

The Newsletter

For Alumni & Friends of the College of Dentistry's Department of Surgical Specialties

The Chair Report



Bavitz

The pandemic of 2020 had an impact on pretty much every entity in the world, including the Department of Surgical Specialties at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. And analogous to many fashion trends, it started on the East and West Coast and migrated slowly our way. The slight silver lining to this was the vast majority of our graduating residents and dental students were “done” with their clinical experiences when elective care shut down. We then defined and differentiated emergent from urgent from elective dental care, with our departmental staff, residents, and faculty courageously providing the emergent care to patients of record, as well as to the entire surrounding community.

The college has taken a slow and steady but cautious reopening route, COVID-19 testing adult patients who are undergoing high-risk aerosol generating procedures. Surgical Specialties faculty and residents are the primary providers acquiring the nasopharyngeal matter on which the PCR testing is done. I sense we will look back at this one-day and muse, “remember when we had to stick swabs up patients’ noses to obtain possible viral DNA for testing?”

Deficiencies in clinical experiences on real live patients was an initial concern, prompting us to learn more about various simulation models and devices, the sophistication and realism of which is improving. (See photos in this issue). Although our numbers are now near back to normal, simulation continues to be utilized to help reinforce the teaching of diverse surgical tasks. Many state/regional dental boards are transitioning away from patient to simulator testing; it is a trend that will likely never go away.

I am continuously impressed by how well our department “pivoted” or changed our established operating procedures during this crisis, and I firmly believe we are still producing some of the best specialists and general dentists in the world right here in Lincoln, Nebraska.

This spring we welcomed full time administrative assistant, **Emily Gish** (see story on page 2), but with bifurcated feelings, we also noted the departure of **Dr. Ellen Hahn**. We are saddened to see Ellen go, as she certainly added some

research street cred to our endodontic section, but happy for her as she is now closer to family and in the warmer South Carolinian climate. When the weather warmed up in Lincoln, I enjoyed discussing the intricacies of the updated AAP periodontal classification system outside on the new patio with 2019 perio graduates **Erica Jasa** and **Jessica Gradoville**, our rock star, part-time faculty members.

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Drs. Jasa, Bavitz and Gradoville

We just began searching for a new program director for our endodontic residency program. **Dr. G. Lane Stephenson** is stepping back or separating, July 1, 2021. Fortunately, Lane plans to stay on part-time to help transition the new director into the difficult to negotiate but not totally calcified position.

Our interviews for the endo/perio residency positions were conducted via Zoom this year, as was most of our continuing education. I sense we will be slowly resuming live in-person visits, interviews and courses, and I hope to see you all, live and in person, very soon.

In closing, I appreciate all you alums do for the department and college – be it teaching in our clinics, monetary contributions, or even encouraging talented people you encounter to apply to our programs. **IN!**

Stay healthy,

J. Bruce Bavitz

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The Newsletter

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News of the alumni

A special thanks to **Dr. Brad Crump ('00)** for sponsoring our third-year residents, **Mattie Bertels** and **Sara Qadi**, so they were able to attend the Southwest Society of Periodontology meeting in Dallas in January 2020. The residents took part in continuing education and interacted with residents from other regional programs. They found the experience very enlightening and enjoyable. We hope to continue our relationship with this organization.

Thanks again, Dr. Crump!

Dr. Jody Vance ('94) – It is with deep sorrow that we report that Jody's son Tanner passed away July 5, 2020. He apparently died from a sudden malignant ventricular arrhythmia. Mercifully, he passed peacefully and painlessly in his sleep. We sent our thoughts and prayers to Jody and his family.

Perio Alumni Reception

The alumni reception in Chicago, Ill., was hosted by **John Rutledge ('09)**. *Thank you, John!*



Dr. Brad Crump



Dr. John Rutledge

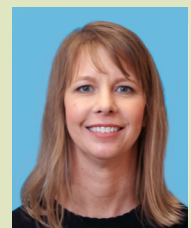
Oral surgery fellow



Tom O'Loughlin is originally from Moberly, Mo. He attended the United States Military Academy and then served in the U.S. Army for eight years during which he deployed to Iraq. Tom received his DMD from the Roseman College of Dentistry in 2019 and then completed a general practice residency at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Following completion of his oral surgery internship at UNMC, Tom plans to either pursue a residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery or enter general practice and utilize his new skillset. He and his wonderful wife Brittney have been married for seven years and have three amazing children: Josie, Will and Brooke. **INI**

New staff member

Say hello to **Emily Gish**, our new full-time administrative assistant. Emily grew up in Sioux Falls, S.D. She received her bachelor's degree in interior design from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1998. Emily and her husband, Eric, have three kids: Caitlyn, Hannah and Brody. She loves spending time with them and attending all of their activities: cheer, orchestra concerts and soccer games. **INI**



Simulation

"Simulated apicoectomy."

