

# Pediatric Dentistry News 2019



*Gerald Ferretti,  
DDS, MS, MPH*

## From the Chairman

The Health Education Campus is now open, and we have moved into the new free-standing Dental Clinic and the Samson Pavilion—an exciting time, indeed, for our school and department. I invite and encourage all of

you to join us for the upcoming Pediatric Dental Symposium (Homecoming Weekend) in October and take the opportunity to see these remarkable facilities firsthand.

My sincere gratitude is extended to all who generously contributed to this historic project. Special thanks go to Bill and Chloe Cornell for their unmatched support that resulted in the *Bill and Chloe Cornell Pediatric Dental Clinic* that allows us to bring a new level of care to our patients and education to our students.

In addition to our new home on the Cleveland Clinic campus, a Pediatric Dental Clinic is now open in the recently built University Hospital's Rainbow Center for Women & Children in Cleveland's Midtown neighborhood. **Kari Cunningham, DMD** has been named the clinical director and **Erin Glending, MHA** is pediatric dental manager. We are pleased to be a part of this important endeavor that will improve access to healthcare for many Cleveland families. Together with our robust outreach efforts—the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Unit and our Head Start Program (welcome to oral health trainer **Kaitlyn Sterl**)—we are serving many thousands of patients across the 17 counties of Northeast Ohio.

I welcome two former residents, now new faculty members: **Ying An, DDS, PhD** (The Ohio State University College of Dentistry 2016), visiting

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## From the Dean Kenneth B. Chance, DDS '79



I extend greetings to the alumni and friends of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry from the new Health Education Campus. As I sit in my office in the Samson Pavilion (that we share with the schools of medicine and nursing), I have

a full view of our new Dental Clinic as I look north across Chester Avenue. With our outstanding facilities completed and occupied, I know that many of us are just beginning to fully appreciate the magnitude of what we have accomplished together.

Now begins the true challenge of doing our important work in collaboration with our healthcare peers. Simply put, this is not just a change of venue, but a transformation in our approach to our profession. As I write this, CWRU has announced the appointment of Dr. Tyler Reimschisel as founding associate provost for interprofessional education, research, and collaborative practice. He brings a compelling vision for advancing interprofessional education across the health sciences and we welcome him.

My charge to each of the dental school departments is to find ways to enhance cross-disciplinary opportunities. If prevention is at the forefront of healthcare, then dental medicine is well positioned for a leadership role. We are teachers first, and it is in our power to guide our undergraduates, residents, and colleagues in viewing the future through this holistic lens.

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# Meet the Incoming Residents



**Dr. Natisha Burner** is originally from the Cleveland area and received her undergraduate degree from CWRU. She graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry and went on to practice general dentistry at the OSU Nisonger Center. She decided to pursue specialty training shortly after becoming involved with a pediatric non-profit dental clinic in Columbus, Ohio. Natisha is excited to spend the next two years at CWRU learning and gaining experience treating a diverse and underserved population.



**Dr. Kritika Carrazana** graduated from the University of Florida in her native state and received her DDS from the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Dentistry. Following graduation, she completed a one-year advanced education in general dentistry residency in Tampa. Dr. Carrazana was in a private practice in Kansas City for two years as a general dentist prior to pursuing her true dream of becoming a pediatric dentist and coming to CWRU for a pediatric dental internship before beginning her residency here. She is married to Dr. Vincent Carrazana, who is also a dentist. She enjoys traveling, rock climbing, yoga, exercising, and of course spending time with her family, and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Barkley.



**Dr. Sarah Curry** grew up in Pennsylvania but considers herself a Cleveland transplant after living here for 10 years. After receiving her undergraduate degree from CWRU, she was a high school guidance counselor in the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools where she realized that she enjoys working with children and youth. Dr. Curry returned to CWRU to receive her DMD in 2015 and then completed her military service commitment by serving as a general dentist in the U.S. Air Force at Shaw AFB in South Carolina. She is excited to return to CWRU based on its strong clinical program and dedication to serving the Cleveland community. Sarah and her husband take much delight in spending time with their two energetic and inquisitive sons.



**Dr. Michael Hawk** earned his BA in finance from the University of Utah and worked in the banking and finance industry for several years before finding his calling to dentistry. He is a recent graduate of Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine where he discovered a great passion for treating children and is excited to have the opportunity to learn how to help this population. When not busy with his residency, he enjoys spending time with his wife and four children, as well as training for and racing in triathlons. Dr. Hawk is excited to be living in Cleveland and looks forward to what the next years have in store.



