

Pediatric Dentistry News 2016



Gerald Ferretti,
DDS, MS, MPH

From the Chairman

It's been a very exciting time for the Pediatric Dentistry program. Our community outreach has expanded significantly over the past year and we are excited to continue this momentum. It's gratifying for all of us to be able to contribute to improving the oral health of our community's children.

I'm thrilled to report that our home-based oral health pilot program expansion with Head Start has been extremely successful. For the past ten years, we have taken our residents out into the community to Head Start locations to provide exams, cleaning and fluoride treatments to children in both the Early Head Start program (toddlers up to age three) and the Head Start program (children ages three to five). In addition to the cleaning and exams, we work with parents and Head Start agencies to coordinate follow up care for children needing additional treatment.

Last summer, we started a pilot program with one of these Head Start agencies to provide care to children in their homes. For various reasons, some children are not able to come to Head Start locations, so agencies bring Head Start services directly to them in their homes. We've partnered with them to treat children at their homes, providing the same exams, cleaning, fluoride treatments and follow up that is done at Head Start locations. The program was very successful, reaching more than 250 children. We've had additional interest from other agencies and another county and are looking forward to expanding this essential community outreach program. We've added a doctor to our team and our residents participate as needed.

Our outreach will continue to expand as discussions are underway with University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital to provide pediatric oral health services at the new UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children, which will be constructed at the intersection of Euclid Avenue and East 57th Street. This facility will provide care for children from surrounding communities. Focus groups during the planning process revealed that oral health is the number one issue for the families in these neighborhoods.

Finally, I am delighted to share with you the tremendous success we have seen with our two CO2 lasers that were purchased through the Jenkins Master Clinician Endowment. These FDA-certified lasers are used for both soft tissue laser surgery and laser surgery on teeth, eliminating the need for a conventional dental drill. An additional benefit is that local anesthetic is not required. Children avoid having to have the anesthetic injection and are not numb for several hours following surgery, which prevents them from biting their tongues or lips. One of these lasers is being used daily on our mobile dental unit, and the other is being used at the Tapper Dental Clinic.

As always, I thank each of you for your continued support of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and the Pediatric Dentistry program. Your engagement with us as donors, volunteers and advocates provides a solid foundation from which we are able to continue providing the highest quality care to our patients, a top-notch residency program for our students, and tremendously important community health programs.

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Dean's Update

Kenneth Chance, DDS '79

I'd like to thank each of you for your continued support of our school, and your pediatric dentistry department. Your engagement as volunteers, donors and connected alumni enables us to continue our tradition of excellence and service.

We've had a busy and productive year. I'd like to share a few of the highlights—all reasons to celebrate our success:

- We have recently finalized our partnerships with both Qassim University in Saudi Arabia and Future University in Egypt. A signing ceremony with Qassim University took place here on campus in March. We'll be formalizing our agreement with Future University in Egypt in the coming weeks. You'll be hearing much more about these collaborations and the benefits they will bring to all involved.
- As the Health Education Campus construction continues, plans are evolving for the new Dental Clinic, which is the next phase of the HEC campus. We will be working closely with the university and others to make this first-class facility a reality.
- Plans are underway to celebrate the School of Dental Medicine's 125th anniversary, which takes place in October 2017. The Alumni Association Board of Directors is leading the planning and your involvement and input is welcomed. Please contact Sara Fields, Director of Alumni Relations, at sara.fields@case.edu to find out how you can become involved.

Bringing Smiles to Kids

Rebecca Robbins, DDS '01, '07, has had a successful solo pediatric dentistry practice in Mayfield Heights for more than seven years and is on staff at the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals. She's also a busy mom of two young children. As if that were not enough to keep her busy, she serves as the founder of TeamSmile with the Cleveland Indians. TeamSmile is a national nonprofit dental organization whose mission is to create connections between children's service groups, dental professionals, professional sports organizations and their athletes.

"TeamSmile's goal is to provide underserved children in need a life-changing dental experience where the excitement of high profile sports reinforces the value of a life-long commitment to dental health," Dr. Robbins explains.

TeamSmile operates in cities across the country and requires a lead dentist in each area. Dr. Robbins took on this role and is now responsible for coordinating the entire day, recruiting dentists to treat the children, and securing sponsorships. Dr. Robbins was responsible for securing the support and participation of the Cleveland Indians as well as Procter & Gamble as a sponsor.

"In the last two years, we have treated 657 children through our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland," Dr. Robbins says. "This amounts to more than \$300,000 in free dental work." More than 100 volunteers are involved, including many CWRU alumni.

This year's event will be held on June 29 and Dr. Robbins and her team of volunteers are looking to treat more than 300 children. "Through our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club, we are able to reach children who may not be regularly seen by a dentist." Held at the Terrace Club at Progressive Field, the day also includes information and activities on anti-bullying, nutrition, fitness and general health. "It's a friendly, high energy atmosphere, with music provided by a DJ, and the Indians mascot Slider," Dr. Robbins explains.

She adds that the kids love getting to come to Progressive Field. "I remember my first year looking up as I was doing an extraction and seeing Slider dancing on the table near me," she says.