"Oh, baby."

Straight from the Chief

Your Cornhusker Sports Update



Gerry Tussing

Remember life in Lincoln when you were in training and were surrounded by a vital University of Nebraska with a myriad of options for entertainment? The obvious statement is “not today and not tomorrow.” The pandemic has changed life as we knew and enjoyed it. The impact on the College has been profound. PPE is a way of life. COVID testing is performed before high-risk procedures. Reduction in patient flow affected students the most, prompting the faculty and staff to create simulations and options to supplement the reduced clinical experiences. Happily, our clinical numbers are trending back to normal. If there is a silver lining somewhere in all of this, it is that our students are quite remarkable. They are so resilient and so flexible managing the difficult changes presented to them.

What nearly stopped all life in Nebraska was not the Coronavirus. It was when Big 10 Commissioner Warren “cancelled all fall sports.” First, we got a football schedule and then five days later cancelled all fall sports. Nebraska was very vocal about the absurdity of the decision, as was Ohio State. The commissioner stated flatly that the decision would not be revisited. Nebraska, particularly, took a lot of heat in the national press because of our stance that the conference needed to be competitive with the rest of the major conferences and we were pressing forward with plans to make it work. Finally, the decision (now referred to as a postponement) had to be addressed yet again. The Big 10 has a plan for the fall sports that is perhaps the most restrictive of any of the conferences. This appears to be the best we can salvage of the mess created by the commissioner.

We will play football on a conference-only basis. No non-conference games will be allowed. We will play to empty stadiums, which is in contrast to the other power conferences, which have a significant number of fans attending. Many feel like we are inert standing on the sidelines while the rest of the sporting world is putting the Big 10 in the rearview mirror. Recruiting damage has been significant and it is predicted it will take years to undo the damage. The conference didn't do Nebraska any favors with the football scheduling (spelled punished). We have



Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin as our first opponents, but we intend to play football and do the best that is possible.

Basketball will start sometime around Thanksgiving for both men and women but those schedules have not yet been revealed. Whether it will be conference only opponents or whether we will be able to play some tournaments will be decided. Volleyball will be moved to the spring and Coach Cook is happy with that move. He is the pick for the national champion this year as we are loaded. The finals will be played in Omaha which certainly will be a boast to attendance.

One newly developing sport in Nebraska is woman's softball. We have high school players that are being recruited all over the nation. Remember last year when softball Coach Revelle was suspended for several months while an internal review of the program was conducted? Finally, she was restored to head coach status when findings apparently did not warrant her dismissal. Interestingly, all this talent that we are growing in the state of Nebraska is going elsewhere. None of these studs are committing to Nebraska. Hmmmm. **NI**



Students learning scaling /root planing on new models with “bad gums.”

Postgraduate Periodontics

Program updates from Director Matthew Byarlay



Byarlay

Welcome back to another addition of the fabulous Surgical Specialties newsletter. The newsletter is much delayed this year due to the ongoing pandemic, but we're trying to get back on track with all things associated with the program and adapt to the new normal. I hope everyone is well and your families and practices are handling the adjustments we are all

having to make. The residents never really stopped coming to the school during the shutdown, as we had to provide emergency coverage for the school's patients. We are still trying to get back to a full-patient schedule, but it is just taking a little more time. Before the shutdown, the renovations to the lower level were completed. Part of the renovation included an area for new 3D printers which will continue to enhance our digital treatment planning and surgical guide fabrication, along with many other uses for implant treatment planning. The slowdown has given us some more time to familiarize ourselves with this new technology and explore other uses. Since the annual meeting has been canceled, you might be looking to get away for a few days. If Lincoln sounds like your idea of a nice place to vacation, throw on a mask and come say "hi" – from six feet away of course. Once again, I hope everyone is staying safe and hopefully one day soon we'll be able to return to the old normal.

We hope that everyone stays in touch, and sincerely, if you are ever traveling in the area or would like to present educational material, please let me know and we'll make arrangements.

