

Dental Public Health ALUMNI

News

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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Reflections on the Graduate Program Over the Past 20 Years

As mentioned by Dr. Warren, I stepped down this past summer after serving nearly 20 years as Graduate Program Director. It has been my great honor and pleasure to have worked with so many of you during this time. And we are so fortunate to have such a large, outstanding, and diverse faculty and excellent staff. I truly believe that our successes over the years are primarily due to the people – strong support from Deans McLeran, Johnsen, and Hand, our great faculty and staff, and exceptional students! And we have Dr. Warren's great leadership already helping the program toward new levels of excellence!

Since most of you were here only for 2-3 years (or 4-5 years if pursuing the PhD), I'd like to make a few more observations:

- Our program has become stronger over the years through increased student diversity:
 - The number of trainees has increased from 1 every year or two to 3-4 each year.
 - There were almost all U.S. students in the program's first 20 years, but about half have been international students more recently.
 - We have had a number of joint DPH/Pediatric Dentistry trainees since 1996.
 - We have become a key part of the Oral Sciences PhD program, with DPH trainees constituting about half of total trainees.
- Our program has matured, with:
 - More departmental and graduate program seminars,
 - Affiliation for 2-3 courses per student taken in the College of Public Health,
 - The majority of graduates having manuscripts published on their thesis research, and
 - More in-depth field training experiences.
- We have been fortunate to have successfully applied for and received several cycles of federal DPH specialty training grant support, following about 20-25 years of no such programs being available. This has provided critical tuition and stipend support for student trainees, as well as allowed us to have regional fall DPH conferences most years of the past 10 years.



Steve Levy

(Continued on page 2)

A NOTE FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR ~

As of July 1, 2010, I became director of the Graduate Program in Dental Public Health, stepping into the shoes of Dr. Steve Levy, who was graduate program director for nearly 20 years. My first reaction to this change is best summed up by the immortal words of Groucho Marx, "if these are your shoes, the least you could do is have them cleaned." I soon realized that taking over the graduate program did not mean that I had to literally take over Steve's office, and I was much relieved.



John Warren

In all seriousness, I am humbled by the responsibility of taking over a dynamic and successful program and following Steve in this capacity. As some of the more senior alumni of the program (like me) will attest, the program during the 1980s was very small, with perhaps one or two new students per year. And that was in a good year – there were years when there were no new graduate students. Since 1990, when Steve took over directorship, enrollment has increased substantially to the point that ours is among the larger graduate programs in the College of Dentistry. There have also been several new initiatives, including the Oral Sciences PhD program, which has had a substantial proportion of its students with DPH emphasis; the joint Pediatric Dentistry/Dental Public Health program, along with a less formal joint program with Operative Dentistry; and finally, the new combined DDS/MS in Dental Public Health program highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter. Taken together, these are remarkable accomplishments, and because of these accomplishments, the graduate program has reached new heights and is now at the pinnacle of DPH programs. Well done, Dr. Levy!

Since the program is currently in such "good shape", I do not anticipate any substantial changes in the immediate future. However, I well understand that change is inevitable and that simply maintaining the status quo can be a recipe for failure, so I am sure that the program will continue to evolve. The cynic in me also knows that with the program at the top, there is only one way to go – down. I am confident this will not occur, primarily because we have a great team of leaders here that I can depend upon for support and guidance. I am fortunate that Steve Levy will continue to be actively involved in the program (no, he's not leaving or seriously ill), as will Ray Kuthy and others.

I look forward to the challenges and rewards that lie ahead, and wish all of you the best for 2011!

