



ALUMNI NEWS

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Chair's Message: The Future Looks Bright



"The past gave us experience and made us wiser so that we can create a beautiful and brighter future."

— Debasish Mridha

I cannot put into words how good it felt to reconnect with so many of you at the AAPD Annual Session in San Diego. I felt as though a cloud had lifted. We have spent the past two years during a pandemic that now looks as though it will linger for a while. So much of our time was spent worrying and fretting about the unknown and what might happen. We worried about our families, our friends, our practices, and our country. Months have gone by, and we are exhausted. BUT, think of all the GOOD we have done. We persevered, we came together, we looked after each other and we are stronger.

Coming from the AAPD meeting in San Diego, it's hard to not to be filled with a sense of pride. We got back to business. The presence of UNC Pediatric Dentistry alumni and friends was evident at every turn. Beginning with the preconference course on trauma featuring **John Christensen**, and great Continuing Education featuring **Bobby Elliot** and **Tim Wright** to the many leadership positions on councils, committees and Board of Trustees. Among us are past and future presidents of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (**Roy Lindahl, Ted Oldenburg, Bill Vann, Jessica Lee** and **Scott Cashion**); past presidents of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (**Roy Lindahl, Ted Oldenburg, Mike Roberts, LaRee Johnson** and **Dorothy Pang**) past and current presidents of the College of Diplomates (**Mike Roberts** and **Martha Ann Keels**) and chairs of numerous councils and committees (**Scott Schwartz, Tom Bouwens** and **Beau Meyer**). I believe the greatest legacy a leader can leave is having developed other leaders so as I think about the future and look at our current residents and recent graduates, I am very hopeful. I see in them the future of pediatric dentistry and the future has never looked so bright. Many of you know that our development efforts focus mainly on supporting our residents. We are seeing the results of those efforts now. Who would have thought that over 20 years of the **Jim Congleton** Leadership Fellows, we would have graduates of this program become AAPD presidents? We appreciate all the pediatric dentistry, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends in supporting UNC Pediatric Dentistry. We all may feel a bit bruised from the past two years, but together we have emerged kinder, stronger and more connected.

““I was on the internet last night...” and “But, aren’t they just baby teeth?””

Speaker: Gregory L. Psaltis, DDS

Courtesy Staff at the University of Washington School of Dentistry

October 7, 2022

8:30 -9:00 am Registration On-Site

This course will be offered in-person and via Zoom
Six hours of CE credit.

Continuing Education

Friday, April 8, 2022, brought us another excellent CE course titled “Tongue Tie: Nursing, Breathing, and Speech. Treatments to Outcomes”. The Covid-19 situation resulted in a hybrid format that included both a remote speaker and three on-site speakers with course participants at the Friday Center while others participated by Zoom. We had 74 participants in-person/on-site and another 103 tuned-in by Zoom to hear the course presented by Anna Meyer, MD, otolaryngologist, Cambria Stephens, RN and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, Lillian Gray Scott, MS, a speech and language pathologist, and William Chambers, DDS, MS, a pediatric dentist.

Future Continuing Education Courses

Fall 2022

An upcoming course this fall that you will want to put on your calendar!

The course will be offered as an on-site plus Hybrid-Zoom. The registration process will be similar to this past spring course.

FYI! There is no home football game this weekend but the NCAPD Annual Business Session is scheduled to be held the following day (October 8, 2022) at the Courtyard by Marriott in Chapel Hill.

October 7, 2022 (8:30 AM-4:30 PM)

“I was on the internet last night...” and “But, aren’t they just baby teeth?”

8:30 AM-9:00 AM Registration On-Site

Speaker: Gregory L. Psaltis, DDS

Courtesy Staff at the University of Washington School of Dentistry

Greg was a big hit the last time he spoke at our CE sponsored course here in Chapel Hill and he is back by popular demand! He has been a pediatric dentist for 45 years, most of which have been in private practice in Olympia, Washington. His varied career has included 25 years as a national and international speaker. Greg is currently involved in two volunteer clinics in Mexico that he developed. Each which provide comprehensive care for indigent and medically compromised children of the Los Cabos and Zihuatanejo areas. He is the recipient of the Gordon Christensen Speaker Award for excellence in professional presentations.

The CE program is divided into two parts. The first part, “I was on the internet last night...” is very timely. It touches on one of the current issues of demanding parents as well as the entire phenomenon of determining which piece of information is actually true or not, and how we come to our opinions. The second part, But aren’t they just baby teeth? is based on the common questions from parents. It is a broad spectrum and intended to mesh well with the first part.

