Note From The Chair

Welcome alumni and friends for another update from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry Division of Pediatric Dentistry and the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Department of Dentistry!

The department remains busy taking care of the kids, working with our amazing group of residents and other trainees, and contributing to research and public health initiatives. Please enjoy!

FACULTY NEWS

Johnstown Road Dental Clinic Receives Donation

The Johnstown Dental Clinic recently received a $30,000 donation from the kiDDS foundation, a philanthropic organization in Columbus, Ohio. The Johnstown Dental Clinic is part of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and it’s affiliated with the Ohio State College of Dentistry and Nationwide Children’s Hospital. This unique dental home, soon to reach its 20th year anniversary, is embedded within the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Early Childhood Center. Through the years, the dental program has been the recipient of numerous grants and donations from local, state and national agencies.
Johnstown Road Dental Clinic Receives Donation — continued

Since its inception, Dr. Diego Solis (OSU/NCH Fellow, 2003) has been in charge of the clinic’s daily operations and direct supervision of close to 1,500 dental students and 150 pediatric dentistry residents. This community safety net dental clinic serves a population of children—including low income, the uninsured, minorities, and those with special needs—who are at a high risk for dental disease.

The funds will be used for equipment upgrades. The Johnstown Clinic patients and families made a “thank you” video to the kiDDS foundation for this outstanding gift. Check out these related links:

Dateline-Nov-2021-Electronic-Version-3.pdf (fcbdd.org)
Nisonger:KiDDS - YouTube

Pediatric Dentistry Welcomes Dr. Kaitrin Kramer as a Part-Time Attending

Kaitrin Kramer DDS, MS, PhD is a craniofacial orthodontist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital’s Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Clinic. She completed her BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology at The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and received her PhD in Oral Sciences from The University of Illinois at Chicago. She received her Doctor of Dental Surgery and completed research post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan. She served as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry before heading to The Ohio State University for her M.S. and Certificate in Orthodontics. She then returned to Michigan to complete a fellowship in Craniofacial and Special Care Orthodontics. She is excited to be back in the Buckeye state joining the orthodontic and dental team at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. She will be the attending faculty on Monday afternoons with Dr. Henry Fields.
Faculty Awards

Two of our faculty members, Dr. Paul Casamassimo and Dr. Henry Fields, were chosen as recipients of the 2021 Callahan Memorial Award at the Ohio Dental Association Annual Session.

“Both Dr. Fields and Dr. Casamassimo are leaders in our profession,” said Dr. Joseph Mellion, chairman of the Callahan Commission. “They are both recognized nationally for their efforts in pediatric dentistry and Dr. Fields also for orthodontics. They have been recognized nationally and statewide in Ohio for their leadership roles in organized dentistry and academics. We are lucky to have them both as members of the Ohio Dental Association and as Callahan Award recipients in Ohio.”

This prestigious award has been given annually for 99 years in recognition of contributions of exceptional value to dental science.

Dr. Janice Townsend Receives Dr. Ronald A. Bell Mentor of the Year Award

Please congratulate Dr. Janice Townsend as the 2021 recipient of the Dr. Ronald A. Bell Mentor of the Year Award given by the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. This award recognizes someone who has been instrumental in mentoring pediatric dentistry residents and new pediatric dentists. A $2,500 donation was made to The Ohio State University Division of Pediatric Dentistry and the annual award was presented at the College of Diplomates annual meeting.

College of Dentistry faculty Recognized with Awards

Dr. Ehsan Azadani was selected as the Ohio State College of Dentistry’s recipient of the Larry Peterson Young Educator’s Award for 2020-2021. This award honors a faculty member who has taught for 1-3 years and has shown “exceptional enthusiasm for teaching.” The award was presented on July 28, 2021.

Congratulations to Dr. Beau Meyer for receiving the Stazen Junior Faculty Award from The Ohio State College of Dentistry. This award is for a junior faculty member demonstrating exceptional promise in the research field.

Congratulations to Dr. Ehsan Azadani for Faculty of the Year award. This award is presented by the pediatric dentistry residents graduating class of 2021.
Dr. Sharine Thenard Serves as a Guest Editor for the California Dental Association

Dr. Sharine Thenard is an outstanding leader in pediatric dentistry and was recently the guest editor of the California Dental Association Journal issue entitled “Pediatric Patients, Parenting and the Pandemic: Caring for Children in Modern Times.”

“Since graduating from the residency program, I am balancing a wonderful career with three children (aged 8, 6, 4) and trying to enjoy every moment. I am in group practice and am fortunate to work with lovely, caring, and supportive doctors. Navigating practice through COVID has been challenging, but we’ve been managing.”

