Meet the incoming residents

**Erin Sinada, DMD**

Working in a special needs preschool during college at Ohio State University sparked Erin Sinada’s interest in working with special needs patients. She received her DMD from Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona and completed her general practice residency at Brookdale Hospital and Medical Center. A Cleveland native, Erin is drawn to the Pediatric Dentistry program at CWRU because of its partnership with Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospitals. “As residents in this program, we get to see the best of both worlds with a strong didactic and clinical background,” she says. “I am confident that I’ll be prepared and able to achieve board certification and tackle any difficulty cases I may encounter in my practice.” Erin and her husband, Nael, are thrilled to be living near family after living out of state for six years.

**Andrea Browne, DMD**

Originally from Vineland, New Jersey, Andrea Browne completed her undergraduate studies at Brown University and graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. She completed her general practice residency at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. She hopes to work with special needs and other underserved populations after completing her residency at CWRU. “I like that this program is affiliated with both a university and a children’s hospital,” she says. Andrea moved to Cleveland with her girlfriend, who is entering the PhD program in social work at CWRU. Her brother is a law student at CWRU as well. A baseball enthusiast, Andrea plays vintage baseball in her spare time.

**Ozlem Tulunoglu, DDS, PhD**

CWRU faculty member Ozlem Tulunoglu has joined the program as a part-time resident. She graduated from Hacettepe University Faculty of Dentistry in Turkey and completed her PhD at University of Gazi Faculty of Dentistry Graduate School. She loves working as a pediatric dentist, because “working with children brings me great energy and happiness.” She enjoys reading, hiking, traveling and living in different cities around the world.

**Brian Han, DDS, PhD**

The strong clinical experience and family-like relationships between residents are what drew Brian Han to the Pediatric Dentistry program at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Brian received his DDS/PhD from Ohio State University and completed his undergraduate work in pre-dentistry at Bob Jones University. He and his wife, Heather, have three young children and he enjoys cycling, running and gaming.

**Adela Casa**

A passion for working with children led Adela Casa to the Pediatric Dentistry program and CWRU. After graduating from the University of Missouri in Kansas City with her DDS, she began working for a nonprofit organization that primarily treated underserved children. She chose CWRU because of the balance between didactics and clinical work. Originally from Tirana, Albania, Adela enjoys spending her free time with her two boys, ages eight and seven months. She also enjoys cooking and reading. “My life can be very busy at times but I would not want it any other way,” she says.

**Melisa Potočki**

Michigan native and University of Michigan alum Melisa Potočki attended dental school at the University of Kentucky, completing her degree in 2016. Her husband, Brian, who she met at Michigan, is a first year resident in CWRU’s orthodontics program. They welcomed their first child on Valentine’s Day. “We were extremely happy to have both matched at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine,” she says. “It has both great, orthodontic and pediatric dentistry programs.” She adds that they are also thrilled to be closer to their families in Michigan.

**From the Chairman**

Giving Back, Moving Forward

It seems a bit too early to begin again by saying that this has been a busy year, but it is truly the case. As our program continues to grow and thrive, I am delighted to report to you some of the key accomplishments of the past year and share some of the exciting things happening as we move forward.

For me personally, it has been a particularly busy year. I am honored to be serving as president of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry for the 2015/2016 term. I look forward to serving our members and hope that if you are not already a member you will consider joining. The College of Diplomates of the ABPD is the only organization that represents the Diplomate pediatric dentist exclusively. The organization looks to you—our members—for direction and continually meets the challenge of reaching and maintaining the Diplomate status.

I would like to offer our best wishes to our outgoing residents as they move on to their next professional adventures: Jaron Perkins; Sarah Aref; Kevin Woody; Emily Powderly Mellon, who will be joining a private practice in Akron; and Jonathan Hora, who will be moving to Portland, Oregon to join a practice there.

We also welcome our incoming residents—be sure to read more about them in this newsletter.

I also want to report that plans for the new Health Education Campus are continuing to evolve. This is an incredibly exciting time for the School of Dental Medicine’s Pediatric Dentistry in particular. Continue to watch for updated information from our school as plans evolve.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have chosen to support our program with your philanthropic donations.

continued on next page
Alumni Profile

Larry Kalke, DMD '08

After meeting a neighbor who had been a dentist, Dr. Larry Kalke became intrigued with the idea of pursuing dentistry as a career. “I never thought I was smart enough to become an ‘ace,’ but I never gave up either. Once I became aware that I could do something really special, I set out to do what was possible.”

Before applying to dental school, Dr. Kalke needed to complete three additional undergraduate studies to complete the necessary science courses. As an undergraduate at the University of Utah, he was afforded the opportunity to work in consumer studies and worked for several years in management.

