



Mark Hans,
DDS, MSD '79, '81

From the Chairman

As orthodontists, we are fortunate to witness gratitude on a regular basis. I experience this every day during my interactions with students, patients, faculty and staff. I

frequently hear how grateful they are for the care, concern, mentorship and guidance they receive. Now, it is my turn to express my own gratitude to the students and alumni of the orthodontics department for establishing and contributing to the Mark and Susan Hans Endowment fund.

The goal of this fund is to establish an endowed chair in our department. I'm thrilled and honored to report that to date, over \$122,000 has been raised. And I'm happy to announce that Susan and I will be making a contribution of \$25,000 at this time toward our total pledge \$275,000. I hope that you'll join me in supporting this fund and helping to continue the tradition of teaching excellence in our department.

This is an exciting time for our department, our school and our university. With plans for the new Health Education Campus being finalized and our continued focus on research, teaching, community outreach and collaboration through interprofessional learning, there is much for which to be grateful.

I thank each of you for your involvement and support. As alumni and friends of the department, we need your engagement with our department and our school to ensure that they continue to thrive.

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Health Education Campus and Interprofessional Learning

In the coming months, you'll be hearing much more about the partnership between Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic that will result in the creation of a 485,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art Health Education Campus. This innovative center of health education will bring together students, faculty and staff from the University's schools of medicine, dental medicine, nursing and social work to radically transform the way we educate, train, treat and care.

While dental students already participate in educational collaborations, the opportunities for interprofessional learning on the new Health Education Campus will expand significantly. This will range from daily interaction and working together on an informal basis to small group learning opportunities in both the classroom and clinical settings.

We'll be providing regular updates on this project in this newsletter and our Alumni Magazine. You'll learn more about how orthodontics will have ample opportunities to grow and thrive in this new space.



From the Craniofacial Fellowship Director

Teamwork and Collaboration Lead to Growth



*Manish Valiathan, DDS,
MSD, '99*

The craniofacial program graduated our second fellow in 2014 (Dr. Tasha E. Hall, Director, Craniofacial and Surgical Orthodontics, Indiana University). In January, we accepted a second fellow, Dr. Sorapan Smuthkochorn. She is a recent graduate of the CWRU orthodontic program and has quickly made a deep impact with her

dedication to our unique patient population, her tireless efforts, excellent interpersonal skills and deft clinical work. Please join me in welcoming her, as we wish Dr. Michael Maroulakos a fond farewell. Michael will graduate in July after a distinguished year at CWRU.

2014 has been a productive and busy year for the program. As you are likely aware, we have been the primary providers of craniofacial orthodontic and surgical treatment at University Hospitals of Cleveland for over 30 years. We have now expanded our services to include both the Cleveland Clinic and the MetroHealth System in Cleveland. At MetroHealth, we are now the primary provider of craniofacial orthodontics. Our fellows rotate through the MetroHealth system, observing and learning different approaches employed in the management of craniofacial and surgical care. We have also started working actively with the craniofacial team at the Cleveland Clinic, providing them with clinical coverage as needed. Our services with all three health care systems include all typical phases of craniofacial orthodontics, ranging from infant orthopedics to orthognathic surgery. Our program provides patient care, consultation with other health care providers and participation in cutting-edge research. We are also looking into opportunities to expand our services beyond Cleveland, and I'll share more information about that in the near future.

The management of craniofacial abnormalities provides a distinct opportunity for interprofessional learning, which is the theme of the new Health Education Campus. Craniofacial patient care involves

As the dental school continues to refine our landmark pre-dental REAL curriculum, we look forward to the opportunity for the craniofacial and surgical program to play a bigger role in the broader curriculum.

not only craniofacial orthodontics, but also frequent exchanges between multiple dental, medical, surgical and auxiliary services—the very definition of interprofessional education. Our patients require the care of those in pediatric dentistry, neurology, orthopedics, nursing, nutrition, social work and more. We are leading the efforts to find the best ways to coordinate care of our patients, many of whom are infants and children who will require continual care as they grow and develop. We are excited to be able to expand our clinical care and research to other health care institutions that will benefit from this approach. As the dental school continues to refine our landmark pre-dental REAL curriculum, we look forward to the opportunity for the craniofacial and surgical program to play a bigger role in the broader curriculum.