Dr. Tanya Mathew Featured in Community Connectors

Dr. Tanya Mathew was featured in Community Connectors, a monthly series highlighting Ohio State staff members who have shown leadership in partnering with our communities to make an impact. This review focused on her Patient & Community Peer Review Academy of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science pilot grant program.

To learn more about this innovative program, visit: https://engage.osu.edu/community-connectors-tanya-mathew

Dr. Heidi Steinkamp and Husband Have a Baby

It gives us great pleasure to share that Dr. Heidi Steinkamp and her husband, Michael Chavez, gave birth to Luna Patricia Chavez-Steinkamp on April 28, 2021. Luna was 6.6 lbs and 20 inches. Welcome, Luna! Dr. Steinkamp will be joining the University of Iowa as a Tenure Track Assistant Professor.
Former resident Dr. Kelly Lipp (‘18) and Husband Have a Baby

Former resident Dr. Kelly Lipp (‘18) and her husband, Dr. Blake Nelson, welcomed their first child, Ella Marie, on March 22, 2021. She was born at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, NC weighing 7 lbs 3 oz and measuring 21 inches. Mom and baby are both doing well!

Community Events Promote Oral Health to Families

NCH staff members joined Community Development for All People and a local United Methodist Church to present “Thrive to 5: a 1st Birthday Animal Adventure Party,” to families. Dr. Kim Hammersmith, with the help of her 5-year-old, distributed toothbrushes and toothpaste, demonstrated proper toothbrushing to children, and answered parents’ questions about maintaining healthy teeth.

NCH hygienists Joyce Beathard-Lind, Amy Brainard, and Amy Baer volunteered at events sponsored by Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families, passing out toothbrushes, toothpaste, and information at the Linden and South Side PlayStreets.
Dr. Josh Evans ('22) and Dr. Ehsan Azadani Win First Place in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Poster Competition

Congratulations to resident Dr. Josh Evans ('22) and his thesis mentor Dr. Ehsan Azadani for winning first place in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Poster Competition! This is a highly competitive award with hundreds of participants. This is a significant honor on an important research topic! The title of his research project is “Exploring Links Between Dento-Alveolar Trauma and Concomitant Brain Injury”

Dr. David Danesh ('22) Gives Presentation at the American Public Health Association’s 2021 Annual Meeting

Dr. David Danesh ('22) gave a 15-minute oral presentation titled “From Classroom to Clinic: An innovative Approach to Developing a Population Oral Health Workforce” at the American Public Health Association’s 2021 Annual Meeting on October 27. Assisting Dr. Danesh in the presentation highlighting some of our HRSA grant objectives were Pediatric Dentistry faculty Drs. Amini, Hammersmith, and Meyer, along with Andy Wapner, DO, MPH from the College of Public Health.

ButtaFLIZE

COVID can’t hold back the spirit of our current residents. Here are the ButtaFLIZE taking advantage of some warm weather to have some fun over lunch.
Pediatric Dental Residents Participate in the Columbus Marathon

On October 17, 2021, five of the Pediatric Dentistry residents participated in the Columbus Marathon. Dr. Sheafer Yinger ('23) and her husband, Kurt, ran a full marathon and Dr. Spencer Warren ('22), Dr. Natalie Bussard ('22), Dr. Jennifer Lee ('23) and Dr. Sheafer Yinger ('23) also participated.

Residents Chosen to Serve on National AAPD Committee

Congratulations to Dr. Brittany Schweiger and Dr. Jennifer Lee for being chosen for the American Academy for Pediatric Dentistry’s (AAPD) Resident Committee. This national committee provides a forum to address residents’ issues and a communications mechanism to connect residents across the country.

Dr. Lana Richardson (2022) and Dr. Adam Richardson (2020) Have a Baby

Congratulations to Dr. Lana Richardson (2022) and Dr. Adam Richardson (2020). Eloise Quinn Richardson was born on October 22, 2021. All are doing well!
The Class of 2023 Pediatric Residents:

Brad Bennett, DMD

1) Hometown: Columbus, OH
2) Undergrad School and Major: Miami University, Manufacturing Engineering
3) Adventures before dental school: Pilot in the U.S. Navy
4) Dental school: University of Pittsburgh
5) Adventures before residency: Living in Sicily and traveling Europe
6) Favorite type of service/outreach: Hearts for Baghdad Program. Provided basic healthcare and hygiene needs for Iraqi population during the war.
7) Hobbies/special talent: Athletic ventures (especially Tennis), being outdoors.
8) Awards/Recognitions: Some Navy awards.
9) Favorite thing about the program: The camaraderie of the residents and the support of the faculty and staff.
10) Favorite place in Columbus: Local Parks
11) What excites you about the Pediatric Dentistry Program? The opportunities that extend beyond the clinic environment.

