

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ms. Cathy Skotowski, RDH, MS

This past quarter, several individuals in our department have received awards, recognitions, and promotions. Dr. Richard Burke was recently promoted to the rank of associate professor. Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni was awarded the Student Research Mentor of the Year Award. At the IDA annual session, Dr. Mike Kanellis received the President's Award; Dr. Mike Mathews (adjunct faculty) received the New Dentist of the Year Award; and Ms. Cathy Skotowski's table clinic received Honor Clinic recognition. Dr. Donald Chi (pediatric dentistry/dental public health resident) won the Max Smith Oral Presentation for the Graduate Competition at the annual meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research. Jill Shonka (D4 student) was awarded the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate for Outstanding Senior Undergraduate Award in Pediatric Dentistry. Congratulations to all of these fine individuals on their recent successes and accomplishments!

The Iowa Academy of Pediatric Dentistry held its annual meeting and continuing education course in Des Moines on March 27. Speakers for the CE course were Drs. Marie-Eve Asselin, Mike Kanellis, Rebecca Slayton, and Karin Weber-Gasparoni. A reception and dinner were held the evening before, which provided an enjoyable setting for our pediatric dentistry residents to interact with pediatric dentists from throughout the state.

On Saturday March 28, Dr. Richard Burke and Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh participated in a Hemophilia Outreach Clinic for the Amish community. The clinic was held at the McCreery Cancer Center at the Ottumwa Regional Health Center in Ottumwa, IA. As a member of the University of Iowa Regional Hemophilia Treatment Center, the pediatric dentistry staff provided screenings, education and referrals to 30 children and adults.

Congratulations go out to our department head, Dr. Rebecca Slayton: she recently authored a textbook entitled *Early Childhood Oral Health*. Her co-author is Dr. Joel Berg, faculty member at the University of Washington in Seattle. The textbook, published by Wiley-Blackwell, includes two chapters that are co-authored by Dr. Arthur Nowak, professor emeritus, and another chapter authored by Dr. Kevin Donly, a former UI College of Dentistry faculty who is now at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Dr. Rebecca Slayton was also appointed the state leader for Iowa for AAPD's Head Start Dental Home Initiative. On April 24, Dr. Slayton and representatives from AAPD led the Iowa launch of AAPD's Head Start Initiative in Des Moines. The state launch brought together key individuals in Iowa to serve on Leadership Advisory and Mentorship Teams. The vision is that local networks, consisting of local dentists, dental hygienists and Head Start personnel, as well as community leaders, will work together to identify strategies to overcome any barriers to Head Start children's access to dental homes.

Dr. Richard Burke and the second-year residents, Drs. Donald Chi, Aaron Blackwelder, Brea Schmidt, and Sean Vostatek, recently traveled to Honoka'a, Hawaii, to participate in the Healthy Children-Healthy Smiles Keiki Dental project. This year's trip was the second time that Dr. Burke and pediatric dentistry residents have participated in the program since it began in 2007. The Keiki Dental project was founded by Dr. Elaine Himadi (U of IA Child Psychology Clinic) who had lived on the Big Island of Hawaii before coming to Iowa. She was aware of the area's need for dental care to poor young children. This year a grant from the Kaiser Foundation paid for the expenses of the trip in full. The group had access to a new mobile dental clinic and provided dental services to more than 100 needy children who came to Hawaii from Marshall Islands, Fiji and Tonga. They also provided dental health education to more than 400 children. The group felt the experience was extremely worthwhile.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) held their 62nd annual session in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 21-25. Presenting their research were residents Drs. Sean Vostatek, Brea Schmidt, and Donald Chi. Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni (assistant professor) presented her research as a finalist for the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Foundation Faculty Research Award competition and she received first place honors! As usual, an Iowa reception was held and was well received with many Iowa alumni traveling from all over the US and several foreign countries. 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!



Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni accepting her AAPD faculty research award in Hawaii.