LSU Health
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Dentistry

LSU PERIODONTICS

LSU SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY DEPARTMENT OF PERIODONTICS July 2026

Third Year Perio Resident, Dr. Daeoo Lee wins Second Place Research Day Award.

Congratulations to our third-year resident, Dr. Daeoo Lee for his second place award for his research paper, "The Development and Validation of Orientation Device for Accurate Implant Placement: An in-vitro Study." This is the 6th year in a row an LSU Perio resident has achieved placement in one of the top two spots!

Left: Dr. Daeoo Lee

The Annual LSU Perio Review Course Poised to Reach Milestone Year.

LSU's 50th Annual Perio Review in New Orleans

In January 2027, the annual **LSU Perio Board Review Course will mark its' 50th Year** as it continues the mission of preparing five decades of periodontists for board certification and professional success. Attracting participants from across the country, the course provides an in-depth review of periodontal concepts, clinical decision-making, and exam preparation. What sets the LSU Perio Review apart is the strong and ongoing involvement of LSU Dental's alumni, many of whom return to share their expertise, clinical experience, and insights with current residents and participants. The Current faculty include three former Chaiman of The American Board of Periodontology. This culture of mentorship and professional collaboration underscores LSU School of Dentistry Department of Periodontics' commitment to community, continuity, and national leadership in periodontal education.

ABP

We would like to extend our congratulations to our newest Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology

Dr. Tam Vu

In This Issue

Keeping the Tradition Alive- Innovation and Excellence: 2026 LSU Perio "Show 'N Tell"

LSU Perio Alumni know that our annual **Show 'N Tell** has long been a foundational rite of passage. It is the premier stage where residents exhibit samples of their very best clinical work completed during their intensive three-year residency.

For our alumni who have not yet participated via Zoom, the program has evolved significantly over the years. We have transformed this tradition into a premier Continuing Education (CE) day, consistently featuring some of the most noteworthy names in our field. Our recent roster of distinguished guest speakers highlights this commitment to clinical excellence:

Above: Dr. John Tsourounakis

Dr. Purnima Kumar, Dr. George Tatakis, Dr. Henry Greenwell, Dr. Rodrigo Nieva, Dr. Mia Geisinger, Dr. Eswar Kandaswamy, Dr. Ehab Moussa, Dr. Roger Levine, and Dr. Pablo Urrutia

Highlights from the 2026 Program

On **Friday, May 29, 2026**, the LSUSD Department of Periodontics proudly hosted this year's annual program, bringing together residents, faculty, and alumni for another remarkable day of clinical learning and innovation.

We were thrilled to welcome home nationally recognized speaker **Dr. John M. Tsourounakis**. An LSUSD-trained periodontist, Dr. Tsourounakis currently maintains a thriving private practice in Winnipeg and serves as a clinical instructor at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Tsourounakis delivered an exceptional presentation centered on **outcome-driven implant planning and digital workflows for multi-implant and full-arch rehabilitation**. His lecture emphasized: Facially driven diagnostics, Reverse-engineered treatment planning, Precision-guided surgical execution to achieve predictable, long-term success.

Celebrating Our Residents

Above: Dr. Cyrus Mansouri

Following the keynote presentation, the afternoon session shifted focus to the core of the Show 'N Tell tradition: our residents. Attendees were treated to excellent, high-caliber case presentations from our graduating 3rd year periodontics residents & implant fellow: **Dr. Daeoo Lee, Dr. Cyrus Mansouri Dr. Veronica Xia** (Residents), **Dr. Emily Dalluge** (Implant fellow). (Additional photo on next page).

The depth of knowledge and surgical skill demonstrated by these presenters underscored the continued excellence of the LSUSD Periodontics program. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us next year at Show 'N Tell for another day of great CE, camaraderie, and cutting-edge periodontics!

Farewell to the Class of 2026

(on left- Dr. Jerry Evans, ; Dr. Veronica Xia, Dr. Daeoo Lee, Dr. Panos Dragonas & Dr. Cyrus Mansouri).

