

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 was 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 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 difficult cases I may encounter in my practice." Erin and her husband, Naif, 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 underprivileged 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 Potocki

Michigan native and University of Michigan alum Melisa Potocki attended dental school at the University of Kentucky, completing her degree in 2014. 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.



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Gerald Ferretti,
DDS, MS, MPH

From the Chairman Giving Back, Moving Forward

It seems a bit trite 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 time. 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 to continually meet 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 Mellion, who will be joining a private practice in Akron; and Jonathon Konz, 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 and for 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.

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Health Education Campus and Interprofessional Education

In the coming months, you'll be hearing much more about the partnership between Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic that will result in the creation of a 485,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art Health Education Campus. This innovative center of health education will bring together students, faculty and staff from the University's schools of dental medicine, medicine, nursing and social work to radically transform the way we educate, train, treat and care.

While dental students already participate in educational collaborations, the opportunities for interprofessional learning on the new Health Education Campus will expand significantly. This will range from daily interaction and working together on an informal basis to small group learning opportunities in both the classroom and clinical settings.

The new campus will provide Pediatric Dentistry with the clinical space that will allow for expansion of treatment of patients dealing with complex issues. This improved clinical space, combined with the campus' overall integration of the other health education professions, will provide our residents, students, faculty and staff with opportunities for collaboration and cooperation that will improve patient care.

We'll be providing regular updates on this project in this newsletter and our Alumni Magazine. You'll learn more about how Pediatric Dentistry will have ample opportunities to grow in this new space.



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Alumni Profile

Larry Kalke, DMD '08



After meeting a neighbor who had just completed dental school, Dr. Larry Kalke became intrigued with the idea of pursuing dentistry as a career. "I never thought I was smart enough to become a dentist," he concedes. "But I knew after going through several layoffs in the business world that I wanted to work for myself and do something that would enable me to give back in some way."

Before applying to dental school, Dr. Kalke needed to complete three additional years of undergraduate studies to complete the necessary science courses. As an undergraduate at the University of Utah, he majored 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 fantastic," he says. "I made lifelong friends both during my dental training and particularly during my residency." And as he explains with a laugh, "During dental school, you meet others who are going through the same miserable experience you are. If dental school was easy, everyone would become a dentist!"

Today, Dr. Kalke's practice in College Station, Texas includes four dentists—his partner and himself, along with one other pediatric dentist and another dentist who is dual trained in pediatric dentistry and orthodontics. Their practice includes a 21-member office staff. "We have a great team and I am practicing pediatric dentistry in exactly the way I was trained to do," he says.

From the Chairman continued

Know that your support enables us to expand and improve our program. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

I 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 speakers, travel to professional meetings, and mission trips that you had. You'll also be helping to offset the ever increasing costs associated with attracting and recruiting the best and brightest to our program, which will benefit all of us and our specialty. Thank you for your support.

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Dr. Kalke did not start dental school with the idea of training to be a pediatric dentist. "At the conclusion of my third year, I began to think about pediatrics," he said. "As it turns out, it's a perfect specialty for me. I can relate to the kids I treat because we share the same short attention span!"

Driven by a strong sense of giving back, Dr. Kalke feels that pediatric dentistry gives him that opportunity. "This specialty allows me to do the most good with the time I have to practice dentistry," he says. "And the kids are really a blast. I love treating them."

A native of St. George, Utah, Dr. Kalke enjoyed his time in Cleveland immensely. "We loved our time there," he says. "We made great friends and I became a fan of the Cleveland Cavaliers and LeBron James, who was drafted by the Cavs during my first year there."

Dr. Kalke and his wife have four children, ranging from second grade to a sophomore in high school. When he is not driving his children to various sports, camps and activities, he loves to travel with his family and simply enjoy their time together. "Dentistry gives me the flexibility to design my work life the way I want to," he says. "I love 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 of 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."

Seth B. Canon, former chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry from 1998-2005, passed away on June 14 at the age of 68. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, a daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren.



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 has had a long and rewarding career based on his early desire to help children with special needs. He retired in November 2014 as director of pediatric dentistry at St. Louis Children's Hospital and professor of surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery division 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 fairly early on in my career that I was very interested in both academic teaching and research." His educational journey started with studies in ancient history at Saint Louis University, but an early acceptance into dental school at Washington University in St. Louis changed its direction.

During his second year of dental school, he did an initial 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. There, he met Dr. Charles Spitz, who shares the distinction with Dr. Huebener of being the first two graduates of the program. Dr. Huebener remains a lifelong friend of Dr. Spitz, who practices pediatric dentistry in San Matteo, California.

He looks back fondly on his time in Cleveland. "Our program was in its infancy, but was already making a name for itself, especially as it related to special needs children," he says. "The partnership between Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and the university was developed at that time and this strengthened the program significantly."

