Greetings from San Antonio! I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Hawaii. Although much has changed this year, our core mission has remained steadfast: delivering superior endodontic training and cutting-edge research.

Leading the list, we are now in the midst of building a new dental school clinical facility. This state-of-the-art four story building will allow us to provide outstanding endodontic patient care and training. The building will be located next to the medical school faculty practice (MARC) building, fostering treatment of even medically complex patients. Our new endo clinic will include all newly equipped operatories, as well as office space for our residents and faculty, and a new seminar room. We plan to move in 2015, and we will certainly plan tours for you at the 2015 Alumni CE Day.

As part of our plans for continuing the growth of your San Antonio Endo program, we are launching a drive to complete the endowment of the Carlos del Rio Endowed Professorship. The endowment is currently at about $300,000, and we plan to raise this to $500,000. Importantly, the AAE Foundation has provided a $100,000 matching grant to spur this effort. This is a terrific opportunity for you to contribute to the legacy of your Endodontic Program and to maintain its national strength and reputation. More details on the endowment drive are found in this newsletter, and I will be sending additional information to you in the near future. In addition, there will be “naming” opportunities for the new Grad Endo operatories, seminar room and clinic. Please contact me if you would like to get more information on providing a living legacy.

As you know, there are four key factors in developing an outstanding endo residency: talented faculty, motivated residents, state-of-the-art equipment, and generous support. You are one of our keys to success. Without your continued support, San Antonio would not be where it is today. If I don’t see you in San Antonio to give you my thanks, please take this note as my gratitude for your continued support. Our Grad Program continues to thrive under the leadership of Fabricio Teixeira, who has expanded our clinical care to include advanced training in regenerative endodontics. Please let us know if you would be interested in a CE program on regenerative endo. Thanks to Fabricio and Anibal Diogenes’ efforts, San Antonio is a hub for regendo research and clinical therapeutics and you should be proud of their outstanding work.

Our undergraduate program has also continued to evolve. Anibal, John Suchina and our very talented part-time faculty have implemented a new predoc curriculum, and we are now expanding our efforts in training strong general dentists who are skilled in basic endo care and knowledgeable of when to refer more complex cases. In addition, our research program continues to evolve with a focus on both pain and regenerative endodontics. Michael Henry’s column provides a great overview on these efforts.

I hope to see you at our Alumni Reception on Thursday night at the AAE meeting at the Hilton Hawaiian Village from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the South Pacific III Room. This is a great time to see old classmates, meet new alumni, and to learn what’s new in your endodontic family.

See you then,
Ken
As the time of the 2013 AAE Annual Session rolls around, I find myself looking forward to visiting with our ever-expanding group of San Antonio Endodontic Alumni. I hope you feel, as I do, that it is a privilege to be a part of this group of professionals and that you share a similar pride in telling your colleagues and referrals about the program and individuals who trained you in our specialty. We are fortunate that our Department of Endodontics not only continues to maintain its excellent reputation, but has taken it to a level that consistently ranks it among the top post-graduate programs in the country.

Unfortunately, another factor that is marked by consistency is the uncertainty of today’s unstable economy. In what has now become more than a trend, severe education budget cuts in Texas continue. Monies appropriated to advanced dental education are low on the public’s awareness scale and are among the first ‘cuts’ in the Legislative budget. In our own Department of Endodontics, funding needed to retain and attract educators and provide the next generation of practitioners with up-to-date equipment and training continues to face an uphill battle. As has become increasingly apparent, private sector funding, from generous and supportive alumni such as ourselves, is the only way we can help ensure that the great things that are happening in our program don’t end.

