

Pediatric Dentistry News 2014



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

From the Chairman

No one chooses the pediatric dentistry program at the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine because they want an average education. Our residents are here because they want excellence. However, excellence has a price, and I would like to appeal to all our great alumni and friends of the

department to support us. We need your help to keep our program going and growing.

The other day I started thinking about some of the additional elements that we incorporate into our residency program that set it apart from the programs at other schools. Our residents go on a medical mission trip, attend annual continuing education courses in Keeneland, KY, attend the annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of Pediatric Dentistry — and our senior resident also attends the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. We also bring in a number of guest speakers each year to share their knowledge, buy the residents textbooks that will help them along their chosen path, and cover the costs associated with the graduation ceremony.

All told, these enhancements to our residents' educations cost the department more than \$40,000 per year.

We want today's students to have the finest education, just as you received — which was in part thanks to the generosity of others. Could you please consider making a gift of \$1,000 per year for three to five years to the Department of Pediatric Dentistry? It would mean a lot to me, to our department, and to our residents.

As an example of the kinds of things we do with your support, I'm very pleased to announce that the department has received two carbon-dioxide lasers through the generous support we receive from the Anne Hunter Jenkins Endowed Fund. These lasers have just been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to prepare teeth without using local anesthetic. They represent a potentially revolutionary new

continued on next page

Kenneth B. Chance, D.D.S. '79, Named Dean of School of Dental Medicine



Kenneth Chance, D.D.S. '79, has been appointed by the CWRU Board of Trustees as the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine. The appointment became effective July 1.

A professor and chief of endodontics at the University of Kentucky since 2000, Dr. Chance previously was Dean of the School of Dentistry at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. In addition, he spent 15 years on the faculty of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), now part of Rutgers University).

Dr. Chance has remained engaged with the School of Dental Medicine since he graduated in 1979. He was the first dentist or dental school alumnus to serve on the CWRU Board of Trustees.

Dr. Chance succeeds Jerold S. Goldberg, D.D.S. '70, who has served as the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine since 1997.

"I am excited and honored by the opportunity to return to this campus at a pivotal time for the school and for health care nationally," Dr. Chance said. "Jerry's tenure has been transformative, and I look forward to building on his legacy and accelerating our momentum."



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Profile

Cindy Parks, D.D.S.

Small-town girl makes a big impact on little patients



Working with children, educating them about dental health, and helping them live better lives are all aspects of pediatric dentistry that Cindy Parks, D.D.S., enjoys.

"As a pediatric dentist, you have the first opportunity

to make dental health a top priority for children," she says. "I also enjoy the end result after restoring a full mouth case. I feel the best when a parent tells me their child has had an increased appetite and better personality after their teeth were fixed."

Dr. Parks grew up in Eglon, a small town in rural West Virginia. She earned a nursing degree from Davis & Elkins College in 1995, and a degree in business administration from the same school in 1999.

She earned her D.D.S. from the West Virginia University School of Dentistry in 2004, then completed her pediatric dentistry residency at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in 2006. She has been in private practice in Morgantown, WV, for 8 years (www.totsandteensdentistry.com).

Dr. Parks chose CWRU for her residency based on a number of factors, including the ease of commuting within the city, the school's beautiful campus, and the program's reputation.

"I wanted a hospital-based residency program, and Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital is well-known

across the country," Dr. Parks says. "The professors, staff, and students were all very professional and nice."

The program prepared her well for private practice, she adds. "The program is strong in hospital dentistry. I was exposed to a lot of special needs patients and had a wonderful opportunity to treat them. It was also a great opportunity to rotate in other medical fields, such as ENT and anesthesia, to gain a better understanding of those fields."

Dr. Parks is happy to allow students interested in dentistry to shadow her in her office. However, she might warn them to expect to see some of the major challenges she faces. These include dental neglect and rampant dental decay in very young patients, as well as headaches from dealing with insurance companies.

"We are spending more and more time trying to get treatment paid and pre-authorized," she says. "It seems like insurance companies look for any and every reason not to pay for our services."

Despite the challenges, Dr. Parks loves being a pediatric dentist and is grateful for the role the CWRU School of Dental Medicine played in helping her along her chosen career path.