It was at this time that Dr. Huebener's interest in research also began to deepen. So much so, in fact, that he decided to pursue a master's degree in histopathology from the School of Graduate Studies at CWRU. "It was at this point in my training that I got the bug to do research. My interest in academic pediatric dentistry became central to my career," Dr. Huebener says.

After completing his training and master's degree at CWRU, Dr. Huebener interviewed at universities across the country for an academic position, and ended up returning to his

alma mater, Washington University in St. Louis. As he explains, "They made a good offer to a hometown boy."

Dr. Huebener started a full-time faculty position at Washington University in 1971 and practiced one day a week, seeing mainly special needs children. Over the course of the first several years, his interest in craniofacial anomalies and cleft palate deepened.

At the time, a cleft lip/craniofacial program did not exist at St. Louis Children's Hospital, and there was limited dental activity. A proposal by Dr. Huebener, Paul Weeks, MD, plastic surgeon-in-chief, and Woodrow O'Brien, DDS, to Philip Dodge, MD, chair of the department of pediatrics at Washington University, resulted in the establishment of Children's Hospital's Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Institute in 1978.

Dr. Huebener also was instrumental in developing the hospital's pediatric dentistry program, which now serves thousands of infants and children, the majority with special health needs. His reward throughout the years has been playing a part in helping the sickest, most complicated patients who often cannot afford to receive help anywhere else.

Driven by a strong desire to improve and expand upon his love of teaching dental students, Dr. Huebener decided to persuade the dean 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 told this had never been done before, but I very much wanted to do it," he says. He received approval, was accepted into the two-year program and received his master's degree in education with a focus on policy making and program development. "I learned so much about teaching methods and program development, which has helped me become a better teacher."

Today, Dr. Huebener is widely recognized as an expert in craniofacial anomalies and cleft palate treatment. He is the author/co-author of chapters about cleft lip and palate and pediatric dentistry that have appeared in such books as *Dentistry for the Child and Adolescent*, *Pediatric Otolaryngology – Principles and Practice Pathways* and *Comprehensive Cleft Care*. He has given numerous national and international seminars and presentations, and he served on the consulting team that aided the Kingdom of Thailand in establishing protocols for cleft and craniofacial programs at two of the country's universities.

Dr. Huebener has served as an officer or committee member for a number of organizations, including Administrative Board chairman for the American Dental Education Association Council of Faculties, and president of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. He is an examining member and consultant to the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

As for retirement, Dr. Huebener is unlikely to move completely away from the career that he has loved for 40 years. "Retirement is a process," he says. He will

serve as a consultant to the St. Louis Children's Hospital and will continue to teach and lecture.

"I look back on my career and feel that I have been extremely fortunate," he says. "I've had a great ride and I have loved my work."

The children and families who have benefitted from Dr. Huebener's expertise, compassion and care have undoubtedly benefitted from his motto: "Take good care of kids and be good stewards for children."

Alumni Profile

Ann Greenwell, DMD - MSD '88



A true love of teaching and working with students drives Ann Greenwell in her busy life as program director for the pediatric dental residency program at the University of Louisville. "It is both rewarding and a great deal of fun 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 minor in chemistry, then went on to the University of Louisville for dental school before entering the pediatric dentistry residency at CWRU.

At the University of Louisville, Dr. Greenwell directs a program that includes eight residents, four first years and four second years. "Because we have the only children's hospital in the state of Kentucky, we see patients with a variety of medical issues and special needs," she says. "My training at CWRU prepared me well for this role, because the patient population there was quite similar."

Before taking the leadership of the pediatric dentistry residency program at Louisville, Dr. Greenwell worked at the university's medical school, running the dental portion of a clinic for high risk and special needs children. "In that role, I practiced pediatric dentistry and drew upon my solid foundation at Case every day."

She started her current position in 2006 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. She points in particular to the special needs population that is a large part of their patient population. "Special needs patients are living longer and therefore need more routine care."

Not only did the pediatric residency program at CWRU prepare her well for her future practice and role as program director, it provided her and her husband with a wonderful experience. "We enjoyed our time in Cleveland immensely," she says. "The multi-cultural nature of the city, with its many festivals and great ethnic food, was really wonderful." She points out that they often took advantage of Cleveland's great cultural amenities such as the Cleveland Orchestra and the theater.

Dr. Greenwell's husband did his residency in periodontal medicine at CWRU and is now the director of the periodontal program at the University of Louisville. "He still keeps in touch with Dr. Bissada," she says, adding that she also loves to keep in touch with her residents after they complete their programs.

She sums up her experience both as a resident at CWRU and now as director of the Louisville program in this way: "The experiences you have in a residency program are remarkable. As a resident, you don't always have the wisdom or experience at the time to recognize it, but you are receiving training and preparation that will serve you well in your career. CWRU was excellent preparation for my practice and the teaching career that I have enjoyed."