Visiting Professors

It is important each year to acknowledge the outstanding group of local periodontists who voluntarily teach in both seminars and in clinic. They are a tremendous asset to the program and we can't thank them enough. These individuals are **Drs. Dennis Anderson, Barry Feldner, Daryl Malena, Melissa Lang, John Rutledge, Hoang-Oanh Le, Aaron Bradley, Natalie Frost, Stacy Moffenbier, Van Sanderfer, Takanari Miyamoto, Rob Cline, and Pat Kelsey**. The residents and I certainly appreciate these individuals and their commitment to the program.

Changing of the Guard

This past June, we had to say goodbye to our third-year residents as they embarked on a new journey. **Mattie Bertels** joined a practice in Rapid City, S.D., and **Sara Qadi** will be taking her talents to our neighbors to the west in Colorado. Both Mattie and Sara were exceptional residents and we will miss them both.

We welcomed our two new residents, **Neil Bealka** and **Sasha Mohammadi**, on July 1, 2020. Neil has been in private practice for a few years and went to dental school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Sasha just finished an AEGD at Wichita State and went to dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. These two are both outstanding individuals and a great addition to our program. **INI**

Meet the perio residents



Devin Christiansen (third year) was raised in Bountiful, Utah, and received his bachelor's degree in microbiology from Weber State University in 2013. He received his D.M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry in 2018. GO CARDS! He and his wife, Halee, have two kids: Davis and Madison. He enjoys playing sports and spending time with family and friends. Devin plans to return to Utah after residency and join a private practice.



Lauren Krell (third year) is from Sioux Falls, S.D. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota where she was a member of the track team. Lauren received her DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, golfing and spending time with her family and dog. Upon completion of her residency next summer, Lauren plans to move to Charleston, S.C., to practice.



Grace Moore (second year) was born and raised in Mason City, Iowa. She attended Loyola University Chicago where she was a member of the cross country and track and field teams. She received a bachelor's degree in biology in 2015. Grace then returned home and received her DDS from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 2019. She began her specialty training in periodontics at UNMC immediately following graduation. Grace enjoys running, spending time at the lake with family and friends, and watching golden retriever puppy videos – and is anxiously awaiting getting one of her own!



Kevin Smith (second year) was born and raised in Central City, Neb. He attended Nebraska Wesleyan University and graduated with highest distinction in 2015, earning a bachelor's degree in biology. Kevin received his DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2019. He enjoys traveling and is an avid Denver Broncos and Cornhuskers fan. Quarantine has

More **Perio Residents** on page 5

Perio Residents from page 4

limited how often he can travel, so Kevin has become a plant enthusiast!



Neil Bealka (first year) grew up in Waco, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2014 and then completed a general practice residency at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Neil was practicing as a general dentist in Houston, Texas, prior to arriving in Lincoln. He enjoys spending time outdoors and watching sports.



Sasha Mohammadi (first year) grew up in Overland Park, Kan. He graduated from the UMKC School of Dentistry in 2018 and then completed a one-year advanced education in general dentistry program at the Wichita State University. Sasha practiced dentistry in Wichita, Kan., until he began his periodontics residency. He enjoys walking his dogs, watching soccer games, trying new foods and visiting his family back home. **INI**

Perio Graduation Party



Celebrating our third-year periodontal residents' June 30th graduation in the COD's Dixon Lecture Hall:

Drs. Gerry Tussing, Wayne Kaldahl, J. Bruce Bavitz, Matt Byarlay, Rick Reinhardt, Sara Qadi, Mattie Bertels and Amy Killeen.

Thank you again for giving to the periodontal program. It seems so repetitious each year, but it is so genuinely appreciated by all of us who strive to keep the graduate program moving forward and continuing its relevance in the national arena. We'd like to remind you that your contributions are dedicated monies used exclusively for resident education, including invited expert guest speakers, research pursuits, resident travel for scholarly events, instruments and expenditures for which state funds are not available or allowed. Your contributions are very important to our program. **INI**

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Postgraduate Endodontics

Program updates from Director Lane Stephenson



Stephenson

It's that time of year again and Deb is asking for the newsletter.

Of course the big news is the corona virus pandemic that has rocked the world. Everywhere we turned we were inundated with news about this novel virus. The College of Dentistry here in Lincoln, Neb., is not immune. We have instituted stringent guidelines in step with the CDC

and UNMC to protect ourselves and our patients from COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 (a.k.a. the Coronavirus). Surgical Specialties has been on the front line since day one and continue to be actively engaged with patient care utilizing the latest technology we have available to us.

