

# Pediatric Dentistry News 2017



Gerald Ferretti,  
DDS, MS, MPH

## From the Chairman

I am pleased to share with you the latest developments in several ongoing projects within the department. The plans are set for a new clinic site at Rainbow Women and Children's Center, located at 57th and Euclid, to open in Spring 2018. The new clinic will offer preventive dental services for at-risk kids and pregnant young women. It will also

provide interdisciplinary education and training opportunities for the other health disciplines located in the center. The more complex cases will be referred to the Health Education Campus (coming 2019) or the Tapper Dental Clinic at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

The size of the pediatric residency program has also grown in response to demand. Starting in 2018, we hope to have six incoming residents each year, for a total of 12 residents in the program. We currently have about 13,000 outpatient cases per year, a three-fold increase since 2005. Patient care is ongoing five days a week in the Tapper Dental Clinic, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Unit (RMCM), and at home (special cases). We provide care for families in all 17 northeast Ohio (NEO) counties.

Access to oral healthcare is a major concern for many families in NEO, and we are bridging the gap with our Head Start program, home-based Head Start program, and RMCM. The home-based Head Start program is designed for children with disabilities or language barriers that prevent them from enrollment in the traditional Head Start program, but the entire family can receive care. The team includes Dr. Al Hashimi Nameer, Cherieese Quigley, Bethann DeValve, and some first- and second-year residents. They provide exams, cleanings, and fluoride treatments for 500 families in three counties (Cuyahoga, Stark, and Lorain), and it continues to grow. It has become a community event in many neighborhoods.

*continued on back*



## From the Dean Kenneth Chance, DDS '79

Our dental clinic plans are progressing well. The pediatric dentistry department has participated in the schematic phase and is now working in the design development phase. Site excavation will begin in April. Both the education building and the dental clinic will be completed by June, 2019.

In other news, our 125th Anniversary Celebration is building momentum since the kick off at the October Homecoming in 2016. We have a nine-city "Meet and Greet Events Tour" leading to our extravaganza on October 7, 2017. I hope you will return to Cleveland for the fun!

More updates will be forthcoming via email to keep you informed of our progress on these exciting projects. I invite you to volunteer with the pediatric dentistry department towards the efforts of building a stronger program.

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# Meet the Incoming Residents (2017-2018)



## **Katie Kochenour**

Katie Kochenour is originally from Missouri. She earned her DMD degree at University of Louisville in Kentucky in 2011 and returned to Missouri to practice general dentistry. In January 2016, Katie began working in a private pediatric dentistry practice in South Florida. Her husband, Nick, who is also a dentist, was accepted to the orthodontic program at CWRU in 2013, which is what brought them to Cleveland. "Pediatric dentistry has been my love since I started practicing, and the right opportunity presented itself this year to pursue that love. I am extremely lucky that there is an outstanding pediatric dentistry program at CWRU because we were not ready to leave Cleveland!! Having the opportunity to spend time with and get to know the people that make up the pediatric dentistry program at CWRU made it an easy choice on my end." Katie and Nick welcomed their first son, Michael, in December 2016. "We love navigating parenthood and cannot wait to introduce Michael to our other interests, which include cheering on our favorite sports teams, travelling, boating and skiing!"



## **Tasha L. Batts**

Tasha Batts earned her DDS degree at Meharry Medical College in Nashville in 2014, followed by a general practice residency at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago. She chose CWRU for her pediatric dentistry residency "because of its high value in didactic courses and clinical experiences." "Immersing myself in this pediatric dentistry program will allow me to become efficient in treating pediatric patients and treatment planning with the understanding of the longevity of procedures and materials. Most of my referrals to pediatric dentists were surprisingly not because of behavior; it was the amount of treatment that the patient needed, and I had no certainty on how to be efficient treating the patient. In this program, I will understand the WHY behind the care I provide, be competent, and well-rounded." When Tasha is not in the clinic, she enjoys exploring different types of food, dancing, swimming, and exercising.



## **Joshua A. Durrant**

Josh Durrant is from Utah and a graduate of the DMD program at CWRU ('11). He has been practicing general dentistry since 2011. "I had the opportunity to know many alumni of the pediatric dentistry program through my years at CWRU as a dental student. Some of my classmates attended the program, and some great friends and mentors have also attended the program, all of whom spoke highly of the program. I was fond of the city, the university, and the dental school during my time in Cleveland, and CWRU and Rainbow Babies was always my first choice when I decided to pursue pediatric dentistry." Josh has followed the Indians since dental school and is excited to be back in town to follow them more closely. He also enjoys skiing, snowboarding, hiking, and music (he plays guitar, bass, and drums).



