

Improving the oral health of infants, children, adolescents
and persons with special health care needs.



IOWA | DENTISTRY

Pediatric

ISSUE 7 - JUNE 2021



dentistry

HEY! WHERE'S MY ALUMNI LETTER?

COVID-19 was a major disruption in 2020, including the cancelation of last years AAPD annual meeting in Tennessee. Typically, we send out an alumni letter in April with LOTS and LOTS of photos of the alumni reception included, but this year we are forgoing the traditional letter and replacing it with this special June issue of our department newsletter. We hope you will enjoy catching up.



DEPARTMENT CHAIR UPDATE

An Important Conversation Suicide Awareness

Dear Pediatric Dentistry Family,

Tragically, on June 20, 2020, we lost our dear friend and colleague Jenifer Wolfe by suicide. She was only 45 years of age. Jen obtained a certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from the University of Iowa in 2005. The same year, Dr. Jen,

along with the love of her life and husband, Dr. Pat Wolfe, opened their own dental practice in Altoona, Iowa. Jen and Pat raised five beautiful children together: Reed, Drew, Alea, Kate, and Jack.

Jen had so many beautiful attributes that it is simply impossible to list them all. She was a positive, kind, warm and giving human being with the most contagious smile and extraordinary energy. Jen loved her family, friends and patients. She was a devoted wife, mother, friend and pediatric dentist. Our hearts are broken and we will miss her terribly.

Our department, family, and friends would like to honor Dr. Jen's life through the Jenifer (Dr. Jen) Wolfe Memorial Funding Campaign. The main goal of our campaign will be to sponsor Suicide Prevention and Awareness activities designed to reach University of Iowa COD students, faculty, staff, alumni, as well as health care providers throughout the state and hopefully the nation. This summer, we will be initiating a global campaign called "Gold Rush" that will serve as a springboard to start an endowment funding named after Dr. Jen as a perpetual gift.

In order to save lives and be a support to those in need, we need to be ready to break the stigma that surrounds suicide and mental health. Candid conversations and suicide awareness and prevention initiatives

are imperative. I am sure many of you, like me, have either lost a loved one by suicide or know of someone who struggles with the loss of a loved one in such a tragic way. Not only are we committed to the education of our students and the dental care of our patients, but very importantly, we are also committed to the health of our colleagues, friends, and family. Together we can make a difference, be of support to each other, and SAVE LIVES. This is what our Pediatric Dentistry Family is all about and this is who we are!

Please stay tuned for more information to come about our Gold Rush Funding Campaign. On page six of this newsletter, please find a collection of photos in loving memory of our beloved Jen.

With love, Karin Weber-Gasparoni.



FACULTY FEATURE

Cathy Skotowski 2020 Dental Educator of the Year

The University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association honored Pediatric Dentistry's Cathy Skotowski with the prestigious honor last Fall, and she will be recognized at the Alumni Reunion reception September 17, 2021.

With over thirty years of teaching experience, Ms. Skotowski has made a lasting impact on the entire landscape of preventive care in the state of Iowa. Details here:

<https://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/alumni-events-2020-educator>

RESIDENT RESEARCH

Graduating Residents Share their Work

Dr. Kelly Binding

“Changing Attitudes and Use of Protective Stabilization with New Pediatric Dentists and Residents”

Purpose: To determine the attitudes of new pediatric dentists towards protective stabilization devices.

Objective: To assess how new pediatric dentists are utilizing behavior management techniques

Mentors: Dr. Kecia Leary, Dr. Amy Lesch

Co-investigator: Carissa Cornick

Dr. Leah Barshinger

“Factors Associated with ECC in WIC-Enrolled Children Aged 12–36 Months”

Purpose: To evaluate risk factors associated with non-cavitated and/or cavitated lesions among children aged 12-36 months who were enrolled in the University of Iowa’s Infant Oral Health Program located at the Johnson County WIC clinic

Objective: To identify factors, that within a population known to be at higher risk, may lead to an increased caries experience.

Mentors: Dr. Fang Qian, Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni

Co-investigators: Dr. John Warren, Dr. Tad Mabry

Dr. Beth Pfohl

“COVID-19 and its Effect on Iowa Dental Practices: A Survey”

Purpose: Investigate and assess what dentists in Iowa are doing to reopen in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic

Objectives:

- Assess the demographics of the dentists that responded to the survey
- Assess factors related to Iowa dentists’ consideration on selling or closing their dental practice due to the COVID-19
- Assess factors that influenced the number of Medicaid patients seen due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Mentors: Dr. Pollyanne Iben, Dr. Matthew Geneser

Co-investigator: Dr. Fang Qian

Dr. Ada Reyes

“Childhood Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome is associated with oral dysbiosis”

Purpose: The prevalence and magnitude of childhood Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) is increasing dramatically and worsens with increase in obesity. Emerging evidence shows the adverse effects of MetS on gingival and periodontal health. However, the mechanisms behind these associations are unknown. Hence, we investigated the subgingival microbiome and the associated inflammatory milieu in pediatric MetS patients.