"I would like to mention that Gerald Ferretti, the chair of pediatric dentistry at CWRU, is an amazing person and pediatric dentist. He is an excellent communicator and educator," she says. "The CWRU School of Dental Medicine and Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital are very fortunate to have him lead the pediatric dentistry program."

From the Chairman continued

technology in dentistry and, as you can imagine, we're very excited about implementing them into our residents' training.

That's just one example of how your generous gifts really do make a difference in the department. Please contact the Office of Development and

Alumni Relations at 216.368.3480, toll free 877.468.1436, or email dentalalumni@case.edu.

In closing, I would like to extend a warm personal and departmental welcome to our new dean, Ken Chance, and also a big thank-you to Jerry Goldberg, who is stepping

down after a fantastic 17 years as dean. Congratulations and best wishes to both.

All the best,
Gerry Ferretti

gerald.ferretti@case.edu

Faculty Profile

Tania Markarian, D.D.S. '97, '14

Enjoying the opportunity to inspire children



Tania Markarian, D.D.S. '97, '14, a clinical instructor at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, wants her students to understand that there is much more to dentistry than simply treating teeth.

"It's very important to always practice with empathy," Dr. Markarian

says. "You're not just treating a tooth — that tooth is connected to a human being who has a mind and a soul. You must try to capture the whole picture and treat patients the way they deserve to be treated."

Nowhere is this more true than in pediatric dentistry, she says. Dr. Markarian discovered her love for the specialty when she was participating in an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, during which she had the opportunity to work with children at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

"I realized that I loved the innocence of a child," she says. "I understood that when children were misbehaving, it was because they were frightened. Knowing that created an opportunity for me to step up and gain their trust. At the end of the day it's not about placing a filling or a crown, it's about making a human connection with a child."

After graduating from the School of Dental Medicine in 1997, Dr. Markarian became an associate in a private practice in Berea. She began volunteering one day per week at the school in 1999, and pursued a clinical instructor position when one became available in 2000.

"It's very rewarding and humbling for me to contribute to someone's education and be a part of their life for four years," she says. She teaches in the clinic, and also teaches a course using DentSim units, which are computerized dental simulators.

Dr. Markarian says students today face challenges that she did not face during her dental school education. The biggest challenge is the amount of information that's available — and yet students still have only four years to learn it. It can be difficult to balance what must be taught versus what students can learn on their own.

Another challenge is to impress upon students the importance of critical thinking. According to Dr. Markarian, half of what students learn today will be outdated in five years. That means students must realize the importance of constantly staying up to date with the latest research, and knowing when it's appropriate to implement it in clinical practice.

"Students must learn evidence-based dentistry," Dr. Markarian says. "They can no longer just memorize facts or theories. They also must know when and how to deviate from accepted ideas, and understand why they choose to deviate in a particular way."

She notes that this can lead to some frustration for the students.

"You can ask 20 different dentists the same question and get 20 different opinions, and students often want concrete answers — yes or no, black or white," she says. "Dentistry, however, has many shades of gray. It's part science and part art, and you have to know how to find a perfect balance of the two based on each patient's needs."

In addition to dentistry, Dr. Markarian is passionate advocate for organ donation. After watching a friend wait for a liver transplant and eventually pass away, she became an ambassador for LifeBanc.

"I love the concept that at the end of the day someone else could live on because of a choice that I make," she says. "By signing up to be an organ donor, you can truly give someone else a second chance at life. I would never want someone to go through the struggles that my friend did waiting for a phone call that came a few months too late."

Dr. Markarian enjoys spending time her own children, Elias (14), Joseph (13), and Maya (9), and, as a working mom, appreciates their understanding and support. She also celebrates the opportunity that pediatric dentistry presents to her, and encourages all pediatric dentists, residents, and students to do the same.

"As pediatric dentists, we may be the one person a child meets in his or her life who inspires them. Who will touch them with kindness, and make them realize that they are bright and they can achieve whatever they set their minds to. We may inspire them to aim high, and I consider it a privilege to have that opportunity."

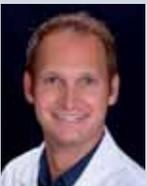
Congratulations to the Class of 2014



Kelly Bowlin conducted research assessing the impact of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Northeastern Ohio. "The past two years under Dr. Ferretti have greatly expanded my knowledge base and allowed for me to enter the world of pediatric dentistry confidently," she says. Memories abound from her residency: long days in the operating room, call week, the dental mission trip in Bolivia, and happy hours in Little Italy. "I feel very fortunate to have met such great co-residents who supported each other through the last two years," she says.



