

# DO SEE TELL

On behalf of the UK College of Dentistry Division of Periodontology faculty, staff, and residents, I welcome you to our 2018 newsletter. Our group has long enjoyed a national and international reputation for innovativeness and clinical expertise. We look forward to highlighting a few of our activities and achievements.

**Dr. Mohanad Al-Sabbagh**

## FACULTY FULL-TIME

- Dr. Mohanad Al-Sabbagh, Division Chief
- Dr. Samuel Jasper, Undergraduate Program Director
- Dr. Dolphus Dawson, Graduate Program Director

## FACULTY PART-TIME

- [Drs. Doug Neumann, Tom Rubino, and Ryan Estes](#) cover the graduate periodontology clinic, bringing heavy private practice experience to the clinic, and sharing their philosophy of practice and patient management.
- [Drs. Elliot Neumann and Michael Piepgrass](#) cover the DMD students, supporting our vision in establishing a solid periodontal resident-DMD student rapport which can be replicated in their future private practice life.
- [Dr. Charles Rolph](#) will soon join our periodontal family, bringing his great periodontal and implant experience to the graduate clinic.

## STAFF

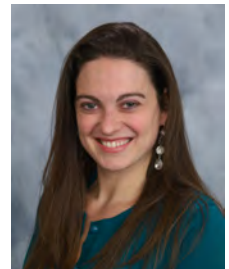
Robin Stovall-Clinic Manager | Edith Bledsoe-Financial Counselor | Amanda Abner-Dental Hygienist | Sherry Hacker-Dental Therapist | Heather Hanley-Dental Therapist | Prakash Shrestha-Dental Therapist | Dewayne Martin-Staff Support

## UK DIVISION OF PERIODONTOLOGY 2018

### FACULTY UPDATES

At the departure of division member Dr. Pinar Huja, who left to join the University of South Carolina School of Dental Medicine, a search committee was created in hopes of filling her vacant position. Alumni Counsel member, Dr. Beagle served on the committee, helping to bring an outside perspective and recruit a faculty member who will aid in the division achieving our vision outlined in the Periodontal Strategic Plan.

After a great deal of deliberation, we identified a candidate who can hold and support the vision of creating well-versed residents. Dr. Luciana Shaddox will join us from the University of Florida in July 2018. Dr. Shaddox is a heavily-funded NIH researcher and a nationally respected speaker in clinical research. While at the University of Kentucky, she will attract more research funding for the periodontal division and help our periodontal residents to fulfill their research requirement mandated by the university graduate school. Dr. Shaddox will also help the residents present their research findings at national meeting, aiding in our program's national visibility. However, the main focus of the graduate periodontology program at UK will continue to be offering clinical and surgical experiences to our periodontal residents.



Dr. Shaddox



From left: Drs. Jasper, Al-Sabbagh & Dawson

# PROGRAM UPDATES

Our goal is to be a top periodontology program in the country, placing heavy emphasis on the clinical experience of our residents to help set them apart from residents in other programs. The current time allocation to clinic is 80 percent, which represents a significant increase in clinic time compared to five years ago. The number of implant and periodontal procedures have increased—recent graduates have placed almost 250 implants which is a high number considering Lexington's population.

The college is diligently working to bring leading-edge technology to our graduate periodontology clinic for the benefit of patients, residents, and faculty. With the introduction of technology, our residents are performing far more advanced and complex surgical cases compared to five years ago. **Recent efforts include:**



**LANAP Training:** Currently, approximately one in three AAP members are LANAP-trained periodontists. As the breadth of techniques to provide periodontal therapies to patients increases, our program is striving to enhance the availability of these techniques for our periodontal residents to take with them into practice. Our program is the second in the nation to offer such training in an university setting. Dr. Dawson is a certified instructor for the Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry and is offering the initial training to our periodontal residents.