With that being said, our program has not lost step in that we delivered all of our didactic content via Zoom and completed our curriculum by April 8, so when we were allowed back in clinic we could schedule full time. The program in Buffalo, under the leadership of Adham Azim, the postgraduate endodontic program director, and in cooperation with the AAE, provided residents worldwide with a virtual lecture series two to three times a week. This lecture series kept our residents busy and exposed them to some of the best endodontic minds in today's root canal registry. This program continues once a week and the residents can access it if they are not otherwise engaged.

We conducted virtual interviews this year which was a different dynamic than having personal contact. Our process was somewhat abbreviated since we could not incorporate the hands-on practical portion and in-person lunch session with the current residents. In spite of that, the process went well, and we selected three new residents to start July 1, 2021: **Dr. Robert Grode**, Creighton University School of Dentistry - 2015; **Dr. Neal Bresnahan**, Creighton University School of Dentistry - 2015; **Dr. Petar Georgiev**, Virginia Commonwealth University - 2017.

Our recently graduated residents, **Drs. Brett Cawley** and **Jordan Sherman**, have entered private practice. Dr. Cawley opened his solo practice in La Vista, Neb., and Dr. Sherman moved to Dallas for a corporate gig alongside one of our past graduates, Dr. Randy Middleton. It is always hard to see them leave the nest, but it is exciting to know that they are realizing a dream they worked hard to achieve. We know they will eagerly embrace the opportunities that are to come their way.

Our current second-year residents, **Drs. Brent Haynes**, **Paul Pumilia** and **Kiya Stack**, have lost some precious skill development time with this pesky biological interruption, but they are getting their groove back nicely and have managed to get back in the saddle with minimal effort.

None of them have firm plans after graduation of which I am aware, so the world is still their oyster in a manner of speaking.

Our current first-year residents, **Drs. Timothy Jernberg** and **Arif Karim**, have taken up the residency challenge with vigor and are actively engaged with Dr. Thomas Petro for their research project which they will be working jointly on. Their performance during the summer boot camp was impressive, and we continue to be impressed as they move along through the program.

Overall, the patient load is not what it has been in the past but we remain optimistic for the future. On Oct. 30, by way of Zoom, many of us tuned into the residents' topic presentations.

Wishing everyone the best for the rest of the year. Stay tuned and well oiled. **IM**

Meet the endo residents



Brent Haynes (second year) was born and raised around Midwest City, Okla. Being Sooner born and bred, he attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with distinction in 2008, receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. After a few years as a civilian non-destructive test engineer for the U.S. Air Force, Brent decided to trade in the thrill of aircraft for the thrill of teeth. In the summer of 2012, he shifted his career towards helping others and started at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center College of Dentistry. Upon receipt of his DDS in 2016, he worked at a local community clinic and then relocated to a FQHC in rural southern Oklahoma for two years before starting his endodontics residency at UNMC in July 2019. In his spare time, Brent enjoys a good meme, Sooner football, cooking, baking, movies, fitness, old video games, hanging out with new friends/co-residents and playing music (not country). Contrary to what Dr. Bavitz said about drummers, Brent has not spontaneously combusted ... yet.



Paul Pumilia (second year) was born and raised in New Orleans, La. He attended Louisiana State University (LSU) and earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. After a stellar career as an engineer, Paul returned to LSU to pursue his interest in dentistry. He excelled as a dental student and earned his DDS in 2017. Following a brief stint in general practice, Paul began his endodontics residency at UNMC in

More **Endo Residents** on page 7

Endo Residents from page 6

July 2019. When he's not in the gym, you can find Paul cheering for his new favorite team - the Huskers! He is enjoying his time in Lincoln, living the downtown "city" life.



Kiya Stack (second year) is over-the-moon excited to be part of the COD endodontics as a senior resident in her second year. She is originally from Chadron, Neb., but has called Lincoln home for almost 10 years. Kiya graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in business administration and business management-entrepreneurship in 2014. She earned her DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2019. Kiya is a retired character performer for Walt Disney World. Her life motto is "Dental Pulp and Pixie Dust," which is a combination of her two favorite things: endodontics and Disney magic.



Tim Jernberg (first year) is from Mankato, Minn. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and his DDS from Midwestern University in Arizona. After dental school, Tim practiced in southern Minnesota for several years where he developed a passion for endodontics. He is honored to be receiving his specialty training at UNMC. Tim likes to travel, bake sourdough bread, hike outdoors and play soccer. After graduation, he hopes to find a place to practice where he can spend a lot of time outdoors.