**Dr. Amber Sun**, a first-generation immigrant and college graduate, received a BS in psychology at Kennesaw State University (Georgia) and DDS from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry where she was awarded the prestigious OSU Dean's Scholarship. Dr. Sun's interest in child psychology, passion toward community services, and determination to end childhood tooth decay in underserved communities led her on the path of becoming a pediatric dentist. She enjoys singing and playing ukulele to her daughters and loves riding her Harley to work on sunny days. Her work philosophy is "Give patients my heart, lift spirits, and improve smiles from the start."



**Dr. Eilish Welsh**, from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, received her BA from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and her DMD at CWRU. While at the dental school she was very active in her fraternity, Delta Sigma Delta, and served as student body president for the Student Council. Dr. Welsh fell in love with the city of Cleveland during her four years of dental school, so she was thrilled to have matched at CWRU to pursue a specialty in pediatric dentistry. She chose the specialty because she finds much inspiration from children as they remind us daily to always be curious, find happiness for no reason, and to always fight tirelessly for what you believe in.

## *The Fight Against Early Childhood Cavities*

# Kaitlyn Sterl Named Oral Health Trainer for Head Start Program

The Department of Pediatric Dentistry makes a significant difference in the lives of many Northeast Ohio children through its much-admired outreach activities. Under the guidance of Chandra Drews, RDH, EFDA, and in partnership with University Hospital's Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, visits are made to 250 Head Start centers, schools, and day care sites, as well as to home-based families, with the ambitious goal to reach every child in the broader community who has not seen a dentist in the last six months.

"Our annual goal is to see 4,500 children—we saw 1,400 patients between March and June of this year," explains Kaitlyn Sterl, the recently appointed oral health trainer, who is joined by pediatric residents for visits as part of a team that checks dental health, hearing, and eyesight, and tests for blood lead levels as well.

Through her previous tenure in the dental school's cashier department, Kaitlyn was familiar with the pediatric dentistry outreach programs. When the Head Start position became available, she knew that it was a great opportunity to fulfill her desire to work with children and it has not disappointed.

"At every location, we set up a simple dental office—just a table and chairs—and it works well for a child-friendly examination. I also give each child an oral hygiene kit and show them how to brush and take care of their teeth," notes Kaitlyn. "If they require further treatment, I coordinate that with their parents."

While the pediatric dental residents specialize in behavior management, it is helpful that the non-invasive, lap-to-lap exam is done in a setting familiar to



*Kaitlyn Sterl and resident Dr. Michael Hawk meet with some of their patients.*

the children. The dental exam includes teeth cleaning and the application of a fluoride varnish—preventive measure to reduce the number of children sent to the operating room for dental treatment.

In addition to setting up the on-site clinics and working with patients, Kaitlyn is responsible for the administrative aspects of the program, including the gathering of data regarding dental reports, demographics, and decay prevalence at the visited sites. She maintains the year-round scheduling system to include the full array of locations (in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Lorain, and Stark counties), ensures that all necessary supplies are available and tracked, and handles necessary insurance forms.

"This is a very effective early intervention program that helps both children and their parents understand the importance of prevention when it comes to oral health," adds Chandra. "The oral health trainer wears many hats and is key to our success."

### *From the Chairman continued*

assistant professor, and **Andrea Browne, DMD** (University of Connecticut 2014), assistant professor of pediatric dentistry.

With the advantage of a growing demand for our residency program, we can select the highest quality students—I am pleased to welcome the six residents you will read about in this issue. We wish our recent graduates great success as they become

our newest ambassadors and take our fine reputation into the world.

Again, I extend my personal invitation to each of you to visit the new home of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. As always, keep in touch with your latest news.

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# New Pediatric Dental Clinic Named in Honor of Bill and Chloe Cornell

Included in the milestone opening of the new Dental Clinic is the naming of the Bill and Chloe Cornell Pediatric Dental Clinic acknowledging the couple's enduring 45-year tradition of generous giving.

When asked about his motivation for being a longtime supporter of the School of Dental Medicine, and most recently for providing the lead gift for the new pediatric clinic, R. William Cornell, Jr., DDS '60 says simply: "I am a pediatric dentist and every aspect of the discipline is important to me."

Dr. Cornell (the 2010 Distinguished Alumni of the Year) is also quick to add that he and his wife, Chloe Cornell, are grateful that they have the ability to make institution-changing gifts. As a couple, they are not only the dental school's most generous donors to date but were among the first to make a leadership-level pacesetter donation to the *Forward Thinking Campaign*. In addition, they previously made a commitment to endow the first named chair at the School of Dental Medicine—*The Dr. and Mrs. R. William Cornell, Jr. Endowed Professor of Pediatric Dentistry*.