“Reflections on the Graduate Program Over the Past 20 Years” (Continued from page 1)

- Interest in the American Board of Dental Public Health has increased, with more Iowa graduates now completing the exam than from any other program. Also, more Iowa students are taking advantage of the new opportunity to challenge Part I (written objective exam) prior to completion of the training program.
- Iowa has played a large role in the American Board of Dental Public Health, including Dr. Ray Kuthy serving on the Board from 1997 to 2004 and me serving from 2006-present.
- We have recent special arrangements for U.S. Army DPH trainees to train with us, along with U.S. Navy Operative/DPH joint trainees.
- A number of graduates have won AAPHD Leverett Graduate Student awards.
- The national reputation of our program has been enhanced substantially through these many accomplishments of the program and trainees!

In summary, I am so fortunate that I had the opportunity to help lead this program. I’m very proud of the work we have done together, and all of your accomplishments. You are very important leaders in Dental Public Health individually and collectively, and I look forward to our future interactions, challenges, and successes.

Good-Bye to a Friend

It is with sadness that we note the passing of a colleague, Dr. Samir Bishara, Professor in the Department of Orthodontics on October 8, 2010. Dr. Bishara died a few weeks short of his 75th birthday, and had been battling lymphoma for some time prior to his passing. While not a member of the department or program faculty, Dr. Bishara collaborated on several projects and grants with me and others in the department, most notably aspects of the Iowa Fluoride Study involving growth and development. He worked with several of our graduate students on various research projects and also was involved in teaching and clinical care for pre-doctoral and graduate students in Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry. His energy, dedication to students, and mentorship will be greatly missed.

- John Warren



Samir Bishara

Building Update from the Chair

— Building Expansion Update —

The College of Dentistry building project is on schedule, including both Phase I (the new 30,000 square foot addition) and Phase II (renovation of the existing south building). We hope to be installing equipment in the new addition in September 2011 with plans for occupancy in October. Planning for renovation of the south wing is in full swing as well -- bidding for the project is expected to go out in November 2011 for a December or January start. Phase II will likely take a few years to complete.



Dan Caplan

Opportunities to Donate

In conjunction with the building project, the Department is happy to welcome donations of any size! Whether you’re a graduate of our MS program in Dental Public Health, an alumnus of our joint program with Pediatric Dentistry, or had an emphasis in Dental Public Health as part of your PhD program in Oral Sciences, the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry is happy to provide you with an outlet for your philanthropic side. We feel especially left out of the building project because the addition and renovation phases are only for the south building, and all the offices for our department’s graduate students, faculty and staff are located in the north building! Like our neighbors to the south, we’d love to join in the fun and bring our humble home into the 21st century. So when you’re considering potential recipients for your charitable donations, please keep our department in mind. It would mean a lot!

(Note: Our graduate student office was recently moved from the south side to the north side of the building, in an area that puts the students in close proximity with department faculty and staff.)

Accreditation

The graduate program in Dental Public Health be reviewed by the ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in September 2011, as part of the accreditation process of the College of Dentistry, which occurs every seven years. This process will entail documentation of program activities and operations, as well as a site visit by a board-certified public health dentist appointed by CODA. We are required to document some information regarding alumni, so please be aware that we may need to contact you for these purposes. Thank you.

Ongoing Dental Public Health Training Grant

We are currently in our second year of our 3-year Dental Public Health (DPH) specialty training grant from the federal Bureau of Health Professions (BHP) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We were fortunate to have similar grant-funding earlier from 2000-2004 and 2006-2009. These grants have provided: 1) tuition and limited stipend support for graduate student trainees; 2) partial support for field training experiences, thesis research, and sometimes travel to Dental Public Health meetings such as the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC)/Annual Meeting of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD); 3) support for our fall regional DPH conferences; and 4) limited faculty and staff support. There typically are 2-3 trainees supported by the grant at any time. (Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible.) We hope that the program will continue so that we are able to compete for a renewal grant in about 18 months.

