

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 on February 2nd and February 22nd as part of the "Give Kids a Smile" program. After receiving signed 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. Approximately 100 children benefitted from the project.

Department faculty and residents have also been very active providing dental health education and dental screenings to children in the Iowa City elementary schools as part of a grant funded by the MidWestOne Bank. In cooperation with the Iowa City Community School District's Director of Health and Student Services, Susie Poulton, six elementary schools were visited during February. Dental health presentations were delivered to all students and dental screenings were provided for all first and sixth grade students with parental consent to participate. The majority of the funding from the grant will go towards providing follow-up dental care to children identified as having restorative dental treatment needs but lacking the financial means to pay for it. Approximately 2,000 children were educated and almost 700 children received dental screenings through this project.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry held its annual Comprehensive Review Course in San Diego, CA on January 25-27th. The course is designed to serve as an in-depth review of

pediatric dentistry and may be helpful to those who are preparing to complete their written board exam. Course faculty included former Iowa Pediatric Dentistry alumni Dr. Cathy Flaitz and Dr. Kevin Donly. All of our second-year residents attended the course.

On February 4-5th Drs. Drew Goebel, Treagan White, and Greg Dietz (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 35 special health care needs adults as part of a 16-year-old program with our department and Krysilis, Inc. The opportunity continues to offer our residents a great learning experience with physically challenging special health care needs patients and we are extremely grateful for Drs. Burke and Hoepfner's leadership with this program.

On February 6th, Dr. Matt Geneser and Dean David Johnsen, along with two dental students Theron Layer and Benjamin James, attended the IDA Lobby Day at the Statehouse in Des Moines. The group had an opportunity to meet with many legislators throughout the day and were present when Governor Terry Brandstad signed a proclamation for Children's Dental Health Month.

All four of our second-year residents presented their research at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research held February 19th at the College of Dentistry. Drs. Drew Goebel and Treagan White delivered poster presentations and Drs. Greg Dietz and Kelly Jones delivered oral presentations. Dr. Kelly Jones received the Pediatric Dentistry Specialty Award for her research presentation entitled "Dietary Habits, Activity Levels and Caries Experience Among Adolescents". Congratulations Dr. Jones! Her department research mentor is Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni.

On February 20th we bid farewell to Dr. Rebecca Slayton as she is moving back to Seattle, WA where she will serve as the department chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Washington. We have been very blessed to have Dr. Slayton serve as our DEO for the last 5 years. Dr. Slayton led our department with commitment, dedication, wisdom, and expertise, all with a great sense of humor and candor. We will miss her leadership and support and wish her the very best in Washington!



Dr. Rebecca Slayton and Dean David Johnsen at Dr. Slayton's farewell reception.



Cathy Skotowski RDH, MS, pointing to a slide during a dental health presentation to elementary school children.