Greetings from San Antonio! It is amazing to think that we will soon see each other in Boston. Given that the Boston marathon is the same week as our annual meeting, this may be as close as I ever get to that great race. A lot of change has occurred this year, but our core mission has remained steadfast: delivering superior endodontic training and cutting-edge research.

Leading the list, our Endo Residency program passed the CODA Accreditation evaluation with flying colors and we received several strong comments regarding outstanding strengths in the program. Congratulations to Fabricio for his leadership and efforts in this year long process. In addition to preparing for the accreditation site visit, Fabricio has instituted several new educational and clinical initiatives that are outlined in his column in this newsletter. In January, Lynn Higginbotham retired after nearly four decades devoted to our Department. Lynn’s humor, patience (with me), and professionalism really helped to establish our reputation and to maintain it over the years. We wish all the best to her and Roger. Kim Clendenen has joined the Department as our new Administrator. Congratulations go to Yoav Shiloah, Adali Velez, Anibal Diogenes and Fabricio Teixeira who received their Diplomate status from the ABE over this last year! In addition, our entire 2011 graduating class all passed the written and oral examinations. We are very proud of all of you who are making the journey towards Diplomate certification! One new addition is replacement of our previous clinical microscopes with Zeiss microscopes and 24” flat screen monitors for patient education and clinical documentation. Finally, the UT Board of Regents has just approved funding of a new dental clinic building. This will be a state of the art clinical facility that will permit outstanding patient care and education. As you can tell, this last year has seen a lot of progress in our programs.

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 certainly 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. Tracy Clark has volunteered to develop an alumni drive to provide a legacy of endowed support for the residency program. Please see other parts of the Newsletter for more information.

Our undergraduate program has also continued to evolve. Anibal Diogenes and John Suchina have completely revised the predoc curriculum and we are now expanding our efforts in training strong general dentists who are skilled in basic endo care and know 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.

I hope to see you at our Alumni Reception on Thursday night at the AAE meeting at the Boston Marriott Copley from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Suffolk 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
A hearty “hello” from a fellow alumnus here in Texas! The theme for this year’s upcoming AAE meeting in Boston is “History and Heritage- Forging the Future”. Fortunately, as San Antonio alumni, we have an outstanding history to lean on as our Department of Endodontics strives to be a leader in the future of our profession. I’ve said it before, but it bears repeating, that the value of one’s diploma is often measured by the current standing of his/her conferring institution, and we can continue to feel confident that we are represented by one of the finest endodontic programs in the nation.

As many of us discussed at last year’s alumni reception in San Antonio, we all continue to be challenged by the uncertainties of today’s unstable economy. And for consecutive years now, education budget cuts in Texas have been severe. 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 faces its biggest threat to date. Increasingly it is becoming apparent that 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 $1,000,000 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 is 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 out to you. They will also be available at the alumni reception, April 19th at the AAE meeting in Boston. I hope you’ll 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. Thanks in advance for all you are doing to help us remain on top!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Boston!

Tracy

News from the Graduate Division
I hope this message finds you and yours in good spirits and health. The AAE Annual meeting is approaching, and we look forward to seeing all the UTHSCSA Endo family soon. Please look at important updates and current actions associated with your residency program.

An important event took place in the month of February of this year. Our Advanced Program went through the CODA Accreditation with a positive outcome. Our faculty, staff and residents were committed to the process, and we overcame the site visit without either recommendations or suggestions. From the preparation of the self-study to the final days of interviews, I can say that the process was quite interesting. The final report stated that our Program has only strengths. I would like to thank Dr. Hargreaves for his constant support and to everyone in the department, in particular Donna and Sandra, for their help on this accomplishment!

We are moving forward with our goal on education, patient care and research. As mentioned before, our clinic has been renovated. We were able to incorporate new Surgical Microscopes, digital cameras and flat screen TV monitors in order to improve communication and education (fig.1). We have improved the resident’s documentation capability with this new technology.

