Faculty News

DR. ANN GRIFFEN
Dr. Ann Griffen has been named the Chair of the Biosciences Division at The Ohio State College of Dentistry in addition to maintaining her faculty role in Pediatric Dentistry.

DR. BEAU MEYER
Please congratulate Dr. Beau Meyer on his promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure. This is a tremendous accomplishment in an academic career and worthy of celebration.

Dr. Beau Meyer has been appointed to the role of Associate Medical Director/Dental Director, Partners For Kids. In this role, Dr. Meyer will use his expertise to support population dental health initiatives for the children we serve.

DR. KIM HAMMERSMITH
Program Director Dr. Kim Hammersmith graduated from the AAPD Leadership Institute Cohort 6 in December 2022 at Northwestern Kellogg School of Management. Recognizing that leadership is critical to the Academy’s and Foundation’s missions, the Leadership Institute experience provides the opportunity for members to grow and refine their skills, becoming leading advocates in the fight for children’s oral health care. Graduates of previous cohorts include Dr. Janice Townsend, Dr. Homa Amini and Dr. Ashok Kumar.

Congratulations to Dr. Kim Hammersmith for completing the NCH CHASE (Community Health and Advocacy Scholars and Educators) Faculty Development Program. She is a member of the first cohort of this innovative program at NCH created by Drs. Sara Bode and Sarah Denny. The team had a busy year advocating for better health for our patients.
Faculty News

DR. KYULIM LEE
Congratulations to Dr. Kyulim Lee who will join the Dental Department as a full-time dentist in August 2023. Dr. Lee completed her BS degree in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Florida. She received her DMD and PhD degree in Microbiology/Immunology from the University of Florida. Her PhD studies focused on investigating the intermicrobial interactions shaping the oral environment and received an F30 fellowship from the NIH/NIDCR. Following graduation, she continued her research at the University of Florida College of Dentistry as a postdoctoral associate, provided patient care, and taught dental students. She then moved to Columbus to pursue her clinical interest in pediatric dentistry at The Ohio State University/Nationwide Children's Hospital and completed her training in June 2023. Dr. Lee continues to be passionate about studying the microbial impacts on oral health and disease. Under the mentorship of Dr. Griffen and Dr. Townsend, Dr. Lee is currently collaborating with the Division of Hematology/Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant Team to investigate the oral microbiome in patients receiving hematopoietic stem cell transplant. This work recently received support from the NCH Abigail Wexner Research Institute, Clinical and Translational Intramural Funding Program. Dr. Lee is excited to be joining the OSU/NCH family as a faculty member and continuing her work with the amazing team.

DR. DAVID DANESH
Dr. David Danesh has successfully launched the teledentistry program at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The program has seen over 100 patients and provides access for families with barriers to care. Residents will soon be incorporated into this program.
Faculty News

DR. HOMA AMINI, DR. ROSA ORTEGA, DIANE PHILLIPS AND BETH NOEL
As part of NCH Dental Department’s additional outreach initiatives, Dr. Homa Amini, Dr. Rosa Ortega, Diane Phillips and Beth Noel also collaborated with the Shawnee State Dental Hygiene program to teach some aspects of pediatric dentistry to the dental hygiene students.

NCH DENTAL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS
NCH Dental Department members Dr. Homa Amini, Dr. Rosa Ortega, Diane Phillips and Beth Noel led a community outreach collaboration with the Scioto County Head Start program. They provided dental exams and fluoride varnish to 226 children. This is the second year of the outreach collaboration. Here are some kind words from the Scioto County Community Action Organization (CAO) Head Start/Early Head Start after their visit:

“We want to express our appreciation to the dental team for their time and dedication to make this successful. We are so pleased that Nationwide Children’s Hospital dental team goes above and beyond to provide compassionate care to the children we serve. Furthermore, the team provided CAO Early Head Start / Head Start with dental resources as the children love learning with dental puppets and dental books. We hope that we will be able to work together again next program year. Thank you again for all that made this collaboration possible.”
Faculty News

