FACULTY NEWS

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Beau Meyer on receiving the “Olav Alvares Award for Early Career Scholars Who Published Outstanding Articles in the Journal of Dental Education.” Each year, the award is given by the American Dental Education Association to junior faculty who conduct promising educational research.

In May, our division received a $2.25M grant from the Health Research and Services Administration, part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The project’s numerous goals include development of and recruitment for a combined MS-MPH degree program at Ohio State; creation and implementation of a school-based mobile dental program in conjunction with Nationwide Children’s Hospital School Health Services; interprofessional public health education for the residents; and recruiting residents from underrepresented backgrounds whose experiences prepare them to care for children in need. Dr. Kimberly Hammersmith is the principle investigator on the grant, working closely with Drs. Beau Meyer, Janice Townsend, and Homa Amini on this five-year grant. Morna Smith at Nationwide Children’s Hospital was instrumental in preparing the grant.

Our division received a supplemental $54,490 HRSA grant in December. Major activities of this portion include resident simulation training using standardized patients, creation of case studies for modern caries management to use in resident training, and creating an Epic teledentistry triage and consult system for our clinic at NCH.
Dr. Janice Townsend served as a co-organizer of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Symposium “Tethered Oral Tissues: Breastfeeding and Beyond—Sleep, Speech, Growth”. The online conference took place November 13 and 14, 2020.

Dr. Janice Townsend was elected to the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Medical Executive Committee for 2021 – 2022 term. Dr. Townsend was also inducted into the International College of Dentists on December 12, 2020.

Led by Dr. Beau Meyer and Dr. Kim Hammersmith, we now have a monthly pediatric dentistry journal club to discuss current literature the second Thursday of the month, from 4:45-6PM. Two journal articles are emailed to participants a week beforehand. It’s a low-key group of third- and fourth-year dental students, dental residents, and faculty.

If you’re interested in joining the listserv to get the articles and Zoom link, email either meyer.781@osu.edu or hammersmith.19@osu.edu. We would love to add alumni to the mix!

Dr. Casamassimo was elected Chair-Elect of the Dental Quality Alliance of the American Dental Association.
Dr. Kim Hammersmith was added as a delegate to the ADEA Council of Advanced Education Programs and will represent advanced programs at the ADEA meeting in March.

Dr. Daniel Claman is leading a group of program directors in coordinating and recruiting speakers for a seminar series held in cooperation with the AAPD. These seminars, which cover a wide range of subjects related to pediatric dentistry, are held twice each month and are open to all residents and faculty of pediatric residency programs.

If interested in participating, please send an email to daniel.claman@nationwidechildrens.org.

We’ll all miss Dr. Gerry Kassoy!

“Gerry” brought a smile to the College everyday. His gentle and humble demeanor was calming to our patients and our students. Gerry was a link to the real world for our students and he had an uplifting story for every occasion, every tough kid, and every worn out dental student. If you had the chance to talk with Gerry, you knew him as a student of our specialty, an insightful observer of people, and to be worldly wise on just about every topic --- especially the Boston Red Sox in good seasons and bad. Gerry held no airs and the staff loved him and looked forward to his days at the College and clinic.

Every dental school needs a Gerry Kassoy and we were so fortunate to have this gentle man to guide our students and guide us for so many years.”
Faculty Publications

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


Mukherjee C, Moyer CO, Steinkamp HM, Hashmi SB, Guo X, Ni A, Leys EJ, Griffen A. *bioRxiv* 2020.01.06.896126

Textbooks Chapters:

Phillip Barras, DMD

**Hometown:** Troy, Illinois

**Undergrad School and Major:** Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; Biology of Medical Sciences

**Dental School:** Southern Illinois University

**Hobbies:** Spending family time with my wife and two sons, traveling, golf, skiing and Chelsea Football Club (Premier League).

**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Kroger and Whole Foods Delivery, Aab India, Rubinos Pizza, Hot Chicken Takeover.

**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** My favorite thing about Pedo is helping a child overcome their dental fears and giving them the confidence that they can be a great patient! I enjoy connecting with the families and helping them make smart choices for their little ones. I think it is so rewarding to be working with this population and am grateful every day I can make a difference in their lives.

**Plans after Residency:** Return to the U.S. Air Force and either be stationed in Europe or Japan.

Erin Bibber, DMD

**Hometown:** Charlton, MA and Kennebunk, ME

**Undergrad School and Major:** University of New England – Neuroscience (Major), Art Therapy (Minor)

**Dental School:** The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

**Hobbies:** Baking, outdoor sports (running, skiing), exploring new places/ traveling, and playing all kinds of games.

**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** The North Market, Pauli Gee's Pizza, Graeter's and Jeni's Ice Cream Shops, the Market District Giant Eagle, and the Easton Shops.