**Digital Dentistry:** Residents are provided experience with several types of 3D-treatment planning implant software. With the use of this software, residents have found decreased surgical time and complications, as well as increased treatment acceptance. As part of this effort, the division was able to plan and complete its first fully guided fixed hybrid case and delivered "teeth in one day." We

will continue to train our residents on full-arch rehabilitation and fully guided surgery. The residents have become proficient in guided-prosthetic implant provisionalization from a single implant to a full arch case.

**IntraLock PRF:** We have also purchased an IntraLock PRF machine as we have found an increased number of applications for the PRF with bone, soft tissue, and sinus grafting. In all of these cases, our residents are achieving good clinical results and are excited about learning PRF technology. One resident has proposed a clinical research project under the supervision of Dr. Al-Sabbagh to compare PRF results with other techniques. The research project has received internal approval and patient recruitment has started.



**Straumann 2.9 implant:** The program has begun using the new Straumann 2.9 implant as it offers a great solution to certain cases, including those with limited space in maxillary laterals and mandibular incisors.

**External Courses:** Residents have attended two external courses. One was held by the Southern Academy of Periodontology and led by Dr. Istvan Urban. The residents presented what they learned about Urban's technique in guided bone regeneration and flap management to the faculty. For the second, residents attended a course by Dr. Edward Allen focused on advanced soft tissue grafting. They brought back Allen's surgical technique on soft tissue augmentation using Alloderm, helping the program expand the use of the Allen's techniques and Alloderm with good clinical outcome. To increase our residents' experience with IV conscious sedation, they completed a four-week course on sedation at the Lexington Veterans Administration under supervision of Dr. Henry. This is in addition to the course taught by Dr. Jasper once per week.

**Interviews:** The division completed two days of interviews for the 2018 Class of periodontal residents. The program at UK is part of the national match program and two highly-qualified candidates were accepted. Dr. Tyler Rubino, UKCD graduate, and Dr. Mustofa Tabbaa, a foreign graduate, will join our UKCD Family this fall.

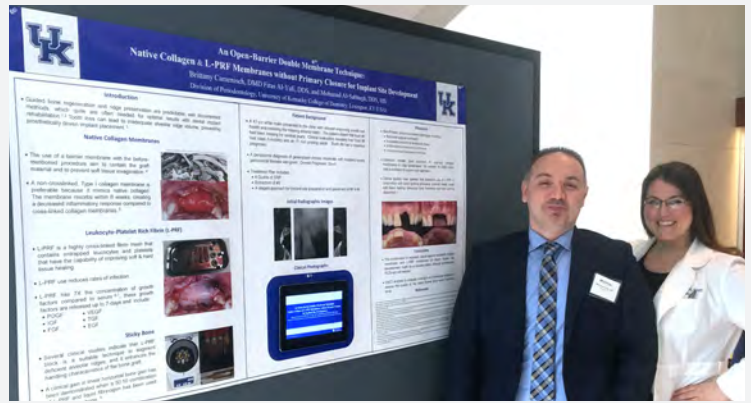
## SPOTLIGHTS

### RECOGNITION

Drs. Brittany Camenisch and Firas Al Yafi won first place in the graduate level poster presentation at the UK Annual Implant Symposium.

### GRADUATES

Drs. Ishita Bhavsar and Mohamed Rezk completed their training in June 2017. Dr. Rezk has joined a private periodontal practice office in Virginia; Dr. Bhavsar joined the International Dental Program at University of Pennsylvania.



From left: Drs. Al Yafi & Camenisch

## PERIODONTAL FUNDRAISING

Over the last year, the UK Division of Periodontics Alumni Council has worked to develop a clear purpose for the Dr. Mark V. Thomas Endowed Fund. The fund will support Goal 1 of the Perio Strategic Plan, which is to strengthen the academic quality and distinctiveness of the periodontology program at the UK College of Dentistry.