Dr. Veronica Xia– is heading back to the Charleston, South Carolina area, where she will join Sparacino Periodontics owned and operated by Dr. Frank Sparacino. If all works as planned, her goal is to eventually buy into his practice and take it over when he is ready for a transition.

Dr. Daeoo Lee- pictured holding his research award. Daeoo will headed to The Sacramento California area where he will join the Vasanthan Dental Group Inc. Daeoo said to me he will miss abstracting the extremely long Periodontology 2000 review articles, of which for some reason he unfortunately seemed to draw the most of any resident.

Dr. Cyrus Mansouri- will be remaining in SE Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast for a while. Cyrus will be joining two practices, St. Tammany Periodontics and Implants LLC and Gulf Coast Periodontics and Implants, LLC , both run by an LSU Perio alumnus Dr. Caesar Sweidan.

2026 Show ‘ N Tell Group Photo

The Advanced Education Programs in Periodontics and Prosthodontics work closely together, hand in hand on complex cases all the way from the initial consultation to case completion. During the afternoon session, these types of cases were highlighted.
Because of the camaraderie developed between the resident groups, the entire Department of Prosthodontics is invited each year to Show and Tell. Below, shown are some of these fine students, faculty and our keynote speaker, Dr. John Tsourounakis, from the morning session.

From left: Periodontics Department Chairman- Gerald Evans, Postgraduate Prosthodontics Program Director- Faye Mascarenhas, Perio Faculty- Steven Spindler, Postgraduate Periodontics Program Director- Panos Dragonas, Residents- Mahya Sabour, Alexia Cholakis, Nic Lobo, Keynote speaker- John Tourounakis, Residents- Ahmed Elghamrawi, Daeoo Lee, Ryan Higgins, Veronica Xia, Emily Dalluge, Cyrus Mansouri, Mohamed Aref, Luciana Kawashima, Zahra Azad, and Perio Faculty- Charles McCabe.

Visit GeauxPerio

Visit **www.Geaux-Perio.com**. Our website was developed with the needs of the busy periodontist in mind. Our **Journal Club** features abstracts from current articles of interest pertaining to our specialty and are presented and uploaded on a regular basis. Check it out. Full access is available to alumni donors.

Very High Success Rate of LSU Residents on ABP Exam since 2004. The LSU Program in Periodontics has a very good track record in candidates passing the ABP board exam on their first try! 90% graduating residents since 2004 chose to take the exam and have become diplomates of The ABP. We are very proud of this academic success !!

In Memoriam: Dr. Raymond A. Yukna, DMD, MS

A Legacy of Visionary Innovation and Excellence in Periodontics:

The global dental and periodontal communities are mourning the loss of Dr. Raymond A. Yukna, who passed away in June. A brilliant clinician, prolific researcher, and dedicated educator, Dr. Yukna leaves behind a legacy that permanently reshaped modern periodontal therapy. Best known as a pioneer in laser-assisted surgery and bone regeneration, his work successfully bridged the gap between conventional surgical methods and minimally invasive biological outcomes.

As a **Professor Emeritus at the Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Dentistry**, Dr. Yukna's academic and clinical footprint extended across several premier dental institutions, inspiring generations of residents, faculty, and dental practitioners worldwide.

A Distinguished Academic Journey

Over a career spanning several decades, Dr. Yukna held major faculty appointments at leading dental schools across the United States. His commitment to dental education was defined by a hands-on approach to leadership in graduate residency programs and advanced clinical research.

Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Dentistry

Dr. Yukna spent a defining chapter of his career at LSU in New Orleans, where he served twice as the **Director of Graduate Periodontics**. Under his leadership, the residency program achieved national prominence, balancing rigorous clinical training with cutting-edge academic exploration. In recognition of his enduring contributions to the institution, his excellence in teaching, and his mentorship of countless clinical residents, he was awarded the status of **Professor Emeritus**.