On-site attendance tuition: \$300 Dentist \$150 Team/Staff Member

Zoom participation tuition: \$300 Dentist \$150 Team/Staff Member

The course provides 6 hours of CE credit.

* A generous continental breakfast will be available at Friday Center registration. A lunch and two breaks with snacks and beverages are included, plus free parking.

Questions; call (919) 537-3400, or register at the following website: www.dentistry.unc.edu/ce/cde/courses.

Welcome New Faculty Member, Miguel Simancas-Pallares

We are delighted to announce that **Miguel Simancas-Pallares**, a 2022 graduate of our residency program, has accepted a full-time faculty appointment in our Division of Pediatric and Public Health effective July 1, 2022. Miguel received his DDS from the University of Cartagena, Colombia in 2008. After practicing for a year, he completed a dual program in clinical epidemiology and applied statistics receiving both a master's degree and a certificate, respectively. During 2013-2018 he served as a tenured Associate Professor and Interim Chair in the department of dental research at the University of Cartagena. Miguel relocated to the United States in 2018 to join the ZOE research team with **Kimón Divaris (2011)** as a postdoctoral research fellow. Miguel will be involved in teaching, research, and patient care through the Dental Faculty Practice, the UNC Hospitals, and the Durham County Health Department. It is great to know that he will continue his presence in Chapel Hill as part of our Tar Heel family, and a member of our faculty. Miguel is highly qualified with his wealth of experience and knowledge and will serve our students, faculty, and patients as an outstanding teacher, mentor, and clinician.



The Stephanie Chen Excellence in Pediatric Dentistry Lecture Series

The spring Chen Excellence Lecture was presented on April 29, 2022 by **Scott Goodman** titled “Keeping Your Balance While Juggling the Multiple Hats in A Pediatric Dental Practice”. Now you might ask yourself – I wonder



what that was all about? Those of you that know Scott or have heard him speak know that he founded and has been engaged in a thriving, multi-office pediatric dentistry practice in the Charlotte area for many years. Thus, he has worn the hat of owner, Chief Executive Officer, Financial Officer and active pediatric dental care provider. He shared his many experiences in these diverse domains associated with the practice of pediatric dentistry with practical tips illustrated by common office occurrences, challenges and opportunities. The communication and office/staff management strategies were both enlightening and highly practical. In addition to juggling the practice hats, Scott has been a student and teacher of growth and development and clinical management approaches in pediatric dental practice. He has partnered with some of the experts in the field to hone his skills and knowledge, and has lectured extensively on related topics. Scott did a magnificent job of juggling the

different topics and keeping the audience engaged as he navigated and intertwined his presentation that deftly illustrated the diversity one can have as a pediatric dentist.

The next installment of this outstanding lecture series will be on Friday, November 18th, 2022 with another notable North Carolinian sharing their wisdom. **Mike Ignelzi (1991)** is well known for his advocacy, leadership, scholarship and his insightful thought process. If you have not had the pleasure of hearing Mike speak, and even if you have, I encourage you to come partake of his willingness to share his wisdom and engage in thoughtful discussion. We will send out additional information on Mike's presentation and the spring 2023 Chen Excellence Lecture as we get closer to November.

News from Alumni and Friends



John Pfefferle (1980)

Thought I'd take a few moments to write you some things as I rest between seeing patients in The Gambia, Africa, and Istanbul, Turkey, where I am currently located. The remaining team gets here in a few days. We will set up clinic and begin seeing patients, most of which will be Kurdish, Syrian, and Iraqi. I started volunteering doing this work in December 1998 when I went to Belarus on Christmas Day with a team for 2 weeks. I was the only dentist, and worked in orphanages and government clinics. I actually treated a Russian child that was flown in from Moscow whose father worked in the Kremlin who had severe decay from canine to canine.

Over the past 24 years, I have had the privilege of treating patients in 40 countries. Most with government permission, and some "under the radar". I have treated children from most religions, gone into prisons, was smuggled into a Christian church in Jericho to treat Palestinian refugees, gone to villages by horseback due to remoteness, etc. Often I have traveled with a retired periodontist from Charleston, South Carolina. He often takes MUSC students (mostly to Ecuador) but on one occasion we had 10-12 UNC-CH School of Dentistry students also. I have been to Vietnam with a Vietnamese dentist currently living in Knoxville, TN, where we were joined by 5-6 Vietnamese dental students.



News from Alumni and Friends continued...