The Dr. Mark Thomas Fund will be utilized for activities beyond the routine programmatic requirements to focus on the strategic priorities that will create and maintain program excellence and national prominence. Such activities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Investment in advanced technology and infrastructure to support state-of-the-art resident instruction, research, and patient care.
- The recruitment, recognition, and retention of nationally-competitive faculty who have a foundation of excellence in clinical experience, teaching, scholarship, research, creative accomplishment, and innovation.
- The expansion of the periodontology curriculum to incorporate cutting-edge technologies, new standards, and innovative teaching methods, while retaining the continued emphasis on the teaching of those traditionally tried-and-true periodontal procedures that have been part of the curriculum since the inception of the UKCD graduate program in periodontics.

To ensure that the activities funded by the Dr. Mark V. Thomas Endowed Fund are achieving the desired results, the periodontology program will prepare a list of its priorities for enhancing the academic quality and distinctiveness of the UKCD Perio Program. Each year, the list will be presented to the Alumni Council for their input. The following year, the program will share a report with the Alumni Council which outlines how the activities funded by the fund impacted the program. Thus, the fund will continue to build on the proud tradition of a strong program, while honoring the legacy of one of its most innovative and beloved leaders, Dr. Mark V. Thomas.

If you are interested in hearing more about the fund or would like to contribute, please contact Linda Epling, UKCD Director of Philanthropy, at 859-323-6918 (office), 859-619-9173 (cell) or [linda.epling@uky.edu](mailto:linda.epling@uky.edu).



Dr. Thomas

# RESIDENTS

## SPOTLIGHTS

### EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The division offers an advanced one-year educational experience in periodontology and implantology for qualified international dentists. Established and directed by Dr. Mohanad Al-Sabbagh, the program provides didactic and clinical observational experiences.



Our current extern is Dr. Nehal Almeahmadi who graduated from King AbdulAziz University Saudi Arabia. She has been working on the Guidelines for Cementation within Implant Dentistry.

### AAP RECEPTION

Our reception at the 2017 AAP Conference in Boston, MA, was well received by alumni as it provided a great opportunity for our residents to meet our graduates and share their experiences. Dr. Dawson gave a program report. Dr. Lemmerman discussed the Lemmerman Endowment and how it supports our residents' educational experience. Dr. Camenisch shared the impact of donations on residents, and Dr. Sabbagh discussed the establishment of the Alumni Council and our vision of making the program among the top in the nation.

## CLASS OF 2018

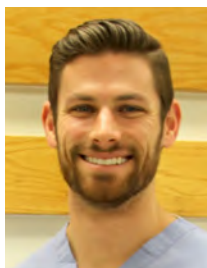


Dr. Brittany Camenisch was born and raised in Stanford, Ky. She was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Centre College. Immediately following, she attended the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry where she was actively involved in the Ecuador dental mission trip, the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association, and the Association of Public Health Dentistry. In 2013, she graduated with her dental degree and worked in both private practice and public health dentistry. It is here where she developed a desire to specialize in the field of periodontics. Dr. Camenisch's research project involves assessing phospholipase A2-IIA expression levels associated with health, gingivitis, and periodontitis. Her research mentors include Drs. Jeffrey Ebersole, Octavio Gonzalez, Dolphus R. Dawson, and Mohanad Al-Sabbagh. Dr. Camenisch is a member of the American Dental Association, the American Association of Periodontics, International Team for Implantology, and Academy of Osseointegration. She has also served as the chief periodontal resident during her third year of the residency program. In her spare time, she loves traveling, hanging out with her rescue dog, Caroline, and rooting for the Kentucky Wildcats! Dr. Camenisch intends to open a private periodontal practice, Kentucky Periodontics and Implant Dentistry, in Richmond, Ky after she graduates.



Dr. Steven D. Litwin was raised in Long Island NY. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Albany, State University of New York. While attending university, he served as an EMT for the city of Albany. Dr. Litwin later went on to graduate from the University of Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine where he completed a concentration in periodontics. Following dental school, he was fortunate enough to enter into General Practice Residency at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Upon graduating, he was accepted into the periodontal program at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Litwin took the opportunity at UKCD to enjoy his passion for the great outdoors including hunting and fishing. He has traveled to both the Middle East and South America where he has planned and completed oral surgical procedures for underserved populations. Dr. Litwin's research project involves assessing bacterial profiles of newly placed implants patients following periodontal treatment. His mentors are Drs. Dolphus R. Dawson, Mohanad Al-Sabbagh, and Jeffrey Ebersole. Dr. Litwin intends to enter into private practice upon completion of his periodontal program while maintaining a part-time position at his local university.

