AEPP Updates

I want to thank all alumni that came to the 2nd Erwin M. Schaffer Symposium for Periodontal Research and the ones that contributed to a successful series of enticing presentations. It was great to meet old friends again, catch up on what is new in their lives and what is new in periodontology. Company sponsors and registration fees made the symposium possible. I really hope to see you all again at the AAP meeting in Chicago this year.

After more than three intense years as Director of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology I am ready to pass the directorship to new energy in the division. We are hiring one new full time Faculty while saying farewell to Dr. Deborah Johnson as she retires. She has been a pillar for the program for more than 10 years, supporting the residents with intense special sessions, always with a word of encouragement for everyone. We thank her immensely for what she has done for the AEPP program.

Despite new faculty coming on board while I return full time to my research program, the teaching coverage in the Graduate Periodontology Clinic will still be challenging and I hope that some of you will still have some drive to help teach the new generation of periodontists at the U of M. Our clinical operation, headed by Mrs. Liisa Durkot as Clinic Manager, and Shelby LaFreniere, our administrative specialist, have been successfully facing new logistics and scheduling challenges. Our team of supporting staff: Mrs. Diane Hartinger, Barbara Kleist, Tina Nichols and Aire Wojtowick have been a great support to our residents.

This year we have accepted four promising young residents: Dr. Shorouk Elnagdy, from Egypt; Dr. John Pizarek, a US Navy officer; Dr. Michail Raptopoulos, from Greece; and Dr. Brent Schleyer, a US national. As always, the diversity and the multiple experiences of our program enrich the potential to achieve new heights. Current residents are winning awards, presenting at national meetings, publishing independent research and are engaged in a variety of research projects: from biomaterial biology, bone biology and hormonal influence to predicting periodontitis and peri-implantitis progression with GCF metabolomics. We have gained expertise in minimally invasive surgical procedures, are expanding the digital planning of implant placements and are achieving new standards in complex GBR procedures.

Every year our great program is also supported by generous Alumni as demonstrated by the donations at the 2nd Erwin M. Schaffer Symposium for Periodontal Research. I want to reassure you that our Periodontology program will move into the future to expand its reputation with pride, passion, and dedication. See you all at the AAP meeting!!!

Sincerely,
Dr. Massimo Costalonga

Alumni Reception

The American Academy of Periodontology will be holding its 105th Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. As part of the meeting we will once again host an alumni reception on Sunday, November 3, 2019 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The reception will be held at the Hilton Chicago (Lake Ontario room - 8th floor). The address is 720 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL. Included with this newsletter is an invitation and response form. Please RSVP and feel free to make a donation here. We look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago!

Sincerely,
Dr. Massimo Costalonga
Massimo Costalonga, PhD, DMD

Dr. Massimo Costalonga's research interest spans from clinical research to basic science in the area of mucosal immunology and animal models of periodontitis. His basic science focuses on mucosal intraepithelial Langerhans cells and T cell mediated adaptive immune response against P. gingivalis and C. albicans. With the help of several residents, Dr. Costalonga is conducting a longitudinal study to predict the progression of periodontitis and periimplantitis using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy. The team has identified specific metabolites in the gingival crevicular fluid associated with disease presence and disease progression.

Deborah K. Johnson, DDS

Dr. Deborah Johnson was promoted this spring to Clinical Professor. She currently has retirement plans in the works. She is planning to move with her husband, Dr. Scott McClanahan to Northern Virginia to be closer to her grandchildren. They plan to stagger the move with Dr. Johnson and her fur babies moving first in March, followed by Dr. McClanahan in September. There is currently a search to fill her position. She continues to direct the graduate literature review seminar series and devotes one day per week to providing patient care in the Faculty Practice Clinic, Deb provides general supervision to the periodontal residents in out clinic as well as "special sessions."

She has incorporated “All on 4” treatment into her faculty practice as well as extensive vertical ridge augmentation techniques and pinhole grafting technique. She lives in Plymouth with her husband, Scott McClanahan, who is the director of the Graduate Endodontics at the University of Minnesota.

Daniel D. Skaar, DDS, MBA, MS

Dr. Dan Skaar serves as Division Director and Interim Chair of Developmental and Surgical Sciences. In addition to teaching didactic and clinical periodontology, he directs and teaches pharmacology courses for dental students. He continues to study medical-dental care issues using the multiyear, longitudinal Medicare Current Beneficiary Data Set. A recent focus has been the appropriateness of antibiotic prophylaxis for joint replacement patients using cost-effectiveness Markov modelling. New research interests include a rheumatoid arthritis study, a microbiome study of kidney transplant patients, and assessing the role of pharmacogenetics in analgesic prescribing decisions for acute pain.

