

# Dental Public Health ALUMNI

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY  
& DENTAL CLINICS

Volume 13  
April 2014

## News

### A NOTE FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



John Warren

In the previous two years' newsletters, I've begun my message with a weather report, and last year, even used weather analogies throughout my message. I'll dispense with the analogies, but I can't help but report on this past winter's weather. In a word, it has been "cold" – according to the state climatologist, the winter of 2013-14 was the coldest in Iowa in the last 35 years. While we didn't set any records for low temperatures, there were many days with sub-zero

temperatures and very few where it was above freezing. As I type this in early April (yes, it seems to get later every year), it appears that winter may finally be over, as we've had springtime temperatures for the past few days.

Fortunately, the Dental Science Building and other buildings on campus are heated, so we have been able to carry on. Actually, it seems as if the cold weather forced us to huddle together and not venture out too much, as the past year was a relatively quiet one. Nonetheless, there have been the usual activities and events, which I'll describe, below.

First of all, we welcomed three new students into the program – Simi Mani, a dentist from India by way of Wichita, Kansas; Mary Kelly, a dental hygienist from the Des Moines area, and Daisy Patiño, a dental hygienist from the Chicago area. The latter two students are supported by a HRSA-funded training grant that supports the pre-doctoral (dental student) program, but also included funding for dental hygienists in the graduate program. Historically, we've had a number of hygienists complete the program (you know who you are), but none have done so in over 10 years, so we are excited to have Mary and Daisy on board with us. We are also happy to have Simi with us – she joins the program with an MPH degree from the University of Kansas, as well as some previous experience in public health.

Fortunately, we were able to make room for the new students because we've had four students graduate since the last newsletter – Vinti Ahuja, Stella Chukwu, Tariq Ghazal and Julie Reynolds all completed the MS program. Congratulations to Vinti, Stella, Tariq and Julie!!

As we have done for many years, we hosted a Dental Public Health Regional Conference on October 13-14, with the focus on the Affordable Care Act and its implications for Dental Public Health. Keynote speakers included Janice Kupiec from the ADA

and our own Pete Damiano. As we had done for the 2012 conference, we included a new "wrinkle" with the inclusion of separate sessions for pre-doctoral (dental) students from a number of Midwestern dental schools, including Marquette University, the University of Nebraska, the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Missouri-Kansas City as well as the University of Iowa. We are busy planning this year's conference, tentatively scheduled for October 19-20, with the theme of "Access to Dental Care". Stay tuned for more details.

We are pleased to welcome back one of our program graduates, Arwa Owais (MS, 2000), who joined the Pediatric Dentistry faculty last fall. She had previously been on the faculty at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan. Please see the feature about Arwa's move on page 4 of this newsletter.

As I mentioned at the outset, the past year has been relatively quiet, with no major new events or structures in the department. However, we have had some "minor" additions – thanks to Dr. Damiano, some new paintings now grace our conference room's (N-323) walls – and one of them has raised considerable debate among our students and faculty. In the painting, depicted below, the question is: What in the heck is the creature on the left side of the painting? A calf? A goat? A dog? Something else? If any of you have insights or better yet, an answer, please let us know – we're all stumped!





Dan Caplan

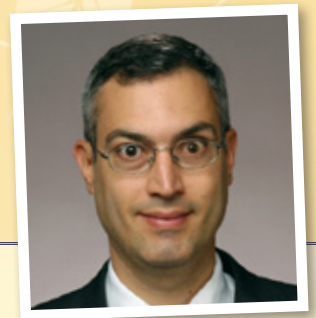
## Update from the Chair

**Hello everybody! After the very long and cold winter — which we hope is finally over — it's time for the annual "Department Chair's Update":**

