I
itiated one year ago as a pilot proj-
et, the Greater Washington D.C. 
Academy of Osseointegration Study 
Club (GWDCOASC) is celebrating its 
success of becoming a model AO pro-
gram to facilitate local collaboration, 
education and networking. 
Held on April 20, the study club’s re-
cent one-year anniversary meeting in-
cluded a presentation by Steven Gutten-
berg, DDS, MD, an oral and maxillofacial 
surgeon. Guttenberg was the first cli-
nician to incorporate cone-beam CT radiol-
ogy in a private practice setting, accord-
ing to the AO. The GWDCOASC is the culmin-
ation of a persistent, three-year effort of the AO 
Membership Committee initiated un-
der chairman Dr. Jeffrey Ackerman, who 
serves as the study club’s president. Oth-
er instrumental key organizers of this 
effort include Dr. Clarence Lindquist, former AO and Osseointegration Foun-
dation (OF) president, and GWDCOASC 
vice president, and Dr. Douglas Domp-
kowski, vice-chair of the AO Membership 
Committee, who serves as treasurer. One of the major goals of GWDCOASC 
is to allow AO members to utilize the or-
ganization’s myriad online resources as 
part of a study club curriculum. These 
include webinars, e-posters, education 
modules, recordings from annual meet-
ings and articles from the International 
Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Sur-
geons (IJOMS). The study club model also takes advan-
tage of local AO experts to provide a cur-
riculum for success and acts as an added 
membership value. Given its extremely 
successful performance, it’s very likely 
this program will serve as a model to at-
tract AO membership and be expanded 
into other parts of the country and the 
world. “The greater Washington D.C. area is 
rich in resources and there are so many 
world-class local and visiting AO mem-
bers who can present to the study club,” 
Ackerman said. However, he continued, this level of suc-
cess may not as easily be achieved in ev-
ery locality. According to Dr. Mehrdad Fa-
vagahi, a local periodontist and secretary 
of this group, an online forum is proposed 
to be included as a core piece of the study 
club curriculum for all AO members and 

AAP announces first recipient of SUNSTAR grant 
By AAP Staff 

T
he American Academy of 
Periodontology (AAP) is 
pleased to announce that 
member Yvonne Kapila, 
DDS, PhD, is the first recipient of 
its new SUNSTAR Innovation Grant 
(SIG). The $30,000 research grant, a 
component of the AAP’s recent part-
ership with oral health and tech-
ology company SUNSTAR, provides 
support to an AAP member whose 
research endeavors show significant 
potential to advance the science and 
practice of periodontics. Kapila’s research project, “Natural 
Bacteriocins as Pre/Pro-Biotics to 
Promote Oral Health and Prevent 
Periodontal Disease,” was selected 
out of 15 grant submissions. This 
project aims to build a foundation 
for using pre- or pro-biotics contain-
ing nisin (commonly used as a food 
preservative) or nisin-secreting bac-
teria to promote the maintenance 
of a healthy oral microbiome and to 
prevent the formation of pathogenic 
biomats associated with periodontal 
disease. “The SUNSTAR Innovation Grant 
will allow our team of clinicians 
and scientists to explore nisin’s ef-
tacts on oral biofilm composition us-
ing both in vitro and in vivo model 
systems. Nisin has a long history of 
safety and broad range of biomedi-
cal applications, and it could add 
value in our understanding of peri-
odontal health and periodontal dis-
ease prevention,” said Kapila, profes-
sor and vice chair of the University 
of California, San Francisco, division 
of periodontology. “I am so pleased 
and honored that this important 
project was chosen by the AAP and 
SUNSTAR to receive additional fund-
ing.” 

Greater Washington group commemorates first year of successful programming 
By AO Staff 

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first year of successful programming 
By AO Staff 

Dr. Steven Guttenberg, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, presents at the Greater Washington D.C. Academy of Osseointegration Study Club’s anniversary meeting. Photo/Provided by the AO 

Dr. Yvonne Kapila 

See MILESTONE, page B3 

See GRANT, page B2
As part of the Innovation Grant program, SUNSTAR has committed to awarding six research grants to select AAP members over a three-year period beginning in 2017. The AAP’s Research Submissions Committee examines all abstracts against criteria established by SUNSTAR and the academy. “The SUNSTAR Innovation Grant not only provides generous support to innovative studies, but it also extends the reach of the academy’s scientific agenda,” said Terrence J. Griffin, DMD, president of the AAP. “By cultivating the clinical research of our members, the grant, in turn, provides avenues for enhancing overall patient health and wellbeing.”

SUNSTAR fully supports Kapila’s selection as the grant’s inaugural winner. “SUNSTAR and the AAP share a common interest in innovative treatments and research that serve to alleviate the high burden of periodontitis in the U.S.,” said Aaron Pfarrer, senior director, professional relations. “We are confident that Dr. Kapila’s study will lay the groundwork for novel methods of periodontal disease prevention. We look forward to many important updates on this groundbreaking study.”

Kapila will present the results of her study at a future AAP Annual Meeting. The academy encourages members who are actively conducting scientific research in a clinical setting to submit research abstracts and proposals for consideration of future grant awards. Applications will be accepted in the fall. For more information on the SUNSTAR Innovation Grant, contact Scientific Affairs Manager Stephanie Heffner at stephanie@perio.org.

**About the AAP**

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) represents more than 8,000 periodontists, specialists in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory diseases affecting the gums and supporting structures of the teeth, and in the placement of dental implants. Periodontics is one of the nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association. Learn more at perio.org.
AAID selects new executive director

By AAID Staff

The board of trustees of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry unanimously selected Cheryl Parker, CAE, to be the new executive director of the academy effective May 1.

Parker has a very strong background in the dental world, having most recently served for more than 10 years as director, academics, regulatory affairs and advocacy for the American Academy of Periodontology. She previously worked for nearly seven years for the American Dental Association. She was manager of the Tripartite Grassroots Membership Initiative and manager of the Allied Dental Program Reviews/Dental Laboratory Technology Education (CODA). She has also earned the certified association executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives.

“IAm excited to become executive director of an organization that I have admired for years,” Parker said. “We will continue to offer a variety of benefits and services that assist members in providing high-quality patient care and tools to enhance practice management.”

Dr. Shankar Iyer, president of the AAID, speaking on behalf the leadership of the academy said “by almost every measure, the AAID is the most successful organization in implant dentistry. We are very lucky that Cheryl was available at the one time we decided to seek new leadership.”

A graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Parker is currently pursuing a master of science in public services at DePaul University. When weather permits, she enjoys biking along the lakefront bike path. In her spare time, she is researching her family tree. She has discovered that one great-grandmother was a Civil War nurse and her great-grandfather, a member of the Union Army, was wounded in the battle of Antietam. “I’m trying to confirm my suspicion that they met while my grandfather was recuperating from his wound,” Parker said.