Larry F. Wolff, MS, PhD, DDS

Dr. Larry Wolff has been in academic dentistry at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry for thirty-nine years. In recognition of excellence in instruction, mentoring, and advising, Dr. Wolff received the prestigious University of Minnesota Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education. His current responsibilities in the School of Dentistry include teaching, service and research. He provides didactic and clinical periodontal instruction to pre-doctoral dental, dental hygiene, and dental therapy students as well as periodontal residents. Larry, in working with periodontal residents, continues to be very active in basic and clinical research initiatives. One of these studies addresses the development of guided tissue regeneration membranes with growth factors, which is expected to prove to be more clinically effective in regenerating the periodontium. Larry’s interest also surrounds diabetes as related to periodontal treatment and diagnosis. In regards to one of these projects related to diabetes, Larry, together with colleagues at Minnesota, continue to address the relationship between periodontitis/periimplantitis and glycated hemoglobin in non-diabetics. In addition, Larry is working with colleagues in the Division of Periodontology to address the effect of non-surgical periodontal therapy on the Wnt-beta-catenin signaling pathway, the association between periodontal disease and systemic conditions, patient predictors of implant fail.
Adjunct Faculty

The skills and achievements of our Residents could have not been achieved without our Adjunct Faculty. We sincerely appreciate their passion and dedication to the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology. The perspective and the expertise they bring to the program is invaluable and essential to the broad education of our Residents. We do know that taking time away from their practice and families is a great sacrifice, but the payoff is to see a young dentist develop into a fully independent periodontist worthy of the trust of a family member. Here is the list of Periodontists who embody dedication and endurance, as you can see by the year they started contributing to the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology. We are always looking for new Alumni interested in a teaching experience at the University of Minnesota.

THANK YOU ALL!!!
Massimo Costalonga

Pictured (left to right):
Dr. Massimo Costalonga, Liisa Durkot, Dr. Alon Shalev, Dr. Praveen Parachuru, Dr. Ioannis Kor-mas, Dr. Katie Thieu, Dr. Barbara Botorous, Dr. Deborah Johnson, Dr. Alessandro Pedercini, Dr. Hatem Alassy, Tina Nichols, Aire Wojtowick

Dr. James Hinrichs  1980
Adjunct Professor

Dr. Roger Ettel  1987
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Jonathan Jenkins  1988
Adjunct Associate Professor

Dr. Satya Molleti  2002
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Robert Jensen  2003
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Jane Jensen  2005
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Guizhen Zhang  2011
Adjunct Associate Professor

Dr. Ryan Wolff  2016
Affiliate Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Jason Johnson  2018
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Kiran Kingsley  2018
Affiliate Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Russell Dylla  2019
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Abdullah Alkanan  2019
Adjunct Associate Professor
Congratulations to the AEPP 2019 Graduates

We recently bid farewell to three graduating students from the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology, Class of 2019:

Dr. Dan Jabs (pictured left)
Dr. Alon Shalev (pictured middle)
Dr. David Paulson (pictured right)

Dr. Dan Jabs
Dan Jabs graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry where he received a certificate in periodontology. He is currently in practice at Jensen & Jensen at the Maplewood and Stillwater locations. Dan enjoys all things outdoors including camping and fishing in the boundary waters.

Dr. David Paulson
David Paulson received his B.S and D.D.S. degrees from Marquette University and recently obtained his M.S. and certificate in periodontology from the University of Minnesota. He recently completed the written exam of the American Board of Periodontology and is looking forward to taking the oral exam in 2020. Davis continues to live in Minneapolis and is practicing full-time in West St. Paul. Some of his best experiences in residency include the one-on-one clinic sessions with Dr. Costalonga and Dr. Johnson, traveling to the AAP and other conferences, camaraderie in the residents room, and the chance to meet so many alumni at the 2nd Erwin Michael Schaffer Symposium

Dr. Alon Shalev
Alon Shalev trained at the Kaunas Medical School in Lithuania and has been practicing dentistry since 2005. Following 11 years in private practice in Israel and several years of service on the board of advisory of 3m ESPE Israel, he joined the UMN Advanced Education Program in Periodontology following his brother Dr. Tamir Shalev.

Alon was recommended and encouraged to apply to the program by his good friend and mentor, an alumni to the program, Dr. Christos Diamatopoulos (Alumnus, 2004).

