

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Gerald Ferretti, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H.

Greetings! Graduates of the Pediatric Dentistry Department at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine receive many honors and accolades, and the school and our department shine by association with them.

One of our program's alums, Rhea M. Haugseth, D.M.D., who graduated from our program in 1980, will become president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) on May 29. She is the second woman to be selected as president in the history of the academy.

It's an honor for our program to have a graduate of our residency program representing dentistry at the national level.

Dr. Haugseth runs Post Oak Pediatric Dentistry in Marietta, GA. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

During her year as president, she will work to ensure that the AAPD remains the leading authority on children's oral health. She will also continue to advocate at the national level for programs that enhance children's oral health, and those that actively support pediatric dentistry residency programs across the country.

"We're working with the legislators in our states and nationally to make sure we're a voice for the children,

to really help us take care of the kids," Dr. Haugseth says. "We're here to take care of the children, but the legislators have to help us get there."

Dr. Haugseth has praise for the CWRU pediatric dentistry program. She remembers and appreciates the many mentors she had here — including Irving Tapper, D.D.S. — the strong didactic and clinical programs at the school, and the great staff at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. "When I came out of the CWRU pediatric dentistry program, I felt like I had received an excellent clinical experience that allowed me to jump right in and rock and roll in my practice," she says. "I understand the program since then has grown and is doing an even more wonderful job." That is certainly nice to hear from the president of the AAPD.

Despite her upcoming presidency, and all of her national and international involvement, Dr. Haugseth hasn't forgotten what pediatric dentistry is ultimately all about. "I love to see kids smile and I'm committed to giving them the best dental care available to make their smiles healthy and beautiful," she says. "That is why I stay so active in professional associations and continuing education. It takes a lot of work to keep up with the latest techniques, but it's worth it when I see bright, healthy teeth smiling back at me after an exam."

And maybe that's the most valuable lesson of all. Please send your good wishes to Rhea. I hope to see many of you and your families at the CWRU pediatric dental alumni reception at the AAPD meeting in New York.

All the best,
Gerry Ferretti

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Pediatric Dentistry News

SPRING 2011

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni and friends of Case Western Reserve University, please join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres being held during the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session

Saturday, May 28, 2011
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
New York Marriott Marquis
1535 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

RSVP: (877) 468-1436, or dentalalumni@case.edu



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Pediatric Dentistry Department Resident Brian Hatch treats a patient during a recent visit of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to Canton.

Pediatric Dentistry News

SPRING 2011

Medical mission to Honduras: 'It gives you a perspective on how good we have it'

The faces may change, but a long-running CWRU Department of Pediatric Dentistry outreach program to Honduras continues.



This January, second-year pediatric dentistry residents Jean Felton, D.M.D. '09 and Larry Kalke, D.M.D. '08 joined a team that included doctors, dental and physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, and translators for a nine-day medical mission to one of the Western Hemisphere's poorest countries. The team visited six different towns and performed 1,321 extractions on 617 patients (297 children and 320 adults).

The experience was a very powerful one for both Dr. Felton and Dr. Kalke.

"We saw many people living in houses made of tin and cardboard," Dr. Felton says. "They didn't have any transportation, and yet we had a huge lines everywhere we went. People stood in the hot sun for hours waiting to see us. Our working conditions were very primitive. We brought all our instruments from home, but the dental 'office' was a lawn chair

propped up on two boxes, and our sterilization method was bleach and water."

Dr. Felton says it's common for children in Honduras to chew on sugar cane, which leads to terrible cases of decay. "Many of the children had decay that was so bad we had to ask ourselves, 'From which side of the mouth do we remove all the teeth?' We had to leave some so they could chew."

Dr. Kalke says outreach programs such as this provide an opportunity to appreciate how good we have it in the United States. "It's very eye-opening," he says. "We were working with headlamps, and when we had to section teeth we were using a mallet and a chisel. It's very sobering to get done working on patient, look up, and see a line of 300 people who are waiting to sit down in your chair and have teeth pulled."

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Thank you!

Graduating Residents



Jean Felton has been doing research on a dexmedetomidine and its effects on emergence agitation on patients who undergo general anesthesia. She says her time in the CWRU pediatric dentistry program has improved her diagnostic skills, and taught her about treating dental trauma and patients with special needs. After graduation, she plans to move to the Phoenix area, where she would ultimately like to set up her own practice — but not until she returns with her co-residents to Keeneland, KY, for a day of horse racing. “I have great memories of all the good times with my co-residents, especially our trip to Kentucky,” Felton says. “I can’t wait to go again this year!”



Brian Hatch has worked on a research project evaluating children among the Amish community who have a genetic disorder in which they are not able to process carbohydrates properly, in particular the sugars galactose and glucose. He was also one of the examiners in the xylitol gummy bear project in the East Cleveland schools, and the very low birth weight study. “One of the main things I will take from my time here is that kids are amazing and they understand more than we as adults give them credit for,” Hatch says. “I also love being able to help a child out of pain, or to feel comfortable smiling again.” After graduation, Hatch will be going to Frisco, TX, to recruit new pediatric dentists for the company My Kid’s Dentist.



Larry Kalke has been involved in three research projects: the very low birth weight study to determine if very low birth weight has any relation to enamel defects; the xylitol gummy bear study to see if xylitol has an effect on *Streptococcus mutans* levels; and a study to determine if high caries risk patients have an increased percentage of sealant failures. He says his goal is to be the best pediatric dentist around. “It’s hard to leave here not feeling like you’re among the best in the business,” he says. “This program offers a great foundation to start life-long learning, sets you up well to understand how the oral cavity relates to overall health, and points out how having a “dental home” is critical for any child.” Kalke says he plans on associating with another pediatric dentist and buying in to his practice.



