

Orthodontic Graduate Program University of Kentucky Update for the KAO

Greetings from the Orthodontic Graduate Program at the University of Kentucky! There is big news and exciting changes going on at UK, so let's get right to it:

- **Dr. Saran Huja** is joining the orthodontic faculty at UK in September. He comes to us from the Ohio State University where he serves as Associate Professor of Orthodontics and Graduate Program Director. Dr. Huja earned a MS in Dental Biomaterials from Marquette University, then attended Indiana University where he received his Certificate in Orthodontics and PhD in Dental Sciences. Saran earned his DDS at the University of Nebraska, and prior to coming to the US, he studied at the University of Bombay where he received his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), and Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) in Orthodontics.

Dr. Huja published some of the earliest biomechanical and histomorphometric studies of the use of TADs in orthodontics. Today his research includes this area of study as well as a broader study of bone healing and remodeling in response to implants as well as other stressful stimuli. As an award-winning researcher, an accomplished instructor and Board certified clinician; Dr. Huja complements our existing faculty at UK well and will make a strong and welcome addition to our Program.

Since our last update for this newsletter, two members of our faculty have made significant career path changes. Though successfully negotiating her first year in academics, **Dr. Megan McHugh** found that her true passion was in clinical orthodontics and in December, she left UK and entered private practice in Lexington. We wish Meagan well and are grateful for her short, but productive time at UK. Having joined the administrative ranks in the College last year as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, a half-time commitment, **Dr. Cindy Beeman** made her administrative transition complete this year and accepted the full time position of Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Cindy will continue to teach Growth and Development to first year dental students, lecture some in the graduate program and see patients in her faculty practice. We congratulate Dr. Beeman on her transition into college administration and extend to her a genuine "*Thank You*" for her 22 years in academic orthodontics at UK.

The student research component of our graduate program at Kentucky has never been stronger: this year's graduates, **Dr. Michael Pratt**, **Dr. John Turner** and **Dr. Dave Kujak**, all successfully presented and defended their MS degree research projects. Dr. Pratt's research on patient compliance with orthodontic retainers in the post-retention phase, and evaluation of retention protocols among US member of the AAO, was published in an AJODO paper with **Dr. Tom Kluemper**, with another one that is in press; and presented different aspects of his research with posters at the 2010 AAO, and 2010 IADR meetings, and by Dr. Kluemper at the 2011 IADR meeting. Dr. Turner and Dr. Kujak presented their research with impressive oral presentations at the 2011 IADR meeting, and submitted papers for publication. Dr. Kujak also presented his research in a poster session at the 2011 AAO meeting. **Dr. Lorri Ann Morford**, who along with Orthodontics Research Director **Dr. Jim Hartsfield** runs the Hereditary Genomics lab, received a NIH RO3 grant to study the genetic factors that increase the risk for some women to have both hypodontia and epithelial ovarian cancer. Two of our residents will be involved in this research as well.

Respectfully submitted by
Drs. Jim Hartsfield and Tom Kluemper