

# Dental Public Health ALUMNI



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY  
& DENTAL CLINICS

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## News

## A NOTE FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



John Warren

You may have noticed that this newsletter is arriving in the autumn instead of the usual spring time frame. Basically, we were planning to again complete the newsletter in the spring, and then all he\*\* broke loose, and we're sending it out in the fall. To think, my original springtime message focused on the theme that "not much has changed" – boy, was I wrong. OK, it's not that bad, but there have been a few significant changes around here over the past few months.

First and foremost, Pat Zousel retired effective June 30, as she took advantage of an "early retirement" program offered by the university. Tina Craig has now taken over many of Pat's duties, as well as maintaining many of her own. In addition to this, the university started making changes in some other functions such as IT support and travel. This has also changed some of Tina's duties, and we're all still trying to figure out who is supposed to do what. On top of that, Tina's mother passed away earlier this year, so, Tina, who puts the newsletter together, has been a little overwhelmed.

Adding to this, a large number of faculty and staff at the College of Dentistry (including Pat) took advantage of an early retirement program, so many long-term employees are no longer around – a few notable names: Drs. Ettinger, Aquilino, Vincent, Ruprecht and Clancy, along with Maggie Hogan, Mike Mulder and Mary Yoder.

In other changes, we have new faculty members in the Department. Dr. Xi Chen joined our department in April and his wife, Dr. Hong Chen, will be joining our department later this year. Please see Dr. Caplan's update for details on Dr. Xi Chen.

**Dr. Susan McKernan (MS 2009; PhD 2012)** joined the Department as an Assistant Professor this summer. She primarily will be doing research on dental workforce and access to care in Iowa, but she also will direct predoctoral and graduate courses related to Dental Public Health.

After two long years, the Preventive Clinic will be back "home" on the second floor in newly renovated space as the Dental Science Building transformation continues. In addition, Galagan Auditorium was completely gutted and renovated with the finished product almost unrecognizable from its previous state.

The program has several new students, including those who joined us in 2014 – Peter Drouillard, a dentist serving in the U.S. Army who is originally from Ohio; Erica Teixeira, who is originally from

Brazil, and is also a new faculty member in Operative Dentistry; Aparna Ingleswar, who is in our Oral Sciences PhD program and is originally from India. More recently, four more students joined the program in 2015 – Nyla Balakrishnan, who is from India by way of Houston; Amy Lesch a recent dental school graduate from the University of Michigan who is also in the Pediatric Dentistry program; Bob Selders, a dentist in the U.S. Army originally from Omaha, and Jennifer Sukalski a dental hygienist originally from Algona, Iowa. In addition, as of 2014, we have two other Oral Sciences PhD students in the department that are not pursuing dental public health training – Jirakate Madiloggovit who is from Thailand and is focused on geriatrics and Paula Ortega Verdugo who is from Chile and completed the Operative Dentistry program and is continuing her work in general Oral Sciences. Several other students completed the MS program and have moved on: Tejas Avasare (Boise, Idaho), Kalyani Yaduwanshi (San Diego), and Simi Mani (Wichita, Kansas). Finally, Astha Singhal completed her Oral Sciences PhD, and has accepted a faculty position at Boston University.

Whew! A lot has happened over the past year and a half, and we've all survived. Despite all the changes around us, the program continues to be strong, with a cadre of very good students. While we've had quite a few changes recently, and anticipate a few more changes ahead, I will leave you with the assurance that some things really never change.....





Dan Caplan

## Update from the Chair

Another 18 months has gone by quickly and once again it's time for the annual "Chair's Update", just to let you know what's going on in the department...

