



Mark Hans,
DDS, MSD '79, '81

From the Chairman

All is well in Cleveland and with your generous support and encouragement our department continues to expand and enhance our educational, research and

service contributions to the university. As many of you know, after receiving a Fulbright Scholarship, I was granted sabbatical leave for the first semester of this academic year. During this time, I was a visiting professor at the University of Paris-Diderot and also at the University of Athens. In Athens, I collaborated with my former classmate, Apostolos Tsolakis, an associate professor at the University of Athens, to lay the groundwork for an interdisciplinary craniofacial defects team in Greece.

My time in Paris was spent teaching, writing and eating — three of my great loves! While in Paris I was also able to reconnect with many European CWRU ortho alums. Thierry DeCoster, '86 deserves special recognition for arranging lectures and meetings that allowed me to recharge my academic batteries. I am now back at the helm of the department in Cleveland, and having resigned my position as associate dean, I am 100% committed to keeping CWRU's orthodontic program number one.

We will be undertaking some very exciting research projects with faculty members and residents during the coming year, including:

- Establishing a major research initiative in sleep disordered breathing. We intend to screen all incoming patients for symptoms of sleep disturbances and offer free at-home sleep testing for those at high risk for SDB.
- Creating the first three-dimensional CBCT standards for use in orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning.

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Dean's Update Kenneth Chance, DDS '79

I'd like to thank each of you for your continued support of our school and your orthodontic department. Your engagement as volunteers, donors and connected alumni enables us to continue our tradition of excellence and service.

We've had a busy and productive year. I'd like to share a few of the highlights — all reasons to celebrate our success:

- We have recently finalized our partnerships with both Qassim University in Saudi Arabia and Future University in Egypt. A signing ceremony with Qassim University took place here on campus in March. We'll be formalizing our agreement with Future University in Egypt in the coming weeks. You'll be hearing much more about these collaborations and the benefits they will bring to all involved.
- As the Health Education Campus construction continues, plans are evolving for the new Dental Clinic, which is the next phase of the HEC campus. We will be working closely with the university and others to make this first-class facility a reality.
- Plans are underway to celebrate the School of Dental Medicine's 125th anniversary, which takes place in October 2017. The Alumni Association Board of Directors is leading the planning and your involvement and input is welcomed. Please contact Sara Fields, Director of Alumni Relations at sara.fields@case.edu to find out how you can become involved.



Faculty Profile

Ryan Wenger DDS, MSD



*Ryan Wenger, DDS,
MSD '98*

Orthodontics can be a family business and for the Wenger family — dad Terrence Wenger DDS, MS, '67, '69, and sons Ryan Wenger, MSD '98 and Reid Wenger, MSD '07 — this is definitely the case. Dr. Ryan Wenger practices in Mayfield Heights, Ohio and alternates teaching Thursday mornings with his father in the Department of Orthodontics. Dr. Reid Wenger practices in Aurora and Westlake; all three Wengers enjoy being able to bounce ideas and treatment plans off of one another. At CWRU, Dr. Ryan Wenger appreciates this same type of interaction with residents and faculty. "It's really important to

me to give back to the program that provided me such a strong orthodontic education."

Dr. Wenger is energized by the fact that the department is made up of students from all over the world. "The fact that we're teaching and guiding students not just from our own country, but impacting orthodontic care across the globe is remarkable," he says.

In addition to monitoring clinical care, Dr. Wenger helps the residents with their diagnostic skills by sharing treated cases from his own practice. He brings in challenging cases with multiple treatment options; the residents then have the opportunity to devise and defend their treatment plans before seeing how Dr. Wenger actually treated the case. "Our students offer creative and well-reasoned ideas for treatment," he says. He adds that oftentimes students are able to show how new technology can be used in ways that weren't previously available. "I might present a case from 15 years ago and the students discuss how treatment options that are now available might have been used to more efficiently reach the desired outcome."

As for his decision to join the "family business," Dr. Wenger has no regrets. "Orthodontics is something I truly love," he says. "When my father treated my own severe malocclusion (12 mm of overjet), I had a huge boost in self-confidence." In fact, Dr. Wenger frequently shows his young patients his own models from many years ago. "It's so rewarding to be able to show these kids what orthodontic treatment can do; I love being able to provide this same kind of life-changing treatment for my patients."