"The major investment that Bill and Chloe have made in our new clinic comes at a very exciting time in pediatric dentistry, as translational research and innovative technologies are making it increasingly possible to move from a restorative to preventative focus—and they are helping us achieve this," notes Dr. Gerald Ferretti.



*The entrance to the new pediatric dentistry clinic acknowledges the support that made it possible.*

Dedicated, in equal measure, to both the practice and teaching of pediatric dentistry, Dr. Cornell maintained his private practice while also serving the dental school, including co-chairing the department. In 1976 Dr. Cornell joined the faculty of the Northwestern University Dental School until its closing in 2001. The Cornells then retired to Naples, Florida (summers are spent in Chautauqua, New York), where he was called, once again, to teaching.

Today, Dr. Cornell volunteers as an adjunct professor in the post-graduate clinic at the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) Pediatric Dental Center at the University of Florida, where he continues to educate and train the next generation of pediatric dentists.

## AAPD 2019 Annual Session in Chicago



*(left to right): Front row: Kelsey Stehli, Ying An, Kari Cunningham, Emily Pham, Adela Casa; Back row: Tasha Batts, Eric Soller, Josh Durrant, Byungdo Han*

CWRU was well represented at this year's May meeting where six residents were invited to make case report presentations:

**Eric Soller**—The Management of Occlusion in the Developing Dentition with Supernumerary and Ectopically Erupting Teeth

**Mary Kochenour**—Management of Restorative Needs of Two Siblings with Amelogenesis Imperfecta

**Tasha Batts**—Management of Trauma in the Permanent Dentition

**Emily Pham**—Esthetic Management of Multiple Avulsions of the Mixed Dentition

**Kelsey Stehli**—Diagnosis and Management of Hereditary Gingival Fibromatosis

**Josh Durrant**—Orthokeratinized Odontogenic Cyst (OOC)

## *Staff Spotlight:* **Katricia Wright**

*Department Assistant*



Throughout the move to the new Health Education Campus, the Department of Pediatric Dentistry had one advantage: Katricia Wright. The department assistant since 2017, she used her well-proven organizational skills to help facilitate the task, ensuring that the change went smoothly. She is quick to note that they were able to leave the filing cabinets behind.

“We always need to be up-to-date and adopt the most current methods,” she offers with resolve after explaining that scanning documents was a big part of the preparation given the school’s goal to go largely paperless.

Katricia enjoys all aspects of her job and appreciates that it is multifaceted. From keeping Dr. Ferretti’s schedule on track, to coordinating events such as the upcoming symposium and grand rounds, to helping the residents in any way she can—there is more to the position than its clerical responsibilities (although she deftly handles these). Clearly loyal to the faculty, she assists them with putting together grant packages to helping the new ones “on board”—whatever they need, she is ready to assist.

Before coming to the dental school, Katricia served in the same capacity in the Department of Dermatology at the medical school for five years. A Cleveland native, she loves gardening and cozying up to a good book whenever possible.

“Everyone in the this department is very professional and very personable—I appreciate that it is such a nice group of people,” said Katricia.



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## **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry 2020**

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) is proud to announce that its 73rd Annual Session will be held May 21-24, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee.

**SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

# Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates

**Dr. Tasha Batts** plans on providing care to her community and to areas with limited access to care. She strives to educate her patients on the importance of achieving optimum oral health and prevention of dental disease.

**Dr. Joshua Durrant** relocated his family to Sumter, South Carolina to join fellow alumni Dr. Brian Han at Carolina Children's Dentistry, a practice formed in 1986 that has two offices with four pediatric dentists and one general dentist. It is the only pediatric dental clinic in a three-county radius and serves many underserved children. Dr. Durrant is proud of the education he received while serving as a resident and feels prepared to meet the varied demands of a small-town pediatric dentist.

**Dr. Katie Kochenour** has joined the pediatric dental team at Akron Children's Hospital alongside fellow alumni Drs. Jeff Berlin and Tania Markarian, where she can apply the knowledge and skills she gained at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and continue her career in hospital pediatric dentistry. On her days off, she enjoys spending time with her two young sons, Michael and Johnny.



**Dr. Emily Pham**, an Ohio native, has decided to remain in northeast Ohio after graduation where she currently serves a vibrant community through Dentistry for Children in Maple Heights. Dr. Pham and her husband happily live with their cats, Luna and Bella, and when not busy at work, she enjoys spending her free time staying active with barre and practicing yoga.

**Dr. Kelsey Stehli** has happily accepted a position at Mertes Pediatric Dentistry in Hudson, Ohio. She and her husband have decided to reside in Cleveland Heights where they enjoy spending any new-found free time with their Bernese Mountain Dog, Atlas.