Also, our Cone-Beam computed tomography software has been updated with the 3CS. I am glad to say the residents have been constantly exposed to this technology, which has improved their decision making process in order to provide the best care possible. Educationally, we planned changes for the curriculum and they will be implemented during the next few years. Very exciting ideas have been discussed among residents, Dr. Hargreaves and myself and hopefully they will be implemented along the way.

Staff changes:

Our clinical manager in the Graduate Clinic level, Mrs. Sandra Lopez, has devotedly accepted numerous challenges of this position and all of us appreciate the outstanding job she has performed. We also have two new Dental Assistants and a new scheduler working with her to provide assistance to our residents.
Report on Annual Alumni Continuing Education Day:

Our Annual Alumni Continuing Education Day held September 10, 2011, 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 for five hours of outstanding CE presented by Dr. Anil Kishen from the University of Toronto, Canada. His talk entitled “Microbiological and Mechanical Perspectives in Root Canal Treatment: New Solutions to Old Problems,” was terrific and resulted in very positive feedback from those in attendance.

We have already scheduled next fall’s Alumni CE day for Saturday, August 18, 2012 at the Marriott Northwest with Dr. Sam Kratchman as our featured speaker. Dr. Kratchman is faculty at the Endodontics Department at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, PA.

2011 Annual Alumni CE Day

2011 Graduation Day

Our Graduation Dinner was held August 26, 2011. We had an excellent presentation by Bill Johnson from the University of Iowa. His talk entitled, “Diagnosis Dilemmas in Endodontics,” was terrific and resulted in a good starting point for our Graduation day. I would like to congratulate Drs. Bose, Cosby and Pacheco for their accomplishments. We wish you the best!!

Mark Your Calendar!

We have already scheduled next year’s Graduation day for August 17, 2012, at the Oak Hills Country Club. Dr. Ashraf Fouad will be our featured speaker. Dr. Fouad is the current Chairman of the Department of Endodontics at The University of Maryland.

Drs. Jonathan Fu, applicant for the 2013 year; Fabricio Teixeira, Program Director; past Alumni, Adlai Velez, and current resident Julie Berkhoff

Drs. Nicole Chung, Pat Grisanti & Shane Clark applicants for the 2013 year with current faculty member Dr. John Andrews

Drs. Matt Dietrich and Allen Pratt, current AF residents

Drs. Blake Ishikawa, Allen Pratt, Riyadh Althumairy all current residents, with Dr. Vanessa Chrepa applicant for the 2013 year

Drs. Glenn Walters with past alumni Drs. Joslyn and Shawn Gilbert

Drs. Fabricio Teixeira, Graduate Program Director; Guest Speaker, Anil Kishen; and Ken Hargreaves, Chairman

Drs. Raison Bose, Fabricio Teixeira, Callee Cosby and Marc Pacheco, our graduating class of 2011

Drs. Nick Schulte and Eric Brown, AF Graduates class of 2011
Welcome New Residents:

This year we had more than 65 applicants for our 3 resident positions, and I’m 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’re indeed fortunate to have these exceptional individuals entering our program.

Welcome to:

• Dr. Obadah Austah, BDS, King Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia; Internship, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
• Dr. Vanessa Chrepa, BDS, University of Athens, Residency, Athens Naval Hospital, Athens Greece
• Dr. Jonathan Fu, BS, University of California at Irvine; DDS, University of Southern California, AEGD; Lutheran Medical Center, Waianae, HI

They will be joined this summer by two new Air Force residents to form an outstanding first year class:

• Capt Jongsung Kim, BA, Pacific Union College, Angwin, CA; DDS Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California
• Capt Brent Winward, BS, Weber State University, Ogden, UT; DDS, University of the Pacific, San Francisco, CA

Progress Towards ABE Certification - Congrats!!!!!!!

Please join us in recognizing the following residents that have successfully challenged the written board examination prior to graduation: Drs. Raison Bose, Callee Cosby and Marc Pacheco. Congratulations to Raison, Callee and Marc for passing the oral board examination as well! Please give them a pat on the back for their outstanding accomplishments the next time you see them, hopefully in Boston.

