Despite this crazy year, the Pediatric Dentistry Division at The Ohio State University and the Dental Department at Nationwide Children’s Hospital are still doing well with exciting news to share!

We were informed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) that we successfully passed our site visit with no recommendations or suggestions. While CODA no longer officially gives commendations, they had many complimentary things to say about the program.

This site visit was previously scheduled for April 2020 and was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were one of the first programs to be evaluated in a virtual format. Every person in the department contributed to this remarkable accomplishment whether it be writing the reports, contributing documentation, hosting the meetings, or supporting the program and it is much appreciated!

A special thanks goes to Dr. Kim Hammersmith for spending over 1,000 hours during the last few years preparing for accreditation. Congratulations on a job very, very well done! Thanks also to the Associate Program Director Dr. Daniel Claman for his contributions and unparalleled photography skills. On a separate note, from my perspective the pediatric dentistry and special needs aspects of the predoctoral site visit went very well and received no recommendations or suggestions. Thanks Dr. Erin Gross for representing us so well!

Please enjoy our other exciting news!
Faculty Publications


Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Homa Amini led a group to create a virtual reality training module for dentists (and their teams) who provide care for patients facing barriers to care. The project was funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. Participants take on the role of an English-speaking caregiver with low socioeconomic status seeking care for their child in a Spanish-speaking country. The 25-minute MPATHI (Making Professionals Aware THrough Immersion) training is available here: mpathi.nchri.org. (choose View MPATHI Training online.) You may see some familiar department staff faces and former residents! An accompanying article is here: go.osu.edu/B73W

Dr. Homa Amini received the American Dental Education Association 2021 Leadership Institute Alumni Association Award to honor Jack Bresch.

Dr. Kim Hammersmith was been appointed by Governor DeWine to the Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board. Her term will run from 2021 to 2023.

Congratulations to Dr. Erin Gross on her election to the Administrative Board of the Council of Faculties of the American Dental Education Association. Great work in representing us in this important organization!

Congratulations to Dr. Ehsan Azadani and Colleagues and Dr. Beau Meyer on Winning College of Dentistry Research Day 2021 Papers of the Year in Their Respective Categories!


Congratulations to Dr. Tanya Mathew, 1997 alumna, who has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Ruth Bailey Endowed Fund Award. This is awarded to an Ohio State faculty or staff member who has been resolute in furthering the mission of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). She was selected for this recognition based on enduring collegiality and unwavering devotion to ODI and the university’s diversity, inclusion and equity goals and practices. The award was presented on March 17, 2021 and also included a one-time financial reward.
Grants:

**Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future Canada-United States grant:** Bridging the Gap in the Community through Partnership to Prevent ECC. PI: Dr. Homa Amini. $3,800 (March 3, 2021)

**Ohio Department of Health:** Integration of Oral Health into Prenatal Care; PI: Dr. Homa Amini. $75,000 (March 25, 2021)

**Beth Noel, Dr. Rosa Ortega** and **Dr. Kim Hammersmith** received a $1000 grant from Delta Dental Foundation for the translation and printing costs of a book for the Spanish speaking children and caregivers at the OSU Early Head Start program. Thank you to Dr. Ortega and Carlo Corral for their dedication and hard work towards translating the book. This book is a great asset to increase literacy and understanding of why it is important to see a dentist by age 1.

![Sonrisas Sanas con Early Head Start](image)
Dr. Marlee Hansen Chosen as One of Three Award Winners for the AAPD Resident Recognition Award

Congratulations to Dr. Marlee Hansen for being chosen as one of three award winners this year for the AAPD Resident Recognition Award. For context, there are about 980 pediatric dental residents in training. She will be featured on the AAPD website, in the publication Pediatric Dentistry Today, and will be recognized at the award ceremony during the annual AAPD meeting.

The ButtaFLIZE Is the New Unofficial Dance Crew of Nationwide Children’s Hospital That Started Within the Dental Department!

