

▣ **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. Several Saturdays during February, dental health skits were presented at the Iowa Children's Museum at Coral Ridge Mall. Free dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications and oral hygiene instructions were also offered to children attending the Iowa Children's Museum for family free nights on January 30th and February 27th. Packets containing free toothbrushes, toothpaste and educational materials were provided for each child. Notes summarizing the results of the dental screenings and several resources and programs offering financial assistance for follow-up treatment were also provided. One of the student group leaders, D-3 student Meredith Smith, reported that over 150 children received screenings and fluoride applications and that approximately another 100 children were present for the puppet shows. On February 16th, third year resident Dr. Donald Chi and twenty dental students helped with a Linn County I-Smile event held at the Play Station in Cedar Rapids. Free dental screenings, fluoride applications and sealants were provided. A great big thank you goes out to all the residents and dental students who helped make these outreach opportunities so successful!

Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni has been selected as a finalist for the Paul P. Taylor Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Foundation Research Award competition. Based on her abstract entitled "Effectiveness of a Psychoeducational Intervention for Early Childhood Caries Prevention" she will submit a manuscript and deliver a 15-minute oral presentation at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD's) Annual Session held May 23rd in Honolulu, HI. Dr. Donald Chi is a finalist in the graduate student research awards competition to be held at

AAPD's annual session in Hawaii as well. He will be presenting his research entitled "Time to First Dental Visit for Newly Medicaid-Enrolled Children with Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disability". We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and wish them both continued success!

Several department faculty members have been active presenting continuing education courses to local dentists and dental hygiene groups. Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni and Ms. Cathy Skotowski presented a three hour continuing education course to members of the Iowa City Dental Hygienist Association on February 7th entitled "Pediatric Dentistry for the Very Young Patient". Dr. Cynthia Christensen presented a one hour continuing education course to dentists of the Rock Island District Dental Society on February 10th. On March 7th several residents and faculty members from the department presented an all day conference at the Muscatine Center for Social Action in Muscatine, Iowa. Those who presented were Drs. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Marie-Eve Asselin, Mike Kanellis, John Warren, Cody Johnson, Raquel Jham, Brea Schmidt, Donald Chi, Aaron Blackwelder, Sean Vostatek and Ms. Cathy Skotowski. Some of the topics covered were dental trauma, ectopically erupting molars, dental treatment of patients with Down Syndrome, behavior guidance techniques, pulp therapy, palate plates for neonatal intensive care patients, radiographic guidelines, SBE prophylaxis, caries prevention and oral health materials for children.

An upcoming pediatric continuing education opportunity will be offered at the Iowa Dental Association's annual session held this year in Coralville. Dr. Cynthia Christensen will be presenting a session entitled "All Hands on Deck (Pediatrics)" on Friday May 1st from 2:00-4:00 pm. If your dental group is looking for presenters for continuing education on pediatric dentistry topics, feel free to contact our main office at 319-335-7479.

Our department is in the process of bringing back our department website. The website will contain valuable information for perspective students, parents of current or perspective patients and for dental and other health care professionals. We hope to be up and running soon so look for us at www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/pediatric .



Third year dental student Lacey Greenwald providing a dental screening for a child at an outreach event held at the Iowa Children's Museum in Coralville.