

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ms. Cathy Skotowski, RDH, MS

Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Assistant Professor, was very busy planning and implementing the 55th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of American Association for Dental Research (AADR) which was held March 11th at the College of Dentistry. As President of the Iowa section, Dr. Weber-Gasparoni helped organize the successful event which included 61 oral and poster presentations given by students, residents, staff and faculty. Ms. Cathy Skotowski served as moderator of the graduate student division of oral presentation competitions. Dr. Donald Chi, second year resident, received first place honors and \$100 in the Pediatric Dentistry Graduate Specialty Competition for his presentation entitled “Dental Utilization of Mentally Retarded or Developmentally Disabled Medicaid-Enrolled Children in Iowa.” Dr. Chi’s faculty mentor was Dr. Peter Damiano.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Aaron Blackwelder and Dr. Donald Chi, residents in the three-year program for Dental Public Health/ Pediatric Dentistry! They recently received confirmation they had both successfully passed the written examination for the American Board of Dental Public Health. Besides keeping up with the rigors of the dual training program, Drs. Blackwelder and Chi also found time on May 20th to deliver an evening oral health presentation at the Iowa City MECCA office to single mothers living in transitional housing. Their presentation included information about the importance of the age one dental visit, diet, oral hygiene and they answered questions posed by the participants.

A department luncheon was held in honor of Matt Pyfferoen, D4 student, who was recently awarded the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate for Outstanding Senior Undergraduate Award in Pediatric Dentistry. Congratulations, Matt!

On May 9th Dr. Mike Kanellis and Gayle Gilbaugh participated in the Oral Health Policy Summit: Focus on Pediatric Access held in Des Moines. They joined service providers from across Iowa to discuss pediatric access to oral health care and the public health impact.

Dr. Marie-Eve Asselin, Visiting Professor, recently received a \$10,000 Delta Dental grant to fund a project entitled “Case Studies for Pediatric Dentistry: Development of Computer-Based Patient Simulations.” It is Dr. Asselin’s goal to use these modules for dental students, residents and Iowa practicing dentists to enhance their learning potentials in pediatric dentistry.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) held their 61st annual session in Washington, DC May 22-25. Presenting their research in the graduate students’ poster division were residents Drs. Bryce Goebel, Natalie Ghosheh and Bob Gregorsok. As usual, the Iowa reception was well received with many Iowa alumni traveling from all over the US and several foreign countries. The evening provided an opportunity for alumni, current residents and faculty to reminisce, share good times, and of course, sing a rendition of the Iowa Fight Song!

Great news!! Dr. Rebecca Slayton has accepted the position of DEO of our department and will soon be returning to Iowa! Dr. Slayton was an Assistant Professor in our department from 1998-2002. Since then she has served as the Department Chairman of Pediatric Dentistry at the Oregon Health & Sciences University in Portland and mostly recently as Graduate Program Director in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Washington’s School of Dentistry in Seattle. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Slayton!

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. James Wefel who has done a tremendous job serving as our interim DEO for the last year. He has given so graciously of his time, expertise and fine leadership skills (especially as he continued to maintain his other full time duties of being the director of the Dows Institute for Dental Research and administrative director of the Office of Clinical Research). Thank you Dr. Wefel!



Matt Pyfferoen, D4, (left) receiving an award from Dr. James Wefel.