LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear dental alumni,

Greetings! Graduates of the Pediatric Dentistry Department at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine receive many honors and accolades, and the school and our department shine by association with them.

One of our program’s alumni, Rhea M. Haugseth, D.M.D., who graduated from our program in 1980, will become president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) on May 29. She is the second woman to be selected as president in the history of the academy.

It’s an honor for our program to have a graduate of our residency program representing dentistry at the national level.

Dr. Haugseth runs Post Oak Pediatric Dentistry in Marietta, GA. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

During her year as president, she will work to ensure that the AAPD is the voice for pediatric dentistry and become a leader at the national level.

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Despite her upcoming presidency, and all of her national and international involvements, Dr. Haugseth hasn’t forgotten why she likes pediatric dentistry. "I love to see kids smile and I’m committed to giving them the best dental care available to make their smiles healthy and beautiful," she says. "That is why I stay so active in professional associations and continuing education. I take a lot of time to keep up with the latest techniques, but it’s worth it when I see bright, healthy teeth smiling back at me after an exam."

And maybe that’s the most valuable lesson of all: "I hope you see kids smile, and I’m committed to doing everything I can to help them feel good about dental care.""
Graduating Residents

Jean Fulton has been doing research on a desminopathy and its effects on
emergence agglutination on patients who undergo general anesthesia. She says her time in the CWRU pediatric dental program has improved her diagnostic skills, and taught her about treating children with special needs. After graduation, she plans to move to the Phoenix area, where she would ultimately like to set up her own practice — but not until she returns with her co-residents to Cleveland. KY, for a day of horror racing. “I have great memories of all the good times with my co-residents, especially our trip to Kentucky,” Fulton says. “I can’t wait to go again this year!”

Brian Hatch has worked on a research project evaluating children among the Amish community who have a genetic disorder in which they are not able to process carbohydrates properly; in particular the sugars galactose and glucose. He was also one of the examiners in the systolic gummy bear project in the East Cleveland schools, and the very low birth weight study. “One of the main things I’ll take from my time here is that kids are amazing and they understand more than we as adults give them credit for,” Hatch says. “I also love being able to help a child out of pain, or to feel comfortable smiling again.” After graduation, Hatch plans to go to Fresno, TX, to recruit new pediatric dentists for the company My Kid’s Dentist.

Larry Kalke has been involved in three research projects the very low birth weight study to determine if very low birth weight has any relation to enamel defects; the systolic gummy bear study to see if xylitol has an effect on Streptococcus mutans; and a study to determine if high caries risk patients have an increased percentage of viable mutants. He says his goal is to be the best pediatric dentist around. “It’s hard to leave here not feeling like you’re among the best in the business,” he says. “This program offers a great foundation to start life-long learning, with so much to offer and the oral cavity relates to overall health, and prevents us having a dental ‘home’ is critical for any child,” Kalke says he plans on associating with another pediatric dentist and buying in to his practice.

Mindy Price says her goal in life since the age of 16 has been to be a pediatric dentist. Now that she is graduating, she plans to move back to Columbus, OH, and join her father’s private pediatric dentistry practice. She practiced in a research project entitled, “A prospective study and clinical evaluation of pre- and post-treatment comparison of laser and formocresol pulpotomy procedures in primary teeth.” She says her goal is to be the best pediatric dentist around. “It’s hard to leave here not feeling like you’re among the best in the business,” she says. “This program offers a great foundation to start life-long learning, with so much to offer and the oral cavity relates to overall health, and prevents us having a dental ‘home’ is critical for any child,” Kalke says he plans on associating with another pediatric dentist and buying in to his practice.

Incoming Residents

Jacqueline Beard (Clifford) grew up in Ravenna, OH and graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in psychology and an emphasis in special education. She received her D.M.D. from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2011, and completed her pediatric dental residency in 2013. After graduation, she plans to accept a position in the Pediatric Dentistry Department at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. She is interested in special needs children, especially those who have autism, and she hopes to pursue research pertaining to autism and oral health.