Mentors: Dr. Sukirth Ganesan and Dr. Vanessa Curtis.

Co-investigators: Ahmed Sidahmed, Muna Hakim, BDS, Sydney Woods, BA, Ashutosh Mangalam, MS PhD, Shailesh Shahi, MS PhD, Natayla Guseva, PhD, Lauren Kanner, MD

MORE FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Deborah Dawson Retired

Dr. Deborah V. Dawson retired in October 2020 from the College of Dentistry after 29 years of service. Her many achievements and expertise made her an important member of the Pediatric Dentistry, Iowa Institute for Oral Health Research, Department of Biostatistics, and Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs in Genetics and Informatics teams.



Aside from Dr. Dawson’s important professional contributions, she offered support to the department in general by being a warm presence at many of our celebrations and events. Since retiring, Dr. Dawson said she is enjoying her hobbies which include beadwork and bird-watching, and she looks forward to relocating to New Mexico later this year.

Dr. Kecia Leary

Congratulations to Dr. Kecia Leary on her promotion to Clinical Professor! Dr. Leary joined the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Department of Pediatric Dentistry in 2015, and is the Graduate Program Director for the department.



The Expanded Function Dental Assisting Course 2021 was conducted in the Simulation Clinic at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. 24 participants took the 140-hour continuing education course over a two month span this winter. It was the fourth year of the course and had the largest number of participants yet. Every full time faculty in the department of Pediatric Dentistry helped out as well as faculty from the Departments of Operative Dentistry and Prosthodontics.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY ALUMNI OPEN PRACTICES in 2020



Dr. Diana Pelzer (2016)
The Nest Pediatric Dentistry



COVID didn't stop her from spreading her wings

When did you open?

The Nest Pediatric Dentistry opened in June 2020 in Waukee, Ia.

What was it like opening a practice during COVID?

It has been very challenging to start from scratch during this time, but I'm already glad that I took the leap and opened my own office. We have doubled our staff in the last month to accommodate the quick growth of the practice and patients are loving our bright, beautiful office and friendly team!

Shout-out to IOWA

My training at Iowa taught me how to care for challenging patients and how to be prepared for anything! I'm proud to be a Hawkeye and am grateful for the mentorship and guidance that I continue to receive as a graduate of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

<https://www.thenestdsm.com>



Dr. Casey Goetz (2019)

Cuivre Creek Pediatric Dentistry

Personal passion fuels rural-themed office

When did you open?

October of 2020, I worked on building out the office during COVID. I hired three assistants and constructed the office from scratch. My office is 2800 sq. Ft with seven ops.

How did you choose your practice home?

Northeast Missouri didn't have a pediatric dentist. It's a great location because I can drive into St Louis to catch a sports game, or I can drive into farm country and go hunting. Plus we are really close to family in the area. There's been a need here for a long time, I've been busy from day one. The kids love the farm-themed office. It's pronounced like "quiver" after a local River that runs through the county.

Shout-out to IOWA

The skills I picked up from my time at Iowa have really helped me be successful. I have a really high caries rate in my population and I often have to think outside the box. I'm able to offer a variety of different treatment modalities to fit my patients needs, including everything from ART/hall crowns all the way up to in-office general anesthesia. I'm averaging 120 new patients per month, so I have to hustle and be really efficient with my time to keep up with things.

<https://www.troypediatricdentist.com>



THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY!

Two of our residents exchanged vows on the very same weekend. Anna Augustine and Drew teDuits each married the love of their lives on October 3, 2020.



EVEN MORE REASONS!

HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION GRANT (HRSA)

In 2020 the University of Iowa College of Dentistry was awarded a \$2.7 million grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant is part of Title VII funding that is routinely requested by AAPD during its advocacy efforts. The point of this grant is to offer 3-year combined programs in both 1) Geriatric and Special Needs Dentistry and Dental Public Health and 2) Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health. Students in these combined programs will receive a certificate in their respective clinical discipline and a Master of Science (MS) degree in Dental Public Health (DPH). This HRSA grant will also support a small number of trainees in the ongoing 2-year DPH MS program (without combination with Geriatric and Special Needs Dentistry or Pediatric Dentistry).



Although the first year of this multi-year grant was for program development we are excited that Dr. Sofia Iribarren took up the challenge to be a part of this program in 2020. Along with her pediatric clinical and didactic curriculum she has been completing coursework in Dental Public Health and working on her Master's Thesis regarding the use of Teledentistry in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Iowa. This program is

part of a multi-disciplinary team at the College of Dentistry and includes the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and the Geriatric and Special Needs Clinic.