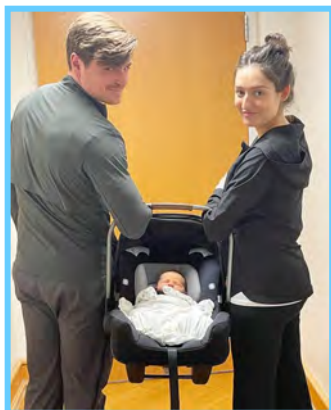
In 2004, I was forced to retire from the practice of pediatric dentistry due to a form of “Thoracic Outlet Syndrome” that started to deteriorate the fine motor skills in my left hand, but I was still able to extract teeth. I have extracted teeth on all 7 continents. In addition, I also joined the Medical Reserve Corp in Florida, and administered several hundred Pfizer Covid vaccinations due to my hospital training at UNC. You should have seen peoples’ eyes when I told them I was a children’s dentist while giving the injection.

Last year, while in Greece, I treated some Iranian refugees, who were the most frightened I could ever recall since beginning to do this work. It turns out, once I found a Farsi speaker, these men had been tortured in an Iranian prison where the guards would crush their teeth with pliers.

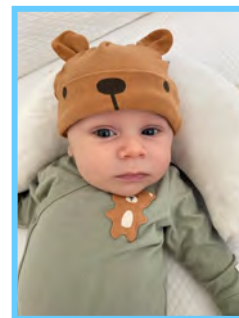
I have many stories about “mankind” working with ISIS survivors, human trafficking rescues, police torture of street boys in South America, treating handicapped children that were told to let die to their parents because of their special needs that were starving when I first saw them. I learned early on of the reality of brutality perpetrated by man against man, man against child, and man against women. Yes, we go to places where I primarily treat teeth, but also am ever vigilant to be sensitive to the situations the people, and especially children have escaped, such as the Ukrainians when I was there in April.



News from Alumni and Friends *continued...*



Anna Dokova (2021), and her husband, Adam, were blessed in April with the birth of their first child, Adam Antoni Brys, who weighed 8.1 lbs at birth.



Lina Cardenas (2002) and spouse Dimitir are thriving in San Antonio where Lina is in private practice and Dimitir is an anesthesiologist. Their son, Alex, is a sophomore in high school while daughter, Iliana, will be a freshman at the University of Texas in Austin this fall. Kudos Iliana! Lina recently completed an MBA degree at the University of Texas at San Antonio (with emphasis on health), combined with a certificate in Public Health from the University of Texas at Houston. Busy lady!

F. William (Bill) Taylor (1983) of Hendersonville, TN is retired and enjoying life. Bill and wife Erin (a retired anesthesiologist) have three adult children, one in Nevada and two in Nashville. Those who know Bill will recall he loves aviation and this year will make his 38th flight to Guatemala to transport him and other dental team members for a week of emergency dental care. Nice work Bill!

Roslyn Crisp (1986) has been elected vice president of the North Carolina Dental Society.

Lewis Professorship at ECU Announced

The East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine has announced the creation of its first distinguished professorship in honor of **Dr. Jasper L. Lewis, Jr.**, one of our own! The Jasper L. Lewis, Jr. Distinguished Professorship positions the dental school to place a more specialized emphasis on evolving topics, treatments and research in the realm of pediatric dentistry and add rich educational experiences to classrooms and clinics.

“We hope to attract an outstanding scholar, researcher and practitioner to join our talented pediatric dentistry faculty,” said Greg Chadwick, dean of the dental school. “Ultimately, we want to prepare our students and residents to serve North Carolinians with the same spirit, energy, and dedication that Dr. Lewis has shown for more than four decades. “I’m thrilled about this professorship for our school,” said Chadwick, “and particularly thrilled that it’s been named in honor of Jasper.”

Jasper ('69 DDS, '73 MS) is a native of Greenville who graduated from Wake Forest prior to competing his DDS at UNC and our graduate program in '73. A prodigious leader in the profession and in his community, he served President of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and Vice-President of the North Carolina Dental Society. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and has lectured across the country and around world on topics including pediatric dentistry and practice management.



News from Alumni and Friends *continued...*



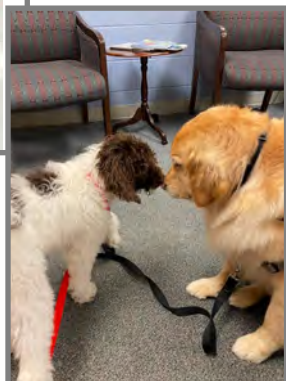
Congratulations to **Scott Schwartz (2016)** on being named to new graduate program director at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He is pictured here with his new class of residents.