In May, Amy Baer and Dr. Hammersmith spoke at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital School Health Training Academy at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, OH. They shared the successes and challenges of the community dental program, co-presenting with Anna Novais, DMD, Dental Director, Alexandra Toole Niehauser, DDS (OSU ’16) and Nancy Carter, RDH, MPH, Associate Dental Director, from Cincinnati Public Health. In attendance were over 100 school district officials, health care organization administrators, and practitioners who are looking to implement or expand their school health offerings.

DR. BEAU MEYER AND COLLEEN MEYER
Congratulations to Colleen Meyer and Dr. Beau Meyer on the arrival of baby Ben Meyer on December 31, 2022. Mom and baby are doing well, and big sister is already being a big helper.

DR. KAITRIN KRAMER
Congratulations to Dr. Kaitrin Kramer on the arrival of her beautiful daughter, Paige Morgan. Paige joined us on February 23, 2023, weighing in at 6 lb 13 oz and 19.5 inches.

JODEE MCDANIEL, BSDH, EFDA, MS
Congratulations to Jodee McDaniel on the arrival of Everlee Christean McDaniel. She was born on March 16, 2023, weighing in at 9 lb 4 oz and 21 inches.
Congratulations to Dr. Kaitrin Kramer on being chosen as the 2023 University of Illinois Chicago Rising Star Leadership Award recipient. The UIC Rising Star Leadership Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated exemplary leadership capabilities and orchestrated meaningful change in their profession or in their communities. The recipient of the Rising Star Leadership Award represents the ideal of a committed, industrious and ambitious individual to whom the UIC community may look as personifying the University's mission.

Current department members and alumni from the Division of Pediatric Dentistry were recognized at The Ohio State College of Dentistry Research Day on February 24, 2023.

Dr. Ann Griffen was recognized for the Paper of the Year in the basic science category:
- Dr. Sulyanto (2013) is a former resident who was mentored by Dr. Griffen and is now a collaborator at Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Kim Hammersmith was recognized for the Paper of the Year in the social and behavioral science & public health category:
Faculty Awards

DR. DENNIS MCTIGUE AND DR. PAUL CASAMASSIMO
The following article by Drs. McTigue and Casamassimo has been recognized as one of the top cited articles 2021-2022 in the journal Dental Traumatology.


DR. BEAU MEYER
Please congratulate Dr. Beau Meyer who was selected as the recipient of The Ohio State University College of Dentistry’s Larry Peterson Young Educators Award for 2023 for demonstration of exceptional enthusiasm for teaching.

DR. HENRY FIELDS
Congratulations to Dr. Henry Fields who was recognized as the 2023 Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Recipient at the American Association of Orthodontists Annual Session in Chicago. The award recognizes his outstanding dedication and advancement of the ideals and mission of the American Board of Orthodontics.
Alumni News

DR. LANA RICHARDSON AND DR. ADAM RICHARDSON
Drs. Lana (2022) and Adam Richardson (2020) opened their practice, Aurora Pediatric Dentistry, in Oklahoma City in January. Check them out at aurorakids.dental

DR. ANDREW VO AND DR. MARCUS HEFFNER
Drs. Andrew Vo (2021) and Marcus Heffner will be opening a practice in Costa Mesa, CA in late 2023. tinytoothco.com

DR. KAITLIN LAXER DANZE AND DR. ADAM DANZE
Drs. Kaitlin Laxer Danze (2021) and Adam Danze opened a dual pediatric-orthodontic practice in Charlotte, NC in May. providencepdo.com

DR. KATIE SEYMOUR
Dr. Katie Seymour (2013) joined the NCH dental team as a part-time faculty attending. Welcome, Dr. Seymour.