They started dancing in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to boost morale and move together, yet maintain social distancing standards. Groups of ten met during lunch to learn routines choreographed by none other than our own residents, Dr. Maddie DiPaolo and Dr. Michael Davis. A virtual dance contest was held over the holiday season and families of various staff members submitted videos learning the latest routine. As spring is now here, you can find the ButtaFLIZE out in the front lawn showing off their moves. They do not have any plans yet for performances or national competitions, but they are TBDDITL, “the best damn dancers in the land” if we do say so ourselves.
Maddie DiPaolo, DDS

1) **Hometown:** Reno, Nevada

2) **Dental School:** University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine

3) **Adventures after Residency:** I will be moving to sunny California to join a private practice in Redondo Beach and be closer to my family.

4) **Hobbies/Talents:** When I’m not dancing up and down the halls of E pod or memorizing the AAPD Guidelines on a Saturday night, you will find me running like a hamster on the treadmills at Orangetheory Fitness Short North or throwing axes with my co-residents.

5) **Favorite Columbus Local Spot:** Goodale Park! I love that I’m sure to run into either a faculty or co-resident there. It’s been a great spot for everyone’s doggies too! Also, the Lululemon Pop-up Shop on High St. Everyone who works there knows me as “Maddie the Dentist.”

6) **What I’ll Miss:** Oh gosh don’t make me tear up... Every human who contributes to this stunning clinic and program holds a special place in my heart. We have some of the most outstanding attendings I’ve had the pleasure of learning from. All of us co-residents have already discussed our future group practice together since we can’t stand to be apart!

Joshua Evans, DDS

1) **Hometown:** Kokomo, Indiana

2) **Dental School:** Indiana University School of Dentistry

3) **Adventures after Residency:** Return to the Navy where I will be stationed at Camp Pendleton in sunny southern California.

4) **Hobbies/Talents:** Dad jokes and singing songs in clinic

5) **Favorite Columbus Local Spot:** Franklin Park Conservatory

6) **What I’ll Miss:** All my friends at NCH and Jeni’s Ice cream
Kaitlin Laxer, DDS

1) **Hometown:** Charlotte, N.C.

2) **Dental School:** University of North Carolina

3) **Adventures after Residency:** My fiancé and I will be moving back in with my parents (woohoo!) in Charlotte, N.C. while we get settled in our hometown and establish new roots there. I will be joining my mom, also a pediatric dentist, in private practice at her pediatric dentistry/orthodontics practice. This has been a lifelong dream of mine, and I feel incredibly fortunate for this opportunity.

4) **Hobbies/Talents:** Cooking, hiking, traveling, trying new restaurants, and most importantly, doing anything and everything with my puppy and best friend, Ruby.

5) **Favorite Columbus Local Spot:** Lincoln Social, Marcella’s, 1126, Forno, Del Mar, Paulie Gee’s, Fox in the Snow, Lox Bagel Shop

6) **What I’ll Miss:** I am thankful beyond words for my time here. I will miss the faculty, who are some of the best mentors and teachers I have ever worked with and whom I will miss dearly; my co-residents, who have become my best friends and family; the smiling faces at NCH; our beautiful facilities; and Dr. Ehsan’s candy-stash, which is always the pick-me-up I need for afternoon clinic!

Elizabeth “Libby” Paulsen, DDS

1) **Hometown:** San Francisco, CA

2) **Dental School:** University of Colorado

3) **Adventures after Residency:** A road trip with my husband and dog, then joining a private practice in Colorado Springs.

4) **Hobbies/Talents:** I enjoy eating out at new restaurants, exercise, travel, and park days.

5) **Favorite Columbus Local Spot:** Jeni’s ice-cream has to be at the top.