Gentry Byrd (2018), Martha Ann Keels (1990) and Erica Brecher (2016) attended a fundraiser for the Emily K. Center for underprivileged children in Durham named for the mother of the former Duke men's basketball coach.

Grayson is joined by some other furry friends

Many of you have met GRAYSON. She joined the UNC Pediatric Dentistry faculty in 2018. Since then, she has been working to make trips to the dentist much more soothing! Grayson is a 6-year-old golden retriever that is a certified rehabilitative facility dog. She works to comfort children who are anxious about sitting in the dental chair. We all must admit that she is also great for the faculty, staff, and residents! GRAYSON was also recently joined by a few other furry friends!



A year in research leadership for PPH

Members of the Division of Pediatric and Public Health hold important leadership position in oral and dental research organizations. **Jane Weintraub** is the current president of the American Association for Oral, Dental, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR). **Martha Ann Keels (1990)** is president of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), Pediatric Oral Health Research (POHR) group and **Kimon Divaris (2011)** is president of the IADR Behavioral, Epidemiologic, and Health Services Research (BESHR) group. **Miguel Simancas-Pallares (2022)** was elected North American Director of the BEHSR group and **Poojan Shrestha (2023)** was recently appointed as trainee representative in the same international scientific research group.



Divaris Honored with National Research Advising Award



Kimon Divaris (2011), Adams Distinguished Professor and professor of pediatric dentistry, was recently chosen for the 2022 Burton C. Borgelt Faculty Advisory Award. The award, presented by the Board of Directors of the Student Competition for Advancing Dental Research and its Application (SCADA), honors an oral health scientist faculty advisor who has served as a research mentor for many dental students.

In addition to being an outstanding mentor, Kimon's research continues to impact public health/health services research/health disparities and genomics of oral health. His research focuses on the diverse causes and biological aspects of early childhood dental disease. Kimon has published more than 130 papers, including a co-authored paper entitled "Fibrin is a critical regulator of neutrophil effector function at the oral mucosal barrier" in the very prestigious journal, *Science*.

Kimon acknowledges having benefitted from inspirational and gracious mentors throughout his career and now is gratified that he can mentor others at the UNC-CH Adams School of Dentistry. He believes that we need the new generation of oral health professionals to be critically thinking, curious, innovative and disruptive. Kimon has expressed that there is no better way to get there than being involved in research and discovery during one's training years.

In addition to this most recent recognition, Kimon has received numerous other awards. Those honors include the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist Award – Young Investigator; the IADR Centennial Emerging Leader Award; and the Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry's Dr. Frank Farrington Service and Leadership Award. At UNC, he has been recognized with the UNC Adams Beyond Excellence Award, the UNC Adams Four Corners Study Club Faculty Mentoring Award, and the Class of 1958 Award. He is a fellow of AADOCR, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the International College of Dentists.

Update on Residents

Our current residents are:

3rd Year:

Christopher Adams- Texas

DDS- UT San Antonio Health Sciences School of Dentistry, 2020

Poojan Shrestha- Nepal

DBS- B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, 2010

Selin Soyupak- Turkey

DMD- University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, 2020

2nd Year:

Claire Carney- California

DDS- UCLA School of Dentistry, 2021

Sungmin Sohn- South Korea/Virginia

DDS – VCU School of Dentistry, 2021

Mark Veazie- Texas

DDS- UCLA School of Dentistry, 2021

1st Year:

Caitlin Miller- North Carolina

DMD- Medical University of South Carolina School of Dental Medicine, 2021

Sarah Morgan- Virginia

DDS- UNC Adams School of Dentistry, 2022

Allegra Notolli- Connecticut

DDS- UCLA School of Dentistry, 2022

Our residents have had a busy spring and summer!

Every year at this time it is with great excitement but also some sadness that we say goodbye to our graduating residents. Josh, Deepti and Miguel have been a special part of our program for the past three years. They have really endured some real-life experiences that included the pandemic. Each of them has been outstanding through a crazy time for everyone. We in the UNC Pediatric Dentistry family wish them well!

Our now second year residents, Claire, Songmin and Mark have been busy with course work and with getting their research projects off the ground. In May they each gave an overview of their projects in the Adams School of Dentistry Research Presentation Day. This summer they have spent their time on both anesthesia and pediatric medicine rotations.

Our now third year residents, Christopher, Poojan and Selin and have all been busy with both their Chief Resident for Administration and Chief Resident for the Hospital duties. In addition, they are immersed in their research projects as they move towards presenting the results of their hard work in the late fall or winter.

