

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ms. Cathy Skotowski RDH, MS

In June we bid farewell to our four graduating residents. Dr. Vanessa Axelsen now practices in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Annie Fencel opened Northeast Iowa Pediatric Dentistry in Decorah, IA. Dr. Byron Murphy now practices in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Sam Christensen is currently splitting his time between teaching and practicing pediatric dentistry. He has chosen to continue his education and will be applying for orthodontic residency programs this fall. We wish all of them continued success and happiness as they embark on their pediatric dental careers.

We welcomed four new residents. Drs. Ursula Diehl, Kaitlin Hoogeveen and Brandy Kleinheksel are all three recent graduates from the University of Iowa and Dr. Amy Lesch is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan. We look forward to working with them the next two years.



(First- and second-year pediatric dentistry residents above from left to right: Drs. Kaitlin Hoogeveen, Brandy Kleinheksel, Ursula Diehl, Peter Stanley, Kyle Beulke, Julie Smith, Diana Pelzer and Amy Lesch.)

As the new academic year begins, we would like to acknowledge our adjunct faculty members who will assist us throughout the year teaching D-3 students and pediatric dentistry residents. This year we are fortunate to have returning adjunct faculty Drs. Erik Balster, Todd Hoepfner, Polly Iben, Steve Kelly, Mike Mathews, Tom Maurice, Matt Pyfferoen, Ed Rick, Mike Stufflebeam, and faculty emeritus, Dr. Cynthia Christensen. Dr. Reem Oweis will be with us as a fellow associate. Also helping us out this year will be recent graduates, Drs. Sam Christensen and Annie Fencil. We thank them for their generosity, dedication and commitment!

Dr. Richard Burke resigned from his position within the department effective July 2. Dr. Burke began his academic career with us in 1999 and ultimately achieved the level of clinical associate professor. He was the director of the Muscatine Pediatric Dental clinic where our dental students, residents and faculty provide care on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We would like to thank Dr. Burke for all of his years of service committed to quality patient care and valuable contributions to the education and professional development of both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students. We wish Dr. Burke well as he pursues other career goals and enjoys the opportunity to be closer to family.

During the past 22 years, pediatric dentistry residents, departmental faculty, and dental students have partnered with Proteus Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been serving migrant and seasonal farm workers, to provide dental care services to the children of local migrant farm workers. On July 14 and 21, we packed up the department vehicle with all of the necessary portable dental equipment and supplies and traveled to two local migrant camps within an hour's

radius of Iowa City. Dental exams and fluoride varnish applications were provided on-site to 28 children. Follow-up restorative dental care for 4 children was arranged for and provided on August 4 at the College of Dentistry. Although this outreach event often seems to fall on some of the hottest days of the summer, everyone seemed to enjoy the event! It is worthwhile to see the smiles on the children's faces when they hop out of the portable dental chair and receive their new toothbrush, toothpaste, and sugarless gum!

At the All College Conference held August 17, department staff were recognized for their years of service to the College of Dentistry. Drs. Matt Geneser and Tad Mabry were both recognized for five years of service. We are fortunate to have outstanding people in our department and are immensely grateful for all they do!

We are very excited to welcome Dr. Kecia Leary as our newest faculty member. Dr. Leary received her DDS degree from the University of Iowa in 2004 and her certificate in pediatric dentistry and her MS degree in dental public health in 2007. Since then she has served as pediatric dental director at the Jordan Valley Community Health Center in Springfield, MO. Dr. Leary started the Lutheran Medical Center Pediatric Dental Residency Program and has also held academic appointments at Southern Illinois University, A.T. Still University, UMKC School of Dentistry and the Missouri State University. Dr. Leary and her husband Kyle have two children: Ben, age 9, and Michaela, age 5. Dr. Leary states she is excited to be back in Iowa joining the College of Dentistry family. We are extremely delighted to have her with us!

On August 24-25, Drs. Kyle Beulke, Diana Pelzer and Peter Stanley (residents) and faculty members Drs. Kecia Leary, Sam Christensen and Todd Hoeppner (DDS '99 pediatric dentistry certificate '01) traveled to Forest City, IA. The team provided on-site dental care to 24 special health care needs adults as part of an 18-year-old program with our department and Krysilis, Inc.

The opportunity continues to offer our residents a great learning experience with physically challenging special health care needs patients and we are extremely grateful for Dr. Hoeppner's leadership with this program.