Now in its fourth year, Ensure the Legacy is the capital campaign aimed at increasing the Carlos E. del Rio Endowment in Endodontics to the $500,000 level. This level will provide the funds to keep our program among the best in the nation in terms of faculty, facilities and residents. Last year, a number of alumni returned an Ensure the Legacy packet with a new or increased commitment. As much now as ever, your generosity is greatly appreciated and being put to its most effective use. If you haven’t received an Ensure the Legacy packet, please give the department a call and one will be sent to you. They will also be available at the Alumni reception, April 17-20 at the AAE Annual Session in Hawaii. I hope you will read it and take time to consider the tangible benefits a strong program brings to its alumni, current residents, faculty, and the specialty of Endodontics itself. Returning the pledge form, with any level of support, will be greatly appreciated.

This year’s AAE Annual Session theme is “Endodontics: Exceeding Expectations”. Wouldn’t it be great if we, in terms of financial giving, could do just that — exceed expectations? It is possible, but it will require that each of us — from the most recent graduates on back, commit to a program that is committed to representing us so well. Thanks in advance for all you can do to help us remain on top!

See you in Hawaii!

Tracy Clark, DDS, Class of 2000
Our Annual Alumni Continuing Education Day, held August 18, 2012, was quite a success. We had an excellent turnout which included many of our alumni, current residents and staff. In addition, we were joined by an exceptional group of interviewees and five hours of outstanding CE presented by Dr. Samuel Kratchman from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. His talk entitled, “Endodontic Microsurgery: A-Z,” was tremendous and resulted in very positive feedback from those in attendance.

We have already scheduled next fall’s Alumni CE day for Saturday, August 24, 2013 at the Marriott Northwest with Dr. Asgeir Sigurdsson as our featured speaker.

As past president of the International Association of Dental Traumatology, he will be presenting his contributions on Traumatic Injuries. Currently, Dr. Sigurdsson is Chairman of the Department of Endodontics at New York University, and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. We look forward to seeing you there!
Our Graduation Dinner was held August 17, 2012. We had an excellent presentation by Dr. Ashraf Fouad, Chairman of the Endodontic Department at the University of Maryland. His talk entitled “Endodontic Infections: Relationship to Treatment Outcomes and Systemic Health” was outstanding and resulted in a good starting point for our Graduation Day. We would like to congratulate Drs. Ishikawa, Martin and Quang on their accomplishments. They are back home working hard. We wish you the best!!

We have already scheduled next year’s Graduation Day for August 30, 2013, at the Oak Hills Country Club. Dr. Keith Krell will be our featured speaker. Dr. Krell is the current President of the American Association of Endodontists and Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics.

Welcome New Residents

This year we had more than 65 applicants for our 3 resident positions, and we are pleased to report that all 3 of our top choices accepted the invitation to join our program. The competition for resident slots is very intense, and we are indeed fortunate to have these exceptional individuals entering our program.

Welcome to:
• Dr. James Ball, BS, Texas A&M University; DDS, UTHSCSA Dental School
• Dr. Sara Fayazi, DDS, Tehran University of Medical Science; MS, Tehran University of Medical Science
• Dr. Michael Hosking, BS, Michigan State University; DDS, University of Michigan, AEGD, UT Health Science Center San Antonio

They will be joined this summer by two new Air Force residents to form an outstanding first year class:
• Capt James Cullen, BS, Lehigh University; DMD, Temple University
• Capt Jelena Siebold, BS, University of Detroit; DDS, University of Detroit

2012 Graduation Day

Our Graduation Dinner was held August 17, 2012. We had an excellent presentation by Dr. Ashraf Fouad, Chairman of the Endodontic Department at the University of Maryland. His talk entitled “Endodontic Infections: Relationship to Treatment Outcomes and Systemic Health” was outstanding and resulted in a good starting point for our Graduation Day. We would like to congratulate Drs. Ishikawa, Martin and Quang on their accomplishments. They are back home working hard. We wish you the best!!

We have already scheduled next year’s Graduation Day for August 30, 2013, at the Oak Hills Country Club. Dr. Keith Krell will be our featured speaker. Dr. Krell is the current President of the American Association of Endodontists and Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics.
The American Association of Endodontists Foundation partnered with Dentsply International to recognize student excellence in research at the 2012 Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists meeting in Boston, MA.