Our incoming first year residents, Caitlin, Sarah and Allegra are featured in a separate article in the newsletter. Please join us in welcoming them into the UNC Pediatric Dentistry Family!



Fellowship Funds: Growth and Development!

We are excited to announce we now have seven funds in our pediatric dentistry portfolio growing towards the \$100,000 level at which time they will become DFNC/UNC Endowment Fellowships in Pediatric Dentistry. All endowments proceeds from these will go exclusively for stipend enhancements for residents in pediatric dentistry. Here are the “growing” development funds:

The Robinson/Molina Fund (\$100,000 goal), personally funded by alum **Julie Molina (DDS 2005, MS 2008)** to honor her father.

The Moore Family Fund (\$100,000 goal), personally funded by alum **David Moore (DDS 1986)**, to honor the Moore family, many of whom have Tar Heel educational pedigrees, including his three younger brothers.

The Spangler, Rohlfing, Lambert, and Lipp Office Fund (\$100,000 goal), personally funded by alums **Gina Spangler (1996)**, **Gail Rohlfing (1996)**, **Kate Lambert (DDS 2011)**, and **Kelly Lipp (DDS 2016)**. This fellowship will celebrate their group practice in Winston-Salem and satellite office in Kernersville.

The Reginald/Angelica Braithwaite Family Fund (\$100,000 goal), personally funded by alum **Antonio Braithwaite (DDS 2005, MS 2008)**, will honor his parents as named.

Jennifer and Roslyn Crisp are growing the **Crisp Family Fund** (\$100,000 goal) to honor Crisp Family Tar Heels graduates including our program alums, **Roslyn (DDS 1982, MS 1986)** and **Jennifer**, Roslyn's daughter-in-law, (**DDS 2016, MS 2020**) along with **Alex (DDS 2010)**, Roslyn's son and Jennifer's spouse and **McKinley '14** and **Ben '17**, Roslyn's daughter-in-law and son respectively.

The William W. Demeritt Fund (\$100,000 goal), supported by Willie's admirers, will honor UNC Pediatric Dentistry's first Chair.

The Nitsa Gilbert Fund (\$100,000 goal) is funded by alum **Nitsa Gilbert (1998)**, who is in private practice in Warner-Robbins in her native south Georgia.

Fetner Family Fund Reaches Fellowship Status!

BRAVO! BRAVO! The Fetner Family Fund hit the \$100,000 mark in early January of this year, achieving official university status as an endowed Fellowship in the Dental Foundation of North Carolina/UNC. The new **Fetner Family Fellowship** becomes the sixteenth fellowship held by pediatric dentistry with endowment proceeds dedicated solely to support pediatric dental residents' stipends.

The Fetner Family includes **Maggie (2014)**, **James (DDS 2008)**, and children Gabriel (9) and Iris Anne (7). They live in Asheboro where Maggie (Randolph Pediatric Dentistry) and James (General Dentistry) practice together. Both are graduates on North Carolina State University and the Adam's School of Dentistry. Maggie completed her advanced training here at UNC while James spent three years as a US Navy Dental Officer.

Our current faculty, residents, and future kindred alums are most grateful to the Fetners for their terrific support that builds on our goal to elevate residents' stipends to \$50,000 annually! Thanks to the support of our generous alumni and friends, we are on target to achieve this goal by 2025.

We are also thrilled to have an additional seven funds growing toward the \$100,000 level to become new DFNC/UNC endowment fellowships (see related blurb in this *Newsletter*). Look for these fellowships to be come on-line over the next 3-5 years. Thank you, thank you loyal donors!

Fellowship Funds: Growth and Development! *continued...*

Update on Wright Fellowship Fund



Many thanks to all of you who have supported the Wright Fellowship Fund! We have made great progress since the public launch date in January '21 and over the past several months the Wright Steering Committee has been in a full court press to attract new donors. We are pleased to report to date we have \$203,175 in cash and another \$147,854 in pledges, a total of \$351,029 in cash/pledges against our goal of \$400,000. Fantastic!

Many thanks to all of you who have donated and pledged! As we have urged previously—no gift or pledge is too small. Every donation to the Wright Fellowship Fund will enhance residents' stipends so please pay it forward! Thanks to all of you who have joined this initiative to honor Tim's legacy.