This program is continuing our Department's long tradition of training not only excellent clinical pediatric dentists, but leaders in Dental Public Health.

WELCOME NEW DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Dental assistants are an integral part of the successful operation of any dentist's office, but especially so here in the UI Pedo clinic. Not only are they proficient at what they do, but they also serve as role models for numerous dental students who get to observe the complementary dentist/assistant relationship in action.

The assistants have done a nice job throughout the pandemic in helping to establish clinic protocols and practices to best support the clinic and patients as well as welcoming three new assistants to our department and helping them to learn their roles. They have been extremely flexible throughout this stressful situation.

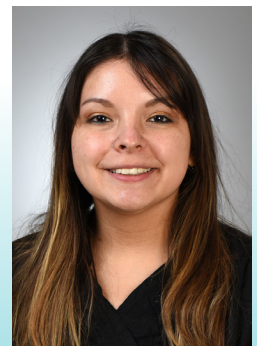
-Mary Akers, Dental Assistant Supervisor



Sarah Noel
Joined October 2020
From Iowa City, Ia.
Fun Fact: Sarah's kids keep her busy with baseball & gymnastics.



Sarah Sand
Joined November 2020
From Waterloo, Ia.
Fun Fact: Sarah has 3-year-old black lab named Kane.



Rebeca Carson
Joined January 2021
From Marshalltown, Ia.
Fun Fact: Rebeca is a 200hr Yoga Instructor.

VACCINATED!



Dr. Polly Iben, Cathy Skotowski, and Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni celebrate receiving the long-awaited coronavirus vaccine. All college faculty, staff, and students are eligible to receive one.

Catch up with Alumni!



Dr. Craig Hollander (1991) visit.
Pictured with Cathy Skotowski.



Dr. Sean Vostatek (2009) visited the
UI College of Dentistry in March 2021.
Pictured above: Dr. Sean and wife Jenny,
Dr. Kanellis, and sons Colby & Isaac.
Left: Vostatek family with Dr. Karin
Weber-Gasparoni and Dr. David Johnsen.



"Tall Girls" (2017/18) Reunite

UI Pediatric Dentistry adjuncts Dr. Diehl and Dr. Hooegeveen reunite with fellow classmate and UI faculty Dr. Amy Lesch.

BEING AN ADJUNCT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK

Dr. Kaitlin Hooegeveen (2018)

Driving 10 hours roundtrip from Sioux City, Iowa, is a tall order, but one that brings great satisfaction according to Dr. Kaitlin Hooegeveen, current UI Pediatric Dentistry adjunct.

I teach because I feel like The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and specifically the pediatric department has given me so much that it is my way to give back. If it would not have been for my D3 rotation in the pediatric department, I would have NEVER considered pediatric dentistry. It quite literally changed my life!

I teach because I get to collaborate with professors that I consider lifelong mentors and friends. I am still learning from them! I hope the students and residents realize the privilege they have to learn from the very best and wisest pediatric dentists in the nation.

I teach because I get to see my co-residents (pictured), who will forever be my best friends. We talk almost daily, but there is nothing better than actually getting to sit down for dinner with them and catch up on life.

Iowa City will forever have part of my heart — the restaurants, the activities, the health facilities, and of course cheering on the Hawkeyes. Go Hawks!

-Kaitlin



DR. JESSICA MEESKE (1999) and DR. PAUL CASAMASSIMO (1976)

University of Iowa Pediatric Dentistry alumni **Dr. Jessica Meeske** and **Dr. Paul Casamassimo** were featured in a 2020 ADA article addressing the OR access “crisis” that is affecting children with severe dental disease. Full article here: <https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/august/pediatric-dentists-sound-alarm-about-being-denied-or-access>

(Oct. 2020) The Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, chaired by Iowa Pediatric Dentistry alumna **Jessica Meeske, D.D.S.**, submitted resolution 25H-2020 to the ADA House of Delegates which passed in October 2020. Full ADANews article here: <https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/october/association-advocates-for-medicare-provider-audit-guidelines>

“My education at Iowa is the reason I can’t stop fighting for these issues!”

Dr. Meeske

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 15, 2021

Arthur Nowak Visiting Professorship CE

“Pediatric Dentistry Update — Clinical Guidelines and Literature Review”

Special guests:

Dr. Steve Adair & Dr. Rebecca Slayton

OCTOBER 16, 2021

Alumni Tailgate

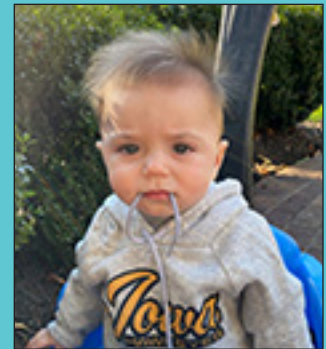
OH SO CUTE! • OH SO CUTE! • OH SO CUTE!