We are especially pleased to see our senior residents and graduates become involved in the board process and would love to help any of our alumni prepare for the board case portfolio and oral examination portions of the board certification quest. We would be happy to coordinate recall appointments to help you complete your board case write-ups. Please let us know if we can assist you in the process.

AAE Annual Session – San Antonio

Reception! Presentations! Awards!

For those of you who will be attending the AAE Annual Session in Boston, MA, please plan to join us for our Annual Alumni Reception on Thursday evening, April 19th. The reception will be held from 6:00-8:00pm at the Boston Marriott Copley, Suffolk Room. We look forward to seeing all of you there for an enjoyable evening.

While you’re at the meeting, make a note to drop by and support our talented and hard-working residents in presenting their research finding in oral, poster and table clinic presentations.

Wednesday April 18th

3:30pm – 3:45pm Dr. Blake Ishikawa – “Endodontic Sealers Activate Trigeminal Nociceptors”
2:30pm – 2:45pm Dr. Eric Brown – “Effect of Chloroform on the Integrity of Various Non-Latex Dental Dam Materials: An In-Vitro Study”

Thursday, April 19th

10:15am - 10:30am Dr. Nikita Ruparel – “Effect of Intracanal Medicaments on Stem Cells from Apical Papilla”
11:00am – 11:15am Dr. Phuong Quang – “The Effect of a Photo-Polymerizable Hydrogel Scaffold on the Proliferation and Phenotype of Stem Cells from the Apical Papilla (SCAP)”

2011 AWARD WINNERS IN ENDODONTICS!

The American Association of Endodontists Foundation partnered with Dentsply International to recognize student excellence in research at the 2011 Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Marc Pacheco, front center, won 1st place with his oral research presentation entitled: “Prevalence of Mechanical Allodynia in Endodontic Patients.” Dr. Callee Cosby, front left, won 9th place for her oral research presentation entitled: “The Use of Biosensors to Detect Toll-like 4 Receptor Activators in Root Canal Systems.” Drs. Blake Ishikawa, David Martin and Phuong Quang won 3rd place for their research table clinic presentation entitled: “Understanding Regenerative Endodontic Treatments: Scaffolds.” Also pictured are Drs. Raison Bose, Fabricio Teixeira, Ken Hargreaves and Anibal Diogenes.

11:15am – 11:30am Dr. David Martin – “Effect of Sodium Hypochlorite on the Odontoblastic Phenotype Differentiation of SCAP in Cultured Organotypic Human Roots”
2:00pm – 5:00pm Drs. Riyad Althumairy and Julie Berkhoff – “Practical Methods for Mixing and Delivery of Intra-canal Medicaments for Regenerative Endodontic Procedures”
2:45pm – 3:00pm Dr. Nick Schulte – “A Comparison of the Torsional Fatigue Resistance of PathFileTM Nickel Titanium Files with Other Small 0.02 Taper Files”

Thanks to volunteer faculty!

Thanks also to our volunteers who generously give up 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, Glenn Walters and Yoav Shiloah 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 Boston Marriott Copley, Suffolk Room on Thursday Night!

Best Regards,

Fabricio
In 1848, Tomes used the term dilacerations to define a bend in the linear relationship of a crown to its root. The most common cause of dilacerations is believed to be trauma to the primary tooth and developmental disturbances. The direction of root dilacerations should be considered in 2 planes. Strategies for managing curvatures begin in a thorough diagnosis. BW radiographs, angled Periapical radiographs, and most currently a CBCT examination will give the clinician a better idea of the root canal anatomy.

After completing a thorough diagnosis, I progressed through treatment by the following steps: achieving complete pulpal anesthesia; rubber dam isolation; initial access location of orifices; achieving straight line access; preparing coronal third, middle third, and apical thirds; and 3-D obturation followed by the coronal seal.

