

A Leap of Faith Brings Rewards

Sometimes a leap of faith pays off in a very big way. For George Brown, DMD, MSD, making such a leap a decade ago was a smart and fruitful decision, both personally and professionally.

Dr. Brown, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, who attended the University of Kentucky for his undergraduate studies and dental school, practiced for five years in a group practice in Lexington before opening up a private practice with his wife, Rena.

"I ended up striking up a conversation with Dr. Ken Chance, who was then an instructor at the UK. When I mentioned to him that I was considering a residency in endodontics, he strongly encouraged me to apply to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine," recalls Dr. Brown.

Dr. Chance's recruitment efforts worked. Dr. Brown and his wife sold their practice and their home and moved to Cleveland with their two young sons. "It truly was a leap of faith," Dr. Brown says. "We uprooted our personal and professional lives and have never regretted this decision for a moment."

Dr. Brown completed his endodontics residency in 2004 after what he calls "a truly remarkable experience." "The preparation I received during my training was incredible. My endodontic education provided me with the foundation I could build upon in order to become an able and confident practitioner," he says.

That leap of faith also benefitted Dr. Brown personally. He looks on his time at CWRU and Cleveland fondly. "To this day, some of my closest friends are my classmates from my time at CWRU. Rena and I continue to keep in touch with my colleagues and their families," he says. "Our time in Cleveland was wonderful. I love the people, the



George Brown, DMD, MSD
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"Our time in Cleveland was wonderful. I love the people, the atmosphere and the culture. It was a great experience for our family. There's really no other place like it...it's a true melting pot of cultures and I value that greatly".

atmosphere and the culture. It was a great experience for our family. There's really no other place like it...it's a true melting pot of cultures and I value that greatly." His family has thrived as well. Rena has a thriving solo practice in nearby Fayetteville. Their eldest son is a freshman at the University of Kentucky and their younger son is a freshman in high school.

Today, Dr. Brown has a busy practice in Peachtree City, Georgia. So busy, in fact, that he will be adding Dr. Candace DeVeaux as a partner in July when she completes her endodontics residency at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. "When it was time to add another practitioner to my practice, I knew where I needed to go to find the best talent," Dr. Brown explains.

The CWRU School of Dental Medicine has done its part to make that leap of faith worthwhile. "When I tell people that I trained at CWRU, there's instantaneous respect. The word is out that our graduates are well trained and great practitioners."



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Save The Date & Join Us

**American Association of Endodontics
2015 Annual Session**

**MAY 6-9, 2015
SEATTLE**

**Washington State Convention
and Trade Center, Seattle**
A reception for CWRU Alumni and Friends hosted by Dr. André Mickel will be on **Thursday, May 7** at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel, 1400 6th Avenue, Seattle from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Phone: 216-368-3480
Toll Free: 877-468-1436
dentalalum@case.edu

For more information about the AAE 2015 Annual Session, visit eventscribe.com/2015/AAE15/.

Endodontics News 2015



André Mickel, DDS, MSD, '91, '94

From the Chairman

You've all undoubtedly heard the phrase "paying it forward," and my guess is that many of you have, in fact, paid it forward in some way in your own lives. I'd like to ask each of you to do something that puts a simple twist on the concept of "paying it forward." Instead, I'd like you to "remember it forward."

What exactly does this mean? As students many of you had the opportunity to participate in professional meetings whose costs were underwritten by the generous support of our alumni. By "remembering it forward," I am asking you to think back to those meetings — the time spent with fellow students, networking with others and learning so much — and consider joining our Molar Club to ensure that this support of our students' participation in professional conferences and meetings can continue.

While we are grateful for support in any amount, I'd like you to "remember it forward" with a simple gift equal to the cost of a root canal. If each of you gave a gift to the Molar Club in the amount of the cost of a root canal in your practice, we would go a long way in "remembering it forward" and providing the same opportunities for our students as you had during your time here.

I would be honored to be able to communicate to our students, faculty and staff that we have achieved 100 percent participation in our annual giving and participation in the Molar Club. This is a strong message, particularly for our students, who undoubtedly will go on in their own professional lives to "remember it forward." The continuation of this cycle will help ensure that we are able to compete for the best and brightest students, faculty and staff. And this, in turn, helps ensure that our school remains one of the finest dental schools in the country. Make your gift online at dental.case.edu/giving. For more information, please contact Megan Juby, Director of Development, at 216-368-3481 or megan.juby@case.edu.

I'd love to hear some of your stories from the past, particularly times you spent at professional meetings. Feel free to drop me an email with some of your stories and memories of this time at andre.mickel@case.edu. With your approval, we'd like to share some of these in future issues of our newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your continued support.

andre.mickel@case.edu

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 dental medicine, medicine, nursing and social work to 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 endodontics will thrive in this new setting.