- In Spring 2015 we welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Xi Chen. Dr. Chen obtained his dental degree from the West China University of Medical Sciences, and both his PhD in Health Informatics and his clinical certificate in Oral Health Services for Older Adults from the University of Minnesota. Prior to arriving here, he spent several years on the faculty at the University of North Carolina (UNC), where his research focused on dental care for geriatric populations and specifically for cognitively impaired older adults. He also supervised students in the Special Care Clinic at UNC. Dr. Chen is the recipient of a K23 Mentored Career Development Award from the NIDCR, and will continue the last 3 years of this award at the UI under the primary mentorship of Dr. Bob Wallace (UI College of Public Health). At the College, Dr. Chen mostly will be involved in geriatric oral health research, but eventually will supervise students in the Special Care Clinic and also see his own patients in the department's faculty practice. Welcome to the department Dr. Chen!



Xi Chen



Michelle McQuistan

- Dr. Michelle McQuistan has been selected to participate in ADEA Leadership Institute, to graduate with the Class of 2016. The Leadership Institute is "a year-long program designed to develop the most promising individuals at academic dental institutions to become future leaders in dental and higher education". Topics covered during the four phases of the program include priority setting, conflict resolution, budgeting, personality assessment, advocacy, and strategic planning, among others. Only one applicant from the College is nominated each year, so this is a great honor for Dr. McQuistan. We wish her the best of luck in the Leadership Institute and look forward to hearing about her activities and progress in leadership roles.

- The UI is undergoing an extensive organizational shake-up that will have effects that trickle down to all Colleges and departments. One branch of the reorganization has to do with the Board of Regents-mandated TIER (Transparent Inclusive Efficiency Review), a program that will take many of the responsibilities related to IT, Human Resources, and Purchasing that previously were handled at the College and instead have them run at the University level. The second branch of the reorganization relates to an early retirement plan that was offered to eligible University personnel. One person who applied and was approved for early retirement was Ms. Pat Zousel, the department's Primary Administrator for 30 years. With Pat's retirement we are losing a great deal of institutional memory, but we wish her the best as she sails off into the retirement sunset.

***As always, there's a lot more happening than just these things, especially since we work in such a vital and active department, College, and University. I'm honored to work with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and donors in our department, all of whom make substantial contributions in a variety of ways. Thank you all for your continued support!***



## Ongoing HRSA Predoctoral Dental Public Health Training Grant

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry finished the fifth 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. A no-cost extension has been granted, allowing funding for the program to continue for the next year. Faculty involved are: Steve Levy (Director), Raymond Kuthy, John Warren, Michelle McQuistan, and Cathy Solow, and Tina Craig is project administrator. We are pleased to report on the substantial, ongoing 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 fourth year of existence – Steve Levy is the club's advisor. About 80 students are club members, with typical attendance of about 35 at mostly monthly meetings.
- In June, 8 students will graduate from dental school with "Distinction in Dental Public Health", after completing 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 additional credits of public health courses beyond the DDS curriculum.
- Currently, 19 students participating in the DPH Distinction Track program are taking a general public health or DPH course. The grant pays tuition and provides a small stipend. (Over the past year, 15 different courses have been taken by 27 students.)
- We have had external speakers come and meet specifically with the DPH club students, including Drs. Jeff Chaffin, Bob Russell, Teresa Dolan, Scott Tomar, George Taylor, and Mr. Joe Bolkcom (Iowa state senator).
- Several club members participated in our 2014 Dental Public Health Regional Conference, and we will offer students the opportunity to participate in the 2015 conference, again along with dental students from five other regional dental schools).
- The DPH Club is working to emphasize outreach activities such as elderly oral cancer screenings; outreach screenings, education, and fluoride varnish applications (West Liberty); and school-based screenings, sealants, and fluoride varnish applications (Cedar Rapids). 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, stipend, and other support from this HRSA-sponsored training grant.
- Ten dental students in the DPH Distinction Track and one MS student are completing a semester-long, interdisciplinary, service-learning course that included a week-long outreach trip to Xicotepec, Puebla, Mexico.

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 2015\*\*

This year's conference will be held in mid-October, with the theme being "Health Literacy: A Key to Improving Oral Health and Quality of Care". Keynote speakers are Alice Horowitz and Janet Ohene-Frempong. The conference will again be regional in nature and participants will be dental public health professionals as well as students from surrounding dental schools. We very much look forward to hosting another successful conference this fall.

