

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Markarian seeks to inspire her students



Tania Z. Markarian, D.D.S., '97

Tania Z. Markarian, D.D.S., '97, says that her teaching philosophy consists of keeping an open mind, and remembering that "in four years, my student will be my colleague." The part-time faculty member for the department of comprehensive care, and for the department of pediatric

dentistry, says she became interested in pediatric dentistry after she graduated from dental school here. "I was in the AEGD program," she explains. "We were on call 1 week per month and were the pediatric dental team for University Hospitals [of Cleveland]. I just fell in love with working with children," she says.

Dr. Markarian adds that working with a child is very rewarding to her because often, unlike an adult, "a child doesn't have a choice; therefore, if you can get the child to trust you, it might be possible to help him overcome his fear. You could be that one doctor who can impact him enough so he grows up to appreciate the importance of oral health. I also enjoy every age range. For example, teenagers are often misunderstood. I love when they ask questions and express an interest in what I'm doing or the dental care they're receiving. I like to think that maybe I have inspired them and planted a seed."

It is the same in her teaching of students at the dental school. "I like to say that the best way to teach someone is to teach them the principles first then show them how to apply these principles to a clinical

situation," says Dr. Markarian. To do that, she says that she has to recognize that everyone has a learning style. "I respect that, and I also respect the student who tries his or her best to learn." That said, sometimes learning can be difficult for a student, but that too brings a reward. "I believe that you learn more from challenges and difficulties than you do when things go smoothly," says Dr. Markarian. "I enjoy working through those challenges with the students. It makes me feel like I am really contributing to their education, and perhaps I've motivated some of them."

Dr. Markarian was inspired by her father, an anesthesiologist. "I saw how he helped his patients and how much they respected and admired him," she says. Her father's example continues to guide her life and practice to this day. This is a legacy she wishes to leave with "the three most important people in the world to me, my children, Elias, Joseph, and Maya. I would like to provide an example and inspiration to them. I want them to firmly believe that the key to success is passion, determination and hard work." She is also passionate about LifeBanc, an organ donation organization that she volunteers with.

Dr. Markarian was born in Lebanon, and came to the United States with her family when she was 15 years old. "English was my fourth language, I had to quickly learn it when I came here," she says. We think her students would agree that she communicates beautifully in any language.

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CLASS NOTES

1983



Mina Mina is Professor and Division Chair of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Connecticut Health

Center where she began in 1989 as assistant professor and became division chair in 2003. She has maintained an active research program focused on three areas related to craniofacial biology.

2009



Andrea D'Addario believes in community service and is an active advocate for children. She enjoys running, swimming,

hiking, skiing, and traveling. She and her husband, Matthew, an oral & maxillofacial surgeon, are the busy parents of twin sons.

2010



Ashley Paulus enjoys skiing, being outdoors, traveling, college football, and spending time with family and friends. She and her

orthodontist husband, Brent (Ortho 2011), decided to move to Colorado to enjoy the outdoor activities offered.

Pediatric Dentistry Honor Roll of Donors July 2010 to June 2012

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Pediatric Dentistry News 2012



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

From the Chairman

Every season is a busy season

Just because it's summer doesn't mean that your pediatrics department faculty, residents, and staff are taking it easy! We are welcoming five new residents this July. All are accomplished young professionals who chose CWRU because the program is worthy of their talents. The program continues to attract the best and the brightest because we have the finest facilities and faculty.

That quality continues here because of the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff, and because of the generosity of our alumni. When the alumni continue to contribute their time, resources, and money to a school or a program such as ours, not only do they keep a tradition alive, they help to maintain the value of their own degrees. Our reputation as a school and a department is only as good as the skills and quality of the last class that we have graduated. And the classes we graduate continue to be world-class, going on to leadership roles in our profession.

The example you set for these young colleagues, as well as your continued financial support, is invaluable. And for that, we thank you. You've no doubt heard about the various appeals for the campaign for CWRU and for the

School of Dental Medicine. Your contributions to those campaigns allow the school, and by extension, our department, to continue offering a cutting-edge educational experience to the residents we teach.

Please consider making a gift to support the department today! We rely on support from former residents to support the program. If you would like to know more about our immediate needs, please contact **Simon Bisson, Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations** at 216-368-3923.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any thoughts and news.

