

Department of Pediatric Dentistry

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On February 9, Governor Terry Branstad signed a Children's Dental Health Proclamation in conjunction with the ADA's National Children's Dental Health Month. Dean David Johnsen and Drs. Matt Geneser, Zach Percival and Reem Oweis attended the event.

In recognition of Children's Dental Health Month, the dental student group was very busy participating in community outreach activities. On Saturday February 11, they presented an interactive one hour presentation at the Johnson County Fairgrounds to 4-H students, fourth through eighth grade. Utilizing visuals and props, the dental students set up 20 stations of questions that the 4-H students rotated through. They then used a PowerPoint presentation to review the answers and discuss careers in dentistry. On February 24, the pediatric dental student group participated in the annual "Give Kids a Smile" program at the Iowa Children's Museum. Over a 100 children received free dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications. The children also received oral hygiene instructions and packets containing free toothbrushes, toothpaste and educational materials. Notes summarizing the results of the dental screenings and information on resources and programs offering financial assistance for follow-up treatment were provided.

Drs. Tad Mabry and Matt Geneser recently presented continuing education courses. Dr. Mabry's program was entitled "The Principles of Pediatric Restorative Dentistry" and was delivered to dental professionals in the Quad Cities area at the Western Illinois University QC campus. Dr. Geneser's program was entitled "Management of Cleft Lip and Palate from Infancy to Adolescence" and was presented in San Diego, CA at the 2017 Silvia Perez-Speiss Alumni Conference.

The department was well represented this year at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research, held February 14 at the College of Dentistry. Three of our second-year residents presented their research. Dr. Kaitlin Hoogeveen won the Pediatric Dentistry Post-Doctoral/Graduate Dental Specialty Award for her oral presentation entitled “Significance of Perinatal Oral Health in an American Indian Population.” Dr. Brandy Kleinheksel received third place honors in the Postdoctoral ADA Table Clinic/Poster competition for her research entitled “Pediatricians’ Behavior, Comfort, and Knowledge after Infant Oral Health Training.” Dr. Ursula Diehl also presented a poster presentation for her research entitled “Analysis of Low pH Streptococci from Early Dental Decay in Children.” Faculty member Dr. Arwa Owais presented an oral presentation entitled “Iowa Biorepository: A Unique Opportunity for Precision Medicine and Collaborative Research.”

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 (D2), Noah Hollinger (D2), Amanda Phan (D2), Alison Christensen (D3), and Walker Clark (D4). Alison received third place honors in the Predoctoral ADA Table Clinics/Posters. Congratulations to all involved in making the local research day such a huge success!

Photo text: Pediatric Dentistry Department attendees at the Local Research Day Banquet: Dr. Kecia Leary, faculty; Drs. Brandy Kleinheksel, Kaitlin Hoogeveen, Amy Lesch, and Ursula Diehl, residents; and Dr. Matt Geneser, faculty.