Dr. Shalev graduated with a Certificate in Periodontology and a Master’s degree in Dentistry. During his residency, he represented the program and the UMN on several AAP meetings with clinical cases and his research. He was a finalist and runner up for the Research Forum Poster competition at the AAP 2018 in Vancouver, Canada. Though it was very difficult for Alon and his wife Moran, along with their children Ariel and Jonathan to say goodbye to their friends and family at the UMN, they have relocated to the DFW metroplex where Dr. Shalev works as a periodontist.
Resident News

Class of 2020

Dr. Praveen Parachuru
Dr. Praveen Parachuru, PhD, comes to us from The University of Otago, New Zealand where he completed his PhD in 2013 under the supervision of Prof Gregory John Seymour. He was a faculty in Oral Biology for the next three years where he supervised undergrad and postgrad research projects and attracted overall grant funds of $100k NZD and authored/co-authored multiple publications in peer reviewed journals including Periodontology 2000. His great interest lies in the immunopathogenesis of periodontal disease. Dr. Parachuru moved to the USA to do his clinical training in perio and further translate his profound research experience to the clinic. Dr. Parachuru continues to elevate the bar as a finalist for the prestigious AAP Educator scholarship for the years 2017-19.

Dr. Kathleen Thieu (Chief Resident)
Kathleen Thieu, DDS, received her dental degree from the University of Minnesota in 2017. She has worked in Dr. Costalonga’s lab and studied the contribution of mucosal Langerhans cells to alveolar bone loss in a murine model of periodontitis. Kathleen was awarded the NIDCR Summer Dental Student Award. She conducted research under the direction of Dr. Wanjun Chen at the National Institute of Dental and Cranio-facial Research in 2014. Kathleen plans to join a private practice in the Twin Cities following graduation. In her spare time, Kathleen enjoys travelling, hiking and cooking.

Class of 2021

Dr. Hatem Alassy
Hatem Alassy practiced general dentistry for over 10 years between Minnesota and California. He is originally from Egypt and graduated from Cairo University. Hatem shifted his attention to periodontics and implants over the years and was happy to join the Advanced education in Periodontology at the University of Minnesota. He enjoys private practice as well as teaching.

Dr. Ioannis Kormas
Ioannis Kormas, DDS, comes from Athens, Greece. He received his dental degree from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in 2013. Subsequently, he served as a dentist in the Hellenic Air Force General Hospital for one year and practiced general dentistry in the private sector for a year and a half. In December 2015, he started his two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency at the University of Rochester (Eastman Institute for Oral Health), in Rochester, NY. He is currently a first-year resident of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology at the University of Minnesota. He is a recipient of the 2019 Nobel Biocare Student Member Annual Meeting Scholarship. He has been trained in vocals and piano and, in his spare time, enjoys cinema, theater, and tennis.

Dr. Barbara Botorous
Barbara Botorous, DMD, originally from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, received her dental degree from the University of Montreal in 2017. Barbara completed her final year in the Periodontal Honors course at the University of Montreal. She then completed a General Practice Residency for 1 year at the Montreal General Hospital. She is currently a second-year resident at the Advanced Education in Periodontology at the University of Minnesota. Barbara and her husband own a little husky, Luna. In her spare time she enjoys reading, playing volleyball, and travelling.

Drs. Praveen Parachuru, Ioannis Kormas, Kathleen Thieu, Barbara Botorous, Alessandro Pedercini and Hatem Alassy
Resident News (Continued…)

Class of 2021 (Cont’d)

Dr. Alessandro Pedercini
Alessandro Pedercini, DDS, attained his dental degree in Italy at the University of Verona in 2015. After graduation, Alessandro practiced in the United Kingdom for two years (2016-2017) as a prosthodontist and assistant surgeon in a full arch implant rehabilitation clinic. Currently, he is a second-year resident in the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology at the University of Minnesota. In his free time, he enjoys sport activities such as skiing and mountain biking.

Class of 2022

Dr. Shorouk Elnagdy
Shorouk Elnagdy, originally from Egypt, moved to United Arab Emirates with her family when she was an infant. She received her bachelor’s degree in 2017 from the University of Sharjah. Soon after graduating, she was accepted into Professor Mark C. Herzberg’s laboratory as a research scholar at the University of Minnesota for 2 years. Focusing on microbiology and periodontal disease. She had the opportunity to work alongside microbiologists and dentists who share common interest in understanding the biological pathways that lead to periodontal disease. Her strong interest and enjoyment of Periodontics, developed during her 2 years of research, lead her to pursue it as a specialty. After completion of the residency, John will return to the US Navy to serve as a periodontist.