Ray and Charlotte Yukna

University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine

Moving west, Dr. Yukna continued his academic leadership as **Professor of Advanced Periodontal Therapies** and **Director of the Periodontic Residency Program** at the University of Colorado in Aurora. In this role, he served as a primary driver of clinical trials, introducing advanced technologies directly into the postgraduate curriculum and managing a robust clinical research pipeline.

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

Earlier in his career and through his extensive collaborative networks, Dr. Yukna held a faculty appointment within the **Department of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry** at the University of Pittsburgh. His time at Pitt during the 1990s coincided with a period of intense academic focus on dental biomaterials and synthetic bone grafts.

Foundations of Excellence

Dr. Yukna earned his DMD from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. He completed his specialized periodontal training at the National Naval Dental Center in Bethesda, Maryland, while simultaneously earning a Master of Science degree from George Washington University. He was a proud veteran and a Diplomate of both the American Board of Periodontology and the American Board of Oral Medicine.

Pioneering Contributions to Periodontics

Dr. Yukna was a rare academician whose research directly altered daily clinical practice. His contributions can be broadly categorized into two revolutionary domains: laser periodontics and synthetic bone grafting biomaterials.

The Dawn of Laser Periodontics & LANAP

Dr. Yukna was the **first research periodontist** to embrace, systematically study, and champion the **Laser-Assisted New Attachment Procedure (LANAP)**. Serving as the Project Director for research, he provided the definitive scientific evidence required to validate the protocol as a method to achieve periodontal regeneration to the broader scientific community.

Histologic Evidence: His landmark human block section studies—widely considered the highest tier of clinical evidence—demonstrated definitive, cementum-mediated true new tissue attachment and radiographic bone regeneration using a 1064-nm Nd:YAG laser (PerioLase MVP-7).

Clinical Efficacy: His clinical trials proved that LANAP could reduce probing depths and resolve some grade 2 furcation involvements without the surgical flaps, and sutures of traditional surgery. He later extended this work to dental implants through the development and advocacy of the **LAPIP** protocol for treating peri-implantitis.

2. Innovations in Synthetic Bone Grafts and Biomaterials

Before lasers dominated his research focus, Dr. Yukna focused on bone replacement grafts. His work in the 1980s and 1990s established predictability for treating complex intrabony defects.

Bioactive Glass and Ceramic Fillers: He published several studies demonstrating the efficacy of bioactive synthetic graft materials and ceramic fillers, showing that they led to improvements in radiographic defect fill and relative attachment level gains.

P-15 Peptide Matrix: Dr. Yukna led multi-center clinical evaluations on advanced regenerative matrices combining anorganic bovine-derived hydroxyapatite matrix with a cell-binding peptide (P-15).

Furcation Management: His comparative clinical trials on mandibular Class II facial furcations helped clinicians understand the specific handling and outcomes of bio-absorbable versus non-resorbable membranes both with and without synthetic fills.

Drs. Joe Lawrence and Ray Yukna

An Enduring Academic Legacy

Dr. Yukna authored more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and numerous book chapters. For years, he lectured both nationally and internationally. He served as an editor for many peer reviewed periodontal journals. He was an active, highly decorated member of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) and the Southwest Society of Periodontists (SWSP), earning multiple special citation awards for his contributions to the specialty.

To those who trained under him, Dr. Yukna was far more than an accomplished researcher; he was a sharp, generous, and dedicated mentor who challenged residents to think critically and base their treatments on sound biologic principles. His passing marks the end of an era, but his pioneering spirit lives on in the many of periodontists who utilize his techniques daily to save teeth and improve patient care.

AI was used for the collection of facts in this story

LSU Perio Faculty Abstracts Published in 2025-2026

Synergistic Roles of Fimbriae and Gingipain Genotypes in *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and Their Association With Periodontitis Severity. Kugaji M, Bhat K, Muddapur U, Kumar RS, Ray SK, **Kandaswamy E, Joshi V.** Int J Dent. 2026 Apr 29;2026:6236248. doi: 10.1155/ijod/6236248.