Clara Braman grew up on a small farm in Tacoma, WA. She attended Bates Technical College and became a dental assistant. After returning to school and completing her bachelor’s degree at the University of Washington, she moved to Cleveland and obtained her D.D.S. from the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine in 2007. After graduating, Braman returned to Washington to begin practice and start a family. Her husband’s education (he is a third-year dental student at CWRU) brought her back to Cleveland, and she has been volunteering at the dental school for two years.

Margaret Ferretti is originally from Lexington, KY. She earned her undergraduate degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati, where she studied classical Greek, Latin, and philosophy in a number of natural sciences, then graduated from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2011. Ferretti says she loves playing and watching soccer, and is training for a triathlon.

Trisha O’neal is originally from Youngstown, OH. She graduated from CWRU and earned a degree in biochemistry and chemistry, then received her D.M.S. from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. “I am thrilled to be accepted into what I consider to be the best program for training because of the amazing clinical experiences. — from the clinics within the school, to the O R, to the practice. Since dental school to Rainbow’s Babies and Children’s Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald Care Unit that serves the Northwest Ohio community,” O’neal says. She has a special interest in the care of patients with special needs.

Zoebila Tambu will receive her D.D.S. from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN in May. “I applied to the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine because of the prestigious reputation of the school and the pediatric dentistry department itself.” Tambu says she came from a background in diagnostic work as well as clinical experiences. From the moment I stepped on campus, everyone seemed to be a big family and was very welcoming. It was very clear that the common goal was to care for children in both a professional and friendly environment.

Brazil outreach program rewarding, eye-opening

Happy but sad.

That’s how Mindy Price, D.D.S., a second-year resident in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, describes her recent outreach trip to provide dental care to children in an impoverished area of Brazil.

Dr. Price spent 16 days in Santarém, a city on the Amazon River in northwestern Brazil. During that time, she and her friend, Dr. Mindy Price, treated a patient at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, treated 140 children between the ages of 3 years and 10 years. Dr. Price says she and her husband provided preventive and restorative care, as well as surgical services such as extractions.

“Our unit marked the first time that a pediatric dentist has ever visited Santarém,” Dr. Price says. “Access to care is very limited here. It’s definitely a third-world country. Many of the kids have very serious dental issues, and the parents are extremely underserved; so we did a lot of education along with the care we provided.”

Dr. Price expressed great pride to the dental supply reps who visited the Tapper Chair and donated more than $10,000 in supplies for the Brazil outreach program.

“While you’re happy but sad,” says Dr. Price. “It was rewarding to treat the children and relate them from pain, but it was sad having to put them through a difficult experience. I would definitely go back. It makes you realize what you have and how many people are less fortunate.”

Medical mission to Honduras… continued

Dr. Kalke admits that he was working so fast he basically had to detach himself emotionally just to get the job done. However, he was struck by great parents who have had their children’s teeth pulled because they knew how much better off it would be for the child in the long run.

The medical team treated an orphanage at each night, and both Dr. Fulton and Kalke were moved by the children they met there.

The kids were so eager to play with you, and theyelight up when they saw you and want to have a good time,” Kalke says. “We’re there, they forget they don’t have parents, and just want to play on a swing set or kick a soccer ball around.”

“The kids were so appreciative,” adds Dr. Fulton. “They were very friendly, and wanted to hold our hands and talk to us. Despite the language barrier they tried very hard to communicate.”

The long hours, heat, primitive conditions, and sheer number of patients were all draining, but the reward provided a sense of personal and professional enrichment.

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“Have a strong feeling that part of our responsibility as medical providers is to give something back,” Dr. Kalke says. “It’s nice to help people in less fortunate areas, and you can gain and make a huge difference for many people in a relatively short period of time. And it certainly gives you a perspective on how good we have it here.”

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Mindy Price, D.D.S., and a patient she treating during a recent outreach trip to Brazil

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