New DDS/MS Training Grant

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry has received a 5-year training grant from Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to develop and implement a new combined training program in general dentistry and the specialty of Dental Public Health. Dental Public Health is one of the nine dental specialties, as recognized by the American Dental Association. There is need for such innovative programs because there is a shortage of Dental Public Health specialists both regionally and nationally. The grant is from 9/1/10 to 6/30/15 and will support trainees in a program that combines both the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and Masters Degree (MS) in Dental Public Health simultaneously. This combined program, which will take about 5 years to complete, will integrate coursework from the two degree programs which normally take 6+ years to complete if done separately. The funding is \$196,623 for the first year and \$1,781,934 over the five years, with the majority going to support trainee expenses and stipends. Ms. Julie Reynolds is a current D4 student who is taking DPH courses with us and is receiving support from the grant. She plans to be a full-time DPH graduate student next year.

The Principal Investigator is Dr. Steven M. Levy, Wright-Bush-Shreves Endowed Professor in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry (College of Dentistry) and Professor in the Department of Epidemiology (College of Public Health). Co-investigators are Dr. Raymond A. Kuthy (Professor, Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry), Dr. John J. Warren (Professor, Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry), Dr. Michelle R. McQuistan (Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry), Cathy A. Solow (Associate Dean for Student Affairs), and Dr. Rick D. Axelson (Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, College of Medicine).

Regional Dental Public Health Conference

On October 17-18, 2010, 65 Dental Public Health professionals from 9 states met in Coralville, Iowa to address this year's theme (Dental Home). The title for this sixth conference was "Oh, Give Me a Home...": Revisiting the Dental Home for Children". Unlike previous conferences, we decided to have two major presentations. Harry Goodman, Director, Office of Oral Health, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, provided the keynote address (A Dental Home Is Where the Heart Is), while Jody Murph, Department of Pediatrics, University of Iowa spoke about the medical home (The Medical Home: What It Is; What It Isn't; and Why It's Important to Children's Health). Both presentations stimulated extensive discussion among the conference attendees.

Eight states provided information concerning programs that are currently underway concerning dental home initiatives, including the regional effort between the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Office of Head Start. Examples of other activities included an update about the I-Smile program in Iowa, the Kansas Cavity Free Kids program (targeted at Head Start program), South Dakota's Caring for Smiles program (primarily for children with disabilities), and Missouri's Ready Smile Project (a case management system in the Kansas City area). In addition, Jeff Chaffin provided an update about the TriCare dental insurance program for military dependents and retirees. As always, this forum provided an opportunity for the University of Iowa DPH graduate students to engage with program directors for several Dental Public Health state and local programs in the Midwest.

The goal of these conferences, which have been supported through grants by Health Resources and Services Administration and several Delta Dental organizations (Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota), is "to facilitate attendees' networking and knowledge concerning access to dental care for children at the state, local, and national levels as they pertain to the Midwest." The tentative theme for the next conference is oral health workforce.

Course Change

For the past decade, graduate students enrolled in two semesters of Dental Public Health field experience. The first semester is primarily devoted to visiting and interacting with at least three public or non-profit organizations; whereas, during the second semester students work with an off-site mentor on mutually agreed upon programmatic objectives for that organization. Both of the semesters used the same course number (111:208 – Field Experience: Dental Public Health). Based on student feedback concerning the appearance that the student took the same course twice, we petitioned the Graduate College to now have two distinct course numbers. The second semester is now designated as 111:209 – Advanced Field Experience: Dental Public Health.

Congratulations

Elham Kateeb, JJ Shelley, and Alejandra Valencia successfully completed the written portion of the American Board of Dental Public Health Examination.



Faculty

John Warren became Graduate Program Director, effective July 1, 2010 (see related article).

Teresa Marshall recently became Director of Experiential Learning for the College of Dentistry

Graduate Students

Donald Chi

1st Place – 2010 Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health (*Impact of chronic condition status and severity on the time to first dental visit for newly Medicaid-enrolled children in Iowa – Pete Damiano, Mentor*)

Susan McKernan

2nd Place – 2010 Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health (*Design and development of a dentist workforce model for use in state planning – Raymond Kuthy, Mentor*)

Oitip Chankanka and Bhagyashree Pendharkar were co-winners of the Keith E. Heller Dental Public Health Graduate Research Award

Alejandra Valencia, who recently completed the Dental Public Health program, was named first place winner in the scientific competition for her poster at the annual Hispanic Dental Association meeting (October 28-30, 2010). The poster's title was: "disparities in access-utilization of dental services among Iowa children: the Latino experience". Her co-authors were Karin Weber-Gasparoni, Fang Qian, John Warren, and Peter Damiano.