- "Project SEALED" has seen a whirlwind of activity since our first pilot visit to Allamakee County in December 2012. This project, funded by the UI Office of the Provost, delivered preventive dental care and career education in dentistry to underserved children in Iowa's most northeastern county on several occasions during the past year. The project was so successful during the pilot phase that we decided to incorporate it as a mandatory component of the 3rd-year DDS Pediatric Dentistry / Operative Dentistry block. Every quarter we take 20-22 dental students, plus 6 faculty, 2 staff and 2 project co-ordinators to Postville and Waukon to provide screening exams, fluoride varnish applications, cleanings, and dental sealants to over 100 children over a 2-day period, with everyone staying at a hotel in Waukon and eating lunches at the local schools. Recently the project was awarded with additional funding in the form of a \$10,000 grant from the Allamakee County Community Foundation to help keep the project going past its originally scheduled project period (through at least the 2014-15 school year).
- In Summer 2013 the department welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Jen Hartshorn and Dr. Leo Marchini. Dr. Hartshorn earned her DDS from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 2012, and completed our department's Graduate Program in Geriatric and Special Needs Dentistry in 2013. She teaches in the Geriatric and Special Needs Clinic and on the Geriatric Mobile Dental Unit 3 days a week. Dr. Marchini earned his DDS in 1996 and his MSD in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics in 2000 from São Paulo State University, Brazil (UNESP), and his PhD in Microbiology from the University of São Paulo, Brazil (USP) in 2006. He teaches in the Geriatric and Special Needs Clinic and on the Geriatric Mobile Dental Unit 2-3 days per week, and is beginning to establish his research program in the oral health of geriatric populations. Both Dr. Hartshorn and Dr. Marchini see patients in the Faculty General Practice one day per week. They already have begun participating in seminars with the DPH graduate program and we look forward to their future contributions to our educational programs!
- The predoctoral extramural rotation program continues to provide quality learning experiences for our students. Recently we added the VAMC in Des Moines to our list of extramural rotation sites. One of my own classmates, Dr. Kirby Amonson (DDS '88), is the dental director there. We are excited to have a VAMC site on our list of potential options for students!



Jen Hartshorn



Leo Marchini

**There's always too much happening over the course of the year to be able to mention everything, but these few bullets will have to suffice for now. We look forward to next year and I'll keep you updated on our activities and major accomplishments. Thanks for your continued support of our department and the DPH program!**



## Ongoing HRSA Predoctoral Dental Public Health Training Grant

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry is currently finishing the fourth year of a 5-year training grant from the Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to develop and implement enhanced training in Dental Public Health, primarily for predoctoral dental students. Faculty included are: Steve Levy (Director), Raymond Kuthy, John Warren, Michelle McQuistan, and Cathy Solow. We are pleased to report much success with this endeavor. Here are some of the highlighted activities this grant is helping to support:

- The DPH student club that is a chartered AAPHD student chapter and club recognized by the UI College of Dentistry and the University of Iowa is in its third year of existence – Steve Levy is the club's advisor. About 80 students are club members, with typical attendance of about 40 at meetings.
- In June, we will have our first group of students graduate from dental school in the "DPH Distinction Track" at the College of Dentistry. These students have been active in DPH for 4 years with the club and outreach activities and took at least 11 credits of public health courses beyond the DDS curriculum.
- Currently, 19 students are taking a general public health or DPH course, and some of them are participating in the DPH Distinction Track program. We pay tuition and provide a small stipend. (Over the past year, 15 courses have been taken by 27 students.)
- We have had external speakers come and meet separately with the DPH club students, including Catherine Hayes, Bob Russell, Joe Bolkcom (Iowa state senator), Patricia Main, and Carol Moreno.
- Several club members participated in our 2013 Dental Public Health Regional Conference, and we will offer them the opportunity to participate in the 2014 conference, again along with dental students from five other regional dental schools.
- 6 students are attending the National Oral Health Conference in Fort Worth, TX.
- The DPH Club is working to emphasize outreach activities such as elderly oral cancer screenings and school-based fluoride varnish. For this purpose, many of our DPH Club students participated in outreach at one of five different sites over the course of the school year so far.
- Two of our current MS students, Daisy Patiño and Mary Kelly (both dental hygienists), are able to receive tuition and stipend support thanks to this HRSA-sponsored training grant.

