

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

Ms. Cathy Skotowski RDH, MS

Several members in the department have been busy presenting continuing education programs to local groups. On September 14, Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh and Ms. Cathy Skotowski participated in a continuing education program entitled “Oral Health for Children and Individuals with Special Health Care Needs” in Muscatine, IA. Ms. Gilbaugh delivered three one-hour presentations: “Bleeding Disorders: What Every Dental Professional Should Know,” “Caring for Autistic Patients in Your Practice,” and “Healthy Smiles for Special Individuals.” Ms. Skotowski delivered a 90 minute presentation entitled “Prevention Strategies and Oral Health Resources.” On November 5, Dr. Matt Geneser delivered a two-hour presentation in Cedar Rapids, IA at the Kirkwood Center entitled “Providing Quality Dental Care to Children and Adults with Special Health Care Needs.”

The department sponsored the “Arthur J. Nowak Distinguished Visiting Professor Lecture in Pediatric Dentistry” on October 19. Dr. Cathy Flaitz, DDS, MS, from The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston presented a full-day continuing education course entitled “Dentistry: A Robust Round-Up of Common and Not So Common Oral Lesions in Children and Adolescents: Diagnostic Tips and Management Approaches.” The purpose of the “Arthur J. Nowak Distinguished Visiting Professorship” is to bring top scholars to the University of Iowa’s College of Dentistry to interact with residents, faculty, and practicing dentists. Dr. Flaitz’s three-day visit included an afternoon opportunity for residents to share their research, meetings with several faculty members, a barbeque social gathering at Dr. Slayton’s home as well as the full day continuing education course.

Two of our faculty members were recognized recently for their teaching excellence. Dr. Jerry Walker (professor emeritus) was selected 2012 Educator of the Year by the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association and received recognition for the award at the Dental Alumni Banquet on September 21. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Walker continue to help us in the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral pediatric dentistry clinics. Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni (associate professor) received the James H. McLeran Faculty Award on September 7 at the Dean's Club dinner. Congratulations to both of our colleagues for these distinguished and well deserved honors!

On Saturday October 6, Drs. Kelly Jones, Sandy Imoehl, Kayla Risma, and Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh participated in a Hemophilia Outreach Clinic for the Amish community. Dr. Alberto Gasparoni, director of the Admissions Clinic, also participated. The outreach clinic was held at the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Clinic in Oelwein. As a member of the University of Iowa's Regional Hemophilia Treatment Center, the dentistry staff provided screenings, education and referrals for children and adults with hemophilia. This outreach activity always provides a unique cultural experience for everyone involved.

The pediatric dentistry student group recently received a \$5,400 mini-grant from the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation for a project entitled "Oral Health Information for Pregnant Women." The project was designed to provide pregnant women (and the facilities and clinics that deal closely with pregnant women) the resources and information to assist in maintaining a healthy mouth during pregnancy and to prepare them to be proactive in the health of their baby's oral health. The pediatric dentistry student group plans to assemble and distribute 500 packets of oral health information and oral health care supplies to pregnant women attending nearby prenatal health care facilities and WIC clinics. A portion of the grant funding will also go toward

providing DVDs of educational videos for office and clinic reception room viewing. Ms. Cathy Skotowski, (clinical assistant professor), is the faculty mentor for the pediatric dentistry student group and will assist in the project.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Steve Leifker (first-year resident) and Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni for receiving a \$6,040 Delta Dental grant for the research project entitled “Survey of Iowa General Dentists Regarding the Age 1 Dental Visit.”

It is with great sadness that we report that Dr. James Wefel, beloved colleague and faculty member in the department for 40 years, passed away September 1. Dr. Wefel mentored many a dental student, resident and junior faculty during his tenure, always with great wisdom, leadership, and sincere compassion, kindness, and generosity. He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. (A more detailed description of Dr. Wefel’s contributions to the department and college can be found earlier in this issue in the Dows Institute for Dental Research department news section.)



Dr. Jerry Walker (right) with fellow classmate, colleague and friend Dr. Phil Lainson at the Dental Alumni Banquet.



Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni with Dr. Galen Schneider after receiving the James H. McLeran Faculty Award.