Lastly, I recognize that little can be accomplished without support from everyone involved in the program. Among the many who contribute so much, I'm delighted to welcome several new members of our department in addition to Dr. Smuthkochorn, our new fellow. Dr. Christopher Spoonhower, a 2003 graduate of our graduate program, has joined the faculty and is currently seeing patients at least once a month. He brings attention to detail, enthusiasm and a certain calm, all respected qualities in a teacher. Olivia Abdllrasul joined us in May 2014 as program coordinator and in less than a year, has been responsible for much of our growth. Her tenacity is second to none, her empathy for patients is sincere and her desire to do the right thing at the right time is praiseworthy!

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Welcome

Olivia Abdilasul

Program Coordinator

The transition from a career in journalism to health care has been seamless for Olivia, who has “found her passion” in a career focused on caring for others. A native of Northeast Ohio, she has an MBA in health care administration and hopes to make an impact on the day-to-day operations of patient care.

Sorapan Smuthkochorn

Fellow

A native of Bangkok, Thailand, Dr. Smuthkochorn did her undergraduate training in marine biology. After dental school in Thailand, she served as a full-time faculty member for two years at a Thai university in restorative dentistry. As a fellow, she provides craniofacial orthopedic and orthodontic care for newborns, children and adults under the supervision of Dr. Valiathan. Ultimately she hopes to return to Bangkok and start her own practice, in addition to joining a craniofacial team to treat the growing population of untreated craniofacial patients there.

Christopher Spoonhower

Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Spoonhower is in private practice and the owner of Spoonhower Orthodontics, LLC in Green, Ohio. He earned both his DDS and MSD degrees at CWRU. His professional interests include the management of craniofacial anomalies, the development of novel patient motivational techniques and quality improvement science in practice management. He and his wife, Kimberly, a graduate of the CWRU School of Medicine, have two children.

A message from the program director



*J. Martin Palomo, DDS,
MSD '97*

Among the many strengths of our orthodontic residency program, perhaps the one that stands out most clearly, is our level of clinical experience. This component is far more complex than it sounds. The clinic is divided into core clinic and specialty clinics so as to fully engage residents in all aspects of clinical experience from orthodontic subspecialties to international health. As a result,

residents are exposed to nine different bracket configurations, and through different prescriptions and manufacturers, countless permutations emerge. Each has the unmistakable signature of the clinical faculty involved in the case during the core clinic.

During the core clinic, each morning Monday through Thursday, the clinical faculty demonstrate by example, case by case, our core values, teamwork, compassion and clinical excellence. They help the program in its ultimate goal—to cultivate the clinical experience and develop orthodontists who take pride in the quality of their clinical skills. When talking to alumni of the program, their fondest memories always include interactions with our clinical faculty. The impact they leave on our residents is there forever.

No orthodontic residency can be successful without a breadth of clinical faculty who generously give of their talents so as to cultivate intellectual curiosity among residents. We are now saying farewell to Drs. Griffith and Koenig as they retire, and I would like to thank them for the indelible impressions they have made on our graduates. I can guarantee that they will never forget seeing both of you in your bootcamp uniforms! I would like to thank and recognize our clinical faculty, and have our alumni remember, once again, how each one of these names have impacted their lives and the way they practice today. Our clinical faculty today includes Drs. Anwar Alhazmi, B. Douglas Amberman, Sebastian Baumgaertel, Norman DeLoach, Donald Gustovich, Thomas Herberger, Howard Kossoff, Eric Lawrence, Kenneth Lawrence, Alex Mellion, Zach Mellion, James Trouten, Michael Sabat, Sharon Schmah, Andrew Skorobatchkyj, Dennis Ward, John White, Terrence Wenger, and Ryan Wenger.

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Faculty Spotlight

Terrence Wenger, DDS, MS



*Terrence Wenger, DDS,
MS, '67, '69*

Thursday. Both have been recognized by residents as outstanding teachers.