We are very fortunate to have this HRSA funding to help offer our DDS and MS program students the opportunity to learn about the specialty of Dental Public Health and to participate in these important courses and activities.

### \*\*Regional Dental Public Health Conference – October 2014\*\*

This year's conference will be held in mid-October, with the theme being "Access to Care: Dental Public Health Challenges and Solutions". We are happy to announce that Katherine Weno (CDC) will give the Rhys B. Jones keynote address. The conference will again be regional in nature and participants will be dental public health professionals as well as students from five dental schools. We very much look forward to hosting another successful conference this fall.

## Congratulations!

**Pradeep Bhagavatula (MS, 2009), Julie Coe (aka Julie Kim) (MS, 2012), Elham Kateeb (PhD, 2012) and Susan McKernan (MS, 2009, PhD, 2012)** successfully completed the ABDPH examination and are now diplomates of the American Board of Dental Public Health. **Tejasi Avasare, Stella Chukwu (MS, 2013), Julie Reynolds (MS, 2013) and Tariq Ghazal (MS, 2013)** successfully completed the written portion of the ABDPH exam.

**Arwa Owais (MS, 2000) recently returned to the University of Iowa after working professionally in Jordan for many years. She answered some questions for us about her new endeavors:**

**What have you been doing professionally since graduation from the MS in DPH program?**

Since the year 2000, I went back home (Jordan) as a faculty member at Preventive Dentistry Department at the College of Dentistry, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). I was jointly appointed with the College of Applied Medical Sciences at JUST serving as a faculty member, Head of the Applied Dental Sciences Department (dental hygiene, dental assisting, dental lab technicians) and Vice Dean of the College of Applied Medical Sciences. At the College of Dentistry, I was teaching pediatric dentistry and preventive dentistry at the undergraduate and graduate level. I was the head of preventive dentistry and became the Vice Dean of the College of Dentistry.

**What is your official position at the UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics?**

I am an associate professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry with 50% of my time for research and 50% for Clinical. I am a predoctoral and postdoctoral lecturer, clinical instructor and research mentor. I am a co-director for two courses: Pediatric Dentistry Diagnosis and Treatment (90:140) and Public Health Issues in Pediatric Dentistry (90:220). I treat private patients at the Center for Development and Disabilities as part of the department's Dental Service Plan. I also provide patient care in the operating room at UI Hospitals and Clinics.

**What are some similarities and differences between UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics and JUST?**

Similarities: Both Colleges are World-Class Colleges, with concentration on research and teaching as priorities. Both have the international flavor of students and faculty members. I see many similarities because many of the active faculty members at JUST are Iowa graduates, so we tried to get what is applicable to Jordan and apply it there. I think we have been successful.

Differences are mainly related to research, we have limited resources of funds, and that was a limiting factor. Cultural differences are present but not to the extent to affect the quality of work.

**Tell us about your family. How many children do you have and what are their ages?**

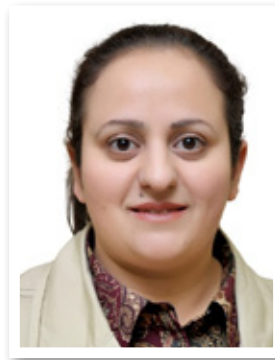
I have four children, two girls and twin boys. Hana was born in Iowa, and she is 14 years of age (freshman at Iowa City West High). Sama is my second daughter (12 years) at Northwest Junior High. My twin boys (2.5 yrs old), Waleed and Wadie, are still with my husband and my family in Jordan. We are having the family reunion next August.

**How do you feel about returning to Iowa City?**

Returning to Iowa in 2013 gave me the same feeling like returning to Jordan in 2000. I feel at home here and there. I love both places. However, returning to Iowa gives me the feeling that I will have more opportunities in research and professional achievements. I am so happy I came back.