Genevieve Hechler
(10/23/2020)
parents:
Elizabeth (2019) and Paul



Etta Ann Schmidt
(10/2/2020)
parents: Brea (2009) and Nate



Archer Goodman
grandson of Scott Goodman
(1983). “Excited the Hawkeyes
crushed Penn State! Once a
Hawkeye, always a Hawkeye!”



We Want to Hear From You!

Don’t miss out on invitations and important department news from the University of Iowa Pedo department. Email our office (trudi-westfall@uiowa.edu or jeanna-holmes@uiowa.edu) with your most up-to-date contact information.

Also, SHARE what is happening at home or in your practice so that we can update all of our alumni and friends. WE LOVE PHOTOS! If you want to send us your photos, be sure to give us permission to publish them in the newsletter.

In memoriam

Jenifer Dawn Wolfe

Dr. Michelle Cook for the Class of 2001"

"Jenifer had a contagious smile with a gentle heart and compassionate soul that made everyone around her feel loved and accepted. Her tender and patient spirit shined through her big blue eyes and helped to put people at ease. Her generous, giving nature often led her searching for opportunities to make things better, but her humble character wanted no attention. She was incredibly thoughtful with a beautiful heart ready and willing to help and support others.

The most important thing in the world to Jenifer was her family. She loved them fiercely and they brought her such incredible joy. She cherished time spent with her family and friends and her enthusiasm and adventurous spirit created precious memories for so many. Jenifer reminded us to be present in the moment and to appreciate the simple blessings found in every day.

Jenifer loved the sunset for its warmth, simplicity, beauty, and uniqueness. It exemplified her well. Every day is a precious gift and the sunset is a reminder to honor this sacred life, to appreciate its warmth, and to cherish the ones we love as another day closes. At the end of the day, you would find Jen looking west and enjoying the sunset. Jenifer's life was well-lived and at the sunset of her life she reminds us that "Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about, so be kind, always."

[Obituary here](#)

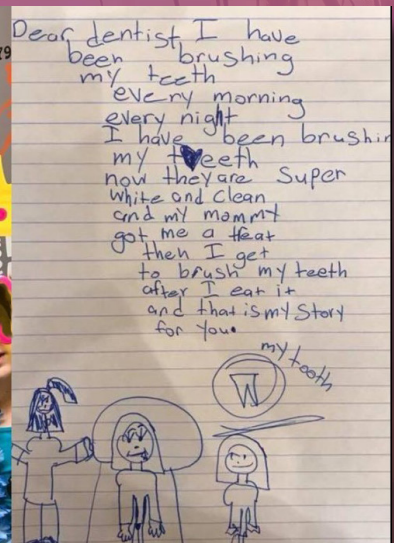




Photo courtesy of Ticia Shelton



Amanda Spitz & Liliana Lucas on behalf of the Pediatric Residency Class of 2005

When we think of Jen we remember an incredible mom, pediatric dentist, friend, and human. Kind, compassionate, honest, humble, hardworking, and full of grace are just a few words to describe her. We are blessed to have had the privilege to call Jen our friend. Our friendships remained close throughout and for the years past our pediatric dental residencies sharing life experiences such as marriages, motherhood, and building our businesses. Even though we lived in different states we made it a point to see each other often. Jen was a ray of sunshine, offered encouragement, and was often our calm voice of reason. She was admired for her seemingly ability to “juggle it all.” Jen was always reminding us that life was about enjoying the little things and that there is so much to be grateful for. She was a friend who was always there when you needed her to listen or to throw on her boots and join you in some dancing!



Jen had many loves, but her biggest, by far, was her family and the adventures they shared. She was an incredibly proud mother to all five of her children, and she would light up when she talked about each one of them. They were her primary source of joy, and she wanted nothing more than to be a great mom for them.



Professionally, Jen was an exceptional pediatric dentist and leader for her team. Many of Jen’s team members had been with her for over 10 years! Jen was passionate about our profession, dedicated to keeping up with new advancements, and loved to continually learn. She looked forward to continuing education, and she would sit through every minute of it (even if we tried to peer pressure her not to). Jen was compassionate and committed to her patients. She went above and beyond for them every day providing the best care possible. She would research and reach out to find answers for those patients who had anything that needed attention outside of the “norm.” Her patients and their families adored Jen as much as she did them.

To our dearest Jen: “Your life was a blessing. Your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.”



Springtime
at the
College