

Orthodontic News

'JIMMY' TENG, D.D.S., M.S., ENRICHES STUDENTS' STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL— AND COMES AWAY ENRICHED HIMSELF

One of the reasons that the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine consistently ranks among the best in the country is its ability to tap the knowledge of the finest dentists from around the globe.

The orthodontics department, for example, is pleased and honored to continue its long-standing relationship with **Chi-Min "Jimmy" Teng, D.D.S., M.S.**, a guest clinical professor at Peking University, a guest clinical professor at Taipei Medical University, a clinical professor at the National Defense Medical College in Taipei, and a faculty member of the Charles H. Tweed International Foundation for Orthodontic Research and Education in Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Teng is a founding member of the Case-China Project and an adjunct professor of orthodontics at Case Western Reserve University. Once each year, he takes time away from his busy orthodontic practice in Taipei, Taiwan, to visit the CWRU dental school. He teaches the pre-Tweed course here with Professor of Orthodontics Arthur E. Phelps, D.D.S '48.

The Tweed course is an intensive 11-day experience in advanced edgewise mechanics, differential diagnosis, and the landmark Tweed-Merrifield force system. According to Dr. Teng, the Tweed course is unmatched in any medical or dental field for its longevity.

"This year marks the sixty-third year since the Tweed Foundation began," Dr. Teng said. "And in April, the Tweed Foundation will have conducted its 100th course in Tucson, AZ. There is no other specialty course out there like the Tweed course."

Relationships first brought Dr. Teng to CWRU in 1997. Dr. Teng earned his M.S. degree from St. Louis University, where he learned Tweed-Merrifield techniques from Dr. Phelps, who at the time was clinical director of the CWRU dental school's Orthodontic Department. Dr. Teng also studied under the world-renowned orthodontic scholar Dr. Lysle E. Johnston. "Both Dr. Phelps and Dr. Johnston came from Case Western Reserve University, so in a way I can say that I, too, learned orthodontics from Case Western Reserve University," Dr. Teng said.

The relationships that brought Dr. Teng to the CWRU dental school continue today through Department Chairman Mark Hans, D.D.S., M.S.D. '79, '81. Dr. Teng regularly visits the CWRU dental school as a guest instructor while Dr. Hans co-teaches an orthodontics course with Dr. Teng at Peking, Jiaotong, and Nanchang universities.

The give-and-take between having Dr. Teng as an adjunct professor on staff and Dr. Hans teaching with him in China is just one example of how the CWRU dental school and the Department of Orthodontics work to improve dental health globally.

"It was a real honor when I first came to Case Western Reserve University and started working with Dr. Phelps in 1997," Dr. Teng said. "And I have found that not only have I been able to share my knowledge, but I have also learned just as much from exchanges with the faculty and students. Moreover, I have a sense of accomplishment teaching the high-achieving students here

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CRITICAL THINKING IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN ORTHODONTICS, SAYS NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR J. MARTIN PALOMO, D.D.S., M.S.D.

J. Martin Palomo, D.D.S., M.S.D. '97, the recently appointed program director of the Orthodontics Department, wants to develop critical thinkers.

"My primary goal is to train the residents' minds to critically evaluate products and situations with the purpose of preparing students for the rest of their careers. If we just train residents to use today's products and react to today's situations, there may be no evolution. We want them to continue to learn, and be able to make good and productive decisions," Dr. Palomo says.

"During residency, students experience firsthand that there are several good treatment means to an end. Seeing different ways stimulates thinking. To efficiently have this

unbiased experience, we bring in orthodontists who perform such tasks in specific ways on a routine basis, exposing residents to different products, techniques, and even philosophies. Understanding how each technique works, rather than just following step-by-step directions, prepares residents to be open to the new advances they will experience during their careers. Our method of teaching is relatively unique among orthodontic residencies. A critical, adaptive thinker is our desired end result."

Dr. Palomo is a graduate of the Orthodontics Department and has served on the faculty since 1997. He is also the director of the Craniofacial Imaging Center, one of the pioneer centers to offer Cone Beam CT technology. Dr. Palomo's main research topic is craniofacial imaging, specifically related to CBCT; he has several publications on the topic, and has presented his work in both national and international venues.

As the program director of the Orthodontics Department, he is responsible for all elements of the residency program, including didactic and clinical education, policies, and requirements.

He takes over the program director role from Department Chairman **Mark G. Hans, D.D.S., M.S.D. '79, '81**, who has moved up to associate dean for graduate studies.

"Dr. Hans is enjoying his new role, and he assigned me to take his previous role as program director," Dr. Palomo says. "The challenge for me is to continue the good work that Dr. Hans has been doing in bringing the program forward and achieving both national and international recognition."

"I am pleased Marty agreed to take over as graduate program director," says Dr. Hans. "He is an enthusiastic leader and brings fresh ideas and a new perspective to the position. I am confident the program will be stronger than ever under his direction."

"One of my favorite strengths of our program is the team spirit we have among residents, staff, and faculty," Dr. Palomo adds. "Everybody is approachable and wants to work for a common goal."

Dr. Palomo is married to Leena, D.D.S. '00, who is a periodontist and faculty member at CWRU. They have a 4-year-old daughter and three dogs.