Arif Karim (first year) is from Houston, Texas. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his DDS from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He completed his advanced general dentistry residency at the University of Oklahoma. After working in San Francisco as a general dentist, Arif decided to pursue a career in endodontics and is excited to receive his training at UNMC. In his free time, Arif enjoys playing the guitar/piano, exploring the outdoors and cheering for the Houston Rockets. After graduation, he plans to return to Texas to practice endodontics. **INI**

WEIRD DENTAL TRIVIA

Dogs have 42 teeth, cats have 30 teeth, pigs have 44 teeth, and an armadillo has 104 teeth.



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GIVING BACK TO THE PROGRAM

Endo Development Fund

01030970

Endo Graduation Party!

Second-year endodontic residents **Brett Cawley** and **Jordan Sherman** graduated June 30, 2020.



After you've read about all the great things happening at the **UNMC College of Dentistry...** help make it even greater.

If you have any questions about charitable gifts, donation, options, pledges or bequests benefitting the endodontic and periodontic programs, please contact:

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**Contributions may be sent to the address above. To be properly credited to the program, please specify:
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Faculty and resident publications/abstracts

Recent Publications

Bavitz, J.B. Commentary Letter, "Canceling dental procedures due to elevated blood pressure: Is it appropriate?" JADA Jul 151(7):474-475, 2020.

Jasa, E.E., Gradoville, J.M., Christiansen, M.M., Samson, K.K., Reinhardt, R.A., Payne, J.B., Killeen, A.C. Effects of enamel matrix derivative on clinical and inflammatory outcomes in periodontal maintenance patients: randomized, controlled clinical trial. J Periodontol doi: 10.1002/JPER.19-0623, 2020 [Epub ahead of print].

Thompson, D.M., Lee, H.M., Stoner, J.A., Golub, L.M., Nummikoski, P.V., **Payne, J.B.** Loss of alveolar bone density in post-menopausal, osteopenic women is associated with circulating levels of gelatinases. J Periodontol Res 54: 525-532, 2019.

Schwenzer, A., Quirke, A.M., Montgomery, A.B., Sayles, H.R., Schlumberger, W., **Payne, J.B.**, Mikuls, T.R., Venables, P.J., Midwood, K.S. Time to include fine specificity ACPAs in the routine diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis? Arthritis Rheumatol 71: 476-478, 2019.

Liu, J., Chanumolu, S.K., **Krei, Z.**, Albahrani, M., Akhtam, A., Jia, Z., Wang, X., Wang, D., Otu, H.H., **Reinhardt, R.A.**, Nawshad, A. Identification of genes differentially expressed in simvastatin-induced alveolar bone formation. JBMR Plus 3(5):e10122, 2019.

Boda, S.K., Almoshari, Y., Wang, H., Wang, X., **Reinhardt, R.A.**, Duan, B., Wang, D., Xie, J. Mineralized nanofiber segments coupled with calcium-binding BMP-2 peptides for alveolar bone regeneration. Acta Biomater 85:282-293, 2019.

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John, J.V., McCarthy, A., Wang, H., Chen, S., Su, Y., Davis, E., Li, X., Park, J.S., **Reinhardt, R.A.**, Xie, J. Engineering biomimetic nanofiber microspheres with tailored size, predesigned, and desired composition via gas bubble-mediated coaxial electro-spray. Small 2020 doi:10.1002/smll.201907393 (EPub).

Almoshari, Y., Ren, R., Zhang H., Jia, Z., Wei, X., Chen, N., Li, G., Ryu, S., Lele, S.M. **Reinhardt, R.A.**, Wang, D. GSK3 inhibitor loaded osteotropic Pluronic hydrogel effectively mitigates periodontal tissue damage associated with experimental periodontitis. Biomaterials 2020 Au21;261:120293. doi:10.1016/j.biomaterials.2020.120293. (Online ahead of print).

Recent Presentations

Bavitz, JB: "Prescription drug monitoring program and contemporary pain management." UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Nebraska, September 2019.

"Update on Procedural Sedation," Nebraska Sedation Permit Recertification Course, UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln Nebraska, February 2019

Kaldahl WB, Killeen AC, Payne JB, Reinhardt RA: "Treatment planning advanced periodontitis: implants or traditional periodontal surgery." 2019 UNMC College of Dentistry Periodontal Alumni Reunion, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska, October 2019.

Honors and Awards

Killeen AC: 2020 D.H. Reinhardt Scholar

Recipient of 2020 Colgate Award for Research Excellence (CARE), "The effect of local cannabidiol on clinical and inflammatory outcomes in periodontal maintenance patients," \$30,000 award. **IN**



"We learned during beta testing that the recently employed powerful chair side HEPA filtration devices, designed to evacuate any airborne COVID beasts, can suck hair too."



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