DR. CAREY COLLINS
Dr. Carey Collins (2011) was featured in the AAPD Research and Policy Center Report, “Hidden Crisis: Pediatric Oral Health in Rural America.” The report co-authors included OSU/NCH faculty, Dr. Paul Casamassimo and Dr. Homa Amini.

DR. MARTHA HARDEY WELLS
Dr. Martha Harden Wells (2008) has been appointed Chief of Dentistry for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. She is the first dentist to ever be on faculty at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Prior to joining St. Jude, she was a professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry where she served as Director of the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program.
It was a great weekend in Orlando at the 2023 annual conference of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Alumni mingled at our Saturday evening OSU/NCH reception. Many of our alumni participated in the conference as presenters, speaker champions, organizers, and council members. SeaWorld closed to the public on Friday night to host a private event for the AAPD – it was an evening of orca shows, animal encounters, food, and rollercoasters. All of our PGY-2 residents presented their research and competed among 450 other residents from around the U.S. and internationally (see all presentations on page 15).

HERE ARE SOME ITEMS WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF FROM AAPD 2023:

**Brittany Schweiger**

Brittany Schweiger, PGY-2, was selected to receive the Ralph E. McDonald Award, *the most prestigious award given to pediatric dentistry residents and recent graduates*. On top of the cash award given to all Graduate Student Research Award (GSRA) finalists, Brittany will receive an additional cash award, as does our program. She is mentored by Dr. Ehsan Azadani.

Brittany Schweiger, PGY-2, also received one of eight 2023 Graduate Student Research Finalist Awards.

**Jennifer Lee-Luca**

Jennifer Lee-Luca, PGY-2, received the 2023 AAPD Resident Recognition Award. The Resident Recognition Award is to recognize pediatric dental residents doing innovative education, service, and research activities in their training programs.

Jennifer Lee-Luca, PGY-2, was one of the “Top 25” Steppers in the conference-wide wellness step challenge and took home some great prizes.

**Jennifer Lee-Luca, PGY-2**, received 3rd place in the Resident Poster Competition. She is mentored by Dr. Beau Meyer.

Dr. Jennifer Lee-Luca with research mentor Dr. Beau Meyer at the AAPD Poster Presentations.
Resident News

THE CLASS OF 2024...
The Class of 2024 and faculty members Dr. Paul Casamassimo and Dr. Homa Amini attended the AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in March. They advocated for support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Pediatric Dentistry Training Program funding, increased access to operating rooms for pediatric dentists, and support for the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA).

DR. ALLISON HIGGINS
First year resident Dr. Allison Higgins was recognized in the Nationwide Children's Hospital newsletter, MedStat.

“The doctor was very professional and went the extra mile with my child. My daughter was very happy. Her fears of going to the dentist in the future have vanished. Her assistant was awesome too. Also, the doctor pronounced my daughter’s name right.”

DR. JENNIFER LEE-LUCA
Dr. Jennifer Lee-Luca co-founded The Green Team, an Employee Resource Group at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Dr. Lee serves as co-chair of the group focused on improving environmental sustainability at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Thank you, Dr. Lee, for your leadership and impact.

DR. DANIEL CLAMAN, DR. KYU LEE, DR. ALISON RILEY, AND DR. NATALIE BUSSARD
Thank you to Drs. Daniel Claman, Kyu Lee, Alison Riley, and Natalie Bussard for representing pediatric dentistry at the Ohio State College of Dentistry's American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Specialty Open House on January 18, 2023. They collaborated with student leaders to organize the event to inform dental students about all dental specialties. Dr. Erin Gross is the ADEA Ohio State Chapter Faculty Advisor.

DR. LOTTE SJULIN
First year resident Dr. Lotte Sjulin was also recognized in the Nationwide Children's Hospital newsletter, MedStat.