**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** It's tough to choose one reason alone. I love how challenging and rewarding the field is. The pediatric dental community is incredibly supportive, which allows me to learn new techniques every day. No child is the same, and I love that I have the ability to make each visit special for individual patients and their families. Plus, making kids laugh and seeing them light up with confidence after a visit is the best feeling.

**Plans after Residency:** I plan to head back to the New England area and join a private practice as an associate or independent practitioner. My goals for the future are to be more involved in advocacy/organized dentistry and explore academic avenues to teach pediatric dentistry.
**David Danesh, DMD**

**Hometown:** Dublin, Ohio

**Undergrad School and Major:** The Ohio State University, Microbiology

**Dental School:** Harvard School of Dental Medicine

**Hobbies:** Nature walks, eating lots of food, movies/Netflix, going out to eat, video games, eating at rooftop restaurants and patios in general.

**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Bridge Park in Dublin, Griggs Reservoir Park (hidden gem with a waterfall!), The Pearl, Katalina’s, Condados, anything Cameron Mitchell (Molly Woo’s, etc.), Graeter’s, Jeni’s, Trader Joe’s.

**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** It makes me so happy to build a kid’s confidence when I can help a child get through an appointment with a lot of work and they do great. I am proud, their parents are proud, and they are proud of themselves. I feel so fortunate to have the knowledge and skills to help make one aspect of my patients’ lives better, especially for children with complex medical, dental, and social needs. I just love working with kids!

**Plans after Residency:** Practicing public health dentistry in Ohio and hopefully transitioning to academic dentistry.

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**Michael Davis, DDS**

**Hometown:** Saint Petersburg, Florida

**Undergrad School and Major:** Florida A&M University—Health Care Management

**Dental School:** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Hobbies:** Binging Grey’s Anatomy for the 20th time, snacking, running, cooking, and spending time with my favorite people.

**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers, Jeni’s Ice Cream, Lincoln Social, 1126 and Aab Indian Restaurant.

**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** There are many things I love about Pediatric Dentistry, but getting to be a kid again is what I love most. It’s the only time I get to be batman, Elsa’s background singer and the best floss dancer (until challenged by the real champions). More importantly, it gives me the opportunity to generate better health outcomes for children and their families.

**Plans after Residency:** I look forward to participating in organized dentistry and becoming a lifelong learner. At this stage in my career, I am open to the possibility of heading to private practice, academia or spending a few years in public health. If the pandemic has taught me anything, we must learn to be flexible when things go awry. Regardless where life takes me, I plan to serve as a resource and advocate for my community.
Marlee Hansen, DDS

**Hometown:** Woodstock, IL  
**Undergrad School and Major:** The University of Iowa—Integrated Physiology  
**Dental School:** The Ohio State University  
**Hobbies:** Outdoor adventures with my son, dancing, riding bikes, hiking, visiting National Parks, listening to podcasts, renovating homes and campers.  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** Elm and Iron is my favorite home décor store. All the bike trails are amazing! So good to be back!  
**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** I love providing care to families that need it the most or who have difficulty with access to care. I like empowering kids and their parents. This has given me a sense of purpose in my career. Plus, pediatric dentistry attracts the kindest people.  
**Plans after Residency:** I don’t have specific plans but the following are a must: I will be working with underserved families. I will be surrounded by people who help me to continue to grow. My creativity will be supported in developing other people and helping them realize or surpass their goals.

Ira Mulo, DDS

**Hometown:** Korce, Albania/Novi, Michigan  
**Undergrad School and Major:** Wayne State University, BS in Biological Sciences and Spanish Minor  
**Dental School:** University of Detroit Mercy  
**Hobbies:** Traveling, cooking, listening to music, hosting friends and family, working out.  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** North Market, Goodale Park and the Short North, Easton Town Center, Fox in the Snow, Scioto Mile.  
**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** Being able to help establish a great foundation for a lifetime of good habits and oral health and of course working with children is the best.  
**Plans after Residency:** Join a small group private practice.

Lana Richardson, DDS

**Hometown:** Tulsa, Oklahoma  
**Undergrad School and Major:** Oklahoma State University, Nutritional Sciences major  
**Dental School:** The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry  
**Hobbies:** Devoted dog mom to my two golden retrievers, trying out a new recipe, going to concerts (pre-COVID), anything outdoors, supporting my OKC Thunder and Oklahoma State University Cowboys!  
**Favorite Columbus Local Spots:** You can find me picking up North Star (can’t forget to add a cookie) or taking an Orange Theory class! I usually spend my weekends walking around the Short North and trying every restaurant in site!  
**What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry:** I love helping kids feel like they have accomplished something BIG. There is nothing more gratifying to me than when my patients walk in fearful, and leave proud of themselves for rising above their fear.  
**Plans after Residency:** I hope to open a practice in Oklahoma City with my husband, who is also a pediatric dentist! We love Columbus, but can’t wait to go back home.
Kristin Sweeney, DMD

Hometown: Tallahassee, FL
Undergrad School and Major: Rice University – Biochemistry and Cell Biology (Major)
Dental School: Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Hobbies: Anything outdoors (running, hiking, biking, swimming), baking, board games, traveling.
Favorite Columbus Local Spots: North Star, Olentangy Trail, Graeter’s, Mirror Lake at OSU, Market District in Grandview.
What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry: My favorite part so far has been working with kids and their families to figure out the best way to improve oral hygiene and health. I like the puzzle of working with patients who have medical challenges and thinking about the best way to care for each patient.
Plans after Residency: I hope to work clinically with patients who have medical challenges and to teach and mentor academically.

