COVID-19 and Pediatric Dentistry at OSU/NCH

The pandemic hit the Hospital and University hard, much like it has for most of you reading this. The faculty, staff and residents rallied to keep our families and our dental family safe. Initially, like dental practices across Ohio, we treated only emergencies. Access to general anesthesia was limited with testing for the virus becoming the standard and control of aerosols a major focus in care. Residents, faculty and staff all joined in managing the many families we had to cancel and are now rescheduling slowly.

We adhered to hospital-wide guidelines and are only now beginning to ramp up to regular care which probably won’t be back to pre-pandemic levels for another month or two. A pleasant surprise was our ability to use teledentistry to talk with families and take care of some clinical issues remotely. We look forward to making this more a part of our clinical care in the future.

I am so proud of all of our team to not only care for patients, but to contribute to problem-solving, reorganizing, and cheer leading that has come to be our world in this pandemic. We’ve been able to keep everyone healthy and care for our families as well as our patients. The residents have used their time wisely, free from most clinical responsibilities, to take on some tasks that needed to be done and to get a leg up on their research. We’ve had most defend their thesis early. They were disappointed not to be going to Nashville, but we tried hard to make their last few months memorable.

Drs. Hammersmith and Claman have created a seminar series that started March 27, 2020 to replace didactic content for programs that have been interrupted by COVID-19. These sessions occur every weekday afternoon and presenters are NCH/OSU faculty or well-known academics and private practitioners from around the world. Programs across the country are participating and we’ve had to limit requests at this time from international programs due to volume. There are currently 365 attendees learning about trauma from Drs. McTigue, Kumar, Azadani and Subramanian. This export of expertise and the OSU/NCH brand is unprecedented in pediatric dentistry! Thank you Drs. Claman and Hammersmith for this initiative.
On November 5, 2019, Dr. Ashok Kumar was promoted to Clinical Professor at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. He was recognized at the OSU Faculty Club along with other faculty. Please congratulate him for this career achievement when you see him.

Dr. Dan Claman has been appointed to assistant program director to support Dr. Kim Hammersmith. Dr. Dan’s expertise in electronic communication and both the EPIC health record and axiUm dental record, has helped us deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges in scheduling.

Congratulations to our faculty member Dr. Beau Meyer for being first author on one of the Journal of Dental Education Most Notable Articles of 2019! Dr. Meyer joined us on July 1 and we are looking forward to his homecoming. The article can be downloaded at:

Dr. Casamassimo helped plan a safety symposium, held November 8th and 9th, by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry aimed at creating awareness among members of the risks of dental care for patients, themselves and their staff. Speakers included dentists, physicians, an astronaut, a risk manager, and private practitioners who consult on device safety and who have taken advanced education to address safety in practice. Attendees left with a better understanding of how safety permeates industry and government, how medicine confronted major safety issues in health care, and how and why safety can be integrated into pediatric dental practice.
Dr. Kim Hammersmith (2011 and current faculty member) was accepted into the sixth cohort of the AAPD Leadership Institute at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Sponsored by the AAPD and its Foundation, Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children, more than 150 members and corporate partners have graduated from the program over the last 15 years. Dr Hammersmith is in a class of 30 individuals enrolled in a three year educational engagement focusing on an array of topics important for leadership development. In her cohort is also Dr. Holly Portwood Randone (2010). Here she poses with fellow cohort members Dr. Elise Sarvas (MN) and Dr. Dylan Hamilton (NC) during their first on-campus weekend in December, 2019.

**Previous representatives from our program include OSU/NCH grads and former faculty:**

Dr. Janice Townsend (2007), Dr. Homa Amini, Dr. Maria Cordero-Ricardo (2012), Dr. Marcio daFonseca, Dr. Ashok Kumar (2003), Dr. Dawn McClellan (1995), Dr. Jeff Milton (2004), Dr. Amr Moursi, Dr. Bobby Thikkurissy (2003), Dr. Bill Waggoner
Dr. Erin Gross (2011) organized this year’s Give Kids A Smile Day once again. The College of Dentistry hosted the 2020 Give Kids A Smile state kickoff event in partnership with the Ohio Dental Association on February 8, 2020. At the kickoff were 40 faculty and residents, 140 dental students, and 21 dental hygiene students who provided comprehensive dental care to 90 children from our community. The student leadership team hosted special guests Ohio Senator Stephanie Kunze and Ohio Representative Allison Russo, sharing with them the importance of oral health education and treatment for children and families in need. ODA President Dr. Sharon Parsons spoke to local media to tell the public about Give Kids A Smile and all the ways that dentists across Ohio are caring for children. Preparations are already underway for our next event in September 2020.