Tania Markarian studied the association of enamel hypoplasia with early childhood caries, and the impact of oral health in pre-term and full-term children. Her goals are to balance working in private practice, teaching at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, and providing dental care to underserved patients through mission trips abroad. Her favorite memories include a dental mission trip to Bolivia with Kelly Bowlin and Danae Willenberg. "I am blessed to have forged wonderful lifelong friendships with my co-residents," she says.



Stephen Stanfield's research involved gathering data from the local Head Start programs to identify the prevalence of dental caries in young children, and to see if treatment was being done. "I walk away from [my residency] as a great clinician," he says. "We had plenty of hands-on hours treating patients and learning how to manage them." He says he especially enjoyed the opportunity work at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. "There were many sick children and I learned some valuable lessons from their determination, patience, and hope."



Bradley Walker worked with co-resident Stephen Stanfield on assessing the care and follow-up of patients in the local Head Start program. "After having practiced general dentistry for four years, I am now better able to care for those little ones who need extra attention," he says of his residency. A powerful memory for him was performing multiple biopsies of an extensive oral lesion with Dr. Ferretti and Dr. James Arnold from ENT. "Having both directors there to teach and guide me through the process was rewarding and memorable," he says.



Freddie Wilkes' research project involved letting patients use a small, hand-held mirror to watch their dental treatment to see if that would reduce their anxiety. He says he learned a great deal about behavior management, medically compromised patients, trauma, and various types of sedation — all of which made him a better clinician. "I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and develop my skills here. Thanks to Dr. Ferretti, CWRU, and University Hospitals for giving me a chance to be great," he says.



Danae Willenberg conducted research into the effects of certain oral sedation medications and behavioral changes after the oral sedation appointment. "CWRU teaches a great evidence-based curriculum and encourages its students to pursue their own unique interests and goals for their career," she says. She cites the dental mission trip to Bolivia as a very fond memory. "The adventure of being in Bolivia was surpassed only by the joy of treating children in orphanages and remote mountain villages who desperately needed care. It was an incredible trip, made even better by having my co-residents there alongside me."

Honor Roll of Donors

The Department of Pediatric Dentistry would like to recognize these individuals who donated to the department in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. Thank you for your generosity!

Ashley Anderson, D.D.S.
Linda and Jay Begler
Jed M. Best, D.D.S., M.S.
John W. Corcoran, D.D.S.
R. William Cornell, Jr., D.D.S.
Ms. Sarah L. Felder

Gerald A. Ferretti, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H.
Doris Schwartz and Joseph Gahtan
John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr., D.D.S.
Rebecca Goldberg, D.D.S.
Diana A. Kyrkos Davenport, D.D.S.
Irene I. Lin, D.D.S.

Ashley L. Paulus, D.D.S.
Rebecca L. Robbins, D.D.S.
Minda S. Rudnick, D.D.S.
Ms. Nancy Tapper Smith
Tapper Family Survivor's Trust

Community Outreach

Rebecca Robbins, D.D.S. '01 Happily Sharing Healthy Smiles

Rebecca Robbins, D.D.S. '01, is a mother, a successful pediatric dentist, and the force behind the 2014 Team Smile event that brought dental care to 357 young patients at Progressive Field

"My life is crazy, but I mean that in a nice way," says Rebecca L. Robbins, D.D.S. '01, a pediatric dentist in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

The craziness for Dr. Robbins comes from being a full-time mom to Brennan, 5, and Emily, 3, as well as being a full-time dentist. Her high energy, support from her family and office staff, and love of pediatric dentistry make it all work.

"I take my job and business very seriously, but I'm a mom first and foremost. I always try to put my children first in every way possible."

Despite the attendant daily craziness, Dr. Robbins has discovered an unexpected benefit of motherhood.

"I definitely think being a mother has made me a better pediatric dentist," she says. "I'm more understanding and more patient now, and the mothers who bring their children to my practice really appreciate that I have two small children of my own and can understand what's going on in their lives."