TeamSmile sends a large truck to each city that participates. On that truck is everything that is needed to set up a mobile dental clinic. "Henry Schein provides all of the equipment and materials as part of the Henry Schein Cares program and the Terrace Club is transformed into a fully functional dental treatment center," Dr. Robbins explains.

Meet the incoming residents



Ying An

Ying An received her DDS and a PhD from The Ohio State University. Originally from Shanghai, China, where her family still lives, she chose the CWRU Pediatric Dentistry program based in part on her interview experience, which she says was “impressive and positive.” She adds that the faculty and residents made the program feel very welcoming and family-oriented. In addition to spending time with her dog, Ronnie, Ying enjoys reading, traveling and hiking.



Todd Bernard

Todd Bernard, a native Clevelander, attended the College of Wooster where he studied biochemistry. After graduating, he moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he worked making oncology drugs. After dental school at CWRU, he began primarily treating children and fell in love with it. He and his wife, Jenny, have a one-year-old son. He enjoys spending time with friends and family and being outdoors as much as possible.



Rachel Bresler

Originally from Philadelphia, Rachel Bresler is a graduate of Temple University and the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry. She is currently in the CWRU Pediatric Dentistry fellowship program and will begin her pediatric residency this summer. She is also an active member of the Red Lion Surgicenter and Suburban Community Hospital. She is certified in Basic Life Support and has an Anesthesia Restricted II Permit. She is also an adjunct clinical instructor of pediatric dentistry at Temple, where she works to help pre-doctoral students ease into the world of pediatric dentistry. Rachel also treats special needs adults at Special Touch Dentistry and volunteers for the Special Olympics. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, cooking, traveling, and playing with her dog, Grady. “I just completed my fellowship at CWRU and loved how well-rounded the program was,” she says. “There was no question in my mind that I would complete my residency at CWRU if I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity.”



Cory Grathwol

Cory Grathwol, a native of Sandusky, Ohio, received his Bachelor’s of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences at The Ohio State University. He earned his Master’s in Biomedical Sciences and his dental degree at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois. “I chose CWRU for my pediatric dentistry residency due to the program’s association with Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital,” he says. “I was drawn to the program’s strong hospital and clinical background. I also felt a strong relationship between the residents and attending faculty.” Cory is a fan of all of Cleveland’s sports teams and is a die-hard Ohio State fan. “I’m excited to be back in Ohio and am looking forward to starting my pediatric residency at CWRU.”



Bambi Mpiana

Bambi Mpiana is originally from Kinshasa, D.R. Congo. She moved to the United States 12 years ago. She completed her undergraduate studies at the College of the Holy Cross and graduated from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2016. “As a dental student at CWRU, I had the privilege to do a rotation in the Pediatric Dentistry program. I saw how the partnership between Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital and the university allows residents to be exposed to diverse medical conditions, making this program strong both didactically and clinically.” Bambi and her husband love spending time with their one-year-old daughter, along with cooking and traveling. She looks forward to making a difference in children’s lives, especially those with special needs.



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Staff Profile

Chandra Drews, RDH, EFDA



When Chandra Drews met Dr. Gerald Ferretti more than 16 years ago, she didn't realize the significance it would have on her life. Today, she works closely with Dr. Ferretti, balancing a busy schedule that includes seeing regular dental

hygiene patients at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, working with cleft lip and palate patients in the craniofacial program of the CWRU Department of Orthodontics and at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, assisting with the Pediatric Dentistry residency program and managing the department's early childhood outreach activities.

Born in Sri Lanka and raised in West Virginia, Chandra earned her dental hygiene degree at Lexington Community College in Lexington, Kentucky and her dental laboratory technology degree at Triton College in Chicago. She has an EFDA license as well. She has worked in a dental office and finds her current work immensely satisfying. "I love what I do," she says. "Every day is different and it can be extremely busy, but working in the public health arena is very rewarding."

Chandra experienced another happy result of moving to Cleveland to work with Dr. Ferretti when she met her husband, who works in administration at University Hospitals.

Farewell to outgoing residents

Jeffrey Berlin is joining the faculty at Akron Children's Hospital as a full-time hospital pediatric dentist.

Christopher Chance plans to move to Texas, where he will be joining a practice. "I am grateful for the quality education I received at CWRU and enjoyed my time in Cleveland," he says. "I appreciate all the friends and colleagues. It was a privilege to meet everyone and I won't forget this experience."

Amy Namsupak will be moving to Virginia Beach, Virginia to work at Konkoff Kids, a pediatric dental office. "I'm very grateful for my education at CWRU and will miss life in Cleveland!" she says.

Carol Nixon is joining a pediatric dental practice in the northwest Chicago suburbs. While it is bittersweet to leave her hometown of Cleveland, she is thankful for the opportunity to fulfill her dreams and appreciates all the friends and mentors acquired throughout her journey.

Edward Rugama is heading to Houston, Texas with his wife and one-month-old daughter. He will be joining a private practice where he will continue to provide dental care in a pediatric setting, with the goal of eventually opening his own office or becoming a partner. He will also be reuniting with family who live in the area. "We are so grateful for the opportunities that CWRU has provided us and will continue to support the school in any way that we can," he says.