Dr. Wenger completed his undergraduate degree at Adelbert College in 1962, where he earned the Willaman Award as the outstanding senior athlete. He played professional baseball for the Cleveland Indians for two years before entering the Western Reserve University (now CWRU) dental school in 1963.

During dental school he was class president all four years, graduating in 1967. He was elected into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon honorary fraternity, reserved for the top ten percent of each class. At graduation he earned the Callahan Award given to the doctor who demonstrated the best clinical and leadership skills.

Dr. Wenger remained at CWRU to complete his post graduate residency and earned his master's degree in 1969. His master's thesis compared two different types of retainers and their stability of overbite correction.

"I have so enjoyed the enthusiasm and energy of the orthodontic residents," Dr. Wenger says. "They are so bright and determined. Getting into the orthodontic program is extremely competitive and these students are so highly motivated."

Dr. Wenger has always taken a special interest in getting to know his students, just as he has done with his patients in his practice. He's made a habit of taking new residents out for coffee when they start,

not only to congratulate them on getting into the program, but to share some wisdom and experience with them. "As the oldest instructor at the school, I like to give them some background on what the practice of orthodontics was like before the remarkable technological advances," he explains. "I try to paint a picture of how far the field has come and how fortunate they are to be a part of it."

A true passion for the field has guided Dr. Wenger in his practice and his teaching. His enthusiasm for the field of orthodontics is evident. "This is the best branch of dentistry," he says. "I've especially loved working with teenagers who may struggle with low self-esteem. The fact that we get to be a part of their maturity and help improve their confidence is very gratifying."

He has also focused on building relationships with his patients, just as he has done with his students in the residency program. "Getting to know our patients and their families has been and continues to be extremely important to us," he explains. "I like to think that our office is a fun place where patients and families feel comfortable."

Dr. Wenger's practice in Mayfield Heights, Ohio, will continue on with Ryan; another son, Reid, a 2007 CWRU orthodontics graduate practices in Aurora, Lakewood and Westlake. His daughter, Renee, is a physical therapist who has a master's degree and a PhD. He and his wife, Judy, have been married for 52 years. "She worked as a med tech, supporting me in every way during my dental school and residency," he says. "We always focused on education, and are so proud of our kids." The Wengers have five grandchildren, all of whom live in the Cleveland area, and Dr. Wenger is excited to be able to spend more time with them.

And while Dr. Wenger is looking forward to retirement, he won't be able to fully put aside his passion for orthodontics. "I will still help out in our office when needed, and hope to help out with the residency program from time to time," he says.

Editor's Note

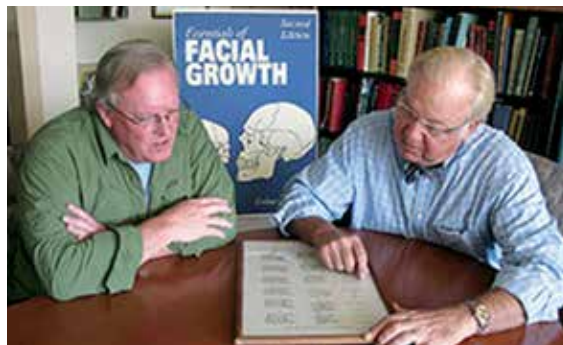
Our apologies for incorrectly identifying Rongning (Grace) Wu's title in the 2014 newsletter. Her correct title is Assistant Professor.

Manot Cave Research Highlighted in *Nature*

The work of a research team that included Dr. Mark Hans and Dr. Bruce Latimer was featured in the recent article "Levantine cranium from Manot Cave (Israel) foreshadows the First European modern humans" in the Advance Online Publication *Nature*. The article describes how characteristics of a partial skull recently discovered in Manot Cave in Israel's West Galilee provide the earliest evidence that modern humans co-inhabited the area with Neanderthals and could have met and interbred 55,000 years ago.

The finding challenges a previous hypothesis that the two species potentially met 45,000 years ago somewhere in Europe. "It has been suspected that modern man and Neanderthals were in the same place at the same time, but we didn't have the physical evidence. Now we do have it in the new skull fossil," said Dr. Latimer.