Dr. Robbins grew up in Highland Heights. She graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a bachelor's in physiology, then earned her D.D.S. from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in 2001. Following a pediatric dentistry residency at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Dr. Robbins felt the time was right to start her own pediatric dentistry practice. She founded her practice, Rebecca L. Robbins D.D.S., Pediatric Dentistry, in 2008.

Dr. Robbins says that during her time at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, she was always inspired by the community outreach programs of James Lalumandier, D.D.S., M.P.H., professor and chair, Department of Community Dentistry. In addition, during her pediatric dentistry residency she was impressed with the commitment to community health displayed by Gerald Ferretti, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H., chief of pediatric dentistry and professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. So, she recently organized an event that perfectly combined her love for pediatric dentistry and her passion for community health: Team Smile (www.teamsmile.org).



Rebecca Robbins, D.D.S. '01, was front and center in bringing "Team Smile" to Progressive Field this summer. Photograph courtesy of Brooke Marich Photography, Cleveland, Ohio

Team Smile brought together 21 dentists from across the region and 105 volunteers to provide dental care for 357 children from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland. The event took place July 23 at The Terrace Club at Progressive Field.

"I wanted to do something that would call attention to the oral health issues that we're having in our city, and also make it fun," Dr. Robbins says. "The dental community believed in me and this event and came together for it, and with the relationships I've forged we've been able to cement it as an annual event. It should just grow bigger and bigger and be able to provide more for the children of Cleveland."

Always the mother, Dr. Robbins also cites the importance of the event for her own children.

"I hope it helps my children see that it only takes one person to make a difference," she says. "I hope they're proud of the legacy that I'm starting for Cleveland."

Dr. Robbins is quick to point out she couldn't be fulfilling her dream without her great support system, which includes her mother and father, children, and family dog and office mascot, Emerson.

Of course, her husband, Vincent, who is director at a software company in California, merits a special mention.

"Although we both have very demanding jobs, we are a great team and together always put family first," she says. The family resides in Chagrin Falls.

Dr. Robbins adds that she can recommend pediatric dentistry to any young female who might be considering it as a career.

"I really feel that being a pediatric dentist I can have my family, I can have my business, I can do community health outreach, and I can be me. Yes, it is a fast-paced life, between my office, the operating room, and home life. But I'm truly blessed and feel like I have it all."



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Pediatric Dentistry
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4905

Meet the incoming residents



Jeffrey Berlin, a native Clevelander, earned his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and his D.M.D. from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. "I chose to come to CWRU for pediatrics because of the strong hospital experience," he says. "I really enjoy working in the hospital and collaborating with other services on cases." He adds that he is very interested in hospital dentistry, and enjoys working with medically compromised children.



Chris Chance is originally from Queens, NY. He earned his D.M.D. from the University of Kentucky in May 2014. "I chose the CWRU School of Dental Medicine for my pediatric residency because of the great relationships I forged with Dr. Ferretti, other faculty, and staff at Tapper Pediatric Dental Clinic during my time at an externship while in dental school," he says. "Everyone was very nice and engaging. I was also impressed with the willingness to use state-of-the-art equipment and practices." He is interested in examining the effectiveness of the Head Start program in Cleveland and surrounding areas.



Amy Namsupak earned a B.S. in dental hygiene in 2009 and a D.D.S. in 2014 from the West Virginia University School of Dentistry. "I am getting the best of both worlds [at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital], a wonderful combination of academia and clinical experience," she says. "I could be in the operating room, the IV sedation unit, or treating patients in the regular dental setting. I could even find myself off-site, treating children at Head Start programs or serving patients on our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile."



A native of Cleveland, **Carol Nixon** has lived in Tennessee for the last nine years and graduated from Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry, in May 2014. She chose CWRU for her residency because, "It is one of the top programs in terms of didactic and clinical experience," she says. "I know that by training under Dr. Ferretti, I will be well-prepared for boards and any clinical situation that I may encounter in private practice." She is interested in serving the special needs population in private practice, as well as serving in academia to work with aspiring pediatric dentists.



Edward Rugama was born and raised in Long Beach, CA. He received his undergraduate degree in microbiology from California State University Long Beach, and earned his D.D.S. from the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, where he participated in numerous outreach programs. "I attribute my love for dentistry and education to my mother, who always motivated me to pursue my dreams," he says. He loves to stay abreast of current dental research. His own research involves primary dental pulpotomies and their success rates with biodentin.