

## Recognizing Our Faculty

At its annual meeting in March, the Louisiana Dental Hygienists' Association (LDHA) presented **Suzanne Farrar, RDH, MSHCM**, director of clinical staff and patient services, with the Outstanding Dental Hygienist's Award for 2016-2017. The award is presented for excellence in service and outstanding contributions to the art and science of dental hygiene and to the LDHA. Ms. Farrar served as interim director of the LSUSD Dental Hygiene Program from July 2016 until Jane Walsh, RDH, JD, was able to join the school. Ms. Farrar has also recently been reappointed by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards to the Fluoridation Advisory Board.

In January Ms. Farrar arranged for Betty Kabel, president of the American Dental Hygiene Association to visit LSUSD. Ms. Kabel spoke to students in both dental hygiene classes and met with the dental hygiene faculty. She manages a



dental outreach program in Florida for a federally-qualified health center where she developed and implemented a school-based program that provides preventive services and dental outreach to elementary school children. She has been honored for her effort to improve oral and overall health, including the FDHA Distinguished Service Award in 2013. Ms. Kabel spoke to the hygiene students on the role of the national organization in helping dental hygienists expand their professional opportunities.

**Mairi Noverr, PhD**, professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, has been invited to serve as chairperson of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Center for Scientific Review Pathogenic Eukaryotes Study Section for a two-year term beginning this July. Members of NIH study sections are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline. Dr. Noverr's participation as chairperson of the review committee will

assure the quality of the NIH peer review process.

Dr. Noverr received her PhD in microbiology and immunology from the University of Michigan in 2002. In 2009 she came to LSUSD from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit.

Originally a member of the LSUSD faculty in the Department of Oral and Craniofacial Biology, she joined the Department of Prosthodontics in 2012. She has been the recipient of several NIH grants, the most recent of which is a five-year RO1 grant for \$1.7 million for the study of biofilms. She is extensively involved in the academic microbiology and immunology community as grant and journal reviewer, invited lecturer, and journal article author.

**Toula Palaiologou, DDS, MS**, director of advanced education in periodontics, has been elected vice-chair of the Postdoctoral Directors Committee of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP). The committee is comprised of directors of all U.S. and Canadian periodontics advanced education programs. Dr. Palaiologou will serve as vice-chair until September 2018, when she will become chair for two years.

Dr. Palaiologou received her DDS in 1995 from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Dentistry, and her certificate in periodontics and MS from LSUSD in 2000. She then participated in private practice limited to periodontics and implants in Greece, returning to LSUSD in 2007 to join the periodontics

faculty. In 2009 she became director of the periodontics advanced education program. She has been involved in numerous research projects, with six grant awards and twenty published research articles. In 2013 she received the AAP Outstanding Educator Award for Teaching and Mentoring.