Objective: *Porphyromonas gingivalis* is a major periodontal pathogen for periodontitis, with virulence mediated by fimbriae and gingipains. Differences in virulence may influence disease severity. This study aimed to assess the association and co-occurrence of fimbriae and gingipain genotypes and their relationship with clinical severity in periodontitis.
Materials and methods: This secondary analysis included 120 subgingival plaque samples from patients with periodontitis. Fimbriae (*fimA* types I-V) and gingipain (*kgp*, *rgpA*) genotypes were identified using PCR and restriction enzyme digestion, and *P. gingivalis* load was quantified by real-time PCR. Associations between genotypes and clinical parameters (probing depth and clinical attachment loss) were evaluated using Spearman's correlation and chi-square tests. Binary logistic regression assessed the association between periodontal disease severity and the presence of a combined virulence genotype, reported as odds ratios (ORs).
Results: The *fimA* types II and III and gingipain genotypes *kgp-I* and *kgp-II* were significantly associated with deeper PD and greater CAL ($p < 0.05$). *fimA* type II was the most prevalent across all bacterial load percentiles, followed by type IV. *kgp-I* and *rgpA* type A were correlated with higher *P. gingivalis* counts. Significant positive correlations were observed between fimbriae and gingipain genotypes ($p < 0.05$). Patients with CAL ≥5 mm had significantly higher odds of harboring the combined virulence genotype than those with CAL <5 mm (OR = 3.56; 95% CI: 1.43-8.47; $p = 0.011$).
Conclusion: Specific fimbriae and gingipain genotypes co-occur and are linked to increased bacterial load suggesting synergistic roles in the pathogenicity of *P. gingivalis*. The findings support the hypothesis that these virulence factors act synergistically to influence disease severity.

Rapamycin's Role in Periodontal Health and Therapeutics: A Scoping Review. Joshi VM, Gururaj SB, Thumbigere-Math V, Kugaji MS, **Kandaswamy E.** JDR Clin Trans Res. 2026 Jul;11(3):357-367. doi: 10.1177/23800844251366967.

Introduction: Periodontitis is a chronic inflammatory disease that leads to progressive destruction of periodontal tissues and eventual tooth loss, significantly affecting the patient's quality of life. Dysregulated mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) signaling contributes to periodontitis pathogenesis by influencing inflammation, autophagy, senescence, and bone metabolism. Rapamycin, a well-established mTOR inhibitor with geroprotective properties, has emerged as a promising therapeutic candidate in mitigating periodontal inflammation and preserving alveolar bone.
Objective: This scoping review systematically synthesizes preclinical and clinical evidence on rapamycin's effects on periodontal structures and disease etiopathogenesis, evaluating its potential as a therapeutic intervention for periodontitis.
Methods: A systematic literature search was conducted in PubMed to identify studies evaluating rapamycin's effect on periodontal health. Eligible studies were characterized into in vitro, animal, and clinical studies in terms of study design and research focus.
Results: From 122 screened studies, 53 met inclusion criteria (18 in vitro, 21 in vivo, and 9 clinical). In vitro studies demonstrated that rapamycin enhances osteogenic differentiation, upregulates autophagy, suppresses inflammatory cytokines, and delays cellular senescence. Animal studies confirmed rapamycin's role in alveolar bone preservation, inhibition of biofilm formation, immune modulation, and periodontal inflammation attenuation. Clinical studies primarily focused on rapamycin's effects on gingival overgrowth in transplant recipients, with limited data on periodontitis outcomes. However, survey data from off-label rapamycin users reported improved periodontal health & reduced caries.
Conclusion: Rapamycin exerts a multifaceted role in periodontal health by regulating autophagy, osteogenesis, inflammation, microbial composition, and cellular senescence. Given the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of rapamycin for other conditions, well-designed clinical trials are needed to establish its efficacy, optimize dosing strategies, and ensure long-term safety for periodontal therapy.
Knowledge Transfer Statement: The findings highlighted in this scoping review can help researchers understand the potentially mechanistic pathways of rapamycin on periodontal tissues and guide future research on the herapeutic potential of rapamycin for the treatment of periodontitis.