Susan McKernan has been named as the University of Iowa's nominee for the U.S. delegation to attend the annual meeting of Nobel Laureates and students in Lindau, Germany. Since 1951, Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics, and physiology/medicine convene annually to have open and informal meetings with graduate students and young researchers. Since receiving a master's degree from the Dental Public Health graduate program, Susan has pursuing a doctoral degree in the Oral Sciences program. Working with Dr. Ray Kuthy, she is study ways to incorporate spatial analysis into dental workforce research, particularly to model dental service areas.

The National Oral Health Conference

The National Oral Health Conference will be held April 11-13, 2011 in Pittsburgh, PA, with the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH) exam administered April 7-9, 2011. We plan to have many of our faculty and most of our current students attend, and also hope to see many alumni there!

Thanks and Best Wishes!

Thank you for your contributions to improving the public's oral and general health and your support of our program and department. We wish you all the best personally and professionally. Keep in touch so we can share your activities and accomplishments with our faculty and with other alumni.

AlumNEWS

Ron Hunt ('82) has relocated to Arizona to be Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine in Glendale. After 12 years as dental dean at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Ron was lured to the desert for the opportunity to help build a new dental school focused on its general dentistry curriculum. The college has no graduate programs, choosing to emphasize the D.M.D. program.

Cathy Skotowski ('91) is a faculty member in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. The last three years she has received Delta Dental grant funding to support her efforts in developing and placing educational resources on the department of pediatric dentistry's website. Resources include educational videos and fact sheets on various pediatric oral health topics. The website address is www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/pediatric.

Liang Hong ('01) recently took a faculty position in the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, University of Tennessee College of Dentistry. He previously was on the faculty at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Kari Steinbock ('01) recently completed more education and is now a Physician's Assistant. Current living in Washington State, she works in urology and stays busy with her four children as well (Caitlin, 7th grade; Jacob, 5th grade; Izzy, 1st grade; Mollie, Pre-K).

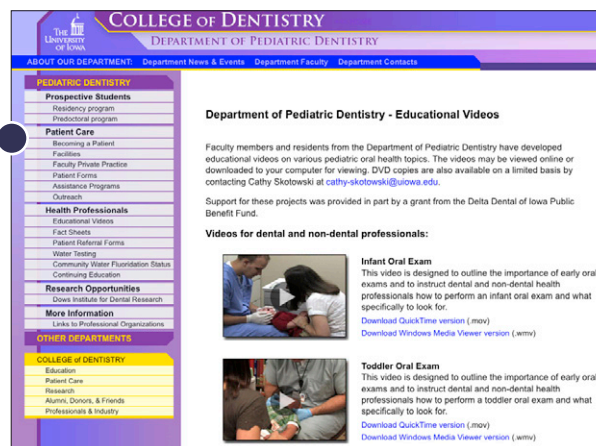
Michelle McQuistan ('04) and husband Gary Small had a baby girl, Audrey McQuistan Small, on July 23, 2010. She was also welcomed by her big sister, Alexa.

Linda Saleh ('06) has recently moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with her family.

Paul Colthirst ('08), U.S. Army Major, recently received the U.S. Public Health Service Citation Award for exemplary dental public health service provided to the Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center from October 2006 to June 2007 (a project he completed while at the University of Iowa). He will also be speaking at the Jamaica Dental Association and the Jamaica Defense Force Oral Health Conference, February 16-19, 2011. Dr. Colthirst also completed the Intermediate Level Education (formerly the Command General Staff College) for military education. Currently he is stationed at Fort Sam Houston in Texas.