Spencer Warren, DDS

Hometown: McMinnville, TN
Undergrad School and Major: Lipscomb University, Biochemistry
Dental School: University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my wife and two cats at home, running, dodging COVID, and playing video games.
Favorite Columbus Local Spots: Condados, Goodale Park, Forno, and COSI.
What you love most about Pediatric Dentistry: The part I love most about pediatric dentistry are the small victories throughout the day with my patients. The most rewarding experiences, so far, have been working individually with patients who were very anxious coming into the appointment, and seeing them leave the appointment with a smile, knowing that they have accomplished something big during the appointment. Every child is different, and it is such a fun and rewarding challenge learning how to treat each of them individually to ensure they have a pleasant experience throughout the appointment and are excited about oral health.
Plans after Residency: I hope to return to Tennessee to work in private practice in a rural area.
Amelia Meyer, borne April 6, 2020, is the daughter of our newest faculty member, Dr. Beau Meyer. In this photo she is enjoying a delicious banana!

Drs. Kim Do (2019) and Seth Bradbury (2020) were married in October! They are associates in practice with alumnus Dr. Jeff Hayes (1992) and Dr. Katrina Hayes in Bremerton, Washington.

The Ohio State Early Head Start team packs supplies including the *Early Start to a Healthy Smile* book written by Beth Noel, RDH and illustrated by Carlo Corral. Grant funding for this book was obtained by Drs. Kim Hammersmith and Rosa Ortega.
STAFF

NEW DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

DR. BEAU MEYER
Dr. Meyer joined the faculty in July. He completed dental school at Ohio State in 2014 and his pediatric dentistry residency at UNC in 2017, where he also earned his Master’s of Public Health. In his role, he will provide clinical and didactic instruction to dental students and residents, as well as conduct research and provide clinical care in the Dental Faculty Practice. His research interests are public health driven and focus primarily on the intersection of behavior and disease management. He will also mentor residents pursuing the dual MS-MPH track being implemented as part of the department’s recent HRSA grant. Beau and his wife, Colleen, have a daughter, Amelia, and they are happy to be back in Ohio.

DR. CHELSEA SHELLHART
Dr. Shellhart joined the Nationwide Children’s Hospital faculty at the end of November 2020. She received her DDS degree from the University of Colorado in 2014. After dental school, she completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry certificate from NYU Lutheran in Hilo, Hawaii. She then practiced general dentistry at a community health center in Greeley, Colorado for two years. She completed her pediatric dental residency program at NYU Langone in Yakima, Washington, in 2019. While a pediatric dental resident, Chelsea completed a fellowship in Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) at the University of Washington. She has experience as a clinical faculty member at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine, and most recently comes from private practice in Westminster, Colorado. Chelsea has a miniature dachshund named Beau who she loves more than life itself! She also enjoys playing the piano and spending time outdoors. She is so excited to join the wonderful faculty, residents and staff of NCH.

JILL GARNETT
Jill Garnett joined Nationwide Children’s Hospital as the new Administrative Assistant III in September 2020. She brings with her over 20 years of experience, including executive assistant, development, and event planning roles. In her free time, Jill enjoys reading, outdoor activities, and spending time with her family.

JONNELE KERSHNER
Jonnelle Kershner is our new Dental Clinic Supervisor. Jonnelle has worked in dentistry for over 20 years in administrative, clinical and management roles. As a leader, she prides herself in developing rapport with her team and the families she serves. Jonnelle regularly attends continuing education courses to stay knowledgeable about current standards of care. In her free time, she enjoys baking, hiking, oil painting, and spending time with her family and her new Shepsky puppy Jaxon.

JORDANNA TOMBLIN
Jordanna is our new Interim Dental Director. Jordanna has most recently worked in Pediatric Otolaryngology and Pediatric Urology as a Service Line Administrator. Prior to this role, she was an Operations Manager in the Operating Room at OhioHealth Dublin Methodist and Grady Memorial Hospital. Jordanna and her husband, Kelvin, have two children, Maya (4) and Wyatt (1). She loves to run and bake! Jordanna is excited to join the Dental Department and looks forward to learning and partnering with the team.

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