

NEWS

ROBERT G. KEIM, DDS, EDD, PHD

Two new specialty-training programs will graduate an additional 30 orthodontists per year by 2007.

In January, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center's School of Dentistry announced plans to complete a new building that will eventually house a specialty program in orthodontics, in addition to the dental school, at the new UCHSC Fitzsimons campus in Aurora. According to Dr. Howard Landesman, Dean of the School of Dentistry, the building will be called the Lazzara Center for Oral-Facial Health, after Gasper Lazzara, founder and managing partner of the Orthodontic Education Company of Jacksonville, Florida. OEC made the new program possible through a \$3 million donation and has committed an additional \$92.7 million over the 30-year term of the agreement, in a unique long-term business partnership between the company and the university. The two-year orthodontic specialty-training program will open in 2004.

OEC has a similar agreement with Jacksonville University. The Florida school plans to admit its first class in September, although Dr. Joseph Pelle, Chairman of the new department, said the program might commence sooner if construction of its new building is completed ahead of schedule. Application for full accreditation was made to the ADA's Council on Dental Accreditation on Nov. 1, 2002, and preliminary provisional accreditation, with some stipulations, was granted on Jan. 31, 2003.

Jacksonville will admit 14 students per year, 12 of whom will receive full scholarships from OEC covering tuition, books, and fees, plus a living stipend. The two non-scholarship students the scholarship students will have a post-graduation contract to practice at a location in the United States, to be approved by the sponsored resident prior to admission. Dr. Pelle stated that these commitments would be with private retiring orthodontists as well as with management-service companies. According to Dr. Pelle and to Mr. Marc Fraga of OEC, no affiliation exists between OEC and Orthodontic Centers of America, which was also founded by Dr. Lazzara. Dr. Pelle also said the assignments for scholarship students are "currently not designated to OCA-affiliated practices". The Colorado program will accept 16 students per year, 12 of whom will be scholarship students with post-graduation commitments similar to those of the Jacksonville residents.

Each of the programs will be housed in a new, high-tech facility with distance-learning technologies. Didactic courses may be web-based and thus could be utilized by students from both the Colorado and Florida campuses. At present, the Florida program has hired six full-time faculty members, including Dr. Pelle, formerly Interim Chair at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of West Virginia; Dr. Laurance Jerrold, AJO Editor of Litigation, Legislation, and Ethics, as Program Director; Dr. John Dempsey of the University of West Virginia; Dr. J.P. Pontier of the University of Pittsburgh; and Dr. Joaquin Zagarra of Nova Southeastern University. The sixth wishes to remain anonymous at this time. According to Dr. Pelle, "My goal is to see to it that are all well educated and that this is the best orthodontic training program in the world." •