6) **What I’ll Miss:** The people! I was blessed with the best co-resident cohort one could ask for. The faculty were always so encouraging and cared so deeply about helping our patients. The staff made it a joy to come to work with every day. Can’t wait to come back for a yearly OSU football game!
Mitch Poole, DDS

1) **Hometown:** Cincinnati, OH
2) **Dental School:** THE Ohio State University College of Dentistry
3) **Adventures after Residency:** Private Practice at Dentistry at University Pointe in West Chester, OH
4) **Hobbies/Talents:** Movie date nights with my wife, playing with my dog and cat, lake life and boating with my family, computer building/tech
5) **Favorite Columbus Local Spot:** Antrim Park
6) **What I'll Miss:** Buckeye football games in the Shoe and my incredible co-residents!

Andrew Vo, DDS

1) **Hometown:** Huntington Beach, CA
2) **Dental School:** Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
3) **Adventures after Residency:** Private practice in CA
4) **Hobbies/Talents:** Teaching indoor spin, napping, traveling, family/friends.
5) **Favorite Columbus Local Spot:** Hubbard Park Place Pool
6) **What I'll Miss:** My co-residents, my attendings and the good and simple life.
RESIDENT NEWS

Stormi Winter, DDS

1) Hometown: Miles City, Montana

2) Dental School: University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine

3) Adventures after Residency: Spend the summer boating, hiking, and traveling with my husband and family. Move closer to family and enjoy the Colorado scenery. Begin work full-time at a private practice in Denver and part-time at an extremely rural pediatric practice in a small community located in Eastern Colorado where I will be providing care for children with geographic barriers to accessing care.

4) Hobbies/Talents: Scuba diving, surfing, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, traveling, eating, and experiencing new things!

5) Favorite Columbus Local Spot: Condado Tacos, Hocking Hills, Buckeye Lake, Graeter’s Ice Cream, The Shoe, Libby’s backyard, and Andrew’s penthouse

6) What I’ll Miss: My BEST friends and best co-residents!!! The supportive and encouraging faculty that are so passionate about working alongside us to take care of the kids, all while selflessly teaching us and pushing us to be the best doctors that we can possibly be. Each faculty has such a strong devotion to training us to become pediatric dentists, and it has impacted my life and my career in a way that is difficult to put into words. I will also miss the supportive and amazing staff that make each work day so bright and fun. I can’t even imagine what it will be like to go to work this summer and not see all of the wonderful people that I have met at Nationwide Children’s Hospital each and every day. After two years, this clinic feels like home, and these people feel like family and it will be so difficult to say goodbye.

Misa Yoshioka, DMD

1) Hometown: Seattle, WA

2) Dental School: Western University of Health Sciences

3) Adventures after Residency: Joining my aunt’s practice in Seattle, WA

4) Hobbies/Talents: I love running, traveling and eating (cariogenic snacks)

5) Favorite Columbus Local Spot: Jeni’s!—hands down the best non-dairy ice cream I’ve ever had

6) What I’ll Miss: All of the people here—so grateful to have learned so much from our amazing faculty and to have made my co-residents my best friends
Alumni News

Alumni in the News

AAPD Newly Erupted Podcast Series, Dr. Al Burns (2007)
https://www.aapd.org/education/newly-erupted/episode-3/

Commitment & Dedication

Congratulations to the following department members on their “Years of Service” Anniversaries

10 years
Jessica Glick

15 Years
Roxanne Veeley
Angela Wright

20 Years
Ashok Kumar, DDS, MS

AAPD Student Chapter

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 this past year, the student chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry at OSU has kept busy connecting through virtual events and finding creative ways to reach out to the community. Some highlights from this year include the following speaker presentations: “Communication with Parents 101” with Dr. Felice Kassoy, “Dental Concerns in Marfan Syndrome” with Dr. Sylvia Frazier-Bowers, “Dental Trauma Case Presentation” with Dr. Judy Laxer along with a magic show with Carlo Corral! Additionally, dental students made Valentine’s Day cards and put oral hygiene kits together for kindergarteners at Gables Elementary school.
A Big Day for the Department on April 3, 2021. Two Weddings!

Congratulations to Tracy Glenn on her marriage to Darrell Carter.

Congratulations to Mickey Bowen on her marriage to Frank Jennings.