**Any other thoughts you have about the transition?**

In Jordan, I went through many changes and transitions, and I believe they were always to the better. I am hoping that this transition will be the best in my life for myself, my career, and my family. I believe also that this transition is also a chance for me to give this great institution all my best efforts and contributions. I hope during this transition I will be able to contribute in every possible way to the success of both the Pediatric Dentistry and Preventive and Community Dentistry departments. I owe these two departments at the COD a lot.



Arwa Owais

## AlumNEWS

**Michael Kanellis (MS, 1994)** was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Dentists in October 2013. He was sponsored by **Hayley Harvey (MS, 1996)**.

**Linda Saleh (MS, 2006)** is working through a period of assessment at the University of Khartoum in Sudan and will be appointed in the Department of Dental Public Health. She is very encouraged by the efforts made in her department on community outreach programs and research as there is much need in the area.

**Paul Colthirst (MS, 2008)** was recently inducted into the International College of Dentists (ICD) during the 84th Convocation in New Orleans, LA. Fellowship in ICD is by invitation only and is an honor bestowed upon those dentists who have made significant contributions to the profession, the community, and their families, and have successfully completed a thorough review process.

Paul would also like to thank Dr. Elizabeth Momany for her letter of recommendation which led to his selection for a 2014-15 RAND Arroyo Center Fellowship. He is the first Army dentist to receive this fellowship, which is dedicated to working on healthcare issues that affect the military and the nation at large.

Paul also reports he will be relocating to Santa Monica, CA in August 2014.

**JJ Shelley (MS, 2010)** announced she is retiring from the Army after 38 years of service on October 1, 2014. Thank you for your service, JJ! She has also been honored with the opportunity to be the commencement speaker at her alma mater, University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston.

**Elham Kateeb (PhD, 2012)** reports she is now the head of Oral Health Research and Promotion Unit at Al Quds University, East Jerusalem/Palestine and a research associate at the Public Policy Center at University of Iowa.



## College of Dentistry Faculty and Students Conduct Dental Outreach Project in Xicotepec, Puebla, Mexico

Over Spring Break 2014, Dr. Steven Levy (professor), **Dr. Julie Reynolds (MS, 2013)**, and seven dental students conducted outreach preventive oral health activities in the small town of Xicotepec in the Mexican state of Puebla, about three hours outside of Mexico City. This is the fourth year of such activities, which are part of cooperative efforts of Rotary International (District 6000 from Iowa and Xicotepec Rotary) and the University of Iowa under the auspices of a spring semester service learning course (International Perspectives: Xicotepec 2014) involving 10 faculty members and about 35 total students that meets on Thursday nights.

Dental caries is a major public health problem in many parts of Mexico, due largely to poverty, lack of awareness, and the overwhelming challenges from frequent (cane) sugar consumption. The majority of the time is spent in oral health prevention activities at area schools, preschools, and orphanages. The main goals are to: 1) foster student learning about oral health, cultural competency, and public service and 2) enhance prevention for some of the region's children. Strong emphasis is placed on supporting sustainable programs, since we are there for only one week per year. These sustainable program components include establishing and maintaining ongoing school-based weekly fluoride mouthrinse programs and daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste programs. Other program components include individual oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications, education of children (including using puppet shows, songs, and games) and parents, and distribution of toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to the children and teachers. Many would not otherwise have access to these things. We also support a dental public health initiative by donating leftover dental preventive supplies to a dentist working to care for the underserved at the local Red Cross.

The efforts are supported in part by the training grant to enhance students' dental public health learning from the federal Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration; Procter and Gamble/Oral-B, 3-M Corporation, and Dr. Levy's Wright-Bush-Shreves Endowed Professorship.



### 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. You can contact Dr. Warren at [john-warren@uiowa.edu](mailto:john-warren@uiowa.edu) or Tina Craig at [tina-craig@uiowa.edu](mailto:tina-craig@uiowa.edu).