Two cases of tooth resorption in patients receiving denosumab therapy. Chu EY, **Kandaswamy E, Joshi V**, Deeb JG, Ronderos M, Russo SP, Jahanmir G, Kram V, Boyce A, Somerman M, Thumbigere-Math V. J Am Dent Assoc. 2026 Mar doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2026.01.007.

Background: Multiple external cervical root resorption (MECRR) is a rare, aggressive form of root resorption affecting multiple permanent teeth at the cementoenamel junction. A possible association between denosumab (DMAb), a receptor activator of nuclear factor-κB ligand (RANKL)-inhibiting antiresorptive medication, and MECRR has been proposed, although evidence remains limited.
Case description: Two retrospective cases of MECRR were identified, including a 72-year-old woman receiving DMAb for osteoporosis and a 65-year-old man receiving high-dose DMAb for metastatic prostate cancer. (Continued next page)

In both cases, MECRR was first detected approximately 5 years after beginning DMAb therapy, without known predisposing factors.
Case description: Two retrospective cases of MECRR were identified, including a 72-year-old woman receiving DMAb for osteoporosis and a 65-year-old man receiving high-dose DMAb for metastatic prostate cancer. In both cases, MECRR was first detected approximately 5 years after beginning DMAb therapy, without known predisposing factors. Lesions progressed despite professional intervention and rapidly worsened after DMAb cessation. Histology revealed multinucleated clastic cells with external resorption of cementum and dentin. One hypothesis is that localized, RANKL-independent osteoclastogenesis may potentially contribute to MECRR during DMAb treatment, subsequently exacerbated by rebound osteoclast activity on drug withdrawal.
Practical implications: These cases illustrate a temporal association between DMAb therapy and MECRR but do not establish causality. Early recognition in patients receiving DMAb is important given the irreversible nature of MECRR. Interdisciplinary communication is important, and prospective and mechanistic studies are needed to clarify risk factors and develop preventive strategies

Resident Research Abstracts

Longitudinal Cytokine Dynamics During Palatal Wound Healing After Free Gingival Graft: A Comparative Analysis of Stellalife, Chlorhexidine and Control.
Veronica Xia, Amber Kreko, Eswar Kandaswamy, Panagiotis Dragonas, Vinayak Joshi
Louisiana State University School of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics, New Orleans, LA

Background: Free gingival grafting (FGG) generates a palatal donor site that heals by secondary intention, producing a dynamic inflammatory microenvironment. StellaLife is a botanical-based adjunctive rinse with proposed anti-inflammatory properties; however, its in vivo effects on cytokine expression remain unclear.
Objective: To characterize temporal cytokine dynamics during palatal wound healing and compare profiles among StellaLife (SL), chlorhexidine (CHX), and saline control.
Methods: Twenty-seven subjects undergoing FGG were randomized to SL, CHX, or saline. Wound exudate was collected at Days 0, 7, 14, 21, and 28; only Days 7–21 yielded quantifiable results. Ten cytokines (IL-8, IL-10, EGF, VEGF-A, MMP-8, IL-1β, TIMP-1, MPO, PDGF-BB, IL-17) were analyzed using Luminex MAGPIX.
Results: Three of ten cytokines were excluded due to being outside of detection limits. The remaining seven cytokines demonstrated significant reductions over time ($p < 0.01$), with peak levels at Day 7 and near resolution by Day 21. No significant intergroup differences were observed at any time point or in longitudinal change analyses ($p > 0.05$).
Conclusions: Palatal wound healing following FGG is characterized by a coordinated, time-dependent reduction in inflammatory mediators driven primarily by intrinsic biological processes rather than any of the tested adjunctive therapies.