Dr. Michail Raptopoulos
Michail Raptopoulos, DDS, comes from Alexandroupoli, Greece. He received his dental degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in November 2017. After his graduation Michail practiced as a general dentist, surgeon, and assistant surgeon at his father’s private practice. He is a co-author on multiple publications and has participated as a speaker in a few conferences. He is currently a first-year resident of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontology at the University of Minnesota.

time, she enjoys sports and travelling back home to see her family and friends.

Dr. John Pizarek
John Pizarek, DMD, received his bachelors degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign in 2011 and DMD degree from University of Illinois Chicago in 2015, with OKU Honors. For the past four years, John has been serving as a Lieutenant in the Dental Corps on Active Duty with the United States Navy at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center, North Chicago, IL, USS Osborne Dental Clinic. To further pursue his Interest and passion for periodontics, he was accepted for Duty Under Instruction training, and was selected to attend a civilian periodontics residency program. John moved to Minneapolis with his wife of six years, Amanda, and their two dogs. After completion of the residency, John will return to the US Navy to serve as a periodontist.

Dr. Brent Schleyer
Brent’s desire to pursue periodontology began during college when he worked as a perio assistant in his home state of New Mexico. This drove him to pursue dental school which he completed at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Dentistry. In his free time he enjoys high energy activities such as skiing, hiking, wakeboarding, hunting, sports, and working out. His passion is sports as he grew up playing hockey and soccer, which he had the opportunity to compete in at the collegiate level. He is a true Cowboys fan! Though he may not be a native of the Twin Cities, he is proud to be a part of this program and community.

Giving to the Advanced Education in Periodontics Program

Gifts to the periodontology fund can be made electronically here: https://z.umn.edu/Perio_Gift

If you prefer to mail a paper form. It can be found here: https://z.umn.edu/GiftForm

You would then want to select Graduate Periodontics Research and Education Fund.

Return completed forms to:

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P.O. Box 860266
Minneapolis, MN 55486

Make a gift to the Division of Periodontology

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Advanced Education Program in Periodontology Clinic and Staff News

We have a great team of supporting staff, from Dental Assistants Diane Hartinger, Barbara Kleist and Tina Nichols, to Front Desk Leyna Coppersmith, Administrative Specialist Shelby LaFreniere, Hygienist Aire Wojtowick and Perio Clinic Manager/Hygienist Liisa Durkot.

Dental Assistants

Diane Hartinger

Diane has 34 years experience in Dental Surgery Clinics. She married John in 1994 and was blessed with 3 young step children. She has Certified Board training with Intravenous Clinical Sedation and her Certificate of Completion from the AAOMS Anesthesia Assistants Program. She enjoys volunteering at Eagle Brook Church as well as spending time with family, gardening, biking, and tennis.

Barbara Kleist

Barb has worked her entire career in Periodontology and the Oral & Maxillofacial graduate programs throughout her career at the University of Minnesota. Her passions and time are devoted to her family, anything culinary, travel and her new love, gardening.

Tina Nichols

Tina joined the Graduate Periodontology team at the U of M in the early 2018. She graduated the Dental Assistant program at Century College in 2015. Tina volunteers at Adopt-A-River and enjoys doing oral hygiene demonstrations for her son’s elementary school. In her spare time she enjoys doing outdoor activities with her family and puppy.

Front Desk

Leyna Coppersmith

Leyna joined the Graduate Periodontology team in September 2018 and has been with the School of Dentistry for a little over 2 years. She has over 20 years of experience in Healthcare Management. A native of Minnesota, she moved back from Arizona in 2017 and is happy to be home. She spends time volunteering, both at Cornerstone, helping families that have been victimized by domestic violence and with her daughter’s Girl Scout troop. She has two young children and enjoys showing them the variety of wonderful things that Minnesota has to offer.

Administrative Specialist

Shelby LaFreniere

Shelby has been working in the Division of Periodontology since 2018. This fall, she began her graduate program in Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development in Higher Education and she will continue to work full-time while in school. Shelby enjoys biking, travelling, and spending time with her family and she is looking forward to marrying her fiancé, Andy, in October.

Hygienist

Aire Wojtowick

Aire (pronounced Ida) is from Estonia. She worked in the Division of Oral Surgery as a Dental Assistant from 2004 to 2005. She is happy to be back in the School of Dentistry and has been working in the Grad Perio Clinic as a Dental Hygienist since February 2019. Aire has 2 boys, 8 and 5 years old, and enjoys outdoor activities with her family.