“The dentist that was called in at 3 a.m. was easily one of the most cheerful, caring and helpful medical professionals we’ve ever dealt with. She was calm and informative and so gentle and sweet with my son, who was very nervous. Ultimately, she completely eliminated the problem, and we noticed dramatic improvement, even before leaving the hospital. All the nurses were polite and patient and went above and beyond to help us even while they had rooms full of other patients to tend to.”

DR. SHEAFFER YINGER
Congrats to Dr. Sheaffer Yinger on the arrival of her beautiful daughter, Sloane Elizabeth Yinger, born March 6, 2023, and weighing in at 7 lb 6 oz.
Resident News
Good Luck Class of 2023

Brad Bennett, DMD, MS
HOMETOWN
Hilliard, OH
EDUCATION
University of Pittsburgh, US Navy
RESEARCH
Caregiver Perceptions of Dental Care After COVID-19: A Cross-Sectional Survey
FUTURE PLANS
Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

Natalie Bussard, DDS, MS, MPH
HOMETOWN
North Platte, NE
EDUCATION
University of Nebraska
RESEARCH
Dental Integration in Pediatrics
PRIMARY CARE
A Mixed Method Study
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Kearney, Nebraska

Kayla Kopczynski, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Charlotte, NC
EDUCATION
University of North Carolina
RESEARCH
Evaluating Pediatric Dental Service Utilization in Context of Neighborhood Opportunity
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina

Resident News
Good Luck Class of 2023

Brad Bennett, DMD, MS
HOMETOWN
Hilliard, OH
EDUCATION
University of Pittsburgh, US Navy
RESEARCH
Caregiver Perceptions of Dental Care After COVID-19: A Cross-Sectional Survey
FUTURE PLANS
Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

Natalie Bussard, DDS, MS, MPH
HOMETOWN
North Platte, NE
EDUCATION
University of Nebraska
RESEARCH
Dental Integration in Pediatrics
PRIMARY CARE
A Mixed Method Study
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Kearney, Nebraska

Kayla Kopczynski, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Charlotte, NC
EDUCATION
University of North Carolina
RESEARCH
Evaluating Pediatric Dental Service Utilization in Context of Neighborhood Opportunity
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina

Resident News
Good Luck Class of 2023

Brad Bennett, DMD, MS
HOMETOWN
Hilliard, OH
EDUCATION
University of Pittsburgh, US Navy
RESEARCH
Caregiver Perceptions of Dental Care After COVID-19: A Cross-Sectional Survey
FUTURE PLANS
Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

Natalie Bussard, DDS, MS, MPH
HOMETOWN
North Platte, NE
EDUCATION
University of Nebraska
RESEARCH
Dental Integration in Pediatrics
PRIMARY CARE
A Mixed Method Study
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Kearney, Nebraska

Kayla Kopczynski, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Charlotte, NC
EDUCATION
University of North Carolina
RESEARCH
Evaluating Pediatric Dental Service Utilization in Context of Neighborhood Opportunity
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina

Resident News
Good Luck Class of 2023

Brad Bennett, DMD, MS
HOMETOWN
Hilliard, OH
EDUCATION
University of Pittsburgh, US Navy
RESEARCH
Caregiver Perceptions of Dental Care After COVID-19: A Cross-Sectional Survey
FUTURE PLANS
Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

Natalie Bussard, DDS, MS, MPH
HOMETOWN
North Platte, NE
EDUCATION
University of Nebraska
RESEARCH
Dental Integration in Pediatrics
PRIMARY CARE
A Mixed Method Study
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Kearney, Nebraska

Kayla Kopczynski, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Charlotte, NC
EDUCATION
University of North Carolina
RESEARCH
Evaluating Pediatric Dental Service Utilization in Context of Neighborhood Opportunity
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina
Jennifer (Lee) Luca, DMD, MS
HOMETOWN
Lake Orion, MI
EDUCATION
Harvard University
RESEARCH
Environmental Impact of Treating Pediatric Dental Caries
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Marietta, Georgia