Ridge Preservation Using Dense Polytetrafluoroethylene Membrane Alone Versus Dense PTFE Membrane with Particulate Bone Graft and Bone Graft with Collagen Dressing: A CBCT-Based Comparative Analysis of Linear and Volumetric Dimensional Changes
Cyrus J. Mansouri, Panagiotis Dragonas
Louisiana State University School of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics, New Orleans, LA

Purpose: This retrospective study evaluated linear and volumetric alveolar ridge changes following three alveolar ridge preservation (ARP) approaches—dense PTFE (dPTFE) membrane alone, dPTFE with particulate bone grafting, and bone grafting with collagen dressing—and assessed the modifying influence of buccal plate thickness on treatment outcomes.
Materials and Methods: Twenty□seven extraction sites from 20 patients were analyzed using pre□ and post□operative CBCT scans superimposed in Planmeca Romexis. Horizontal ridge width was measured at 1, 3, and 5 mm apical to the crest; vertical height and volumetric changes were also quantified. Sites were stratified by buccal plate thickness (<1 mm vs ≥1 mm). Statistical analyses included paired tests, ANOVA, two□way ANOVA for interaction effects, effect size calculations, and responder analysis (≤2 mm crestal loss).
Results: All groups exhibited post extraction dimensional reduction. dPTFE with bone grafting showed the smallest horizontal and vertical losses, while membrane only sites demonstrated the greatest reduction. The collagen dressing group produced intermediate outcomes. Although differences were not statistically significant, effect sizes were moderate to large in favor of grafted approaches. Buccal plate thickness strongly influenced outcomes in membrane only sites, with thin plates showing >3 mm greater crestal loss; this effect was largely mitigated in grafted groups. Responder analysis indicated that grafted sites were approximately three times more likely to achieve acceptable ridge preservation than membrane only sites.
Conclusion: dPTFE combined with bone grafting provided the most consistent and favorable ridge preservation, while grafting with collagen dressing offered partial benefit. Membrane only treatment was highly dependent on buccal plate thickness, with thin plates exhibiting substantial resorption. Bone grafting appears to enhance dimensional stability and reduce biologic vulnerability associated with thin buccal plates. Larger, adequately powered studies are needed to confirm these findings and refine clinical protocols.

LSU Perio Welcomes Incoming Class:
First Year Perio Residents

Dr. Jack Cooper

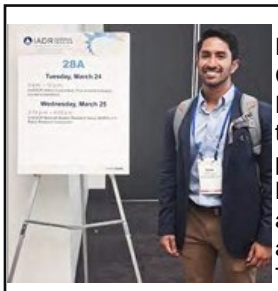
Dr. Ahmed Fawzy

Dr. Marcelo Galindo

Dr. John Cooper hails from Wilmington, North Carolina. He is a "double Tarheel", having attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for both his undergraduate studies, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and his dental education at the Adams School of Dentistry, earning his DDS. Jack chose LSU Perio after a fantastic interview experience where the welcoming faculty and residents stood out, and he was particularly drawn to the program's heavy emphasis on surgery and microsurgery. Post-residency, he plans to return home to North Carolina to practice privately and be near his family and the beach. When he isn't in the clinic, Jack is a serious athlete; he competes in triathlons and even completed his first Ironman while in dental school. He also loves to golf, play tennis, surf, catch a good movie, and hang out with friends. We will have to see if we can distract this avid Panthers, Hurricanes, and Tarheels fan with a bit of local Tigers and Saints loyalty while he enjoys our unbeatable New Orleans food and culture!

Dr. Ahmed Fawzy is from Cairo, Egypt. He attended Cairo University for both his undergraduate studies and his dental education, earning his Bachelors of Dental Surgery (BDS) from the Faculty of Dentistry. Having already started his periodontics training at Cairo University, he knew a U.S. residency program was his next big step and chose LSU Perio because of its incredible reputation as a strong clinical program—with our famous annual microsurgery course being a major selling point! Looking ahead, his ultimate dream is to split his time between private practice and academia as a part-time faculty member. When he isn't in the clinic, he is a massive sports fan who loves running, weightlifting, and playing or watching soccer. He is also a huge foodie who is excited to try out new cuisines, so he is definitely in the right place—be sure to send plenty of Louisiana-based restaurant recommendations his way as he settles into New Orleans life!