Natalie Bussard, DDS

1) Hometown: North Platte, NE
2) Undergrad School and Major: Wayne State College, B.S. Biology
3) Adventures before dental school: Collegiate soccer student-athlete, 3x All-State Choir member, and an avid rollerblader
4) Dental school: University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry
5) Adventures before residency: Worked as a general dentist in a rural Nebraska federally qualified health center
6) Favorite type of service/outreach: School-based mobile dental clinic and interdisciplinary caries prevention collaborations
7) Hobbies/special talent: Running, soaking up sunshine, petting dogs, and listening to audiobooks
8) Awards/Recognitions: UNMC College of Dentistry Academic Honors, UMMC e-Learning Award Program Recipient, NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic With Distinction Award, NSIC All-Academic Team
9) Favorite thing about the program: The knowledgeable and supportive faculty, my amazing co-residents, and the emphasis on dental public health.
10) Favorite place in Columbus: Grandview Cafe and Olentangy Trail
11) What excites you about the Pediatric Dentistry Program? The variety of experiences I will have during my residency and the knowledge I will gain from working alongside our outstanding faculty. I can’t wait to apply all that I learn to help improve the oral health of children in my community.
Kayla Kopczynski, DDS

1) Hometown: Charlotte, NC
2) Undergrad School and Major: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - BS in Biology
3) Adventures before dental school: Three cross-country road trips!
4) Dental school: UNC Adams School of Dentistry
5) Favorite type of service/outreach: The Special Smiles division of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program – creating awareness and improving access to oral healthcare for Special Olympics athletes and their families
6) Hobbies/special talent: Running/all things Peloton/baking
7) Awards/Recognitions: Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Dental Student Award, UNC Department of Pediatric Dentistry Research Fellowship, James Bawden Student Research Award, Phi Beta Kappa (UNC), Presidential Scholar (USC)
8) Favorite thing about the program: My co-residents!
9) Favorite place in Columbus: Traveling around the US and exploring the Columbus food scene with my husband, Brett

Jennifer Lee, DMD

1) Hometown: Lake Orion, MI
2) Undergrad School and Major: Grand Valley State University - Biomedical Sciences
3) Adventures before dental school: Traveled to Australia and Northern Europe.
4) Dental school: Harvard School of Dental Medicine
5) Adventures before residency: Boating on Lake Michigan
6) Favorite type of service/outreach: Patient education on dental hygiene
7) Hobbies/special talent: Teaching fitness classes, walking, baking
8) Awards/Recognitions: ASDA Award of Excellence, ADEA/GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Preventive Dentistry Scholarship
9) Favorite thing about the program: The welcoming community that is centered on patient care and focused on resident education
10) Favorite place in Columbus: Winans Chocolate & Coffee + Wine
11) What excites you about the Pediatric Dentistry Program? Learning how to make a positive impact in a patient’s life so they can have a lifetime of successful oral health, and of course, my wonderful co-residents.
Kyulim Lee, DMD, PhD

1) Hometown: Gainesville, FL
2) Undergrad School and Major: University of Florida, B.S in Nutritional Sciences
3) Adventures before dental school: Visited family in South Korea (where I was born) and traveled back to Honduras (where I grew up) to visit old friends
4) Dental school: University of Florida College of Dentistry
5) Favorite type of service/outreach: Mission trips to Honduras and Dominican Republic
6) Hobbies/special talent: Exploring new restaurants with my husband, Andy, and jogging with my doggie, Mandoo!
7) Awards/Recognitions: American Dental Association Foundation (ADAF) Crest and Oral-B Promising Research Award, UF College of Dentistry High Research Honors, International Association for Dental Research Hatton Award, American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Hatton Award, ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Award, AADR Gert Quigley Fellow, NIH/NIDCR F30 Fellow, UFCD Award in Excellence in Research Award
8) Favorite thing about the program: EVERYTHING - the extremely supportive faculty, welcoming staff and amazing co-residents. This is such a special place!
9) Favorite place in Columbus: The Scioto Mile
10) What excites you about the Pediatric Dentistry Program? The opportunity to train and learn under amazing leaders in this field and the variety of experiences we will be getting as residents of NCH/OSU