## **Emily Pham**

Emily Pham will be completing the DMD program at CWRU in May 2017. While in dental school, Emily was actively involved with the Ohio Dental Association and served as President of the CWRU Chapter of the American Student Dental Association (2015-2016). She continues to be a mentor for pre-dental students interested in attending CWRU and volunteers on various committees. "I am a native Ohioan, originally from Mason, OH; however, my family recently moved to Fountain Valley, CA. It was a big move to the West Coast for a small-town suburbanite, but I love the opportunity to escape from Cleveland winters when I travel back to California. I've been at CWRU for eight years, four for my

undergraduate studies and another four for dental school. The learning environment at CWRU continues to help me grow as a health professional as well as an individual. I am so excited to continue my journey with the pediatric program at CWRU! I look forward to having an abundance of clinical experience while having the opportunity to learn the reasons behind our different approaches to treatment. I know the next two years will be challenging but extremely rewarding." Emily likes to spend her free time sampling the diverse restaurant scene in Cleveland and trying new foods. She also enjoys visiting her family in California.



### **Kelsey A. Stehli**

Kelsey Stehli will finish her DDS degree at The Ohio State University in June 2017. She has been involved with the American Student Dental Association, American Pacific Dental Student Association, and Dental Anesthesiology Club. During the summer of 2016, Kelsey also volunteered with the Special Olympics and Miracle League softball tournament. "CWRU was an obvious choice for me. Firstly, I really enjoyed everyone I met at interview day. Everyone was very kind, honest, and approachable. I felt that I would be happy as part of the community for the duration of the residency. Secondly, I was impressed by the quality of education provided here as well as the passion shown by the faculty, staff, and residents. I knew that by attending CWRU, I would complete the program a very capable and confident pediatric dentist." Outside of school, Kelsey likes to read, bike, and play ultimate frisbee. A great deal of her free time goes towards spoiling her Bernese Mountain Dog.

## *Volunteer Spotlight* **Lena Meerman**



Lena Meerman was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. While transitioning from high school, Lena had a job coach through Project SEARCH and worked at the Ohio State University Nisonger Dental Clinic. "I like helping kids learn about proper hygiene and dental health," she says. In 2012,

Lena moved to Cleveland with her dad and started volunteering at University Hospital that same year.

At the Tapper Dental Clinic, Lena is responsible for making sure each patient station is thoroughly cleaned, sterilized, and ready for the next patient. "It can be challenging to keep up when the office is most busy," she says, but Lena does an excellent job and is always a delight to work with. Lena is loved by all who know her, especially at the Tapper Dental Clinic. Her favorite part about working at UH is the patients and staff. **"I love working with patients and**

**alongside the staff at Tapper Dental. They love me and I love them."**

Lena also volunteers with Young Athletes Cleveland, a developmentally appropriate play program for children with developmental disabilities, ages 2-7 years old. In her hometown of Columbus, Lena has also volunteered with the Head Start Preschool program and at Westminster-Thurber assisted living facility.

In her free time, Lena participates year-round in Special Olympics Ohio with team events, including basketball, track, and bowling. She also loves hanging out with her family and friends. She recently travelled to Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Lena's commitment to volunteering and helping kids is an inspiration to many. Lena says, "I live a purpose-filled and meaningful life, knowing that I love and help others, as others love and help me."

At the end of April, Lena was named the University Hospital's Volunteer of the Year. She and her father were in attendance at the ceremony.

## Alumni Profile

# Jackie Beard, DMD



Dr. Jackie Beard is proud to call Cleveland her home. She grew up in Painesville, about 30 minutes east of downtown. Jackie was a high school athlete and musician, and she enjoyed working with younger kids as a summer camp counselor. When it came time to

choose a career path, she had an interest in science and healthcare but was not convinced that medical school was right for her. Eventually, Jackie decided to become pediatric dentist.

Dr. Beard did her undergraduate degree at the University of Cincinnati, where she took a wide variety of classes as a psychology major. After completing her undergraduate degree, she spent a year working as an early childhood autistic support specialist. She then pursued her DMD degree ('11) at CWRU, followed by her residency in pediatric dentistry ('13). **"The pediatric dentistry program has an enormous impact on the community, and Dr. Ferretti is incredible. He keeps up with research and truly cares about the families that come to the clinic. CWRU and University Hospitals is lucky to have him on their team."**

Dr. Beard is now part-time faculty, and she works in the dental school with the pediatric dentistry residents. She helps in the Tapper Dental Clinic on Fridays. During the rest of the week, Dr. Beard sees patients at her private practice in Solon.

Owning her own practice allows Dr. Beard the freedom to prioritize the needs of her patients and their families. She does everything from exams and cleanings to surgery. Her philosophy is grounded in the idea of prevention. Through regular exams, identifying risk, and developing strong healthy habits, she hopes to prevent dental issues from ever starting. Many of her patients are kids with special needs and families from lower income areas. Dr. Beard is proud to offer a "dental home" for these families.

Thanks to word of mouth referrals, Dr. Beard's practice has been growing quickly since she began in 2016. She sees 20 new patients every week. As business continues to grow, she plans to expand her staff and eventually bring on a partner. Dr. Beard plans to continue helping at CWRU as well.

When Dr. Beard is not seeing patients, she enjoys spending time with her growing family. She and her husband have two young girls, ages 3 and 1.

## Guest Speakers

The department has enjoyed hosting many guest speakers over the past year and we have several speakers lined up for the summer and fall months. These talks are usually given on Fridays for the pediatric dentistry residents, but all alumni are welcome. Alumni donations and participation makes these events possible.

