

## **Update from the Orthodontic Graduate Program University of Kentucky**

*Greetings* from the Bluegrass and the Orthodontic Graduate Program at the University of Kentucky. Since the last publication of this KAO Newsletter, there have been many changes. Dr. James K. Hartsfield has successfully negotiated his first academic year at UK and the impact of his expertise and energy will be far reaching. First of all, we introduced the new Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Craniofacial Biology Research, which will add to and complement the current research efforts already ongoing in the program. This one-year fellowship will give Fellows exposure to advanced craniofacial biology through the first year orthodontic graduate classes, and clinical experience assisting the orthodontic residents. Moreover, the Fellows will function as integral “research team members” with current residents and/or faculty members. Finally, the Fellows will gain experience developing their own meta-analysis and/or evidence based review of a topic. The members of the charter class of fellows are: Dr. Amin Mason from the Ohio State University, Dr. Tyler Coles from Creighton University, and Dr. Paul DiFranco from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Speaking of new people and research, Dr. Lorri Morford has recently joined our research team in the UKCD Center for Oral Health Research. Dr. Morford received her BS degrees in Biochemistry and Physiology from Michigan State University. In 1995, she received her PhD from the University of Kentucky in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and has many years of research experience and enjoys working with students and residents in a laboratory setting. She is already busy working with the residents and fellows on their research projects, as well as working with Dr. Hartsfield on developing the hereditary genomics laboratory. We are establishing research teams to study the genetic factors that influence the development of such things as neuropathic facial pain, external apical root resorption, Class III malocclusion, facial growth in general, and linkages between hypodontia and cancer. In addition, we are in the process of establishing a clinical database of our patients for future clinical studies.

In July, Dr. Preston Hicks retired from a distinguished career in academic dentistry that spans three universities and over 35 years. He has contributed mightily to the education of graduates of UK for over 20 years. Fortunately, Preston continues to be involved in our program on a part-time basis. Dr. Cindy Beeman has been appointed Interim Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Head of Admissions for the College of Dentistry. She has been active in the admissions efforts of the College for many years and hopes that the Interim title will be lifted as she interviews for the permanent position. If her intentions are realized, she will reduce her time by half with the graduate program and Dr. Hicks will fill the half-time vacancy. Dr. Megan McHugh has joined our team as full-time faculty in the graduate program, filling Dr. Hicks’s position. Megan was an outstanding member of the Class of 2009 at UK and brings an enormous amount of energy, enthusiasm and productivity on all fronts to the department. Finally, Dr. Edgar Berre from Cincinnati has returned to our part-time faculty team, having taught in a similar capacity at Kentucky in the 1970s. Dr. Berre trained in orthodontics at the University of Pittsburg under Dr. Viken Sassouni, among others. He returns to our

program with his vast amount of expertise and energy and replaces the resigning Dr. Paul Tran.

This month we welcomed our first year residents, Dr. Anna Vu from the Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Jerrod Dempsey from UK, and Dr. Kristen George from U of L. Dr. Tlhomamiso Moremi successfully passed her ABO written exam and Dr. Michael Pratt's table clinic *Patient Compliance with Orthodontic Retainers in the Post-Retention Phase* was accepted for presentation at this year's annual meeting of the Southern Association of Orthodontists. Dr. Albert Pascual's thesis manuscript *The Essential Work of Fracture of Thermoplastic Orthodontic Retainer Materials* was recently accepted for publication by the Angle Orthodontist. Dr. Harstfield has successfully completed requirements and has been voted into the Midwest Component of the Angle Society. Dr. Beeman has been chosen to represent the North Atlantic Component at the 38<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists by presenting her paper *Prevalence of Hypodontia: Regional and International Comparisons*.

Finally, I want to call your attention to an upcoming event in continuing orthodontic education. **On Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the UK Orthodontic Graduate Program and the Harvard Society for the Advancement of Orthodontics proudly present *Maintaining a Healthy Functioning Masticatory System Through Orthodontics*, featuring Dr. Jeffrey P. Okeson with Dr. James K. Hartsfield.** This spectacular symposium will be held on the campus of the University of Kentucky. A complete brochure will follow soon, but mark your calendars now so you don't miss out. (email address to contact: [jst227@uky.edu](mailto:jst227@uky.edu) or call 859-323-5371)

Respectfully submitted by G. Thomas Kluemper, D.M.D, M.S.