

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

Ms. Cathy Skotowski RDH, MS

We are pleased to welcome a new faculty member to our department, Dr. Arwa Owais. Dr. Owais and her family moved to Iowa City from Jordan. She received her dental degree in 1994 from Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan. She completed her specialty training in dental public health and pediatric dentistry from the University of Iowa in 2000. She is board certified by both the American Board of Dental Public Health (2003) and the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (2006). Dr. Owais comes to us from Jordan University of Science and Technology where she was an associate professor in the Department of Preventive Dentistry, which also includes the Pediatric Dentistry Division. She also held the positions of vice dean of the College of Dentistry and director of the dental teaching clinics. Her research focus is related to oral health in children and prevention of dental caries. We are delighted to have Dr. Owais with us and look forward to the expertise and skill set she will bring to the department!

On September 23-27, Drs. Richard Burke, Tad Mabry, and Matt Geneser traveled to Dallas, TX, and served as examiners for the Oral Clinical Examination, administered by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. The board examined over 400 candidates during this time and those who successfully challenged the Board will receive diplomate status from the ABPD.

On Saturday, October 12, Drs. Arwa Owais, Steve Leifker (second-year resident), and Diana Pelzer (D4) participated in a Hemophilia Outreach Clinic for the Amish community. The clinic was held at the Mercy Medical Center in Centerville. As a member of the University of Iowa Regional Hemophilia Treatment Center, the pediatric dentistry staff provided screenings, education and referrals for children and adults.

On October 28, several dental students (some in Halloween costume attire) participated in the annual Halloween event at the Sycamore Mall. The dental students provided oral health information and distributed stickers, bracelets, pencils, brushing calendars, and magnets to over 600 children parading through in their Halloween costumes. The children had the opportunity to brush the teeth of the various puppets and interact with the dental students. The annual event has become a popular Iowa City tradition, and the College of Dentistry's students have been notable participants for several years. **(Photo included)**

On November 13, Dr. Karin Weber- Gasparoni, Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh and Ms. Katie Anfinson (D4) conducted an oral health training for caregivers employed by Systems Unlimited, Inc. Systems Unlimited is one of the largest residential facilities for individuals with special health care needs in eastern Iowa. The training included both a PowerPoint presentation and hands-on demonstrations. A

grant from the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation provided resource materials for the training and oral health care products for the residents.

On November 20, our residents prepared and served an evening meal at the Ronald McDonald house in Iowa City. The Ronald McDonald House provides a place to stay for families while their children (age 21 and under) undergo medical treatment at local hospitals and clinics. Any family is eligible to stay at the Ronald McDonald House regardless of their ability to pay for their room. **(Photo included)**

Another pediatric dental patient was welcomed into this world! Kate Emily Risma (daughter of resident Dr. Kayla Risma and husband Justin) weighed in at 7 pounds and measured 20 inches long. Kate was welcomed home by her two brothers, Nolan and Mark. Congratulations to the Risma family!



The pediatric dentistry residents pictured after serving a meal at the Ronald McDonald house.  
Front row: Nolan Risma (son of Dr. Kayla Risma) and Dr. Kayla Risma  
Second row: Drs. Annie Fencel, Vanessa Axelsen, Sandy Fox  
Back row: Drs. Steve Leifker, Sam Christensen and Greg Weinberg



Staci Frieze (D4), Heather Stillman (D4), Katie Nagel (D4), Justine Stemper (D4), Casey Goetz (D1), and Nicholas Luke (D2) are pictured at their booth during the Sycamore Mall Halloween event.