

## **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 28 and February 25 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. Over 200 children benefitted from the project. The dental students have also been busy visiting local preschools and daycare centers to deliver dental health presentations.

On February 7-8, Drs. Hilary Reynolds, Jill Shonka and Tyler Driggers (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 45 special health care needs adults as part of a 14-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 Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Dr. Tad Mabry, and Ms. Cathy Skotowski participated in the College of Dentistry's local research day (58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research) held February 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 Pre-Doctoral oral presentations. All four second-year residents (Drs. Chris Myers, Tyler Driggers, Terry Geneser and Jill Shonka) presented their research in the Max Smith Post-Doctoral oral competition and also competed for the Pediatric Dentistry award. Great job by all of the residents and a special congratulations to Dr. Geneser who received first place honors for the Pediatric Dentistry Specialty Award for her research presentation entitled “Effects of Maternal Innate-Psychological Needs on Behavioral Changes”.

Dr. Karin-Weber Gasparoni was recently selected as the recipient of the Olav Alvares Award for Outstanding Articles Published in the *Journal of Dental Education*. Dr. Weber-Gasparoni was an author of the article “Iowa’s Public Health-Based Infant Oral Health Program: a Decade of Experience.” Drs. Michael Kanellis, and Fang Qian, Biostatistics Unit, were co-authors. Annually, the *Journal of Dental Education* presents awards to recognize junior faculty, allied and pre-doctoral students, residents, and fellows who publish outstanding work. Dr. Weber-Gasparoni’s article appeared in the April 2010 issue of *Journal of Dental Education*.

Dr. Arthur Nowak, professor emeritus, and Dr. Rebecca Slayton, DEO, co-authored an article, "Facilitating the Transition of Patients with Special Health Care Needs from Pediatric to Adult Oral Health" for the November 2010 issue of the *JADA*. Dr. Paul Casamassimo, head of the pediatric dentistry department at the Ohio State University's College of Dentistry, is also a co-author.

Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh was invited to speak at the Hemophilia of Iowa, First Steps Family Fun Education Weekend on January 22 at the Adventureland Inn. The goal of this event is to provide

education for parents of children ages 0 to 8 that are affected with a bleeding disorder. It was a nice mix of indoor fun and education on a cold weekend.

Drs. Tad Mabry and Mike Kanellis presented an all-day continuing education program on February 21 to the GV Black Study Club in Des Moines. The GV Black Study Club has been in existence for 105 years. Dr. Mabry and Kanellis' presentation covered multiple topics including an update on stainless steel crowns, fluoride, and amalgam, in addition to covering multiple topics related to development and treatment of the first permanent molar.



Drs. Driggers, Slayton, Weber-Gasparoni, Geneser, Myers, and Shonka at the awards banquet for the Iowa Section of the AADR 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.