Residents (pictured below) participated once again as clinicians and faculty to help make the program a success.
Dr. Martha Wells, (2008), traveled back to Columbus from Tennessee to present an excellent CE program, entitled A Review of Restorative Care for Children, on October 25 & 26, 2019. We asked Martha to come back as a mock reviewer to help us prepare for the now-postponed accreditation of the program. Her feedback running us through interviews were very valuable and we felt prepared for our visit which, like many parts of our lives, took a backburner to the COVID-19 pandemic. Martha is an associate professor at the University of Tennessee, in Memphis, and is also program director of their advanced program in pediatric dentistry. Martha has had an outstanding academic career and between her teaching and continuing education, she’s published on a variety of topics in pediatric dentistry and is now a co-editor of the widely used textbook, *Pediatric Dentistry: Infancy through Adolescence*. We were all very pleased to see recognition of Martha’s accomplishments with the 2020 Lewis Kay Award for her teaching from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Martha and her husband, Kevin, who is also an OSU grad, have three children. We are proud to have Martha as an alumna, friend and colleague!
AAPD Lobby Day,
Washington DC March 1-4, 2020

Dr. Homa Amini once again led our first-year residents to Washington, DC to lobby and learn about advocacy for children’s oral health. They attended the event on March 1-4, 2020, and lobbied for various issues in pediatric dentistry, such as HRSA funding for residency programs, faculty loan repayment, and insurance coverage for patients with craniofacial anomalies. And they stopped by the office maintained by the American Dental Association in our nation’s capital (pictured below). One of their visits was to see Congressman Troy Balderson in his DC office and they were able to meet Representative Balderson which is not always possible in these visits!
Faculty Publications for Calendar Year 2020

Access to Dental Visits and Correlates of Preventive Dental Care in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder!

Silver Diamine Fluoride and Fluoride Varnish May Halt Interproximal Caries Progression in the Primary Dentition; Hammersmith KJ, DePalo JR, Casamassimo PS; MacLean JK, Peng J; The Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry, Volume 44, Number 2/2020

Pediatric Dentistry During and After COVID 19; Casamassimo, PS, Townsend, JA, Litch, CS. Pediatric Dentistry, 42(2): 87-90.


The Case for Tying Specialty Status to Completion of Dental Residency: Dental Education’s Stake; Fields HW, Casamassimo PS, Owstiany DJ, Saperstein M. Journal of Dental Education, 2020: 1-5 (online).


Enrique Ramirez, DDS won first place at the annual Research Day at the College of Dentistry in March and his research, “Opioid Prescribing Practices After Pediatric Dental Procedures in Ohio,” has also made him a finalist for the 2020 Graduate Student Research Award (GSRA) competition held annually by the AAPD.
Next to Leave the Nest...

We said goodbye and best of luck to another great class of residents in June. They may not have the opportunity to celebrate with us and their families in person, but we want them to know that we share their joy and emotions as they finish up their two years in Columbus. And, we will look forward to seeing them every May at the AAPD annual session if not more often! Good luck to another great group of people and pediatric dentists.

Good Luck!

Seth Bradbury, DMD

**Hometown:** Bradley, ME  
**Dental School:** Harvard School of Dental Medicine  
**Adventures after Residency:** Private Practice in Bremerton, WA  
**Hobbies/Talents:** Sourcing tasty groceries to cook with, eating what we cook, cuddling dogs, board games, playing guitar  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Service Bar / Middlewest Spirits, High Bank Distillery, Comune, Smoked on High, Tommy’s Diner  
**What I’ll Miss:** Columbus has a special feature where everything is 15-20 minutes away at most. I’ll miss the people most, both around the city and at the hospital. Everyone has always been welcoming!

Taylor Harlan, DDS

**Hometown:** Miami, FL  
**Dental School:** University of North Carolina  
**Adventures after Residency:** Joining a private practice in North Carolina!  
**Hobbies/Talents:** Going concerts/music festivals, running, listening to music, cycling, whistling like a bird, hanging out with my co-residents  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Butchershop Fitness, Fox in the Snow, AAB India (!!), Northstar  
**What I’ll Miss:** This is so sad. I’ll miss my co-residents, the faculty (especially on OR days when Dr. Kumar brings snacks), and the staff. Columbus is the most underrated city I have ever lived in - it was a joy to live here and a place that I will hold close to my heart. I met some of my best friends here and for that I’m thankful.
Shayna Mattox, DDS

Hometown: Omaha, NE
Dental School: University of Nebraska College of Dentistry
Adventures after Residency: TBD; I will likely practice in Missouri or Nebraska. I would love to return to public health dentistry!
Hobbies/Talents: Cooking with my husband, swimming and I love to travel....well until COVID-19!
Favorite Columbus Local Spots: The many residency program events in the Short North, Dewey's Pizza, Roosters
What I'll Miss: The faculty and team members of our residency program! We have the honor to serve patients with so many unique needs. I will always reflect on my experiences at this program throughout my career as a pediatric dentist. I have made many lifelong friends in residency.

