



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.



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Faculty Profile

Ryan Wenger DDS, MSD

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

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



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.

Manish Valiathan, DDS, x103.4(1)(b).14.5w.4(e)(d)8p20.4(e)-8meis seia

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.

that I could not pass up." Dr. Kochenour

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 speno-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

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