

Department of Pediatric Dentistry

Ms. Cathy Skotowski, RDH, MS

On Saturday, April 11 College of Dentistry students, residents, and faculty members participated in an outreach event, “Celebration of the Young Child,” which was held at the Iowa Children’s Museum at Coral Ridge Mall. Several organizations had displays and interactive events for young children and their parents. Our department personnel provided dental education, screenings and fluoride varnish to 60 children. Children had the opportunity to brush the teeth of various puppets and they also received oral hygiene supplies and stickers. A great time was enjoyed by all!

Fourth-year dental student Ursula Diehl recently was awarded the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate for Outstanding Undergraduate Award in Pediatric Dentistry. We are happy she will soon be entering our residency program.

The pediatric dentistry student group, along with their advisor, Ms. Cathy Skotowski, was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation: America’s Toothfairy. For this project, the dental student members, working with pediatric dentistry faculty, will develop two educational DVDs: one specifically for Boys Scouts who are working to obtain their dental merit badge and the other for younger children on positive oral health habits. The student group is excited about this project and looks forward to working to support oral health educational information for area youth.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) held their 68th annual session in Seattle, WA May 22-24. We had five research poster presenters from the University of Iowa this year. Three of our second-year residents, Drs. Vanessa Axelsen, Sam Christensen and Byron Murphy, presented their research. Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni presented a poster for second-year resident, Dr. Annie Fencil. D2 student Isabella Newcomer also presented a research poster. Dr. Matt Geneser served as a research poster judge. Dean David Johnsen delivered an oral presentation, “Critical Thinking.” Five Iowa graduates were acknowledged by the American

Board of Pediatric Dentistry as having completed the board certification process. Drs. Aaron Blackwelder, Scott Bower, Gregory Dietz, Drew Goebel, and Kelly Jones successfully sat for their oral clinical examination and were installed by the College of Diplomates during a ceremony on May 23. Congratulations new Diplomates!

As usual, on Saturday evening of the AAPD meeting, an Iowa reception was well attended by Iowa alumni 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 May 19 another pediatric dental patient was welcomed into this world! Eloise Marietta Fencel (daughter of resident Dr. Annie Fencel and husband Cody) weighed in at 5 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Congratulations to the Fencels!



Drs. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Sam Christensen, Vanessa Axelsen, Bryon Murphy, and Matt Geneser pictured at the AAPD research poster presentations.