Alison Riley, DDS

1) Hometown: Kennett Square, PA
2) Undergrad School and Major: Pennsylvania State University, Biomedical Engineering
3) Adventures before dental school: Three years in sunny San Diego eating fish tacos, surfing, and working as a medical device engineer
4) Dental school: University of California, San Francisco
5) Favorite type of service/outreach: UCSF Free Community Dental Clinic for Children - provided free dental services and insurance counseling for SF families
6) Hobbies/special talent: Camping/trail running/cat petting/biking/baking/live music
7) Awards/Recognitions: Certificate of Excellence, IADR CTOR, John C. Greene Society Summer Research Fellow
8) Favorite thing about the program: The faculty! Everyone is warm, supportive, and excited to teach.
9) Favorite place in Columbus: The Olentangy Trail
10) What excites you about the Pediatric Dentistry Program? The wide variety of experiences we’ll get as residents - treating patients at the hospital, being on call, working at school clinics, teaching OSU dental students, etc.
Brittany Schweiger, DDS

1) Hometown: St. Clair, MI
2) Undergrad School and Major: University of Detroit Mercy - Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology and a Minor in Business
3) Adventures before dental school: Many softball tournaments and working on my golf game!
4) Dental school: University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry
5) Adventures before residency: Relaxing by the pool and jet skiing on the St. Clair River!
6) Favorite type of service/outreach: Ford Field Men’s Health Event - provided oral cancer screenings and oral hygiene instructions to the residents of Detroit!
7) Hobbies/special talent: All things sports (especially softball), snowboarding, and cooking!

Casey White, DMD

1) Hometown: Kennett Square, PA
2) Undergrad School and Major: Lafayette College, Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Bachelor of Arts in Art.
3) Adventures before dental school: Studying cultural conservation in Italy, climbing Machu Pichu in Peru, Exploring art in Greece, and buying spur-of-the-moment plane tickets to the Netherlands and Ireland.
4) Dental school: University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
5) Adventures before residency: Babysitting my way through dental school and rescuing my sassy and snuggly puppy named Lucy. She was 10 weeks old when I adopted her and will be 6 months old in August. “Sit” is our favorite word!
6) Favorite type of service/outreach: Coaching Girls on the Run, a goal-oriented wellness and physical exercise program for girls in third through fifth grade.
7) Hobbies/special talent: Making balloon animals!

Awards/Recognitions:
- Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award, Whip Mix Hanau Best of the Best Prosthodontic Award, ASDA Award of Excellence, ASDA District 6 Distinguished Leader Award
- Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate of Merit, American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Award of Excellence, Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Award, American Student Dental Association District 3 Trustee (2020-2021), Outstanding Contribution to ASDA District 3, American Association for Dental Research Student Research Fellowship.

Favorite thing about the program:
- The culture - the residents, faculty, and staff are so welcoming and everyone unites on a common goal to do everything we can to help our patients! It truly is an honor to be a part of this program!
- My co-residents and the positive and supportive learning environment created by all the faculty!!
- The opportunity to learn from leaders in the field of pediatric dentistry! I am constantly impressed by how knowledgeable, inquisitive, motivated, and down-to-earth all the faculty are. The culture of teamwork, variety of resident experiences, and exposure to managing dental trauma also stand out to me!
Sheaffer Yinger, DDS

1) Hometown:
Vancouver, WA

2) Undergrad School and Major:
University of Arizona - BS in Public Health

3) Adventures before dental school:
Collegiate soccer at the University of Arizona (Beardown!)

3) Dental school:
University of Colorado

4) Adventures before residency:
Graduated, got married, bought a house and got a puppy (in a 2 week period!)

5) Favorite type of service/outreach:
Patient education

6) Hobbies/special talent:
Cooking, reading, running, skiing

7) Awards/Recognitions:
Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), International College of Dentists Leadership Award, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Pre-Doctoral Student Award, Colorado Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Erin Lovell Scholarship, Colorado Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Graduating Student Award, College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) All-American, Pacific 12 Conference (PAC-12) Scholar Athlete of the Year 2015

8) Favorite thing about the program:
My co-residents!

9) Favorite place in Columbus:
Antrim Park and Brassica

10) What excites you about the Pediatric Dentistry Program?
Building relationships with patients, families and colleagues.
The End of an Era – Really!

By Paul Casamassimo

This fall, two giants in the Department of Dentistry will take well-deserved retirements – Monica Hall and Susan Ritzenthaler. I know hundreds of residents, faculty, and staff share the love I have for these women and the unrepayable appreciation for what each has done for us as a department and individually. I hope that many of you will send them a note or e-mail and thank them for their years and contributions to the success of our department and the health and welfare of all of us.

Monica Hall

Monica Hall started not that much later than I did in Dentistry and, as we all know, really ran the department and has been the smiling face and pleasant voice that greeted people. Not much phased Monica. She put up with many of our quirks and behaviors, counseled innumerable staff and residents, and was a calming influence in an oft-tumultuous work environment. The wall of family photos of residents past at her cubicle speaks to the love so many have for her.