During his residency, Dr. Wenger researched class III malocclusions under the direction of Dr. Gary Wolf. "I have a special affinity for these patients," he says. "The principles and the techniques that I learned from Dr. Wolf and many other excellent CWRU faculty continue to impact my practice daily."

Prior to earning his Masters in Orthodontics from CWRU, Dr. Wenger graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1996. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he started four years on the tennis team. He continues to play tennis and also enjoys biking, swimming and all card games. Dr. Wenger and his wife Maureen have three teenage sons and reside in Chesterland.

From the Chairman continued

- Using newly developed three-dimensional superimposition techniques to explore the effects of orthodontic treatment on the growing face.

In addition to these projects, our world-renowned anthropologist Bruce Latimer continues to explore Manot Cave in Northern Israel, and Manish Valiathan is co-investigator on a \$3 million NIH grant study called "Growth Prediction in Different Facial Types." CWRU's partners in this research study are from University of Minnesota, University of Pacific and University of Missouri. The overall impact of the proposed research will be a shift in the clinical management of pediatric orthodontic patients toward more evidence-based treatment planning, utilizing references and predictions based on data from the largest North American cephalometric collections.

We are also deeply involved in the AAOF Legacy Project, and host yearly conferences like the Joint Cephalometrics Experts Group (JCEG) meeting and the Chinese Mastership program. This year the DMD and our MSD program in orthodontics will be reviewed by CODA to insure that we meet or exceed all the accreditation requirements set forth by the council. Marty Palomo is busy putting together the necessary documentation along with our new clinic director, Howard Kossoff. Howard retired from private practice, but his enthusiasm for our specialty and our program led him to take on this demanding position. I am confident that working together, these two individuals will succeed in garnering full accreditation for our graduate program.

As you can see by our many initiatives and activities, we remain actively engaged with the missions of the university, the school, and the specialty. Thanks again for all you do to make us successful.

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A message from the program director



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

Program outcomes are at an all-time high. Just shy of three months after graduation, our class of five residents already has had two theses accepted for publication in the AJODO; another thesis received a National Research Award and is also selected for an Oral Presentation at the AAO 2016; and three out of five residents are already board certified by the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) for 10 years. All the cases evaluated by the ABO were, of course, treated during their residency. Ioannis Tsolakis actually presented all required six cases three months before his graduation!

These clinical outcomes appear to also have energized resident research, with big emphasis on collaborations. Keith Payton employed nanotechnology to coat brackets with slow releasing fluoride to prevent white spot lesions in collaboration with the University of Central Florida. He is presenting this research at the AAO 2016. Mohamed Bazina simplified 3D superimposition of 2 CBCT images in collaboration with superimposition's expert Dr. Lucia Cevidanes from the University of Michigan. He is also presenting this research at the AAO 2106. Ioannis Tsolakis compared airway measurements using CBCT and Acoustic Reflection, a kind of sonogram that does not use radiation, in collaboration with the University Hospitals of Cleveland Sleep Center. His research has already been accepted for publication at the AJODO. Prapaporn Shantavasinkul collaborated with the CWRU School of Engineering to research the surface strain distribution of orthodontic miniscrews. Her research has also been accepted for publication at the AJODO. Nicholas Kochenour collaborated with our dental public health department to evaluate the agreement among orthodontists in diagnosis and treatment planning regarding the use of dental casts. He is now busy in our own Craniofacial Fellowship program. And as if this were not enough, since our last newsletter, Sorapan Smuthkochorn published a report of a case treated in our clinic in the AJODO; Amir Aminoshariae had a systematic review published in the Angle Orthodontist journal; and Tarek Elshebiny is also presenting research related to his Master's thesis at the AAO 2016.

I am also happy to share that we were selected to host GORP 2017, which will bring more than 400 orthodontic residents here to Cleveland. This is only possible because the whole team of residents, staff, and faculty are tuned to the same mission, and work together as a team. All this, in combination with organization, time management, and efficiency, allows the achievement of so much, in just 30 months. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little and together we can do so much."