Development initiatives such as the Wright Fellowship Fund do not happen without a significant volunteer work behind the scenes. The Wright Fellowship Steering Committee has been indefatigable! Thanks to Co-chairs **Angie Baechtold (1998)** of Asheville and **Rob Moran (1997)** of Cary and their energetic committee: **Jenna Alvey (2016)**, of New Hill; **Carrie Kiefer Arquitt (1999)** of Spring Hill, MO; **Cavan M. Brunsdon** (Friend of the Division) of Old Bridge, NJ; **Shijia Hu (2015)** of Singapore; **Kavita Mathu-Muju (2006)** of Vancouver, CAN and **David Olson (DDS 1999)**.

News from the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD), College of Diplomates and Foundation of the College of Diplomates

The President of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) for the past two years has been a pediatric dentistry graduate of the UNC Adams School of Dentistry. **Dorothy Pang (1991)** just completed her tenure as President in May 2022 and **LaRee Johnson (1999)** completed her year as Immediate Past-President at the same time. Both recently celebrated the event during the AAPD Annual Session in San Diego.

Martha Ann Keels (1990) has been elected President of the College of Diplomates of the ABPD. **Tom Bouwens (2007)** has served as the Chair of the Foundation of the College of Diplomates this past year, and will continue to serve as the Immediate Past-Chair this coming year. **Ronald Hsu (2006)** will begin service as the Western Trustee to the Foundation.

Congratulations to all! We are very proud of you!

Residents' Corner

Deepti Karhade

The highlights of this year have been attending the AAPD conference in person for the first time and realizing the impact we have had on our patients and their families over the course of residency. I'm so thankful to our peds family for making this journey so beautiful! After graduating, I look forward to joining my husband in Boston and working in private practice.

Joshua Raisin

This year has been quite a whirlwind between writing two sets of boards exams, submitting my Master's research for publication, solidifying my job, and preparing for my departure from North Carolina. While it is a bittersweet goodbye, I am looking forward to settling back into life in Toronto and working in private practice. I am also super excited to get back to some overseas travel!

Miguel Simancas

Join as a Faculty member in our department!

Christopher Adams

This month marks the 25th anniversary of NASA's Mars rover program. Who knew??!!

Selin Soyupak

I got my first puppy, Maya, in February and she has been an amazing addition to my life! She is a chocolate parti-goldendoodle and truly a love bug.

Poojan Shrestha

It has been an amazing journey watching my daughter grow in to a very active toddler; and I very much look forward to seeing her continuing to grow...

Claire Carney

This past year has been a whirlwind for me! I got engaged in August 2021 to my best friend, Will. We welcomed a wonderful golden retriever puppy named Poppy to the family in March 2022 and she has already brought us a lot of laughter and joy, and is a great addition to the UNC Dog Family! Will is headed to Phoenix for residency, and I am looking forward to cross-country visits to see him and to explore new areas to hike in Arizona. More than anything, though, I cannot wait to marry Will in December 2022 in Duke Chapel!

Mark Veazie

I'm really looking forward to starting my MPH in Health Policy at the Gillings School of Public Health. Also, excited about broadening my horizons and learning more about the field. Looking forward to spending more time with my co-residents (and their puppies) this year!

Sungmin Sohn

This year went by too fast - I especially loved gaining experience in oral sedation. I am looking forward to an exciting second year and to welcoming the new residents next week!





WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2025

As of July 1, our program has three new residents, Caitlin Miller, Sarah Morgan and Allegra Nottoli. These three come to us with very impressive backgrounds and will be a great addition to our program!



Caitlin Miller is a native of North Carolina and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Clemson University where she received numerous honors and awards. She earned her DMD degree from the Medical University of South Carolina School of Dental Medicine where she was inducted into the OKU National Dental Honor Society among many other awards. She has held many leadership positions including Vice President of the dental school student body. She has worked in private practice for the past year seeing children and special health care needs patients. Fun Fact: Her husband is Dr. Cashion's eye doctor in Greensboro.



Sarah Morgan is a native of Virginia and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Duke University where she had many honors and awards and was Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her DDS degree from the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry where she held many leadership roles including co-chair of the Give Kids A Smile Program and was co-president of the AAPD student chapter. She received many honors and awards including the AAPD Certificate of Merit and several scholarships. Fun Fact: After graduating in May, Sarah got married! Congratulations!



Allegra Nottoli is a native of Connecticut and earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California- Berkley where she earned numerous honors and was Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her DDS degree from the University of California-Los Angeles where she was involved in leadership including secretary of student body. She was very involved in research and service and won numerous awards including being inducted into the OKU National Dental Honor Society. Fun Fact: Allegra drove cross country to get back to the east coast but this time in the south! So y'all be sure to show her some good southern hospitality!