One of the essential steps in successful debridement of dilacerations begins with a proper access. When visualizing access, I use the laws described by Krasner and Rankow. These laws were very useful in Case 1, in which the tooth had a PFM crown and no visible pulp chamber or canals on radiographs. In this case, BW radiographs taken throughout the process of locating orifices were very helpful. To locate the canals I used ultrasonics with a Buc-1 tip and/or muncie burs if adequate visualization was possible. After locating canals, the access was refined and straight line access achieved. I then removed cervical ledges with NiTi rotary files using a brushing motion away from the furcation or danger zone. For successful instrumentation, it was helpful to break the canal in two before curvature and after curvature. I placed a size 8 or 10 hand-file with a moderate apical bend into the canal just short of moderate resistance, but hoping to achieve patency. Then, I enlarged the canal “before curve” with NiTi rotary files always staying short of my No. 10 hand file. After patency was achieved, the working length was determined with Root ZX apex locator. I then used PathFiles size 13, ,16, and .19 to working length. These files are more appropriate on severely curved canals because they have a .02 taper, so cyclic fatigue is less of a concern. I went back with protaper S1 and S2 until moderate resistance was felt. This gave a flared taper and less strain on my files when working around the tortuous apical segment. I finished the apical segment with NiTi rotary files #15-.04 to 30-.4. If curvature doesn’t allow .04 taper files, I would use NiTi rotary files 20-.02 to 30-.02.

References:
Research activities represent a high priority within the Department of Endodontics and include exciting projects focused on pain mechanisms and regenerative endodontics. The success of these research projects include important contributions from our past and current residents and once again, the high quality of these projects were acknowledged by AAE/Dentsply Resident Awards earned by Dr. Marc Pacheco and Dr. Callee Cosby for their Oral Research Presentations, and by Drs. Blake Ishikawa, David Martin and Phuong Quang for their Table Clinic Presentation at the AAE 2011 Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend the presentations of our current residents (Drs. Blake Ishikawa, David Martin, Phuong Quang and Niki Ruparel), our Air Force residents (Drs. Eric Brown and Nick Schulte) and the Table Clinic Presentation by our first-year residents (Drs. Riyadh Althumairy, Julie Berkhoff and Niki Ruparel) at this year’s AAE meeting. Here is the information you will need to attend their presentations:

- Dr. Brown- Effect of Chloroform on the Integrity of Various Nonlatex Dental Dam Materials: An In Vitro Study, OR # 23, Wednesday April 18, 1:30-3 in Room 204.
- Dr. Ishikawa-Endodontic Sealers Activate Trigeminal Nociceptors, Abstract # OR 31, April 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Room 204.
- Dr. Ruparel-Effect of Intracanal Medicaments on Stem Cells from Apical Papilla, Abstract # OR 48, Thursday, April 19, 10-11:30 in Room 206.
- Dr. Quang-Evaluation of a Photo-Polymerizable Hydrogel Scaffold for Regenerative Endodontics, Abstract # OR 51, Thursday April 19, 10-11:30 in Room 206.
- Dr. Martin- Effect of Sodium Hypochlorite on the Odontoblastic Phenotype Differentiation of SCAP in Cultured Organotype Human Roots, Abstract # OR 52, Thursday April 19, 10-11:30 in Room 206.
- Dr. Schulte- A Comparison of the Torsional Fatigue Resistance of PathFile™ Nickel-Titanium Files With Other Small 0.02 Taper Files, Abstract # OR 64, Thursday April 19, 1:30-3 in Room 206.
- Drs. Althumairy, Berkhoff and Ruparel- Practical Methods for Mixing and Delivery of Intra-canal Medicaments for Regenerative Endodontic Procedures, Table Clinic Presentation, Thursday, April 19, 2-5 p.m. in Exhibit Halls CD.

The Department continues efforts related to clinical regenerative endodontics and recently submitted a U01 grant proposal to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health to fund a multi-center clinical trial to evaluate the effectiveness of regenerative therapy in immature and necrotic permanent teeth. This effort was headed by Dr. Hargreaves and Dr. Diogenes at UTHSCSA and includes former UTHSCSA resident, Asma Khan at University of North Carolina, former UTHSCSA DDS/PhD student, Jennifer Gibbs at New York University and Natasha Flake at University of Washington. We are also proud to announce that our previous Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dayna Loyd, is now a Principle Investigator with the Battlefield Pain Management Research Area at the Fort Sam Houston US Army Institute of Surgical Research located in San Antonio. We are all dependent on the great job done by our research assistants/associates, Paul Chen, Jie Li and Xiaoling Sun, to keep the lab and projects running smoothly. The success of our research projects also depends greatly on the outstanding efforts of Erin Locke, our Research Nurse, and Lola Miranda, our grants coordinator. Much of the support needed to fund our research efforts is not provided by state funds, but rather depends on the coordinated efforts of all members of our diverse team of research personnel. Once again, we are looking forward to seeing all our friends and past Department residents at this year’s AAE meeting. Please plan to attend the Residents Oral Presentations and Table Clinic Presentation to learn more about the exciting research projects ongoing in the Department.