2012 Award Winners in Endodontics!

Dr. David Martin, 3rd from left, won 9th place for his research presentation: “Effect of Sodium Hypochlorite on the Odontoblastic Phenotype Differentiation of SCAP in Cultured Organotype Human Roots.”

While you are at the meeting, take the time to drop by and support our talented and hard-working residents who will be presenting their research findings in oral, poster and table clinic presentations.

Wednesday, April 17

11:30-11:45 am Dr. Julie Berkhoff – “Effective Removal of Intracanal Medicaments During Regenerative Endodontic Treatment: An Evaluation of Different Irrigation Procedures”

2:15-2:30 pm Dr. Nikita Ruparel – “Cannabinoids as Potential Peripheral Analgesics for Dental Pain”

3:30-3:45 pm Dr. Allen Pratt – “The Effect of Calcium Hydroxide in Post Space on Bacterial Leakage and Fracture”

Thursday, April 18

7:00-10:00 am Drs. Obadah Austah and Jonathan Fu – “Management of Traumatic Injuries in the Pediatric Population with Regenerative Procedures”

10:00-10:15 am Dr. Riyadh Althumairy – “The Effect of Dentine Conditioning with Medicaments Used in Regenerative Procedures on the Survival of SCAP”

12:30-12:45 pm Dr. Matthew Dietrich – “In Vitro Canal and Isthmus Debris Removal of the Self Adjusting File, K3™, and WaveOne™ Files, in the Mesial Root of Human Mandibular Molars”

Thanks to our faculty volunteers who generously give of their free time to share their endodontic knowledge and clinical experience on a regular basis in the Graduate Endodontics Clinic. Drs. Bill Walker, Scott Janse, Aaron Vaughn, Yoav Shiloah, Adali Velez, Rick Schwartz and Meredith Overstreet add immeasurably to the residents’ clinical experience as evidenced by the overwhelmingly positive resident course/faculty evaluations. Once again, thanks to everyone for your terrific support!

I hope to see you all at our reception at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, South Pacific III Room on Thursday night!

Best Regards,
Fabricio
Graduate Endodontics Case Report
Managing Severe Root Canal Curvatures
Dr. Riyadh Althumairy, 2nd-Year Resident

Cunningham and Senia in 1992 reported 100% incidence of root canal curvature in mesial canals of mandibular molar teeth. They showed greater buccolingual curves 38% of the time compared to mesiodistal curves (1). Management of curved root canals in mandibular molars often presents a clinical challenge, especially if multiple curvatures are present. Treatment of these cases initiates with proper identification and analysis of degree as well as radius of curvatures. This can be achieved using proper imaging examination with straight and angled radiographs, bitewings, and cone beam computed tomography.

Both case reports presented had a similar treatment approach which is described as follows: After accurate diagnosis and patient consent was obtained, profound anesthesia was accomplished. The treatment advanced with rubber dam isolation, initial access and location of the canal orifices. The central goal at this stage was to achieve straight-line access to the level of the first curvature and preparing the coronal, middle, and apical third sequentially. Coronal access is an essential step in treatment of canals with severe curvatures. Combined with removal of cervical dentin ledges, it allows for straight-line access of the canals and aids in elimination of coronal canal curvatures.

Subsequent to achieving glide path with a size 10-hand file, ProTaper files (2) and gates-glider drills in the coronal third of the canal were utilized to the point of curvature (3-4). The working length was established with the electronic apex locator, root ZX II, with size #10-15 K-file and patency was attained when possible (5). In order to establish root canal negotiation, Pathfiles #13, 16, and 19 were used to length. These file possess less risk for cyclic fatigue that is expected in such curved canals (6). Once patency was obtained, 0.02 taper profiles were used for completion of the canal debridement. The instrumentation was then completed with profiles to an apical size of 30/0.02. Both treatments were performed in two appointments and calcium hydroxide dressing was utilized as intracanal dressing. 6% NaOCl was used during all procedures with a final rinse with 17% EDTA implemented for 2 minutes. The canals were then dried with sterile paper points and a three-dimension filling is performed followed by the appropriate coronal seal.