Mindy Price says her goal in life since the age of 16 has been to be a pediatric dentist. Now that she is graduating, she plans to move back to Columbus, OH, and join her father’s private pediatric dentistry practice. She participated in a research project entitled, “A prospective study and clinical evaluation of pre- and post-treatment comparison of laser and formocresol pulpotomy procedures in primary molars of children under general anesthesia.” Price says a memory that stands out in her mind from her residency at CWRU was being in the Tapper Clinic and treating a family with ectodermal dysplasia. “The child was missing multiple teeth and I made the child partial dentures. When I delivered them and saw the child smile, it made my day,” she says.

Incoming Residents



Jacqueline Beard (Clifford) grew up in Painesville, OH and graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in psychology and an emphasis in special education. She received her D.M.D. from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2011, and during dental school married her best friend, Ben. “The staff at the dental school are very supportive and have tons of experience, and the students who graduate from the program are well-rounded, confident, and knowledgeable,” she says. Beard says she is interested in special needs children, especially those who have autism, and she hopes to pursue research pertaining to autism and oral health.



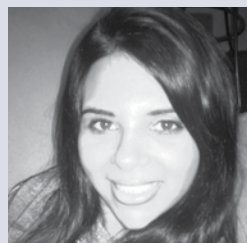
Clara Brannan grew up on a small farm in Tacoma, WA. She attended Bates Technical College and became a dental assistant. After returning to school and completing her bachelor’s degree at the University of Washington, she moved to Cleveland and obtained her D.D.S. from the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine in 2007. After graduating, Brannan returned to Washington to begin practice and start a family. Her husband’s education (he is a third-year dental student at CWRU) brought her back to Cleveland, and she has been volunteering at the dental school for two years.



Margaret Ferretti is originally from Lexington, KY. She earned her undergraduate degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati, where she studied classical Greek, Latin, and philosophy with a minor in natural sciences, then graduated from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2011. Ferretti says she loves playing and watching soccer, and is training for a triathlon.



Trista Onesti is originally from Youngstown, OH. She graduated from CWRU with a degree in biochemistry and chemistry, then received her D.D.S. from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. “I am thrilled to be accepted into what I consider to be the best program for training because of the amazing clinical environments — from the clinics within the school, to the OR, to the Tapper Clinic at Rainbow’s Babies and Children’s Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile unit that serves the Northeast Ohio community,” Onesti says. She has a special interest in the care of patients with special needs.



Zenobia Tamboli will receive her D.D.S. from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN in May. “I applied to the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine because of the prestigious reputation of the school and the pediatric dentistry program itself,” Tamboli says. “The program has a great mix of didactic work as well as clinical experiences. From the moment I stepped on campus, everyone seemed to be a big family and was very welcoming. It was very clear that the common goal was to care for children in both a professional and friendly environment.”

Brazil outreach program rewarding, eye-opening

Happy but sad.

That’s how Mindy Price, D.D.S., a second-year resident in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, describes her recent outreach trip to provide dental care to children in an impoverished area of Brazil.

Dr. Price spent 14 days in Santarém, a city on the Amazon River in northern Brazil. During that time, she and Chandra Drews, a hygienist at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, treated 140 children between the ages of 3 years and 18 years. Dr. Price says she and Drews provided preventive and restorative care, as well as surgical services such as extractions.

“Our visit marked the first time that a pediatric dentist has ever visited Santarém,” Dr. Price says. “Access to care is very limited there. It’s definitely a third-world country. Many of the kids have very serious dental issues, and the parents are extremely uneducated, so we did a lot of education along with the care we provided.”

Dr. Price expressed gratitude to the dental supply reps



Mindy Price, D.D.S., and a patient she met during a recent outreach trip to Brazil.

who visit the Tapper Clinic and who donated more than \$10,000 in supplies for the Brazil outreach program.

“It was happy but sad,” Dr. price says. “It was rewarding to treat the children and relieve them from pain, but it was sad having to put them through a difficult experience. I would definitely go back. It makes you realize what you have and how many people are less fortunate.”

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Medical mission to Honduras... *continued*

Dr. Kalke admits that he was working so fast he basically had to detach himself emotionally just to get the job done. However, he was struck by how grateful the parents were to have their children’s teeth pulled because they knew how much better off it would be for the child in the long run.

The medical team roomed at an orphanage each night, and both Dr. Felton and Kalke were moved by the children they met there.

The kids are so eager to play with you, and they light up when they see you and want to have a good time,” Dr. Kalke says. “While you’re there, they forget they don’t have parents, and just



want to play on a swing set or kick a soccer ball around.”

“The kids were so appreciative,” adds Dr. Felton. “They were very friendly, and wanted to hold our hands and talk to us. Despite the language barrier they tried very hard to communicate.”

The long hours, heat, primitive conditions, and sheer number of patients were all draining, but the reward provided by the outreach opportunity was personal and professional enrichment.

“I have a strong feeling that part of our responsibility as medical providers is to give something back,” Dr. Kalke says. “It’s nice when opportunities like this arise, and you can go and make a huge difference for many people in a relatively short period of time. And it certainly gives you a perspective on how good we have it here.”

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