Dr. Marcelo Galindo hails from Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He earned his DDS from Fluminense Federal University (UFF) and went on to complete a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). After practicing for several years as an OMFS surgeon in Brazil, Marcelo decided to expand his expertise by pursuing formal training in periodontics and implant dentistry. He chose LSU Perio after a highly impressive interview process where he was drawn to the strong faculty, clinical environment, and supportive culture. Following his residency, Marcelo plans to enter private practice and remains open to academic involvement or a combination of both. In his spare time. He enjoys racket sports like tennis and table tennis, and back home in Brazil, he was an avid spearfisherman. He should be right at home spearfishing around the oil rigs in the Gulf waters south of Venice, LA. Marcelo is excited to join the LSU Perio family and contribute to the program, and we are equally thrilled to welcome him, his wife, and their young son as they make New Orleans their new home.



Fourth-year dental student **Chris Sansar Gupta earned first place** in the AADOCR NSRG 411 Rapid Research Competition for his presentation, "**Impact of Peri-implantitis on Adjacent Implants: A Cross-sectional Analysis."** Held March 25-28, 2026 in San Diego during the IADR/AADOCR/CADR General Session & Exhibition, the competition highlights predoctoral dental students' ability to communicate research to a non-specialist audience. Gupta's first-place finish represents a notable national achievement for LSUSD and our Department of Periodontics. **Dr. Eswar Kandaswamy,** LSUSD Associate Professor of Periodontics, served as mentor to the project. Contributing authors also from LSU are **Jeanne St. Germain, RDH, Dr. Vinayak Joshi**, Dr. Qingzhao Yu, Associate Dean for Research and Amjila Bam, Biostatistics PhD student, LSU Health New Orleans School of Public Health; and Dr. Vivek Thumbigere-Math, Assistant Professor of Periodontics, University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

We Greatly Appreciate Your Support

Our residency program has been fortunate to receive regular and substantial contributions from many alumni over the years. **The LSU School of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics**, deeply appreciates this steadfast support from all our donors.

This year, we want to extend a special thank you to **Dr. Virginia Angelico-Tatum, LSUSD Alumna, Class of 1979**, for her ongoing, generous support of **The Implant Restorative Fellowship Program.**

Your contributions directly impact our residents' education. Donations to our **LSU Health Foundation Perio Research and Education Fund** help cover costs like third-year students attending the AAP and the Southwest Society of Periodontists Annual Meetings, as well as funding their research. Contributions to the **Perio Support Fund** are unrestricted and allow the Department Chairman to address immediate departmental needs, such as technology or equipment replacement or repair. We are incredibly grateful to all our donors.

To contribute, please visit **The LSU Health Foundation Website** (click link) or, simply send a check by mail to Dr. Gerald Evans , LSU School of Dentistry, 1100 Florida Ave., Box 6, New Orleans LA 70119.

Graduation Dinner, June 18, 2026
Ralph's on the Park

Left: Dr. Daeoo Lee with parents.
Right: Dr Emily Daluge and Parents

Drs. Steve Spindler, Panos Dragonas, Veronica Xia, Daeoo Lee and Cyrus Mansouri

Dr. Cyrus Mansouri with family..

Dr. Veronica Xia with parents, and sister Jeanne and Andrew St Germain

Penne Cortez, Indy Anderson, Jasmine McDonald (D.A.), Dee Scott (D.A. supervisor)

Drs. Marcelo Silvares, John Kerns, Thomas Cothren, Malon Stratton, Pantki Rana, Pranay Lunavat

Liz Mayer, Penne Cortez, Jasmine McDonald, Dee Scott, Seema and Vinayak Joshi

Eswar Kandaswamy, Joy and Panos Dragonas, Joey Mollere, Nick Lobo, Ryan and Camryn Higgins, Mrs. Kandaswamy

Aymee and Steve Spindler, David Simmons, Chuck and Kathy McCabe, Mary and Jerry Evans

Akai Sullivan, Demetra Martin, Trixie Ferrand, Hugo Villa & Katherine Carmona, Mahya Sabour, Indy Anderson

Demetra Martin, Cyrus, Jasmine McDonald, Veronica, Daeoo, Emily, Indy Anderson

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