Dr. Latimer and Dr. Hans, chair of CWRU's Department of Orthodontics, were among a team of researchers who worked closely with the study's



Bruce Latimer, professor of anthropology, anatomy and cognitive science, and Mark Hans, chair of the Department of Orthodontics

lead investigator, Israel Hershkovitz, professor of anatomy and anthropology at Tel Aviv University.

Under the direction of former dental school dean Jerold Goldberg, CWRU formed a 10-year partnership with Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University in 2012 to excavate the cave. As a result of this partnership, Dr. Latimer joined Dr. Hans to expand the scope of orthodontic research on craniofacial growth and development to include human evolution. The Manot Cave project also is part of CWRU's initiative, called the Institute for the Science of Origins (ISO).

Celebrating Excellence and Leadership

Last year, the *Dr. Mark and Susan Hans Endowment Fund* was established to benefit the department of orthodontics. To date, the fund has grown to over \$122,000. Your support is needed to help the fund continue to grow, with the ultimate goal being the establishment of an endowed chair for the department.

In 2014, Dr. Hans celebrated 25 years of leadership in orthodontics at the School of Dental Medicine. During his tenure, enrollment has grown and programs have been significantly expanded. Dr. Hans' mentorship and training have touched many individuals and your contribution to this fund is a tremendous opportunity to recognize his outstanding contributions to the school and the field of orthodontics.

Gifts can be made online at dental.case.edu/giving. For more information, please contact Megan Juby, director of development, at megan.juby@case.edu or 216-368-3481.



Join the AAO in San Francisco

The American Association of Orthodontists will hold its 2015 Annual Session in San Francisco May 15-19. More information can be found at www.aaoinfo.org/meetings/2015-annual-session.

A reception for the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine alumni and friends will be held on **Saturday, May 16 from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Moscone Center West Building, 800 Howard Street, San Francisco.**

TO REGISTER FOR RECEPTION:

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Meet the incoming residents



Jarintorn (Lily) Kotheeranurak

A native of Bangkok, Thailand, Lily Kotheeranurak was educated at Chulalongkorn University. She was drawn to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine for its internationally known orthodontic program and its reputation for providing a variety of techniques for students to learn and try. She loves to see happy patients' beautiful smiles and she loves the snow in Cleveland!



Bradley Johnson

An interest in science as a child, the confidence he gained after having braces and an orthodontic internship during dental school helped Brad Johnson find his way toward dentistry and orthodontics. A graduate of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and Valparaiso University, Brad grew up in Monroe, Michigan. Brad cites the quality didactic education, clinical experience and excellent faculty as the reasons he chose CWRU. He lives in Orange Village with his wife and dog, and enjoys travel, golf, soccer and University of Michigan football.



Allison Whitman

Allison Whitman, originally from Dallas, Texas, completed her undergraduate studies at Emory University and attended dental school at the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. She is interested in 3-D digital imaging/modeling for the use of diagnosis and treatment planning in orthodontics. She knew the orthodontic program at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine was the right choice immediately. "The faculty, staff and residents were so warm and inviting, I felt like I was at home here," she explains. An avid skier and fluent in Spanish, Alison is getting married this June.



Brian Potocki

Brian Potocki chose the CWRU School of Dental Medicine to continue his education because of its "great family atmosphere among residents and faculty and their reputation for producing well prepared orthodontists." A native of Perry, Michigan, Brian attended the University of Michigan for both his undergraduate degree and dental school. He is also a graduate of the United States Air Force AEGD program at Wright Patterson AFB. His wife, Melissa, is starting the pediatric dentistry residency at CWRU this year and they welcomed their first child in February.



Ehab BenNasir

Ehab BenNasir was born and raised in Libya, where he received his BDS degree. After graduation he lived in Germany for five years where he received his oral surgery specialty degree. In addition to oral and maxillofacial surgery, Ehab is interested in orthodontics and looks forward to starting his residency to expand his professional knowledge. "CWRU is well-known around the world and the dental school is one of the top-notch schools," he says. "I am so pleased to have this opportunity to join the orthodontic residency program and serve the community." Ehab and his wife have four children and he enjoys his time with his family and traveling.