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



Residency program has strength in numbers and quality

Congratulations to our residents who graduated this June from the pediatric dentistry program:



Kari Cunningham, D.M.D., '10, plans on practicing in Cleveland. Kari says, "I have learned that patience, wanting to educate patients and their families about oral health and hygiene and great

chairside manner are key elements in a successful pediatric dental career. Having parents trust me, respect me and work with me as I aim to help their child achieve oral health and wellness is a wonderful feeling. I am happy to have been able to serve the community in which I was raised." Kari will be fulfilling her commitment to the National Health Service Corps in a community health clinic in Ohio.



Tracy Davies, D.M.D., will be practicing in Michigan.

Jack Gerstenmaier, D.M.D., '10, will be joining the practice of his father, **John Gerstenmaier, Jr., D.D.S., '67**, in Akron, Ohio.



Rebecca Goldberg, D.M.D., will be moving to Colorado to open her practice.



(pictured L to R): Rebecca Goldberg, Kari Cunningham, Jack Gerstenmaier, Amberlee Taylor, Tracy Davies



Amberlee Taylor, D.M.D., '08, says she plans to associate while working to open her own practice in 2013.



We would also like to acknowledge **Mashahiro Heima, D.M.D.**, who has served as a part-time faculty member and resident. His plans now, he says, are to "go back to the regular faculty job, doing research, teaching, and so on. But I'd also like to work with unique children, such as children who are afraid of the dentist, children who live in socioeconomically disadvantaged families or children who are culturally different [from the mainstream]."

We wish them all well in their future endeavors.

Residency News



Kelly Bowlin, D.M.D., graduated from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry. Her interest in dentistry stems from the fact that she had "the benefit of lots of dental work, and this is what initially interested me in dentistry. Therefore, I truly enjoy being able to provide other children with the same wonderful dental care that I received." She chose CWRU because of "the school's wonderful reputation, of course, but also when I interviewed and saw the program, I knew it was where I wanted to train to become a pediatric dentist. I love the combination of a school- and hospital-based program but it was really the high caliber of the faculty and residents that made me realize that CWRU was the best place for me. I look forward to exploring the many opportunities that exist after residency that range from academia, to research, to public dentistry, or private practice." Kelly says that a fun fact about her is the fact that "I spent half my childhood living overseas."



Stephen Stanfield, D.M.D., graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. As for why he is interested in pediatric dentistry, "I know it sounds cliché, but I really have been interested in working with children all of my life. I first wanted to be a pediatrician, but quickly realized that pediatric dentistry is the career for me. I get along really well with children and have a fun time working with them. It's challenging, fun and rewarding all at the same time." He chose CWRU because "I went to dental school at The Ohio State University and really came to enjoy Ohio. It's a great place to live and practice. I knew that CWRU has a great program and I knew I had to apply. And I'm so glad that I did." He hopes that his future practice will be fun. "It's so fun to be a pediatric dentist for this reason! I am definitely a beach person so I want to go with that theme. I enjoy scuba diving and snorkeling so I want to have fish tanks and fun ocean-themed things in my office." On a personal note, Stephen says "I really enjoy traveling and seeing different places around the world. It's interesting to see other cultures and places and learn about them. I also like being active and just having a fun time."



Bradley Walker, D.M.D., '08, attended the University of Utah and received a degree in Business Administration. After graduating from CWRU with his dental degree, he returned home to Salt Lake City, Utah where he started and ran a successful family dental practice. During this time he realized that working with children proved to be very rewarding. In an effort to increase his ability to care for these little ones, he has returned to CWRU. He says that he and his wife are excited to be back in Cleveland with their 3 children (soon to be 4).



Freddie Wilkes, Jr., D.M.D., comes to CWRU from the Meharry College School of Dentistry. Freddie first became interested in pediatric dentistry after shadowing several pediatric dentists in Nashville and Memphis. "I enjoyed the experience so much," he says, "that I tried to dedicate as much clinic time as possible to treating children and solidifying my decision to pursue pediatric dentistry." He chose CWRU "because they are one of the top pediatric dental programs in the country. I know that when I leave this post-doctoral program, I will be highly trained in treating infants to adolescents and will be able to handle any pediatric dental situation that I encounter." He hopes that his future practice "will focus on treating children from all walks of life, with a special emphasis on serving the underserved and treating medically compromised patients. I would ideally like to also have a general dentist in my future practice so that we could offer comprehensive family care." Freddie says fun facts about him include:

- I love playing basketball.
- I am a car fanatic.
- I am a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- I am the first dentist in my family.
- I love to travel. My two favorite international visits were to South Africa and Dubai.
- I have met Oprah Winfrey twice and was on stage with her during her finale show.