Graduating and incoming residents enjoy the annual Fare-welcome dinner!

Alumni and Friends Celebrate at the AAPD 2022 Annual Meeting in San Diego

Alumni and Friends Celebrate at the AAPD 2022 Annual Meeting in San Diego

Residents' Reception— June 2022



News from the North Carolina Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

I pray that everyone is off to a great start to summer and is healthy and happy! Your NCAPD board is hard at work advocating for us all at the state level.

In mid-March we had the privilege of participating in the AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. The NC Advocacy team consisted of Drs. Gentry Byrd, Jessica Lee, Scott Cashion, as well as many of our state's residents (ECU residents Caitlin Ferguson, Rudy Oxendine, Deepa Patel, Kristal Tucker, Bryan Yang; UNC residents Clare Carney, Josh Raisin, Miguel Simanca, Sungmin Sohn) They had meetings with staffers for Senator Tillis (in-person), Senator Burr (virtual), Congresswoman Ross (Raleigh, virtual), Congressman Price (Chapel Hill-Durham, virtual) to discuss Title VII Dental Faculty Loan repayment \$14 million FY 2023 appropriations, Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act authorization, and CMS dental facility coding request support. The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act passed in the House April 4 and is now under consideration in the Senate.

On June 8th several of our members participated in another successful NC Pediatric Society's White Coat Wednesday, with an especially good turnout from our state's pediatric dental residents from both ECU and UNC. They began the day with issue briefing and advocacy training. In meetings with NC state Senator Mike Woodard and House Representative Brian Farkas, they had the opportunity to discuss the CHIP and Medicaid merger H747, expanding access to healthcare H149, as well as improving statewide foster care plans. I'd like to especially thank Martha Ann Keels and Gentry Byrd for spearheading this event.

In updates from ECU, Dr. Randy Ball is the new program director. He had an illustrious career in the U.S. Army and has teaching experience at UT Houston and NYU Langone San Diego. They are also excited to announce that their new residents are Corey Staley from UT San Antonio, Courtney Savoy from LSU and Erin Howard from Tufts and that their graduating residents are Miranda Kalaskey, Deepa Patel and Kristal Tucker.

We would also welcome any of you with an interest in serving on the NCAPD board to please reach out to us for opportunities and to let any of us serving on the board know if we can do anything for you. I look forward to see you all at our Fall Annual Meeting and the UNC CE event!

In service,

Jenny Jackson (2007)
President, NCAPD



Gentry Byrd, Sungmin Sohn, Mark Veazie, Jessica Lee, Selin Soyupak, Christopher Adams, Poojan Shrestha, Scott Cashion, Kayla Kopczynski



Rep. Farkas on left, Sen. Woodard on right during White Coat Wednesday Zoom Meeting

Research Updates & Awards

Our first-year residents, **Claire Carney**, **Sungmin Sohn**, and **Mark Veazie** are off to a great start with their research projects. They have finished their first-year research methods courses while balancing their busy residency schedules. Specifically, **Claire** is working with Dr. Keels (chair), Casey (NC Medicaid Dental Director, Department of Health and Human Services), and Divaris to investigate “Beyond LCC-Pediatric Dental Treatment Patterns”. **Sungmin** is also working with Drs. Keels (chair), Quinonez, Roberts, and Sarvas (Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, University of Minnesota) to assess “Oral health and Access to Dental Care for Children in Foster Care in North Carolina”. **Mark** is working with Drs. Ginnis (chair), Cashion, Divaris, and Calvo (Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, University of California at San Francisco) to examine “Dental Care Transition of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.” They all presented their research protocol updates in a school-wide event on May 20th.

Our second-year residents, have been busy making progress with their research projects, preparing drafts and presentations. They provided updates on their research progress in our Division Research Update seminars earlier this fall. **Selin** is working on “Medicaid access and utilization of pediatric dental services in the pediatric oncology population in NC” with Drs. Lee (chair), Divaris, and Sue Tolleson-Reinhart (Professor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine). **Christopher** is working with Drs. Wright (chair), Lee, De Kok (Associate Professor, Division of Comprehensive Oral Health) and Mr. Paul Mihos to investigate “Perception and application of intraoral scanning among North Carolina pediatric dentists”. **Poojan Shrestha** enrolled in the dual Pediatric Dentistry/Epidemiology PhD track and, now in his fourth year, is nearing the completion of both programs. In December, he successfully defended his PhD dissertation proposal titled “Investigating the genomic basis of early childhood caries” mentored by Drs. Divaris and North (Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Public Health), Avery (Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Public Health), Graff (Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Public Health), and Marazita (Professor of Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh).