Perio Clinic Manager/ Hygienist

Liisa Durkot

Liisa joined the division in September of 1987. She continues to see recall patients along with her administrative duties. Her daughter Emily is 21 and is a senior majoring in physiology and chemistry at the U of MN. Her son Andrew is 24 and is pursuing a Master of Public Policy degree at the U of MN. Liisa and Dave enjoy spending time at their home in northern Wisconsin and watching Andrew and Emily perform with the U of MN Marching Band while attending Gopher football games.
Erwin M. Schaffer Symposium

On Friday–Saturday, May 31–June 1, 2019, an international symposium on Periodontal Risk Assessment was held at the University of Minnesota honoring the career of Dr. Erwin Schaffer.

SAVE THE DATE for the 3rd Erwin M. Schaffer Symposium on June 4–5, 2021

Erwin M. Schaffer Symposium Sponsors

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AEPP Fall 2019
Acknowledgements

Residents

Dr. Ioannis Kormas (pictured left) was selected as a recipient of the 2019 Nobel Biocare Student Member Meeting Annual Scholarship by the American Academy of Periodontology.

Dr. Praveen Parachuru (pictured right) was selected as a finalist for the 2019 Educator Scholarship by the American Academy of Periodontology.

Faculty

Dr. Larry Wolff

Congratulations to Larry Wolff, MS, PhD, DDS, who recently received a University of Minnesota 2018-19 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education. As a recipient of this system-wide award, Dr. Wolff will be inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers and carry the designation of Distinguished University Teaching Professor or Distinguished University Teacher throughout his career at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Deborah Johnson

Dr. Deborah Johnson, DDS, was promoted to Clinical Professor.
AEPP Fall 2019

Periodontology Fund Donors to the University of Minnesota

The following have made donations at any time to the periodontology funds at the University of Minnesota. The donors who gave between August 1, 2018 and September 3, 2019 are italicized.

We strive for accuracy when preparing these lists and apologize for any errors that may appear. Please feel free to contact us if there are any errors or omissions. For more information about donating, see page 6. Thank you to all of our wonderful alumni and donors for everything that you do.

Thank You Donors!

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James Tseng
John H. Warford
Ardis L. Willey
William A. Woehrmann
Ying-Lien Wu
2018-19 Publications

Massimo Costalonga, PhD, DMD


Fetal weight outcomes in C57BL/6J and C57BL/6NCrl mice after oral colonization with *P. gingivalis*. L. Fischer, P. Bittner-Eddy, M. Costalonga. *Infection and Immunity.*


Daniel Skaar, DDS, MBA, MS


Larry Wolff, MS, PhD, DDS


Alumni News

Dr. Vivek Math, BDS, PhD (Class of 2011) was awarded the AAP Teaching Fellowship at the 2018 AAP meeting in Vancouver.

Dr. Georgios Chatzopoulos, DDS, MS, (Class of 2018) received the 2019 Straumann New Periodontist Annual meeting Scholarship.

Class of 2018 alumni Caitlin Hemmerich, DDS; Janelle Hamilton, DMD; and Georgios Chatzopoulos, DDS, MS have all become Diplomates of the American Board of Periodontology. Congratulations AEPP graduates of 2018!

Division News

Congratulations to Dr. Elham Akhlagi and Dr. Richard Wittenberg (pictured bottom right) for being awarded Clinical and Didactic Faculty of the year by the D4 class.

Dr. Elham Akhlaghi, DDS, and Judy Danielsen, RDH, MDH, (pictured bottom left, far right and second to right) were both promoted to Clinical Professor.

Dr. Deborah Johnson has announced her retirement for Spring 2020

The division is currently conducting a search for Dr. Johnson’s replacement.

The division is currently conducting an international search to fill the Erwin M. Schaffer Periodontal Research Chair.

Got alumni news for the 2020 newsletter?
Email us and let us know at sodperio@umn.edu

https://www.dentistry.umn.edu/degrees-programs/advanced-education-programs/periodontology

AEPP to participate in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program

The University of Minnesota Advanced Education in Periodontology will be participating in the dental Matching program for the upcoming 2020-2021 year. This is through the National Matching Services Inc (NMS). Applications will continue to be through the ADEA PASS central application service.

https://www.dentistry.umn.edu/degrees-programs/advanced-education-programs/periodontology