Be sure to visit our new website:  
[www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/preventive-grad-program-requirements/](http://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/preventive-grad-program-requirements/)



## 2013 GRADUATES

(and titles of research theses)

**Vinti Ahuja (MS) –**  
*Oral Health Related Quality of Life among Iowa Adolescents*

**Stella Chukwu (MS) –**  
*Knowledge of Risk Factors for Oral Cancer among Adult Iowans*

**Tariq Ghazal (MS) –**  
*Prevalence, Incidence and Risk Factors for Early Childhood Caries among Young African-American Children in Alabama*  
Tariq is pursuing the PhD in Oral Sciences at the University of Iowa.

**Julie Reynolds (MS) –**  
*Neighborhood and Family Social Capital and Oral Health Status of Children in Iowa*  
Julie is currently splitting her time between dental health policy research at the University of Iowa Public Policy Center, clinical and didactic teaching at the College of Dentistry, and clinical practice at St. Luke's Dental Health Center.

## Current Graduate Students

### PhD candidates (in Oral Sciences with DPH Emphasis)

Tariq Ghazal (BDS, Iraq)  
Reem Oweis (BDS, Jordan)  
Astha Singhal (BDS, India)

### MS Program candidates

Tejasi Avasare (BDS, India)  
Mary Kelly (RDH)  
Simi Mani (BDS, India)  
Daisy Patiño (RDH)  
Kalyani Yaduwanshi (BDS, India)

## HONORS & AWARDS

### Faculty

**Michelle McQuistan (MS, 2004)** was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry.

### Graduate Students

**Julie Reynolds (MS, 2013)** received 3rd place in AAPHD's Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award Competition.

**Tariq Ghazal (MS, 2013)** received honorable mention.

**Elham Kateeb (PhD, 2012)** received the Olav Alvares Award for best article published in the Journal of Dental Education in 2013.

**Michael McCunniff (MS, 1995)** was named Lecturer of the Year for 2013-14 by the junior class at UMKC. This award is given by each class to faculty who teach classroom courses and clinical training.

## Graduate Student Dental Public Health Field Experiences – 2013

**Tejasi Avasare -** *Content development and resource gathering project for ADA long-term care resource kit*

**Site Directors:** Barbara Smith (ADA, CAPIR) and Teresa Johnson (AppleTree Dental)  
The American Dental Association (ADA) had developed a resource manual for providing dental care in Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities in 1997. However, with advancing technology, rapidly changing demographics of the patient pool, and shifting dynamics of clinical practice due to evidence-based dentistry and regulatory issues, the content of the manual needed an update to continue to be useful to the care providers of today. The objective of the project was to provide an opportunity to understand oral health needs in long-term care settings through clinical observation/shadowing, literature and resource review, and direct educational interaction with LTC personnel. The student will contribute to three ADA LTC Resource Kit chapters, specifically Knowing Prospective Patients, Regulatory Issues, and Creating a Culture for Oral Health.

**Reem Oweis -** *Survey of the oral health outreach programs offered by the Iowa Federally Qualified Health Centers*

**Site Director:** Nancy Adrianse (Oral Health Manager, Iowa Primary Care Association)  
This project was developed in order to determine the different oral outreach services that are offered by the Federally Qualified Health Centers in Iowa. Information was gathered through a survey. The collected information will be used by the Iowa Primary Care Association to inform stakeholders about the efforts that are being implemented to improve oral health, and to get a better knowledge about services provided outside the walls of these centers.

**Tariq Ghazal -** *Planning and implementation of the Minnesota Third Oral Health Summit 2013*

**Site Director:** Merry Jo Thoele (Minnesota Department of Health)  
This project was designed in order to develop a good understanding of how to plan and implement oral health conferences, engage stakeholders, take notes from the attendees. Also, the project included a meeting with the Minnesota Oral Health Coalition Board members in order to understand how it works and its responsibilities and structure. Finally, this project provided a good opportunity to learn about the differences and similarities of oral health programs in Minnesota and Iowa through the interaction with the 120 attendees of Minnesota Oral Health Summit 2013 who were from different disciplines and attending all the presentations that were given during the summit. The theme for this year's summit was "Coming Together: Integrating Oral Health and Total Health".