Introducing New Fellows and Residents

Incoming Residents



Navid Akbarzadeh

Navid Akbarzadeh, a native of Tehran, Iran, came to the United States in 2005. He earned his B.Sc with Honors at the University of Toronto in 2011 and will earn his DMD from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in May 2015. His interests

include furthering the use of Cone Beam 3D imaging as a diagnostic tool in endodontics and treating dental trauma to the pulp with the goal of preserving natural dentition. "Dr. Mickel's teaching style and his vision for this program made my decision to attend CWRU an easy one," he says. "I take pride in my education here at CWRU and am ecstatic to grow personally and professionally as part of the highly regarded endodontic community." Navid is the first in his family to obtain a doctorate degree and looks forward to become a board certified endodontist and starting his own private practice.



Daisy Bachala

From an early age in her home city of Hyderabad, India, Daisy Bachala's family taught her that education can solve the world's biggest problems. While studying dental surgery at Sri Sai College, Daisy also volunteered at a government hospital. She

has always been interested in endodontics, and worked under an endodontist in India after graduation. She chose CWRU because of the emphasis it places on the quality of treatment, its technical advancements in the usage of the CBCT microscope and its research facilities. Daisy lives in downtown Cleveland and enjoys playing acoustic guitar.



Magdy Beshay

Magdy Beshay has a shared passion for endodontics and music. He became interested in endodontics in his native Egypt while in dental school and worked as an assistant to an endodontist there. After coming to the United States, he

worked as a dental assistant for two years and his interest in learning more about new techniques in endodontics continued. He earned his degree from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt in 2007. "I am grateful for being accepted into one of the best universities in the nation and one of the strongest endodontics programs in the country," he says. His music interests include playing piano, writing and arranging music. He plays piano and sings in his church.



Martina Gerges

A native of Cairo, Egypt, Martina Gerges received her BDS from Ain Shams University in Cairo in 2012. After graduation, she practiced for two years, including a one-year internship at Ain Shams, two weeks of elective placement at the University of

Western Australia Dental School and a one year fellowship in endodontics at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. "I chose CWRU's endodontic program because it is one of the best in terms of preparation for board certification." Her specialty interest area is regenerative endodontics. Martina's husband, Peter Amin, is a resident in periodontics at CWRU. Outside of her practice and studies, Martina loves to play squash.



Khalid Alsehli

Khalid Alsehli is interested in learning about advanced root canal treatment methods and discovering more about the nature of the pulp, including how to regenerate and preserve it. He is also interested in esthetic dentistry and giving everyone the

opportunity "to own a beautiful smile." A native of Saudi Arabia, Khalid graduated from King Abdulaziz University in 2007. In 2009 he joined King Fahd Armed Forces in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as a general dentist. He attained the MFDS diploma awarded from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2013 and was elected as a member the following year. "I appreciate CWRU's teaching philosophy and can see myself advancing in the science and skill of endodontics," he says. Khalid is one of five siblings, all in the medical field. He is also interested in fine cuisine and hopes to learn how to cook.



Navid Khalighinejad

A friendly clinic environment, superb preparation for the board exam and the graduating residents' clinical skills are what drew Navid Khalighinejad to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. Originally from Isfahan, Iran, Navid

studied general dentistry and received his DDS degree at Isfahan University of Medical Science in 2013. He is interested in post-operative pain after treatment and microbial species in post-operative pain and flare-ups. He hopes to become board certified and obtain an academic and program director position. Navid's father is a urologist practicing in Iran and his brother is pursuing his PhD in neuroscience in the United Kingdom. In his spare time, Navid enjoys playing tennis.

AAE 2015 Poster Presentations

by CWRU Endodontic Residents

Isaac Pratt

Human β -Defensin-3 Downregulates DSPP in an Odontoblast Cell Line: An In Vitro Study

Human β -defensins (hBD) are low molecular weight antimicrobial peptides that play an important role in the innate immunity of pulp tissue. However, the effect of hBDs on human pulp-derived odontoblastic cells has not been identified. The present study aimed to investigate the effect of hBD-3 on regulation of odontoblastic DSPP mRNA protein production. Investigating beta-defensins role in the dental pulp may enable us to understand their function and subsequent application in endodontic regeneration.

Caroline Ghattas Ayoub

Comparison of IL-1 β and TNF- α Expression in Human Dental Pulp of Smokers vs. Non-Smokers

Smoking compromises many aspects of the host's immune response and has been reported to negatively affect the endodontic outcome. It is probable, therefore, that smoking may play a vital role in the pathogenesis of pulpal disease. Our study reports pulpal concentrations of TNF- α to be significantly lower among smokers compared to non-smokers ($p < 0.001$). Therefore, it can be speculated that dental pulps of smokers may show limited defense mechanisms compared to non-smokers.