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CWRU Orthodontic Alumni Association Developed

With the goal of bringing past CWRU orthodontic alumni together for a common goal to improve our professional careers and support one another, Jed Hildebrand '06 and Cliff Lowdenback '06 are helping to re-establish the Alumni Association for CWRU orthodontic graduates. "Our hope is to bring this group together for purposes of networking and supporting CWRU to ensure that the orthodontic residency program continues its tradition of excellence," Dr. Hildebrand says.

Many of the orthodontic alumni attend the annual AAO session each year, but have limited time to catch up at the CWRU alumni reception and so need an organized way to communicate with colleagues throughout the year. "If we can find out in advance who is planning to attend, we can better plan for the weekend and have a more productive gathering and make sure everyone feels like it's a great reunion and fellowship for alums to network," Dr. Hildebrand explains.

With a goal of encouraging graduates to connect with colleagues socially and professionally, Dr. Hildebrand and Dr. Lowdenback also want to encourage alumni to support the program. "We all share a desire for our program to remain strong and prestigious," Dr. Hildebrand says. "This is important for all of us who are proud of our degrees from CWRU."

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From the Craniofacial Fellowship Director



Manish Valiathan, DDS,
MSD '99

We are in the midst of another busy and productive year and I am delighted to report on some of our recent activity. We currently have two fellows in the program, Suliman Shahin and Nicholas Kochenour. You can read more about both of them at the end of this column.

As our craniofacial program has continued to grow, we strive to provide services to a large section of patients in need of craniofacial, surgical and special care orthodontics in and around Greater Cleveland. It is particularly gratifying that we attract patients from other parts of the Midwest and the country. In particular, our infant orthodontics program has seen significant growth this past year. Our relationships with both the Cleveland Clinic and the MetroHealth system have continued to flourish, while we remain the primary care providers for patients through University Hospitals. Currently, we have close to 200 active patients in our care and another couple of hundred in different stages of observation. The clinical growth has been significant enough that we are now dedicating a half-day each week in our clinic to our infant cases. Another half-day is dedicated to operating room cases, primarily orthognathic cases and special care patients. I am proud of our entire team for the quality of care they are providing to our patients. It is because of their dedication and commitment to delivering the best quality care in a compassionate manner that we are a dependable and committed center for craniofacial orthodontics in Northeast Ohio.

To expand on the infant orthopedic program briefly, the Nasoalveolar Molding Device (NAM) has gained a great deal of attention over the last decade for its ability to change the morphology of the nose, cleft lip and alveolar segments. While quite time consuming, technique sensitive and heavily reliant on patient compliance, we have been providing this service for the last four years and have outstanding results documented. There are several research opportunities in this area we are exploring.

As our fellowship program continues to attract the best and brightest in the field, we are always excited to hear about what our former fellows are doing once they complete their programs. **Michael Maroulakos** started his own orthodontic clinic in Athens, Greece after completing his fellowship. He is also a part-time clinical instructor at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Dentistry, where he supervises orthodontic residents. "The fellowship at CWRU was an amazing learning experience for me," he says. "I not only learned how to treat patients with craniofacial anomalies, but also and most importantly how to collaborate with other dental and medical specialists. This knowledge has already become useful for both my clinic and for my teaching responsibilities." Michael is participating in the development and teaching of the craniofacial course, which is taught during the first year of the orthodontic residency at the University of Athens. **Sorapan Smuthkochorn** is back in her native Thailand, working as an orthodontist at several clinics in Bangkok. She is investigating several public and private hospitals where she hopes to continue her work with craniofacial and special needs patients. She is also planning to help with courses for orthodontic residents in a craniofacial orthodontics seminar.

Finally, I'm delighted to introduce our two newest fellows:

Nicholas Kochenour, originally from Palm Harbor, Florida, graduated from East Carolina University in North Carolina and went on to dental school at the University of Louisville, where he graduated in 2011. He worked in public health dentistry for two years in Missouri and completed his orthodontic residency at CWRU in December 2015. After his craniofacial fellowship training, he aims to become an active member of a craniofacial team, in addition to practicing orthodontics. "Completing my fellowship will provide me with the experience and expertise needed to provide the best care for patients," he says. Dr. Kochenour chose CWRU for his craniofacial fellowship because of its long history of innovation and education. "The opportunity to be in a clinical and academic environment that is on the leading edge for craniofacial care is a unique opportunity

that I could not pass up." Dr. Kochenour and his wife, Katie, a practicing general dentist on Cleveland's west side, enjoy travel and spending time with their families who are scattered throughout the United States. They've also enjoyed experiencing all that Cleveland has to offer, and have become Browns, Cavs and Indians fans.