In July, Dr. Armanazi will discuss **Class II restorations vs full coverage crowns**; Health Smiles Appliance L&L will cover **sleep-disordered breathing**; and Dr. Valiathon will talk about **orthodontic treatment planning**.

In August, we will hear from Dr. Hopewell on **bleeding disorders**, Dr. Armanazi on **practice management**, and Dr. Majewski on **digital radiograph diagnosis**.

In September, Dr. Armanazi will return for a **core curriculum reading review**; Drs. Rothman and Moskey will host a **sedation/dental lab session** (Lunch + Learn); and Dr. Valiathon will discuss **clinical basics of orthodontics**; and Dr. Kutlow will provide a **laser certification session**.

In October, Dr. Griffen and Alexion pharmaceuticals will give a lecture on **hypophosphatasia** (Lunch + Learn); Dr. Healy will discuss **facial growths**, and Dr. Gindi will talk about **practice management and organized dentistry**.

# Farewell to Outgoing Residents



## **Andrea Browne**

"I have enjoyed my residency at CWRU/Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. I am grateful for my educational experiences and the friendships and professional relationships that I have formed with everyone who is a part of this program. In March, I visited Comayagua, Honduras with a group from my alma mater, UConn, and we taught dental students and provided care for the underserved community there. Following graduation, I plan to work as a pediatric dentist in the greater Cleveland area as my fiancée, Aviva, completes her doctoral program at the CWRU Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences."



## **Adela Casa**

Dr. Adela Casa grew up in Albania and moved to the United States in 2003. She graduated from University of Missouri School of Dentistry in 2011 and practiced for three years, working for two non-profit organizations treating underserved communities. "I decided to come back to school and specialize in pediatric dentistry. The experience as a pediatric dental resident at CWRU has been very rewarding. I feel more than prepared to embark my career as a pediatric dentist after graduation. I am planning to go back and practice in Kansas City. I also have two boys, ages 2 and 10, who keep me very busy."



## **Byungdo (Brian) Han**

"I will be joining a private practice in Columbia, SC after my graduation. Rigorous clinical education and training provided by my residency program have equipped me well to take the next step in my career. I feel confident that I will be able to provide compassionate and evidence-based pediatric dental care to children. My recent mission trip to Bohol, Philippines, which was partly sponsored by the CWRU pediatric dentistry residency program, gave me an incredible opportunity to help many underserved adults and children and created a time of introspection and growth. I am very grateful for the training I received at CWRU and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. I will miss many wonderful people I got to work with during my time there."



## **Erin Sinada**

"My situation is kind of unique because my husband is in residency in Baltimore and I am here in Cleveland. He drives here every weekend because we have a one-year-old daughter, Nahla, who is the greatest joy in our lives! I have loved my time here at CWRU and it has been filled with many rewarding experiences. I am excited to be reuniting with my husband when we move the family to Houston, TX after graduation. We are still ironing out the details, but I hope to find my place as an associate at a great kid-friendly practice there."



## **Melisa G. Potocki**

Dr. Melisa Potocki grew up in Michigan and graduated from the University of Kentucky School of Dental Medicine in 2014. Her husband, Brian is currently in his last year of the orthodontic residency here at CWRU. "We have a two-year-old daughter and are expecting our second baby this summer. After graduation, I am planning to stay in the Cleveland area and work until my husband graduates. I am very grateful and appreciative of the knowledge and experiences I've gained during my training and feel that it has prepared me well for my career as a pediatric dentist."



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*From the Chairman continued*

Our department has been fortunate to see so much growth. I thank those who have donated their time and money to make it possible. We look forward to expanding our programs to all 17 NEO counties while maximizing efficacy and efficiency of delivery in all our care settings. I am happy to report that our chief residents, Dr. Andrea Browne and Dr. Byungdo (Brian) Han, recently returned from medical mission trips in the Philippines and Honduras. You can read about their experience in this newsletter.

In other good news, we recently received funding for a global microscope that can be used with the Solea laser and for endodontic procedures. We are able to

observe the treatment on a 19-inch monitor. We can also record procedures for teaching purposes.

I also want to thank our guest speakers who took time to visit the department and share their experience with us. I look forward to continuing this trend and invite all alumni to attend the guest lectures and consider being our next guest speaker! Upcoming speakers are listed inside this newsletter.

Please consider making a donation to support the pediatric dentistry department. Alumni donations have a direct impact on our residents and the community.

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## Alumni and Friends Reception during the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center  
201 Waterfront Street  
National Harbor, MD  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

To register, contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 216.368.5758 or email [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu)



In October 2017, the School of Dental Medicine will celebrate its 125th anniversary. We are interested in hearing from you about how your lives have been impacted by the school over the years. We are looking for stories, anecdotes, letters, archival photos and artifacts that highlight your personal connection to the school.

*You can share your story by emailing us at [Celebrate125SODM@case.edu](mailto:Celebrate125SODM@case.edu) or by calling 216-368-5758*