Our third-year residents, **Deepti Karhade**, **Josh Raisin** and **Miguel Simancas-Pallares** have all successfully defended their Masters’ theses! Earlier in the fall, **Deepti** defended her Master’s in Science thesis project titled “Applications of machine learning in studies of early childhood caries” mentored by Drs. Divaris (chair), Wright, and Wu (Associate Professor, Oral and Craniofacial Health Sciences). **Josh** defended his MS thesis project titled “The dental experience for transgender and gender non-conforming adolescents in North Carolina”. **Josh** was mentored by Drs. Keels (chair), Roberts, Jain (UNC Pediatric Endocrinology), and Adkins (Duke Pediatric Endocrinology) and he has already submitted his manuscript for review and publication. **Miguel** defended his MS thesis on the “Derivation and description of clinical subtypes of early childhood caries” with Drs. Ginnis (chair), Divaris, Vann, and Ferreira Zandona (Professor and Chair, Comprehensive Care, Tufts School of Dental Medicine).



Additional congratulations to **Miguel** for receiving the 3rd place award in the poster competition at the annual AAPD meeting in San Diego among hundreds of presenters. The good news doesn’t stop here, as both **Deepti** and **Christopher** were also honored at the annual AAPD general session as recipients of two of the four AAPD Resident Recognition Awards!



Peds Residents and Pediatric and Public Health mentees also had a great showing at the 38th ASoD Annual Research Day. **Miguel Simancas-Pallares** received a Derek T. Turner Student Research Award (1st place in the MS/Resident Category) and the NC-AADOCR Research Day award. **Zachary Burk** (DDS Class of 2023) also received a Derek T. Turner Student Research Award (2nd place in the DDS category). **Emily Imes** (DDS Class of 2023) received the Hinman Student Research Symposium Award and **Kaitlin Jones** (DDS Class of 2023) received the SCADA Student Clinical Science and Public Health Research Award.

Generosity of Alumni and Friends

Below is the list of gifts received by the Division of Pediatric and Public Health as reported from the Dental Foundation of North Carolina for the **calendar year 2021**. Your generous and thoughtful gifts to pediatric dentistry and Division's development funds are gratefully acknowledged below. We express our most sincere **"thank you"** for your continued support. Your gifts support our residents' training, improve our graduate student learning center, acquire new technology and provide additional opportunities to enrich the residents' educational experience. Unfortunately, state and university support continues to be unpredictable and has made your support ever more critical.

Gifts received are invested and the interest from the funds is used to meet our graduate program needs described throughout this *Newsletter*. Your commitment to improving the graduate program is not lost on our residents, and it continues to cement the bonds among our past, present and future alumni and friends. Thank you so very much.

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Generosity of Alumni and Friends *continued...*

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GIFTS TO DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

\$10,000 plus

Jane Weintraub & Christopher Barker

\$250 plus

Kimberly Hammersmith & Ryan Kaufman

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Gifts Support Excellence in Pediatric Dentistry

You can ensure the future of pediatric dentistry in North Carolina and the nation by supporting the different professorships and resident fellowships that benefit the school's Graduate Program. Donations can be directed to your favorite fund listed on the pledge card below.

If you are interested in establishing a new fellowship fund and naming it in honor or memory of an individual, your donations can be directed to this named fund through the Dental Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., the UNC Adams School of Dentistry's nonprofit foundation.

Many individuals would like to make major gifts to UNC-CH but cannot commit current assets for this purpose. Through a will you can make a more significant gift than you might have ever thought possible by designating a specific sum, a percentage or the residue of your estate to the Pediatric Dentistry Graduate Program. There are many options for providing a bequest that will leave a legacy of support for excellence in pediatric dentistry. To learn more about starting a new fellowship or making a bequest, please contact Paul Gardner or Sarah Huppert at the Dental Foundation at (919) 537-3257 or by email at paul_gardner@unc.edu or sarah_huppert@unc.edu.

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WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH YOU?

This *Newsletter* goes to more than 350 of our program alumni and friends. We get many comments on how much everyone enjoys keeping up with friends and events through the *Newsletter* grapevine. But we need you to let us know what is going on in your lives so we can share. Please use this page to pass on news to us that we can include in our next publication! Also, pictures are greatly appreciated.

Please send us personal or professional news that may be of interest to alumni and friends of UNC-CH Pediatric Dentistry.

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