Suliman Shahin completed his orthodontic training and doctoral degree at Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. Originally from Saudi Arabia, he plans to return there after his fellowship to teach at the University of Dammam and start the first craniofacial team in the eastern region of Saudi Arabia. Suliman says that CWRU's "well-known orthodontic legacy" drew him to the program. "The CWRU craniofacial orthodontic environment is one of the nation's top institutes for cutting-edge craniofacial care, training and research," he says. Suliman has a special interest in treating craniofacial patients and patients with special needs. "We need to ensure that these individuals receive the necessary health care, skills and attributes to achieve a higher quality of life," he says. "Not only for the patients, but also for their families. We do this by providing care at an appropriate, consistent and efficient manner. Our goal is to make sure we draw a smile on the whole family's face at the end of the day." In his spare time, Suliman enjoys scuba diving, soccer and quad biking in the desert. He and his wife, Enas, are the parents of a four-year-old son and a five-week-old daughter.

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CWRU Orthodontic Alumni Association Developed continued

They also hope to appoint an alumni chair for every class year during residency. This individual would use social media and other methods of communication to keep fellow classmates' information updated for the alumni association. Drs. Hildebrand and Lowdenback believe this can be very helpful in providing a good network for alumni to utilize for patient transfers as well as new grads looking for associateships and job opportunities.

They also stress the importance of creating a professional community from a common bond — the CWRU orthodontic department — so that all alumni can grow professionally and become better orthodontists. "Having a web of orthodontists across the world who are connected through the alumni association will help new grads out and be the stepping stone to foster introductions to other professionals in various communities," Dr. Hildebrand says.

A secondary goal for the new group is to encourage all orthodontic alumni to start the process of giving something back to the program that has allowed them to pursue their careers. "As orthodontic graduates, we can all appreciate that our livelihoods are based on our outstanding education," Dr. Hildebrand says. "We should all make it a regular practice to give to our orthodontic alma mater."

He adds that contributing to the orthodontic residency program will allow it to continue to thrive. "For many of us, giving back is a way of life. If we can encourage everyone to adopt this philosophy, the residency program will continue to stay strong and as alumni, that is very important to us."

Dr. Hildebrand would like any alums who are planning to attend the upcoming AAO meeting in Orlando to let him know by sending an email to dr.hildebrand@gmail.com. He also encourages CWRU alumni to attend the reception on May 1 (details included in this newsletter).

"We really want to make it convenient and beneficial to keep in touch," Dr. Hildebrand says. "Hopefully this new network will accomplish that goal."

Department's First PhD Student Finds "Gold Mine"



Anwar Alhazmi

Anwar Alhazmi is an orthodontist who is pursuing his PhD in biology at CWRU, with his primary research being conducted in the orthodontics department. "I was drawn to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and the orthodontic department in particular because of the vast collection of 3D images that are part of the Craniofacial Imaging Center," Dr. Alhazmi

explains. "For any researcher to have this amount of data available is quite remarkable. It's like finding a gold mine!"

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Hans and Dr. Scott Simpson from CWRU's biology department, Dr. Alhazmi completed the first two years of his PhD program with coursework in the biology department and at the School of Medicine. "During that time, I also volunteered to work in the orthodontic clinic one day per week," he says. He sees patients and works with the current residents.

Now in his third year of his program, he has passed his qualification exam and has completed his biology requirements. He is now working on his dissertation, which involves full-time work in the Craniofacial Imaging Center.

Dr. Alhazmi is fascinated by what we can learn about growth of the face and skull with the availability of CBCT 3D imaging. "We can now see things that we could not see 15 years ago," he says. "I began to wonder if our imaging capabilities today could enable us to predict or

estimate whether a young patient is done growing or to determine how much growth is left."

In his PhD research project, Dr. Alhazmi is investigating the cranial base spheno-occipital synchondrosis and correlating its calcification pattern with facial and mandibular growth peak. "The general idea of my research is to answer whether this patient is still growing or not? And if he or she is still growing, how much growth remains?" he explains.

"For any researcher to have this amount of data available is quite remarkable. It's like finding a gold mine!"