Every leader, co-worker, and student should have a Monica. She kept me on track with her polite honesty, absorbed the emotions of her co-workers and calmed them on an almost-daily basis, and advocated for struggling residents in ways they never knew. She was often the barometer of tension and stress and knew when it was time to pull the fire alarm.

Monica was and remains a great judge of character. If you had her respect, you could take that to the bank as testimony of who you were. She could provide a personality profile with an eyebrow rise, an eye roll or just a sigh...often an appreciated warning before a meeting or phone call. Back when the hospital was smaller, she knew everyone on a first-name basis, and got things done without today’s delays. Things were often fixed before anyone knew they were broken.

There aren’t many Monica’s out there. My advice to everyone is if you find one, cherish her, keep her happy and most of all appreciate her wisdom and loyalty. Thanks, Monica, for all the wonderful years!

Her future contact information is:

Monica Hall
2001 Maryland Avenue | 43219
614-252-6362
Monica.L.Hall@gmail.com
Susan Ritzenthaler got to Children’s around the same time as Dr. McTigue and was a fixture by the time I got here. My early experiences with Susan were a little rough, as almost daily she paid a noon or late-day visit to my office to advise me how to do my job better! We landed on a compromise that has worked for four decades – bring a problem, bring a solution. No one will ever know how many “Susan solutions” I got credit for and made our busy clinic work.

Susan brought smarts and clinical skill to work every day. Her abilities to bond with special needs patients and their families, get treatment done, and smile at the end of a tough visit made her a rock in the clinic. She can tell you about the patients who came as children and grew up under her care and whose families she came to know, both inside and outside of the hospital. Residents and faculty came and went, but Susan was the thread that connected a generation to the hospital for their oral health care.

I could always count on Susan to take a challenge, an additional job, a new direction. She traipsed with us to eastern Ohio to do sealants, helped design and outfit our new clinics, and was doing quality assessment Susan-style long before the hospital went in that direction. Susan was the voice of her hygiene colleagues and advocated for them responsibly and effectively. I joke that the reason our dental hygienists never missed lunch in my 30 years here was because Susan was their “union boss.”

Susan says that her career here at Nationwide was the best anyone could have asked for and I would add that her steadiness, loyalty, competence and compassion were the best that any of us could have ever asked for! Thanks for all those years of caring for patients, peers, and the program, Susan.

I personally will miss these two wonderful women to whom I owe so much. If we ever look for role models in work and personal life, here are two people we can share as examples. The place won’t ever be the same!

“Thanks for all those years of caring for patients, peers, and the program.”

Paul Casamassimo
Halloween 2021

The clinic at Nationwide Children’s hospital showed their Halloween spirit with some great costumes! Minions, mice, a whole lot of puppies, and one villain could be found in the clinic.

Back row: Natalie Bussard, Casey White, Allison Riley, Brad Bennet, Shea Yinger, Jennifer Lee
Front row: Kyu Lee, Dan Claman, Kayla Kopczyski

Saylor Loraine Hodson

Saylor Loraine Hodson was born on October 8, 2021 to Jerika and Chris Hodson. She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. We are so excited to watch her grow and see what big things she will accomplish.

Dr. Janice Townsend and Dr. Adam Groth tied the knot on October 18!

Our best wishes for years full of adventure and happiness.


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

Ohio Department of Health: Integration of Oral Health into Prenatal Care; $75,000 (March 25, 2021)

Beau Meyer, DDS, MPH: Interactive game-based clinical training for vulnerable and underserved populations; Ohio Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MEDTAPP), Ohio Department of Medicaid; $1,365,202 total ($667,525 funded plus $697,678 in cost-share)

Kim Hammersmith, DDS, MPH, MS: Genetic and Dental Analysis of a Novel Form of Dentinogenesis Imperfecta: The Ohio State University College of Dentistry Clinical Scholars Research Pilot Program, $10,245.

Kim Hammersmith, DDS, MPH, MS: From Classroom to Clinic: Enhanced Public Health Dental Training and a School-Based Pediatric Dentistry Model; US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration: $504,490

Homa Amini, DDS, MS, MPH: Integration of Oral Health into Prenatal Care; Ohio Department of Health: $75,000

Homa Amini, DDS, MS, MPH: Medicaid equity simulation training; Ohio Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MEDTAPP), Ohio Department of Medicaid: $66,697

Homa Amini, DDS, MS, MPH: Bridging the Gap in the Community through Partnership to Prevent ECC; Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future Canada-United States grant: $3,800