

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 26 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 department was well represented this year at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research held February 16 at the College of Dentistry. All four of our second-year residents presented their research. Dr. Kyle Beulke won first place for the Pediatric Dentistry Post-Doctoral/Graduate Dental Specialty Award. The title of his oral presentation was "Iowa Family Physicians and Pediatricians Oral Health Knowledge and Practices." His mentors from the department were Drs. Matt Geneser and Karin Weber-Gasparoni. Dr. Peter Stanley also presented an oral presentation entitled "Factors Associated with Non-Cavitated Lesions among Very Young WIC Enrolled Children." His mentors from the department were Drs. Matt Geneser and Karin Weber-Gasparoni. Dr. Diana Pelzer presented her research in a table clinic entitled "Efficiency and Satisfaction Regarding Isolation Techniques for

Sealant Placement.” Her mentors from the department were Drs. Arwa Owais, Deborah Dawson, Matt Geneser, Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Mike Kanellis, Steve Kelly, Tad Mabry and Mrs. Cathy Skotowski. Dr. Julie Smith presented her research in a poster presentation entitled “The Susceptibility of Oral Streptococci to Anti-Microbial Agents.” Her department mentor was Dr. Jeff Banas. Dr. Arwa Owais presented an oral presentation for research with Dr. Azeez Butali and others entitled “Establishing a Dental and Craniofacial Biorepository in Iowa Integrated with Medical Records.” Dr. Owais also presented a poster presentation entitled “Medical Management of Caries in Primary Dentition Using Silver Nitrate.”

Five dental students mentored by our department faculty also presented their research at the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research. They included: Leah Barshinger (D1), Alison Schell (D2), Walker Clark (D3), Isabella Newcomer (D3) and Megan Penticoff (D4). Congratulations to all involved in making the local research day such a huge success!

(Text for photo): Pediatric dentistry second year residents (from left to right) Drs. Julie Smith, Diana Pelzer, Peter Stanley, and Kyle Beulke awaiting the awards banquet for the recent Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research.