

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

Ms. Cathy Skotowski, RDH, MS

In recognition of Children's Dental Health Month, the dental student group was 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 27 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.

The dental student group also partnered with the National Children's Oral Foundation and Walmart and participated in a "Smile Drive: Tools for the Trade" event. During the month of February, donation boxes were placed in the Iowa City Walmart store and customers were encouraged to purchase oral health care products and drop them in the boxes. The Domestic Violence Intervention Program will be the recipient of the donated oral health care products.

Dr. Arwa Owais, associate professor, recently received two grants from the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. A \$4,000 grant will support her research, "Bedsharing and Nighttime Oral Health Habits among WIC-Enrolled Children Study." The purpose of the one-year grant is to determine if there is a relationship between a child's habit of bedsharing with its mother and the child's nighttime oral health habits and subsequent risk for early childhood caries (ECC). Data from 1500 charts will be collected from records of patients seen at the University of Iowa's Infant Oral Health Program (IOHP) at the Johnson County Department of Public Health WIC Clinic. Dr. Owais will be principal investigator; Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Pediatric Dentistry

DEO; Dr. Fang Qian, Biostatistics Unit; and Dr. Vanessa Axelson, Pediatric Dentistry resident, will be co-investigators. Dr. Owais also received a \$25,000 Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation grant for her research, “Medical Management of Caries in the Primary Dentition Using Silver Nitrate: a Pilot Study.” The one-year grant will be used to study children having at least one primary tooth where caries extend into dentin. Children will be randomized and treated according to one of two treatment approaches: conventional caries management with best practice prevention, or medical management of caries using silver nitrate with best practice prevention. Dr. Owais will be principal investigator on this project. Drs. Michael Kanellis, Deborah Dawson, Matthew Geneser, and Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Department of Pediatric Dentistry; Gayle Gilbaugh and Cathy Skotowski, also Pediatric Dentistry; Dr. David Drake, Dows Dental Research; Dr. Alberto Gasparoni, Oral Pathology, Radiology & Medicine; Wei Liu, Biostatistics Unit; Dr. Reem Oweis, dentistry fellow associate; and Dr. John Warren, both Preventive & Community Dentistry; and Dr. George Wehby, College of Public Health, will be co-investigators.

All four of our second-year residents presented their research at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research held February 10 at the College of Dentistry. Dr. Samuel Christensen won first place for the Pediatric Dentistry Post-Doctoral/Graduate Dental Speciality Award. The title of his poster was “Mouthguard Thickness and Extension: A Pilot Study on Athlete Preference.” His mentors were Dr. Mike Kanellis and Dr. Fang Qian. Two of our faculty were mentors to pre-doctoral students who also participated in the research day. Ms. Cathy Skotowski’s student, Mackenzie Colbert (D3), won the fifth place award in the Proctor & Gamble Pre-Doctoral Poster Competition for her research entitled “Prevalence of Dental Caries in Iowa City Head Start Children.” Dr. Arwa Owais’ student,

Walker Clark (D2), won the second place award in the Proctor & Gamble Pre-Doctoral Poster Competition for his research entitled “Success of Partial Pulpotomy Treatment in Crown Fractured Young Permanent Incisors.” Congratulations to all of our department award winners!



Faculty, residents and students with ties to the Department of Pediatric Dentistry pictured at the local IADR banquet. Front row: Annie Fencel, Arwa Owais, Mackenzie Colbert, Ursula Diehl. Back row: Cathy Skotowski, Vanessa Axelsen, Matt Geneser, Byron Murphy, Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Deborah Dawson, Walker Clark, Fang Qian, Sam Christensen, and Kaitlin Hoogeveen.