

## DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ms. Cathy Skotowski, RDH, MS

This past quarter, several individuals in our department have been busy presenting continuing education. On March 8, Dr. Tad Mabry (associate professor) presented a lecture entitled “The Challenge of Treating Oral Habits in Children” to a large contingent of dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists at the North Central Iowa Dental Association meeting in Mason City. The Iowa Academy of Pediatric Dentistry held its annual meeting and continuing education course in Des Moines on March 25-26. Speakers for the CE course from the department included Dr. Mabry, Dr. Polly Iben (adjunct assistant professor) and Drs. Teresa Moniz and Matthew Pyfferoen (residents). A reception and dinner were held the evening before, which provided an enjoyable setting for our pediatric dentistry residents to interact with the pediatric dentists from throughout the state.

Dr. Rebecca Slayton (DEO) attended and spoke at the 2010 MCHB Tri-Center meeting in Seattle, WA April 16-18. The conference title was “Leadership for Change: Responding to the Surgeon General’s Report: Pediatric Update.” Her presentation was entitled “What’s Really New: Translating Science into Practice: the Challenge of Disseminating Innovations.” Dr. Slayton also presented to the GV Black Study Club in Des Moines on April 19. The title of her presentation was “Contemporary Issues in Pediatric Dentistry.”

On March 27, Dr. Richard Burke (associate professor), Dr. Chris Myers (first-year resident), and Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh participated in a Hemophilia Outreach Clinic for the Amish community. The clinic was held at the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Clinic in Oelwein, IA. 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.

Ms. Cathy Skotowski traveled to three conferences this past quarter, attempting to create an awareness of the pediatric oral health resources available on the department website

<http://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/pediatric>. On April 13, she was a poster presenter at the 2010 Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health in Ames, IA and on April 27, she was a poster presenter at the National Oral Health Conference in St. Louis, MO. At the IDA annual meeting in Coralville, she presented a table clinic on

May 1, which received the Honor Clinic Award. The department website contains many valuable resources but her presentations focused primarily on the educational videos and fact sheets.

Two dental students working with faculty mentors Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni and Ms. Cathy Skotowski also presented a table clinic at the IDA meeting, which received the Honor Clinic Award. Ms. Julie Reynolds (D3) and Ms. Andrea Schmidt (D4) presented a table clinic entitled “Healthy Smiles for Young Children: an Educational Resource.” Representing IASDA (Iowa branch of the American Student Dental Association), the two applied for and received funding from the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation to produce and distribute the second edition of an educational flip chart developed by Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni. At their table clinic, Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Schmidt reviewed highlights of the flip chart as an educational resource and distributed nearly 400 copies to dentists, dental assistants and dental hygienists.

Fourth-year dental student Scott Bower recently was awarded the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate for Outstanding Senior Undergraduate Award in Pediatric Dentistry. We are happy he will be entering our residency program.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry held their 63<sup>rd</sup> annual session in Chicago, IL May 27-30. Presenting their research in the poster division were residents Drs. Kelli Jobman, Cody Johnson and Matt Pyfferoen. Dr. Raquel Jham (resident) presented her research as a finalist in the Graduate Student Research Award Oral Competition. As usual, on Saturday evening of the AAPD meeting, an Iowa reception was well attended by Iowa alumni traveling from all over the US. The evening provided an opportunity for alumni, current residents and faculty to reminisce, share good times, and of course, sing a rendition of the Iowa Fight Song!

On June 30, we bid farewell to Dr. Cynthia Christensen, adding emeritus to her title as she retired from the department. From the moment she joined our department faculty team eight years ago she blessed us with many innovative and creative teaching ideas, and implemented many positive changes to the pediatric dentistry curriculum. As the pre-doctoral clinic director and D3 clinical and seminar course director, she introduced teaching concepts utilizing case studies and modules to enhance dental student learning. She was also the first to introduce the OSCE examination as a form of evaluating dental students’ knowledge of pediatric dentistry at

the College of Dentistry. When called upon to serve as interim DEO, Dr. Christensen stepped up to the plate and did an excellent job of leading the department for more than a year while continuing her other teaching and clinical duties. She has received several teaching awards from both students and administrative groups. Many a dental student, resident and colleague have been blessed by having worked with Dr. Christensen as she so graciously shared her wit and vast depth of knowledge, not only in pediatric dentistry but also in life's experiences. We wish her continued success and happiness as she embarks on the next stage of her life, which will undoubtedly include devoting more time on her acreage enjoying her horses.



Dr. Cynthia Christensen (right) reviewing radiographs of a pediatric patient with D3 students Carole Gleich (back) and Mary Kay Caniglia. Dr. Christensen retired June 30.