

# ROOT WORDS

*Promoting just a little bit of knowledge...and a whole lot of Healthy Smiles*

## *Mission Statement*

*To provide excellent endodontic care in a professional, friendly environment by a highly trained and motivated team!*

*We work to fulfill our mission by making patient care our #1 goal.*

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## *Can This Tooth be Saved?*

**T**he question of treatability is always at the forefront of treatment at Endodontic Associates. We are constantly looking at teeth that have a questionable prognosis and trying to make a determination that benefits both the patient and you, the dentist. Sometimes the call is a difficult one.

Three issues that cause the most concern are (1) **severe caries** (2) **periodontal disease** and (3) **retreatment of a failing endodontic case**.

Severe caries can lead to a difficult choice. The only situation that dooms the case is decay through the furcation. Not much can be done to help with this. Other severe decay situations can be dealt with by lengthening the crown and using posts, when appropriate. We are able to help in the majority of cases that do not involve furcal decay. If you are sending the case for treatment, then we assume that you want us to do everything we can to return the case for a crown and we will do our best to render treatment that will allow you to meet the restorative needs of the patient.

Periodontal disease creates a real uncertainty to the long term prognosis of cases. Sometimes, determining whether the case is perio-endo or endo-perio is not possible. We may request a periodontal evaluation prior to treatment if the concern is too great. Periodontists can do a great deal to preserve the dentition and consulting them prior to initiating endodontic treatment may prevent explaining the uncomfortable situation of a tooth failing periodontally that has just been treated endodontically. These cases are always the hardest to make a

definitive determination as to whether endodontic treatment will be of benefit for the long term survival of the tooth. With good communication and collaborative efforts, the right decision to do or not do treatment will be made.

The failing endodontic case opens a Pandora Box of decisions. Can this case be retreated, is the tooth cracked, is surgery the best plan or should the case be extracted? Endodontic surgery is documented as being very successful and should be given every consideration rather than just extracting and placing an implant. We are able to do some form of surgery on just about any tooth in the mouth. Choosing retreatment over surgery is based on a variety of factors and experience with different cases. Our goal in making these decisions is to maintain the patient's natural dentition and adhering to the belief that patients are better off with their natural teeth rather than anything artificial.

Whether the tooth can be saved is a complex decision based on a variety of factors. Hopefully, together, we can serve the needs of the patient and make good treatment decisions ■

*Dr. Les Hardy earned his D.D.S. degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and his masters degree in endodontics from George Washington University. He is a member of the Oklahoma County Dental Association (past president), the Oklahoma Association of Endodontists (past president), the American Association of Endodontists and the American Dental Association.*



Quality Patient Care in a Comfortable Environment

Lindsey joined our team late last summer after having completed Platt College's dental assisting program.

## Staff Vitals

### Lindsey Millican



**Lindsey Millican**  
Endodontic Assistant

"Patient care is my number one priority!" said Lindsey. "A beautiful atmosphere combined with fun doctors and a real sense of team work make this a great place to work." Lindsey is proud to have parents who are both dedicated teachers in Grove and a younger brother who is currently in college. Her father is also a successful head football coach. A few of her favorite things are spending time outdoors in the cool weather, listening to 60's and 70's rock, and trying new varieties of food. She also enjoys being challenged and learning new things each day ■

## Bravo

- Ben Ryan was born to **Dr. Laura Ballinger** and husband Glenn on Jan. 16, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Ben has three older siblings...Lauren, Dean and Elise. Congratulations on your recent addition!
- Congratulations to **Drs. Marc Arledge, Richard Safi** and their staff who recently moved in to a beautiful new building in Edmond.
- We would like to say "**Bravo**" to all of the dental professionals who have opened their hearts and practices to people in need and provided dental care at no charge! Way to make them smile!!

## Second Annual Root Canal Awareness Week

### Watch Your Mouth!

Traumatic dental injuries and knocked-out teeth are most often associated with football or hockey, but spring sports (such as soccer and baseball) can present just as big a risk. In fact, according to the National Institute of Dental Research, soccer players are eight times more likely to suffer dental injuries than football players, and nearly 20 percent of baseball players will experience a dental injury.

The American Association of Endodontists is urging young athletes to "watch their mouth" as part of its 2008 Root Canal Awareness Week Campaign. The initiative, which takes place March 30 through April 5, focuses on important dental education and is part of AAE's ongoing commitment to promoting the value of preserving natural teeth ■

## Congratulations...



**Melissa Crain**

Dr. Lori Anderson's Office  
Oklahoma City

to Melissa Crain for winning our Valentine's Day Basket in February's lottery. The basket was filled with all of the things you need for a great date night as well as two tickets to see Michael Buble in concert. Melissa took her dad, Dr. Terry Deason, to the concert where they had a great time!

Just a reminder...the names of lottery winners are posted shortly after each drawing on our website. Just go to [www.eaokc.com](http://www.eaokc.com). Click on the Professional Entrance button, then "Drawing Winners" to get the latest information. While you're there, feel free to explore other areas of the site to get patient forms, learn more about our doctors and staff and complete a survey.

Please share this fun and helpful information with your staff by passing on *ROOT WORDS!* If you would like additional copies of this newsletter, please call Gina at Endodontic Associates, (405) 748-6000 or (800) 522-9609.