Once he was accepted to CWRU for dental school, Dr. Kalke began a professional journey that has paid off personally and professionally. "Attending dental school at CWRU was fortuitous," he says. "I met my wife while both were in dental training, and particularly during my residency. And as he explains with a laugh, “During dental school, you meet who are going through the same miserable experiences you are. If dental school was easy, everyone would become a dentist!”

Today, Dr. Kalke’s practice in College Station, Texas is home to a wonderful life. "My practice has allowed me to do exactly the way I was trained to do,” he says. "I still have patients deepening their smiles. I have a very large patient load, that has continued to grow steadily since the program began," he says. "Now, I see particularity in the special needs population. ‘Special needs patients are living longer and therefore need routine care.’"

Dr. Kalke and his wife have four children, ranging from second grade to a sophomore in high school. "When he is not treating patients or on call, he loves to travel with his family and simply enjoy their time together. Dentistry gives me the ability to provide the best care possible for my patients. I am very blessed to be in this field,” he says. "I believe being my own boss and being able to do things like coach my kids’ soccer teams." He credits the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and the Pediatric Residency program in particular for enabling him to pursue what has turned out to be a fulfilling career choice. "Dental school was one of the best times in my life. I owe much to CWRU for giving me the training and education that has allowed me to enjoy the wonderful life I have today."

From the Chairman’s column

Know that your support enables us to expand and improve our programs. Your gifts provide for the future. We hope that all of you will consider supporting our program. I ask you to look back on your experience here and offer your support to ensure that current and future residents have access to the outstanding training that they will need for their mission trips that you had. You’ll also be helping to off the ever-increasing costs associated with training and recruiting the best and brightest to our program, which will benefit all of us and our specialty. Thank you for your support.

gerald.kett@case.edu

Alumni Profile

Dr. Donald Huebener, DDS, MS ’71, MAEd
Caring and Advocating for Children for 40 Years

As one of the first two graduates of the Pediatric Dentistry program at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Donald Huebener had a long and rewarding career based on his early interest in the special needs child. He retired in November 2016 of pediatric dentistry at St. Louis Children’s Hospital and professor of surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. He now holds the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus.

“My career path differed from that of many pediatric dentists,” he says. “I discovered early on in my career that I was well suited in both academic teaching and research. His educational journey began with studies in ancient history at Saint Louis University, but an early awakening to a career in dentistry at Washington University in St. Louis changed his direction. During his second year of dental school; he did an intern rotation in pediatric dentistry, which spurred his interest in the specialty. After graduating from dental school in 1969; he moved to Cleveland to begin his training in pediatric dentistry. Meeting Dr. Charles Spitz, who shares the distinction with Dr. Huebener of being the first two students to graduate. Dr. Spitz encouraged Dr. Huebener to stay there, and he remembers meeting Dr. Spitz, who practices pediatric dentistry in San Mateo, California. “Dr. Huebener is extremely fortunate,” he says. "I’ve had a great ride and have tried to serve as a consultant to the St. Louis Children’s Hospital and will continue to teach and lecture. “Look back on my career and feel that I have been extremely fortunate,” he says. “I have had a great ride and I have loved my work. The children and families who have benefited from Dr. Huebener’s care and support and care have truly benefited from his efforts. “It is a great reward to see kids and be good stewards for children.”

Alumni Profile

Ann Greenwell, DMD - MSD ’88

A true love of teaching and working with students drew Ann Greenwell in her busy life as program director for the pediatric dentistry residency program at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. “It is both rewarding and a great way to work with our residents and watch them grow and develop into skilled pediatric dentists,” she says.

A native of Morehead, Kentucky, Dr. Greenwell completed her undergraduate studies at Morehead State University, earning a degree in biology with a major in chemistry. She earned her master’s degree in education with a focus on policy making at Washington University in 1971 and practiced one day a week for two years. Her practice consistently showed she had never been done before, but I very much enjoyed my work. I have loved my work.”

Dr. Greenwell also was instrumental in developing the hospital’s Craniofacial Program, which provides care for thousands of infants and children, the majority with special health care needs. “I’ve had a chance to be a part of helping the sickest, most complicated children who often cannot afford to receive care anywhere else. Driven by a strong desire to improve and expand upon the love of teaching dental students, Dr. Huebener decided to take on the responsibility of the dental school at Washington University to allow him to pursue a master's degree in education after three years of being on the faculty. “I was very interested in a cultural atmosphere at the school, and therefore wanted to do,” he says. He received approval, was accepted into the two-year program and was named professor of pediatric dentistry and director of the dental school. He says. She started her current position in 2005 when the pediatric program was started and thoroughly enjoys it. “We have a very large patient load, that has continued to grow steadily since the program began,” she says. “I am particularly interested in the special needs population. ‘Special needs patients are living longer and therefore need routine care.’”

Not only did the pediatric residency program at CWRU prepare her well for her future role and take on the position, she said; her work with her husband with a wide variety of anesthesiologists has been a large part of her love.