**Dr. Eric Soller** (who will complete his residency in December) is a native of Youngstown, Ohio where he grew up in a family of dentists. He plans to remain in Ohio to practice, where he and his wife will be joined by the new baby they are happily expecting in 2020.

## Tina Fomby Retires After 45 Years of Service



February 1, 2019 was a banner day for Celestine "Tina" Fomby: it was her birthday and her final day of work at the School of Dental Medicine after 45 years of service.

"Tina was an integral part of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry for many decades—a touchstone for patients,

faculty, students, and staff alike. She brought her best to our department every day and we will miss her," notes department chair Dr. Gerald Ferretti.

When asked to identify the biggest change she observed in the department over time, Tina noted that parents were being better educated about the importance of oral health for children and how it is vital to their overall well-being. She also said the growth of the residency program was noteworthy.

In her retirement, Tina will volunteer at her mother's nursing home in Mayfield Heights to help others with Alzheimer's disease. She and her husband also plan on relaxing (and frequent) stays in Florida, home to one of their three sons and grandchildren.

Appreciative for having consistently nice bosses at the dental school, Tina looks back on her 45 years of service with fondness and satisfaction. With gratitude for a job well done, we thank her.

# Certified Dog Therapy Reduces Children's Fear During Dental Visit

A new Case Western Reserve University study found that children visiting the dentist reported reduced situational fear when a certified therapy dog is present. The research was done by the School of Dental Medicine and Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, with support from Salimetrics, a Southern California company that collects saliva samples for analysis.

Aviva Vincent, a Mandel School instructor and researcher, and her team surveyed 199 dental patients and 79 dental professionals about the acceptability and desire to have therapy dogs in the pediatric dentist office. Results showed that 63 percent of the patients were interested, while 80 percent of the dental professionals were "open to the idea."

For the second phase of the study, 18 children (between age 8 and 12) who needed cavities filled participated. Researchers collected the children's saliva samples before and after dogs were brought into the dentist office to measure cortisol and alpha-amylase—both stress indicators—and oxytocin, a relaxation response.

"Being able to measure change of oxytocin over time helps us understand, from a strengths perspective, the physiological benefit of human-animal interaction," Vincent said. "It is widely accepted that pet ownership and animal-assisted therapy have biopsychosocial positive effects on people—what hasn't been as clear is *how* therapy animals help."



*Aviva Vincent and her dog, Shaina*

The role of therapy dogs (not to be confused with service dogs that provide support for individuals with disabilities) is to react and respond to people and their environment, under the guidance and direction of their owner. For example, the children in the dentist office were encouraged to gently pat or talk to a dog as a calming technique.

Vincent said that perhaps the biggest takeaway of the pilot study was that collecting saliva samples is a viable, non-invasive way to measure stress and fear indicators in social science research. Incorporating pet therapy in the dental office will continue to be a topic of interest given its growing popularity and success.

## The Deciduous Tooth Club

Support the Department of Pediatric Dentistry by making a donation to the newly formed Deciduous Tooth Club. The funds will be used to support our residents and their professional and clinical development. You are not only giving back to the admired program that made your career possible, you are investing in future generations of pediatric dentists and ensuring that our excellence endures.

Based on the approximate amount of one pediatric dentistry operating room procedure, the suggested gift is \$4,500 over a three-year period (\$1,500 per year). To join, simply go to [giving.case.edu/dental](https://giving.case.edu/dental)

and donate to the Deciduous Tooth Club. For more information, contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 216.368.3480 or [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu).





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Photo credit: Matt Sugerik

## *Serving the Community* **New UH Rainbow Center in Midtown Includes Pediatric Dental Clinic**

With the goal of improving access to both pediatric primary and dental care, as well as obstetrics and social support services, University Hospitals opened the UH Center for Women & Children at East 59th Street (between Chester and Euclid Avenues) in the heart of Cleveland's Midtown. The location provides easy access for the surrounding neighborhoods and is focused on improving the holistic health of Cleveland's families.

"The opening of the Pediatric Dental Clinic at this Center allows us to integrate preventive dental care into the healthcare services provided to the children seen here," explains Erin Glending, MHA, the pediatric dental manager, who worked closely with Dr. Gerald Ferretti to design the new facility.

Offering dental screenings and cleanings, children who require further treatment are referred to the School of Dental Medicine's new Dental Clinic that is located due east on Chester Avenue (at East 100th Street) at the new Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic. Both dental clinics can be easily reached by RTA's Healthline service that runs efficiently down Euclid Avenue between downtown and East Cleveland.

"This is really a wonderful setting for extending our reach into the community," notes Kari A. Cunningham, DMD '12, who is the clinical director. "Not only is it convenient to the surrounding neighborhoods, but the atmosphere is friendly and familiar for children and parents alike."