

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

Ms. Cathy Skotowski, RDH, MS

In recognition of Children's Dental Health Month, the dental student groups were very busy participating in community outreach activities. Free dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications were offered to children attending the Iowa Children's Museum for family free nights on January 29 and February 26 as part of the "Give Kids a Smile" program. After receiving signed permission consents from accompanying parents, children received a free dental screening, oral hygiene instructions and a fluoride varnish application. Packets containing free toothbrushes, toothpaste and educational materials were provided for each child. Notes summarizing the results of the dental screenings and information on resources and programs offering financial assistance for follow-up treatment were provided. The dental students have also been busy visiting local preschools and daycare centers to deliver dental health presentations.

On February 1 and 2 Drs. Raquel Jham, Cody Johnson, and Chris Myers (residents), Dr. Richard Burke (associate professor) and Dr. Todd Hoepfner (DDS 99' pediatric dentistry certificate 01') traveled to Forest City, IA. The team provided on-site dental care to 32 special health care needs adults as part of a 13-year-old program with our department and Krysilis, Inc. The opportunity continues to offer our residents a great learning experience with physically challenging special needs patients and we are extremely grateful for Drs. Burke and Hoepfner's leadership with this program.

Faculty members Drs. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Tad Mabry and Ms. Cathy Skotowski participated in the College of Dentistry's local research day (57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research) held February 9. Dr. Tad Mabry was

a poster judge, Dr. Weber-Gasparoni was a judge for the Max Smith Pre-Doctoral oral competition and Ms. Cathy Skotowski served as moderator for the Max Smith Post-Doctoral oral presentations.

Dr. Raquel Jham (second year resident) has been chosen as a finalist for the Graduate Student Research Award (GSRA), which is financially supported by Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children. The Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Committee on Scientific Affairs selects eight finalists who will present their research at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists (AAPD). Each finalist receives a complimentary registration for the meeting, reimbursement for travel expenses, as well as a cash award and plaque. A matching cash award is given to each finalist's training program. The GSRA finalists will be judged on presentation and research and the winner will receive the Ralph E. McDonald Award during the upcoming 63rd Annual Session of the AAPD. Dr. Jham's faculty mentor is Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni. We extend our congratulations to Dr. Jham and wish her the best of luck in this finalist competition!

Dr. Rebecca Slayton (DEO) was recently elected to participate in the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute. The ADEA Leadership Institute is a year-long program that develops the nation's most promising individuals at academic dental institutions to become future leaders in dental and higher education. Current faculty who have previously participated in the ADEA Leadership Institute include Dr. Galen Schneider, DEO of the Department of Prosthodontics (2010); Dr. David Holmes, DEO of the Department of Family Dentistry (2007); Dr. Clark Stanford, associate dean for research (2006); Dr. Georgia Johnson, DEO of the Department of Periodontics (2005 and 1999); Dr. Michael Kanellis, associate dean for patient care (2000); and Dr. Jed Hand, executive associate dean (1998).

Dr. Slayton presided on a panel at the ADEA annual conference on February 26<sup>th</sup>. In 2008 the American Academy of Pediatrics commissioned a project to assess progress in children's oral health and access to care since 2000. Advisors from the original Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and leading oral health experts from around the country developed background papers for *A National Summit on Children's Oral Health* which were published in *Academic Pediatrics* (Nov-Dec 2009). The panel presented key findings of these papers and discussed the role of dental education in responding to children's oral health needs. Third year dental student Kevin Dow participated in the poster presentation section of the ADEA's annual session with a poster entitled "Self-Determination Theory: An Approach in Motivating High Risk Rampant Caries Patients." Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni is his faculty mentor.

Dr. Weber-Gasparoni attended the AADR meeting in Washington, D.C. held March 3-6. She presented a poster entitled "Risk Factors Related to Early Childhood Caries in High-Risk Children." Dr. Weber-Gasparoni also recently traveled to San Francisco with Dr. John Warren (Professor, Preventive and Community Dentistry Department) to perform caries exam training and calibration for three NIH Early Childhood Caries Collaborative Centers (Boston University, University of Colorado - Denver, University of California - San Francisco).

**NOTE to IDJ: There is a photo on the following page.**



Pediatric dentistry residents and faculty who travelled to Forest City for a recent outreach program for special health care needs adults.