3. Abou-Rass M, Frank AL, Glick DH. The anticurvature filing method to prepare the curved root canal. J Amer Dent Assoc 1980;101: 792-4
Dr. Shivani Ruparel, Assistant Professor, Research

Awarded the “Junior Faculty Award” for her presentation titled:
“The OLAM-CYP System is Active in Painful Human Dental Pulp Tissues”

2013 Research Division Update
Dr. Michael Henry, Professor

As you are all aware, the Department of Endodontics places a high priority on research efforts and especially clinical and basic science research projects that will impact how we treat our patients. These projects include ones focused on issues directly related to the practice of endodontics, such as, studies focused on regenerative endodontics and pain mechanisms.

Our residents continue to contribute to our research efforts in these areas. Research excellence by our residents is well demonstrated by the AAE/Dentsply Resident Award earned by Dr. David Martin for his Oral Research Presentation at the AAE 2012 Annual Meeting.

Please plan to attend the presentations of our current residents (Drs. Riyadh Althumairy, Julie Berkhoff, and Niki Ruparel), our Air Force residents (Drs. Matthew Dietrich and Allen Pratt) and the Table Clinic Presentation by our first-year residents (Drs. Obadah Austah and Jonathan Fu) at this year’s AAE meeting. Here is the information you will need to attend their presentations:


Dr. Allen Pratt - “The Effect of Calcium Hydroxide in Post Space on Bacterial Leakage and Fracture”, Wednesday April 17, 3:30 - 3:45.

Drs. Jonathan Fu & Obadah Austah - “Management of Traumatic Injuries in the Pediatric Population with Regenerative Procedures” (Table Clinic), Thursday April 18, 7:00 - 10:00.

Dr. Riyadh Althumairy - “The Effect of Dentine Conditioning with Medicaments Used in Regenerative Procedures on the Survival of SCAP”, Thursday April 18, 10:00 - 10:15.

Dr. Matthew Dietrich - “In Vitro Canal and Isthmus Debris Removal of the Self Adjusting File K3™, and WaveOne™ Files, in the Mesial Root of Human Mandibular Molars”, Thursday April 18, 12:30 - 12:45.

Department research activities are accomplished by the dedication shown by a diverse group of individuals including the following graduate students, research assistants and research personnel. The current graduate students working towards their Ph.D. include Michael Eskander, Dustin Green and Mayur Patil. All continue to make exciting discoveries related to each of their projects.

Michael Eskander is investigating the role of nerve growth factor in the transition from acute to chronic pain. Dustin Green is evaluating the role of oxidized linoleic acid metabolites as TRPV1 agonists in burn pain, while Mayur Patil is involved in studies examining the contribution of sensory neuron activation to various inflammatory conditions including asthma.

Leslie Nyugen is working towards a Masters of Science Degree and is involved with an anatomical characterization of changes seen following burn
injury. Dr. Heather Brandfellner, (Resident in the Department of Surgery, School of Medicine) is working towards a Master’s of Science Degree in Clinical Investigation and is also studying burn pain mechanisms.

We are also proud to announce that our previous Post-Doctoral Fellow, Shivani Ruparel, has joined the Department as an Assistant Professor, Research, and we all look forward to continuing or research collaborations with Shivani as a faculty member. We are all dependent on the great job done by our research assistants/associates, Paul Chen, Xiaoling Sun, and Dara Fairchild to keep the lab and projects running smoothly. Our research success also depends greatly on the outstanding efforts of Erin Locke, our Research Nurse, and Lola Miranda, our grants coordinator.

Once again, we look forward to seeing all our friends and past Department residents at this year’s AAE meeting. Please plan to attend the Resident’s Oral Presentations and Table Clinic Presentation to learn more about the exciting research projects ongoing in the Department.

Dustin Green, a pre-doctoral student in the Department of Physiology, was awarded an NIH Neurological Disorders and Stroke F31 Training Grant for his research titled: “The Role of the OLAM System in Burn Pain”, a three year project.

