A note from our Division Chief…

I hope each and every one of you is having a productive and enjoyable summer season. I would like to welcome you to the latest edition of our Division's newsletter.

The 07-08 academic year was another very successful year for our Division. Highlights of the past year included full accreditation with no recommendations of our residency program during the site visit by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

We also successfully completed our first Microvascular Surgery Fellowship this year. Our departing fellow, Dr. Jason Lee will be joining a practice in Phoenix, Arizona. Our incoming fellow, Dr. Alessandro Cusano joined us on July 1, 2008. Our Division also welcomed three new interns into the 6-year program this July.

Academically, our Division had another productive year. Overall, our Division had 8 articles in peer review journals, 9 national and international presentations, and 4 abstracts at our institutions’ Research Day. According to my calculations, we have 4 book chapters and 5 accepted manuscripts in the upcoming months. Most importantly, the residents and fellow were involved in many of these scholarly activities.

I again want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our Division. We will strive to have an even more productive year in 08-09. We look forward to seeing you at our local and national meetings.

Sincerely;

Tirbod Fattahi, DDS, MD, FACS
Chief, Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Division milestones…

- In November 2007, we had our 5-year Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visit. The extensive and comprehensive efforts to prepare for this visit were certainly worthwhile since our evaluators gave us full accreditation with no recommendations. The examiners were most impressed with our scope of practice and the commitment and support from the medical center. They also complemented us on how “happy” and grateful our residents seemed.

- After successfully completing our first Microvascular Surgery Fellowship, our second fellow Dr. Alessandro Cusano (University of California San Francisco 2008) joined us on July 1st, 2008. We are also happy to announce that Dr. Phillip Pirgousis (University of Adelaide, Australia) has been accepted as our third Microvascular Surgery Fellow for the academic year 2009-2010.

- Every year, the University of Florida College of Medicine recognizes outstanding teachers in their individual fields of expertise with the “Exemplary Teacher’s Award”. This prestigious recognition is based on the evaluations obtained from students and residents. This year, only 7 faculty members in the entire Department of Surgery were given this award, of whom, 5 were members of the Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. The awardees for 2008 College of Medicine Exemplary Teacher’s Award included: Dr. Barry Steinberg, Dr. Tirbod Fattahi, Dr. Rui Fernandes, Dr. Howard Schare and Dr. Luis Vega.

- For the 4th straight year, one of our residents will be a member of the Resident Organization of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (ROAAOMS). This year, Dr. Todd Reuter, will represent us as the faculty liaison at the annual meeting in Seattle.

A growing Division

For the 6th straight year, we had another overall increase (11%) in the number of surgical cases in the operating room. The increase stemmed from an up surge in the number of outpatient dento-alveolar and implant surgery as well as orthognathic, TMJ, oncology and reconstructive surgeries.

Growth was also experienced in the number of IV sedations and dental implants under local anesthesia.

We are looking forward for further growth; this will be facilitated with the incorporation of 3 new residents in this academic year, bringing our total number of residents to 13. Our projections show that by the academic year 2012-2013 our program will consist of 18 residents.
In the news…

Feb 2008 Dr. Steinberg served for the first time as a board examiner in the Cleft/Craniofacial Section for the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.

Feb 2008 Dr. Fernandes was appointed site visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Feb 2008 Dr. David Kirkpatrick (Alumni & part-time faculty) & his wife, Andrea, welcomed their second daughter, Laney Kirkpatrick.

Mar 2008 Dr. Fernandes was the keynote speaker at the 2008 Kuwait Dental Association Meeting.

Mar 2008 Dr. Eric Reitter (Alumni) received his Board Certification by the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.

Apr 2008 Dr. Fernandes became a reviewer for the journal of Head and Neck.

May 2008 Dr. Fattahi received his Board Certification by the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery.

May 2008 Dr. Vega became the Assistant Program Director of our Oral & Maxillofacial Residency Program.

June 2008 Dr. Todd Reuter (Resident) and his wife, Elena, welcomed their first son, Cole Todd Reuter.

June 2008 Dr. Fattahi became the second recipient of the Dr. Roger Hehn Outstanding Faculty in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Award.

CASE REPORT

Temporomandibular Joint Mass

This is a 79-year-old African American female who presented to our Division with 3-4 month history of painless swelling in the right TMJ area. She denied any history of trauma to the area, but had noticed that her “bite” was slightly off. She was healthy otherwise and was on no medications. Her panoramic x-ray and CT scan revealed a partially calcified mass involving the entire glenoid fossa, and surrounding the condylar head medially and laterally. Her blood work, including electrolytes was normal. Based on her history and symptoms, she was taken to the operating room for a definitive tissue biopsy. During surgery, a homogenous and firm mass was found covering the entire TMJ capsule, extending medially along the glenoid fossa. The mass was removed in sections and sent off to Pathology. The patient had an uneventful hospital course and was discharged the next day. The biopsy report was consistent with pseudogout of the right TMJ. The patient occlusion returned to normal and she was referred to our colleagues in Rheumatology for further medical treatment.

Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate deposition (CPDD) of the temporo-mandibular joint is rare. A Pub-Med Medline review revealed only 34 cases reported in the literature. CPDD is characterized by the presence of intra- and periarticular crystal deposits that are birefringent under polarized light and can mimic neoplastic or infectious processes. Symptoms range from slowly progressing arthritis to the acute onset of joint pain, stiffness and swelling. Management is primarily surgical, although medical management with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and colchicine for chronic symptoms and acute arthritic episodes has proven successful in some cases. Surgery consists of complete removal of the crystal deposits to avoid recurrence. ☐

In the literature…


Intraoperative pictures of the right TMJ mass

CT Scan and 3D Views showing right TMJ Mass
The new faces of our program

Every summer as the cycle of the graduating residents closes, dozens of new residents fill the halls and wards of hospitals around the country starting a new learning cycle. This year our residency program is proud to welcome three more top-notch residents: Dr. Kevin Brewer, from Baylor University, Dr. Jodi Pessoa from Howard University and Dr. Jacob Yetzer from University of the Pacific. All three are enrolled in the 6yr-MD track and they are expected to graduate in June 2014.

They will be under the tutelage of Dr. Juliana Dipasquale and Dr. Prashant Pandya who will be our new chief residents.

Dr. Brewer, Dr. Pessoa and Dr. Yetzer will spend the academic year 2008-2009 as OMS interns.