Jamie Molina, DDS

Hometown: Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Dental School: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Adventures after Residency: Joining a private practice as an associate in North Carolina
Hobbies/Talents: Yoga, going to local farmers markets, trying new recipes
Favorite Columbus Local Spots: North Market, NorthStar, Sow Plated, Erawan Thai, Meshikou Ramen
What I'll Miss: Definitely the people. The people make the program and the faculty, residents, and staff have all made this residency everything I hoped it would be. The support I have felt in this environment has encouraged me to work hard and continue to learn every day.

Enrique Ramirez, DDS

Hometown: Laredo, Texas
Dental School: University of Texas Health at San Antonio
Adventures after Residency: I will be going back to Dallas, Tx and joining a private practice!
Hobbies/Talents: Binge-watching the latest Netflix original, watching Liverpool FC, and I dabble in photography.
Favorite Columbus Local Spot: The Short North, German Village, Condado Tacos, and The Daily Growler
What I'll Miss: I’ll miss being part of an amazing program in one of the best pediatric hospitals in the nation. It was an honor to have such talented faculty as mentors and I will greatly miss my Pediatric Dentistry family. I will also miss my space heater, heated blanket, and ice scraper that helped me survive two frigid Ohio winters. O-H!
Adam Richardson, DDS

**Hometown:** Claremore, Oklahoma  
**Dental School:** University of Oklahoma  
**Adventures after Residency:** Private practice in Columbus, OH then back to Oklahoma after my wife is done with residency!  
**Hobbies/Talents:** Reading, guitar, drums, synthesizers, running, Orange Theory, video games, soccer, cooking, award winning dog dad to two golden retrievers  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** North Star, Aab India, Service Bar, Jeni’s Ice Cream, North Market, living in Short North, Orange Theory, Newport Music Hall, Blue Jackets Hockey, The Book Loft, I will not miss OSU Sports, Oklahoma fan for life! BOOMER!  
**What I’ll Miss:** My co-residents and all the amazing connections I’ve made with the faculty. My experience at NCH has been wonderful. I have truly felt supported and respected through every step during residency. Leaving residency I know I am leaving with lifelong friends and colleagues.

Victoria Tran, DMD

**Hometown:** Union City, CA  
**Dental School:** Roseman University of Health Sciences  
**Adventures after Residency:** I plan on moving back to California and working in Private Practice.  
**Hobbies/Talents:** I love hosting and cooking (almost as much as eating!) and if you know someone, who knows someone, then you know I also dabble in some cosmetology  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Fox in the Snow (a must for coffee and egg sandwich), Hong Kong House, Archi City Tavern, Brassica, Jeni’s Ice Cream, Pastaria (get their tiramisu)  
**What I’ll Miss:** The people. Being born and raised on the west coast, I was a little nervous about moving so far away, but everyone I’ve met and all the relationships I’ve built while being at this great program has been amazing. I’ve gained a new family! It is going to be really tough to leave.

Chloe Wong, DMD

**Hometown:** Manalapan, NJ  
**Dental School:** Harvard School of Dental Medicine  
**Adventures after Residency:** I will be fulfilling my National Health Service Corps scholarship commitment at Rocking Horse Community Health Center in Springfield, OH.  
**Hobbies/Talents:** I enjoy cuddling with my dogs, Poppy and Luna, and checking out new restaurants and parks in Columbus with my fiancé, George Chen, DMD.  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Franklin Park Conservatory, any Asian restaurant on Bethel Rd, Easton Costco, Pistacia Vera, Hot Chicken Takeover  
**What I’ll Miss:** I will miss everyone who makes NCH/OSU feel like family. This program has been my home away from home.
The NCH dental clinic has put together a cookbook, with recipes supplied by many of the staff. The cookbook was formulated primarily to generate money for Operation Feed this year. There are 330 cookbooks ordered and if all of them sell we will generate well over $2000 profit for Operation Feed. Cookbooks can be ordered by emailing Julie.Landis@nationwidechildrens.org or Jamie.Lingo@nationwidechildrens.org. The cost is $10.00 per cookbook.

Kelly for Kelley: We were saddened to lose Kelly McKibben-Fry to another position at Nationwide, but were so pleased to welcome Laura Kelley to replace her in an administrative assistant role. Many of you will remember Laura as the helpful “voice” at Graduate Studies at the OSU College of Dentistry for 27 years!