_Congratulations Dustin!!_

We’re looking for a name for your Alumni Newsletter. Please send your suggestions to Donna Harris at harrisd2@uthscsa.edu by September 1, 2013.

_Be creative ... we look forward to hearing from you!_
Recent Departmental Publications


Ruparel S, Green D, Chen P & Hargreaves KM. (2012b). The cytochrome P450 inhibitor, ketoconazole, inhibits oxidized linoleic acid metabolite-mediated peripheral inflammatory pain. Mol Pain 8, 73.


We are happy to announce that due to your generous support, we reached a monumental funding benchmark which allowed us to re-designate the Carlos E. del Rio Endowment in Endodontics to the Carlos E. del Rio Distinguished Professorship in Endodontics! This designation was approved by The University of Texas System in 2010. Subsequently, Fabricio B. Teixeira, DDS, MS, PhD was appointed as the First Holder of the Carlos E. del Rio Distinguished Professorship in Endodontics. Fabricio is currently an Associate Professor and Director, Advanced Education Program in the Department of Endodontics. He represents an outstanding example of a gifted and productive clinician scientist who excels, with a major teaching load that receives outstanding accolades for productivity and creativity, and an emerging strength in research that is likely to continue evolving in both quality and quantity.

With your continued support, The Carlos E. del Rio Distinguished Professorship in Endodontics will continue to strengthen our graduate education program and will keep San Antonio Endodontics strong and vibrant for many years to come! Please consider using the attached pledge insert to submit your new 5-year pledge.
Thanks to your generous pledges and contributions, The Carlos E. del Rio Distinguished Professorship in Endodontics continues to grow. Total pledges to date amount to approximately $300,000.

With heartfelt thanks, we recognize the selfless generosity of all contributors (alumni, faculty and friends). It is truly a statement in celebrating Dr. del Rio’s life-long dedication to excellence in endodontic education and to your commitment to fuel the continued growth of San Antonio Endodontics.

Christopher Bates
Neil G. Begley
Douglas Bethoney
Raison Bose
Tracy Clark
Taylor Cotton
Parvin Dinyarian
Anibal Diogenes
Lee Fox
Eric Galian
Todd Geisler
Shawn Gilbert
James A. Gilles
Dennis R. Gimlin
Darlene Hachmeister
Robert Haller
Ken Hargreaves
Randall Hedrick
Robin Hinrichs
Blake Ishikawa
Joslyn Jenkins
Roy Kaldestad
Heidi Kanning
Daniel Keir
Karl Keiser
Michael Koch
Michael Lazarski
Alberto Lopez-Torrones
David Martin
Garry Myers
John Nelson
Marc Pacheco
Kenneth Pearson
John Pruett
Ivan Rodriguez
William Roth
William Schindler
Scott Schwartz
Richard Schwartz
Kevin Selden
E. Steve Senia
Jeremy J. Smith
Peter Spradling
William J. Stewart
Michael Suhler
Scott Sullins
Fabricio B. Teixeira
Douglas Thomas
Ernesto Trevino
Aaron Vaughn
Adali E. Velez
Thomas L. Walker
William A. Walker
Robert White
Kenneth Wiltbank
Roderick Yasuda

Your support is a key factor in our success in developing and maintaining the top-notch program we currently have in San Antonio. Please consider giving something back to the program that helped provide you with the wonderful practice and lifestyle you currently enjoy. Complete and return the form on the right with your donation, new pledge or a renewal of your 5-year pledge.

Thanks in advance for your continued support!
Attention Alumni
We extend a cordial invitation for you and your guest to attend
Your Alumni Association Reception
Honolulu, HI
Thursday, April 18, 2013
6 – 8 pm
Hilton Hawaiian Village
South Pacific III Room

We’re looking for a name for your Alumni Newsletter. Please send your suggestions to Donna Harris at harrisd2@uthscsa.edu by September 1, 2013.

Be creative ... we look forward to hearing from you!