## Congratulations!

The following program alumni completed the ABDPH exam and are now Diplomates of ABDPH - **2014: Richie Kohli (MS, 2009); 2015: Tariq Ghazal (MS, 2013), Julie Reynolds (MS, 2013), Astha Singhal (PhD, 2015).** Congratulations to all of our new Diplomates!

**Reem Oweis and Kalyani Yaduwanshi (MS, 2015)** successfully completed the written portion of the ABDPH exam in 2014.

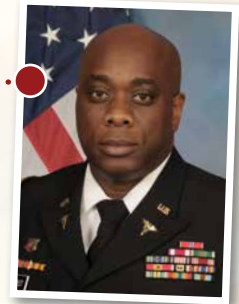
## AlumNEWS

**Ron Hunt (MS, 1982)** has been appointed to a three-year term as the Public Member on the Board of Review for the Accreditation Council for Midwifery Education (ACME). The Board of Review uses site visit reports and makes decisions on accreditation of the nation's midwife education programs. Dr. Hunt previously represented Dental Public Health on the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has chaired nine comprehensive site visits to dental schools.



**Kim Diefenderfer (MS, 1997)** retired from the US Navy on November 1, 2014, after 30 years of active duty service. He accepted a faculty appointment at Indiana University School of Dentistry, where he is the Division Director of Restorative Dentistry (within a newly formed Department of Cariology, Operative & Preventive Dentistry, with oversight of all D-1 through D-3 Operative Dentistry curricula. In addition, he provides clinical & didactic instruction, and serves as Research Coordinator, for residents in their Graduate Operative Dentistry program.

**Paul Colthirst (MS, 2008)** has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army. He has been selected to command a dental activity (dental unit) at a military installation. Currently, Paul is at the RAND Corporation doing a 1-year fellowship in Policy Analysis and Research. Paul has co-authored two papers and also presented on his research at the RAND Corporation.



**Michelle McQuistan (MS, 2004)** has been selected to attend the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute for 2015-2016. The ADEA Leadership Institute is a yearlong program designed to develop the most promising individuals at academic dental institutions to become future leaders in dental and high education. The program helps participants gain decision-making, priority setting and conflict resolution skills and learn to use them effectively. Participants also learn about policy issues affecting academic dentistry, speaking as an advocate with national policymakers, strengthening relationships within their institutions and nationwide, expanding their administrative competencies, understanding how a dental education institution fits into the parent institution, and emerging with a personal career plan.

Michelle also reports that she had a chance to visit with **Zhaomin Huang (MS, 2004)** in May 2014. Zhaomin had recently given birth to a daughter and also had a 4-year-old son at the time.



**Alejandra Valencia (MS, 2010)** was named Director of the Chicago Community Oral Health Program.



# AlumNEWS



..... **Deise Oliveira (MS, 2011)** began teaching in the Restorative Department at the University of Detroit Mercy in September 2014 and is currently pursuing her U.S. DDS.



..... **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. She recently won a UNESCO regional fellowship for 2014 (Women in Science) and she has been selected to apply for an international version for 2015.

**Tariq Ghazal (MS, 2013)** earned a certificate in Biostatistics from the University of Iowa in May 2014. He is pictured at the commencement ceremony at the College of Public Health along with the Dean, Dr. Susan J. Curry.



..... **Aaron Blackwelder (MS, 2013)** reports he lives in Waco, TX with his wife and five children. He is in private practice as a pediatric dentist and serves as guest lecturer periodically at Baylor University's ASDA functions.