Kyulim Lee, DMD, PhD, MS
HOMETOWN
Honduras and Miami/Gainesville, FL
EDUCATION
University of Florida
RESEARCH
Oral Mucositis in Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients
FUTURE PLANS
Nationwide Children’s Hospital

Alison Riley, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Kennett Square, PA
EDUCATION
University of California, San Francisco
RESEARCH
The Effect of SDoH on Oral Health Measures
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Santa Maria, CA

Brittany Schweiger, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Casco, MI
EDUCATION
University of Detroit Mercy
RESEARCH
Risk of Ankylosis in Children with Permanent Tooth Intrusion Injuries
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Richmond, Michigan

Casey White, DMD, MS
HOMETOWN
Catonsville, MD
EDUCATION
University of Pittsburgh
RESEARCH
Usability of a Simulation-based HPV Learning Experience for Providers
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Arnold, Maryland

Sheaffer Yinger, DDS, MS
HOMETOWN
Vancouver, WA
EDUCATION
University of Colorado
RESEARCH
Triazolam for Pediatric Dental Sedation
FUTURE PLANS
Private practice in Boulder, Colorado
DR. DENNIS MCTIGUE

Congratulations to Dr. Dennis McTigue on his retirement. Thank you for over 40 years of service to the department, including serving as Chair of Pediatric Dentistry, Chief of Pediatric Dentistry, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at The Ohio State University, College of Dentistry, among many other leadership positions at the national, state, and local level. His mentorship extends to hundreds of pediatric dentists across the country. His impact on the field of pediatric dentistry and dental traumatology has been immense.

Thank you Dr. McTigue.

MICKEY (MICHELLE) JENNINGS

Congratulations to Mickey (Michelle) Jennings who will be reaching her 20 years of service milestone in November 2023. Mickey is a big fan of gardening, history, and crafting.

Thanks for your dedication.

MS. JOYCE BEATHARD-LIND

Congratulations to Ms. Joyce Beathard-Lind, a hygienist in the NCH dental clinic, who retired in May 2023 with 27 years of service.

Thanks for your dedication.
Other Team News

DR. KRISTINA PETRICH AND JEANETTE CASTOE

Thank you to Dr. Kristina Petrich and Jeanette Castoe for organizing the NCH Dental Clinic Canines and Pals Photo Board to show off the animal friends of our department members.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY PLANNED A HOLIDAY PARTY IN DECEMBER BUT...

this party was “snowed out” by inclement weather. Instead, the party was rescheduled for a warmer month and the department had a Christmas in March celebration.

AMY BAER

Our Dentistry and Community Wellness families just added another little one. Congratulations to Amy baer on the new arrival. Baby Parker Whitney Baer entered the world at 3 a.m. on February 4, 2023, weighing 7lb 12oz. Beautiful, of course, and with lots of hair.
Presentations

Jennifer Lee-Luca. AAPD Learning Lab. “Sustainable Pediatric Dentistry: How can your practice reduce environmental impact?”


AAPD 2023 Poster Presentations:
• Natalie Bussard. “Dental Integration in Pediatric Primary Care: A Mixed Method Study.”
• Alison Riley. “The Effect of SDoH on Oral Health Measures.”
• Bradley Bennett. “Caregiver Perception of Dental Care in the Wake of COVID-19.”
• Casey White. “Usability of a Simulation-based HPV Learning Experience for Providers.”
• Jennifer Lee-Luca. “Environmental Impact of Treating Pediatric Dental Caries.”
• Brittany Schweiger. “Risk of Ankylosis in Children with Permanent Tooth Intrusion Injuries.”
• Sheaffer Yinger. “Triazolam for Pediatric Dental Sedation.”
• AJ Buban (PGY-1). “Medical Dental Integration- An Innovative Approach to Vaccine Delivery.”
Publications


Available at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jgpha/vol9/iss1/1


Publications


We love hearing what our alumni are doing.
Please submit your news to pediatricdentistryalums@osu.edu