeneration Research Award. The award will recognize excellence in original research by a recent resident in the specialty of periodontics that advances the clinical therapies in periodontal regeneration. It will also honor the extraordinary research contributions by the periodontal residents and faculty at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda, Maryland, with their distinguished history of advancing clinical regenerative therapy. The award honors the life, accomplishments and passions of Dr. James T. Mellonig, who was a faculty in the periodontics department at the University of Texas, San Antonio before retiring in 1989. He was also president of the American Academy of Periodontology in 1996 and received the AAP Outstanding Periodontology Educator Award in 2003.
PERIODONTICS

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