Mina Rizk

The Effect of Smoking on hBD-2 and hBD-3 in the Dental Pulp

Human beta-defensins (hBD) possess direct and indirect antimicrobial activity against Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria by disrupting the membranes of microorganisms. These immunomodulatory molecules are expressed in dental pulp cells. Chronic cigarette smoking alters a wide range of immunological functions, including innate and adaptive immunity. The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of smoking on hBD-2 and hBD-3 in the human dental pulp.

Galen Geraets

Quantitative Analysis of LL-37 in the Inflamed Pulp: A Comparative Study

LL37 is an antimicrobial peptide that has been found in pulpal and periradicular tissues. It disrupts bacterial wall molecules such as lipopolysaccharides and causes membrane permeability. To date there are limited studies quantifying LL37 expression in inflamed versus normal pulp, and the potential up regulation during innate immune defense.

Jarid Burley

The Effect of Human β -Defensin-2 on the Expression of DSPP mRNA in an Odontoblast Cell Line: A Pilot Study

It has been speculated that the ability of a substance to up-regulate the production of dentin sialophosphoprotein by odontoblasts may enable its use in endodontic regenerative procedures. In the present study, we investigated the effect of hBD-2 on DSPP mRNA expression in immortalized human odontoblasts. The level of DSPP mRNA in immortalized human odontoblasts was found to be unchanged following hBD-2 exposure. Understanding the role of beta-defensins in odontoblastic behavior may contribute to the endodontic regeneration procedure.

Bernardo Sarmiento Jr.

The Expression of the Human Cathelicidin LL-37 In The Human Dental Pulp: An In Vitro Study

The antimicrobial peptide LL37 is the only cathelicidin found in human beings. LL37 is expressed in epithelial layers of the skin, saliva, and stratified epithelium. Furthermore, LL37 has been shown to have antimicrobial activity against bacteria, fungi, and viruses by disrupting the lipoprotein membranes. There was a significantly higher expression of LL37 in the inflamed pulp. Inflammation may induce the expression of LL37 in the human dental pulp. These findings suggest that LL37 may play a role in the innate immunity.



Resident Receives Top 10 Poster Award

Bernardo Sarmiento was a Top 10 Poster Award Winner at the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) annual session last May in Washington DC. Dr. Sarmiento was a first year resident when he received this honor among hundreds of presenters.

Long Nguyen

The Importance of Proper Endodontic Diagnosis Prior and Subsequent to Restorative Treatment

Pulp testing is an essential part of treatment planning. It is speculated that most teeth are not pulp tested prior to placement of new restorations. There are limited studies that evaluate the pulpal diagnoses associated with various restorations on teeth that need non-surgical root canal treatment. The purpose of this study was to investigate the different pulpal diagnoses associated with different restorations on teeth that required NSRCT.

Candace De Veaux

The Effect of Nitrous Oxide on the Hypersensitive Gag Reflex of Dental Patients in Endodontics

A hypersensitive gag reflex (HGR) may cause patients to delay dental treatment. To deliver endodontic treatment, quality radiographs are imperative. Nitrous oxide and oxygen (N_2O-O_2) is rapid and reliable and has been said to reduce the gag reflex. The literature lacks studies that investigate the effect of N_2O-O_2 on HGR using clinical procedures. We hypothesized N_2O-O_2 will reduce the HGR under simulated clinical procedures. The results indicated a significant reduction in patients' HGR with N_2O-O_2 administration.

CLASS NOTES

1971

Albert "Ace" Goering was selected as CWRU School of Dental Medicine's 2014 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for his numerous contributions to the field of dentistry. He and his wife of 45 years, Nancy, have five children. He enjoys camping, fishing, snow skiing, scuba diving and spending time with friends. doctorace1@gmail.com



2006

Andrew Wright has published articles on dental anatomy in *General Dentistry* and on pain management in the *Journal of Endodontics*. He has also provided volunteer dental services throughout the world, including villages and orphanages in India, Haiti, Mozambique and Belize. He has been recognized by his peers as a top endodontist in *Madison Magazine* (2013).



2007

Dania Kafri is an Assistant Professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, where she volunteers her time teaching the Department of Graduate Endodontics. She lives in Canton with her husband and three children. evadania@yahoo.com



2010

Ryan Duval practiced as a general dentist in his home state of Washington before returning to Case Western Reserve University to earn his two-year Advanced Certificate and Master's Degree in Endodontics. He returned to Washington after completing his specialty training and joined Deschutes Endodontics in 2013. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Luke and Paige.

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