Cathy Skotowski



Alexa and Audrey McQuistan Small

New Students

Stella Chukwu received a DDS degree from Howard University.

Joshua Cohen, a U.S. Naval Officer, received his DDS degree from the University of Southern California. He is working to obtain his certificate in Operative Dentistry along with the MS in Dental Public Health.

Golnaz Kavand received a BDS degree from Shahid Beheshti Dental School, Tehran, Iran.

Astha Singhal received a BDS degree Manipal University, Manipal, India. Prior to joining us, she also received her MPH from SUNY – Albany and completed a DPH residency at NIDCR. Astha has received a very prestigious University of Iowa Presidential Fellowship to support her PhD studies. She is the first College of Dentistry student to be honored in this way.



From left Stella Chukwu, Astha Singhal, Bhagyashree Pendharkar, Atul Bidarkar, Graduate Program Director John Warren, Julie Reynolds, Deise Oliveira, and Golnaz Kavand

Graduate Student Dental Public Health Field Experiences – 2010

Atul Bidarkar - *Portable dental equipment: findings and recommendations for the Barren River District Health Department (Kentucky)*

Site Director: Stacy Towbridge (Barren River District Health Department)

The goal of this project was to provide this new oral health program, which serves eight counties in southcentral Kentucky, with a detailed business plan comparing portable dental equipment versus a mobile dental van.

Adrienne Jennings - *Iowa dentists and how they relate to public health functions*

Site Director: Bob Russell (Iowa Department of Public Health)

Since little is known about the public health beliefs of dentists and how they incorporate these beliefs into their practices, this project centered on the creation and implementation of a survey instrument that was administered to 300 Iowa dentists.

Deise Oliveira - *Muscatine Children's Oral Health Clinic: a Follow-up*

Site Directors: Richard Burke (UI Pediatric Dentistry), Michael Kanellis

This project primarily focused on parental satisfaction survey with services provided at the Muscatine Center for Social Action dental clinic, which was in its fifth year of operation. In addition, local dentists participated in a parallel survey to determine about their knowledge about this facility and whether they referred patients to this clinic. Findings are being used to improve patient services.

2010 Graduates (and titles of research theses)

Oitip Chankanka (PhD) – *Dietary Intake and Dental Caries in Children*

Oitip has returned to Thailand and is on faculty at Prince of Songkla University. She serves as Assistant Dean for Education.

Bhagyashree Pendharkar (MS) – *Fourth Year Dental Students' Barriers to Tobacco Intervention Services*

Bhags is currently pursuing her MPH (Epidemiology) at the University of Iowa and working as a Research Assistant for Drs. Chris Squier and Ray Kuthy.

JJ Shelley (MS), U.S. Army Colonel – *Significant Indicators of Intent to Leave Among Army Dental Corps Junior Officers*

JJ has been appointed as director of Great Plains Regional Dental Command, which is based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Alejandra Valencia (MS) – *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access and Utilization of Dental Services Among Children in Iowa: The Latino Experience*

Alejandra is employed by Heartland Alliance as part of the Chicago Community Oral Health Forum.

Current Graduate Students

PhD candidates (in Oral Sciences with DPH Emphasis)

Elham Kateeb (BDS, Jordan)
Susan McKernan (DMD, Florida)
Astha Singhal (BDS, India)
Yousef al-Yousef (BDS, Saudi Arabia)

Pediatric Dentistry/Dental Public Health Students

Aaron Blackwelder (DDS, Baylor)

MS Program candidates

Atul Bidarkar (BDS, India)
Stella Chukwu (DDS, Howard University)
Joshua Cohen (DDS, USC)
Adrienne Jennings (DDS, Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)
Golnaz Kavand (BDS, Iran)
Julie Kim (DDS, South Korea)
Deise Oliveira (DDS, Brazil)