**Stella Chukwu (MS, 2013)** had an article published in the Iowa Dental Journal: *Chukwu SO, Caplan DJ, McQuistan MR, Horowitz AM, Qian F. Knowledge of risk factors for oral cancer among adult Iowans. Iowa Dent J 2015;101(1):11. E-pub at [www.iowadental.org](http://www.iowadental.org)*



## 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/)**



## RECENT GRADUATES

(and titles of research theses)

### Tejasi Avasare (MS) –

*Longitudinal Assessment of Factors Contributing to Mutans streptococci Colonization in Young Children*

### Simi Mani (MS) – Impact of Insurance

*Coverage on Dental Care Utilization of Iowa Children*

### Astha Singhal (PhD) – Role of Medical

*Home, Impact of State Medicaid Dental Policy and Continuity of Care*

### Kalyani Yaduwanshi (MS) –

*Risk Factors for Adolescent Caries Incidence in the Iowa Fluoride Study*

## HONORS & AWARDS

### Faculty

**Teresa Marshall** was promoted to Professor in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry.

### Dr. Steven Levy

received the 2015 Collegiate Teaching Award at the All-College Conference on August 17. This is the College's highest honor recognizing excellence in teaching. Congratulations, Dr. Levy!

**Dr. Dan Caplan** was appointed as a Richard and Nancy Christiansen Professor in International Programs in Oral Health Education & Research in September 2014. The appointment is for five years, during which time he will work to develop programs that have an international component.



### Graduate Students

**Astha Singhal (PhD, 2015)** received 1st place in AAPHD's Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award Competition, and the APHA Oral Health Section's Anthony Westwater Jong Award Competition.

**Julie Reynolds (MS, 2013)** received the Keith E. Heller Graduate Dental Public Health Research Award in 2014.

## Graduate Student Dental Public Health Field Experiences – 2014

### Mary Kelly – Establishing a dental hygienist monitoring system in Iowa

**Site Director:** Suzanne Heckenlaible (Director, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation)

In 2012, the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation (DDIAF) convened a workgroup of stakeholder organizations to investigate factors related to the labor market environment for dental hygienists in Iowa. The initiation of this workgroup came from a paucity of information about hygienist workforce in the state, as well as anecdotes that a workforce surplus is causing difficulty for hygienists trying to find employment. With the intent to create an ongoing data collection system to monitor trends in Iowa dental hygiene workforce, the DDIAF initially invited the Iowa Dental Board (IDB) and the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), as these groups hold ongoing sources of data about Iowa hygienists. The workgroup then invited representatives from additional stakeholder organizations to solicit broad input on the content and format of a workforce monitoring system. These organizations include the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association (IDHA), the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and dental hygiene education programs. The University of Iowa (UI) Public Policy Center (PPC) was invited to collaborate in compiling background material for initiating a monitoring system for dental hygienists. The student provided leadership with scheduling meetings and serving as the liaison between groups. Once a draft document was discussed with the ad hoc committee, a policy report was shared with various stakeholders and posted to the UI PPC website (<http://ppc.uiowa.edu/health/study/coordinating-and-improving-oral-health-workforce-activities-iowa>).

### Kalyani Raj Yaduwanshi – Wisconsin's Fluoride Varnish Protocol: Turning Over a New Leaf

**Site Director:** Dr. Jeff Chaffin (Wisconsin, DHS, Dental Director)

Wisconsin's Seal a Smile (SAS) program is a school based oral health program which added a fluoride varnish component in 2009. There are 40 locally administered oral health projects that are part of this statewide program. The Wisconsin Department of Health Service identified a need to update and revise the sample protocol for fluoride varnish and incorporate it into a new comprehensive manual. The manual is distributed to school-based programs and other settings (e.g., WIC, Head Start) and meant for dental providers and non-professionals alike. The student developed a draft fluoride varnish protocol in collaboration with DHS staff, based on updated research and best clinical practices.

## Current Graduate Students

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

Tariq Ghazal (BDS, Iraq)  
Aparna Ingleswar (BDS, India)  
Jirakate Madiloggovit (DDS, Thailand)  
Paula Ortega Verdugo (DDS, Chile)  
Reem Oweis (BDS, Jordan)

### MS Program candidates

Nyla Balakrishnan (BDS, India)  
Peter Drouillard (DDS)  
Mary Kelly (RDH)  
Amy Lesch (DDS)  
Daisy Patiño (RDH)  
Robert "Bob" Selders (DDS)  
Jennifer Sukalski (RDH)  
Erica Teixeira (DDS, Brazil)