## CLASS OF 2019



**Dr. Ryan Rubino** is from Bradenton, Fl. He attended Mississippi State University for his undergraduate degree and UK for dental school. His father is a periodontist, and his younger brother will be a first-year periodontal resident in 2018. Dr. Rubino will be moving back to Florida to work with his father in the

family practice upon graduation. His research involves a retrospective study looking at the effects the new Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) drugs have on post-operative bleeding and complications involving periodontal surgery. His mentors are Drs. Craig Miller, Dolph Dawson, Mohanad Al-Sabbagh and Richard Kryscio.



**Dr. Josh Whitt** is from Calhoun, Ky. He attended Western Kentucky University for his undergraduate degree and UK for dental school. He will be moving back to western Kentucky to practice upon graduation. Dr. Whitt's research involves histologically and radiographically evaluating, then analyzing, bone volume

and density with reference to percentage of vital bone after maxillary sinus grafting (via lateral window) with Osteocel Plus and cortical-cancellous allograft (alloOss). His mentors are Drs. Ahmad Kutkut, Dolph Dawson, Mohanad Al-Sabbagh and Molly Housley Smith.



**Dr. Octavio Gonzalez** was born in Bogotá D.C., Colombia. He graduated Pontifical Xaverian University with a DDS in 1993, and after four years of practice, joined his alma mater as faculty. While there for eight years, he combined academia and dental practice and also obtained a Master's degree in Microbiology.

Motivated to complete oral health research, Gonzalez moved to Lexington in 2005 to pursue a PhD degree in Microbiology and Immunology at UK, working with Dr. Jeffrey Ebersole as a mentor. After completing his PhD in 2010, he joined UKCD as an assistant professor, and was recently promoted to associate professor. His main research interests are: (i) the effects of aging on the innate immune responses of the oral mucosa; and (ii) the role of oral commensal- and pathogenic

bacteria-epithelial cell interactions in early events of the pathogenesis of periodontal disease. As part of UKCD's faculty development program, he started the Periodontics Residency program.

## CLASS OF 2020



**Dr. Lucinda Belcher-Owens** is from Elkhorn City, Ky. She attended Vanderbilt University for her undergraduate degree and University of Louisville for dental school. Dr. Belcher's research involves a retrospective study comparing trimester specific cytokines between CVF fluid and oral saliva. Her mentors are Drs. Dolph Dawson, Mohanad Al-Sabbagh and Kristin Ashford.



**Dr. Firas Al Yafi** received his DDS degree in 2000. Following graduation, he started his residency in Oral Surgery in Damascus Central Hospital and earned an Arab Board Certificate for Oral Surgery in 2006. Following residency, he moved to Saudi Arabia and worked as an oral surgeon for six years. With

the full support of his wife and two kids, Dr. Al Yafi decided to move to the US with his family to begin a year-long externship in periodontology at University of Kentucky. In 2016, he moved to Gainesville, Fl., where he spent a year as a fellow of the prosthodontic program at the University of Florida. He has finally settled back into the periodontal program at UK to begin his last stent of formal education, as a first-year resident.



**Dr. Drew Zegeer** is originally from Charleston, W. Va. He attended West Virginia University for his undergraduate degree and dental school. Following dental school, he completed a General Practice Residency at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Oh. Dr. Zegeer will be returning to southern West Virginia

to pursue a career in private practice after completing the program. His research involves a retrospective study evaluating the effects of systemic nicotine levels on salivary cytokine biomarkers in pregnant women. His mentors are Drs. Dolph Dawson, Mohanad Al-Sabbagh and Kristin Ashford.

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Return service requested