Dr. Michael Henry, Professor

Research to various inflammatory conditions including asthma. Michael Eskander is evaluating the role of nerve growth factor in the transition from acute to chronic pain while Dustin Green is working closely with our Post-Doctoral Fellow, Shivani Ruparel, in studies evaluating the role of oxidized linoleic acid metabolites as TRPV1 agonists in various pain conditions. 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 studying burn pain mechanisms. Dr. Jose Flavio de Almeida (Endodontist/PhD) has been with us for one year as a Visiting Professor/Research Fellow from the University of Campinas in Brazil and has been helping with the regenerative endodontics research program while learning confocal microscopy. We hope for good news regarding this application in the near future.

Graduate students working towards their Ph.D. include Michael Eskander, Dustin Green, Mayur Patil and Margaux Salas. All are extremely busy in the lab and are making exciting discoveries related to each of their projects. Margaux Salas is nearing completion of her degree and has been examining TRPV1/TRPA1 interactions. Mayur Patil is involved in studies examining the contribution of sensory neuron activation to various inflammatory conditions including asthma. Michael
2012

Departmental Publications


Suffolk Room

Department of Endodontics

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Donna M. Harris, Academic Program Coordinator

Anibal Diogenes, Scott Janse, Karl Keiser

Graduate Clinic Staff

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Elena Ponomarev, Janis Gonzales

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Research Division

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Lola Miranda, Research Coordinator

Michael Henry, Anibal Diogenes

Danna Moreira, Jose de Almeida

Shivani Ruparel, Niki Ruparel

Xiaoling Sun, Paul Chen, Margaux Salas

Alpha Omega Alumni Newsletter is published by the Department of Endodontics

Managing Editor – Fabricio Teixeira

Assistant Managing Editor – Donna Harris

Attention Alumni

We extend a cordial invitation for you and your guest to attend Your Alumni Association Reception

Boston Marriott Copley

Suffolk Room

Boston, Massachusetts

Thursday, April 19, 2012

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Attention Alumni

We extend a cordial invitation for you and your guest to attend Your Alumni Association Reception
**Keep in touch with our department by e-mail**

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**Attention Alumni!**

If you have news about yourself that you would like mentioned in our newsletter, drop me a message at harrisd2@uthscsa.edu.

Your newsletter can only be successful with your support. Thanks!

We receive newsletters returned due to changes of address. Please inform us of your move so we can continue to keep in touch and send you the newsletter.

E-mail us at harrisd2@uthscsa.edu if you have relocated.
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 $399,480.00.

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.

**Stainless Level**
- Neil G. Begley
- Douglas Bethoney
- Taylor Cotton
- Parvin Dinyarian
- Eric Galian
- James A. Gilles
- Dennis R. Gimlin
- Karl Keiser
- Michael Lazaraki
- Alberto Lopez-Torrones
- Garry Myers
- John Nelson
- William Schindler
- Scott Schwartz
- Aaron Vaughn
- Robert White

**Silver Level**
- Christopher Bates
- Anibal Diogenes
- Robert Haller
- Blake Ishikawa
- Michael Koch
- David Martin
- Marc Pacheco
- William J. Stewart
- Scott Sullins
- Fabricio B. Teixeira
- Douglas Thomas
- Roderick Yasuda

**Gold Level**
- Raison Bose
- Lee Fox
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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 this enclosed pledge insert (see reverse side) to submit your new 5-year pledge.

Thank you for your support!