Danae Willenberg, D.M.D., '12, is continuing her studies at CWRU because she is familiar with the program and she says she loves living in Cleveland. She first became interested in pediatric dentistry after a humanitarian mission to Guatemala with the School of Dental Medicine. She says, "I haven't decided what kind of future practice I will pursue, but hope to remain involved in both academics and research." For fun, Danae likes to play with her dog, bake, and travel.

Research Presentations

Our 2012 second-year residents presented original research throughout the year to various clinical meetings. A sampling of their work:

ORAL REHABILITATION UNDER GENERAL ANESTHESIA: A REVIEW OF 50 CASES

Kari Cunningham, D.M.D., Ntragatakis, M., Ferretti, G.A. The purpose of this study was three-fold: To perform a retrospective chart review to describe the characteristics of patients who received oral rehabilitation under general anesthesia; tabulate diagnostic, preventive, restorative, endodontic, surgical, orthodontic and periodontic procedures performed in the operating room; and to evaluate post-operation follow-up (two-week, recall, and emergency visits) of patients who received oral rehabilitation under general anesthesia. Conclusion: This pediatric dental clinic in a children's hospital serves as a safety net clinic to increase access to dental care for patients that are healthy and those that have special health care needs. While age, treatment requirements, medical history, and behavior are key determining factors when deciding to render treatment in the operating room, it is important to stress that intervention is no substitute for prevention. Parents and guardians must be encouraged to bring the patient to recommended follow-up and recall visits to ensure maintenance is adequate and that caries are diagnosed and treated in a timely manner if detected.

ACHIEVING A PREDICTABLE RESULT THROUGH DIAGNOSTIC WAX-UP FOR AN ORTHODONTIC PATIENT WITH CONGENITALLY MISSING TEETH

Tracy Davies, D.M.D., Ferretti, G.A., Valiathan M., Goldberg, R. Purpose: Using a pre-orthodontic diagnostic wax-up technique will provide proper guidance for restoring form and function in a patient with congenitally missing and malformed teeth. Results: It was determined that mesial-distally: tooth number six required 8mm, tooth number seven required 6mm, tooth number ten required 6mm, and tooth number twenty-four required 5mm.

There is adequate space to establish predictive cosmetic and functional results using comprehensive orthodontic treatment.

ENHANCING ESTHETICS AND REVERSING WHITE-SPOT LESIONS WITH A NON-INVASIVE MI PASTE PROTOCOL

John Gerstenmaier, D.M.D., Ferretti, G.A. Purpose: to improve the esthetics of young permanent teeth that had been altered by fluorosis and other white spot lesions. Results: after following an 8 week protocol of non-invasive treatment involving MI Paste, a positive result, both esthetically and psychologically, was achieved.

RESTORING ESTHETICS AND FUNCTION: AGE-APPROPRIATE DENTAL PROSTHESIS IN A CHILD WITH ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA

Rebecca Goldberg, D.D.S., Ferretti, G.A. Purpose: To restore the esthetic appearance and function of a 10 year-old female who presents with multiple congenitally missing and malformed teeth, and a bilateral posterior open bite. Results: The Snap-On-Smile appliance successfully established patient esthetics and occlusal function of her posterior teeth. On November 7, 2011, shade A1 TPH composite build-ups of teeth #N, O, P and Q were done. Incisal guidance and interproximal contacts were verified.

E-GASKET PARTIAL OVERDENTURE FABRICATION FOR A PATIENT WITH ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA

Amberlee Taylor, D.M.D., Ferretti, G.A. The purpose of this study was to fabricate a prosthesis that provides better retention than a conventional overdenture. Results: The patient and parents were very pleased with the esthetic and functional results. In the past, the patient was not wearing his mandibular conventional denture. The patient stated the mandibular partial and the maxillary partial overdenture were more comfortable than his previous dentures.