Initial results have been very promising. Dr. Alhazmi presented his findings at the AAO meeting in 2014 and hopefully will present another set of findings at the upcoming meeting in Orlando.

Dr. Alhazmi obtained his dental degree from the King Saud University, Saudi Arabia in 2006. He obtained his Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies in Orthodontics in 2013 from Jacksonville University, Florida. Dr. Alhazmi is a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontics and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada. He plans to return to Saudi Arabia after he completes his PhD program. "I am looking forward to bringing back the knowledge and experience I've gained here and apply it to the care of patients back home," he says.

ALUMNI NOTES

Sanford Aaronson, DDS '57, BS '55, MS 62, retired after 45 years of practice in Santa Monica, California. He has since become an accomplished stained glass artist. His work has been featured in *New Dimensions*, the magazine of the American Association of Orthodontics. Dr. Aaronson recently donated a large stained glass window featuring a merry-go-round horse to the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. The window will be in the new glass rotunda that houses the antique carousel from the Euclid Beach amusement park.



Welcome New Residents



Nicole Gange

Nicole Gange graduated from DePaul University in Chicago in 2012, followed by dental school at Northwestern University, from which she will graduate in May. Originally from Itasca, Illinois, she is excited to explore a new city. "I chose CWRU because of the strong family atmosphere and camaraderie among the faculty and residents," she says. "I am looking forward to becoming part of this family." In her free time, Nicole loves to cook and travel to warm climates.



Noha Orabi

Noha Orabi graduated in 2006 from Cairo University Dental School in Egypt and received her master's degree in restorative dentistry in 2012. She then taught as an assistant lecturer at Cairo University for three years. She has wanted to be an orthodontist since she was a young child. She completed her fellowship in orthodontics at CWRU. "I chose CWRU because of its long history in the field of orthodontics," she says. "Many of the diagnostic tools currently used in today's profession were first developed at CWRU." She also values the school's strong faculty and the equal emphasis it places on scientific discovery and clinical care. Noha's husband will soon begin a PhD program at the CWRU School of Medicine. She enjoys travel, photography and volunteer work.



Pramod Philip

Pramod Philip received his BDS degree in 2000 from Manipal University in India, where he completed his residency in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics and obtained his master's degree in 2005. He is passionate about orthodontics and is excited that he has found a mentor at CWRU. "I wanted to pursue further studies from CWRU based on its excellent reputation," he says.



Katharine Powers

Katharine Powers, a Northeast Ohio native, grew up in Chagrin Falls and graduated from Kenyon College in 2011, where she studied history and neuroscience. She will graduate from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine this year. Her mother is an orthodontist and her father is an oral surgeon. "I practically grew up running around the dental school and I am excited to finish up my studies here." Katharine coaches high school soccer at Solon High School and is also a high school and NCAA basketball official in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Kentucky. She lives in Cleveland's Gordon Square area. "I enjoy being part of the city that is really growing and changing quickly," she says.



Rany Bous

Rany Bous grew up in a family of physicians and medical professionals, but the combination of the "artistic element and medical service" of dentistry are what attracted him to the field. "I was eager to find a field that would allow me to have a long-term impact on patients' lives," he says. "I was captivated by the idea of creating beautiful smiles and faces, which can be life-transforming." Rany earned his degree in oral and dental medicine in 2011 from Cairo University in Egypt. He chose CWRU because of the school's dedication to achieving excellence and emphasizing the importance of both research and clinical experience. "The faculty members have diverse areas of interest in orthodontics, along with a variety of treatment concepts, which is of great benefit to the students," he says. Rany is also keenly interested in psychology and mental health. In his spare time, he enjoys the outdoors, reading, volunteering and relaxing with family and friends.



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Save The Date & Join Us

American Association of Orthodontists Annual Session

April 29 – May 3

Orlando, Florida ■ Orange County Convention Center

A reception for CWRU Alumni and Friends honoring Dr. Mark Hans for his 25+ years of service will be on Sunday, May 1 from 4:30 – 6:00pm at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9801 International Drive

For more information and to RSVP for the reception:
Phone: 216-368-5758 ■ Toll Free: 877-468-1436 ■ dentalalumni@case.edu

For more information about the AAO Annual Session, visit www.aaoinfo.org