UI dentistry student studies socioeconomics of dental care

BY: LYNN ANDERSON DAVY

Dental student Frankie Chyi didn’t need the official start of her dentistry education to begin conducting academic research. Eager to learn, she began interviewing parents about their children’s tooth-brushing habits the summer before she entered the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. And she did so on the advice of her older sister, who also is a UI dentistry student.

“It’s unusual to do research before you start school, but my sister really encouraged me to start early,” says Chyi, a second-year from Des Moines, Iowa. “She introduced me to her mentor and let me read her research. It was all about teeth whitening, and I didn’t understand any of it, but I took her advice.”

Chyi’s study, “Factors associated with toothpaste use among low-income families,” was one of more than 100 research papers presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental Research, held at the UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics on Feb. 13. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
UI dentistry student continued

Chyi received the Max Smith Award, which recognizes the best oral presentation by a pre-doctoral dental student. The prize comes with a monetary award of up to $500.

“I’m so honored to have received the award,” says Chyi. “But I’m also really proud of the College of Dentistry for valuing research that can help the community. Research is important because it is the force behind everything we do as dentists. Dentists depend on sound research to improve dental care and make better clinical decisions.”

For her study, Chyi surveyed 212 parents at Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) food and nutrition centers in Iowa City and Des Moines to find out what they knew about oral health, as well as their children’s tooth-brushing habits. She found that about half of the parents did not know what fluoride was and that roughly half reported not having enough time to ensure their children brushed their teeth at least once a day.

“Even though many of the children had access to toothpaste and toothbrushes, they were still not brushing their teeth at least once a day,” Chyi says.

Chyi now must tackle the challenging next steps, including how best to educate low-income families about oral health.

And taking those steps is important. Conducting research helps students understand the science behind the dental procedures they will undertake one day in their own practices, says Teresa Marshall, professor of preventive and community dentistry and director of the Student Research Program, which was established at the UI College of Dentistry in 1984.

“Dentistry is both an art and a science,” Marshall says. “Doing research, as opposed to just reading science textbooks or journals, helps students appreciate the process of inquiry. Science is an evolution of collective thought, requires lots of effort, and doesn’t follow any expected trajectory. Participation in research also facilitates critical-thinking skills.”

The UI College of Dentistry has a strong national reputation for research, and faculty members encourage students to take on rigorous topics, Marshall says. A research course is offered in the fall as part of the school’s first-year curriculum, allowing many students discover a topic they want to pursue.

“During the course, faculty members present their research to the students, which helps students connect with a mentor and also learn about the great variety of research that is going on in the college,” Marshall says. “Of course, there are also students who just take a special interest in an area, and we work with them to match them with the right mentor.”

For Chyi’s part, she had to do some brainstorming to find a research topic that interested her, but once the future dentist had her idea, she was determined to see it through to fruition, says John Warren, Chyi’s research mentor and a professor of preventive and community dentistry. Chyi plans to continue her research and is already thinking about ways she can help low-income parents ensure good oral health for their children.

“Frankie developed her project from the ground up and had a hand in it from the beginning,” Warren says. “She has worked very hard on this research project. I’m proud of the work she’s doing and of the great example she sets for other dental students.”
The American Association of Endodontists and the International Association of Dental Traumatology will be jointly presenting the 20th World Congress on Dental Traumatology in San Diego from August 15-18. The size and scope of the conference are unprecedented, with more than 40 world-renowned experts in dental or orofacial trauma, including our own Dr. Fabricio Teixeria (Endodontics). Dr. Teixeria has received an invitation to lecture on a new type of endodontic treatment for immature permanent teeth with apical periodontitis. Dr. Teixeria said, “I hope that my colleagues at the College of Dentistry can participate in this exciting and unique conference.” Registration is now open with more information available at the conference website.
DSB Weekly Submissions
If you have news/photos you would like to submit to the DSB Weekly, please send them to Michael Tilley (jmtilley@uiowa.edu).

Recent Publications


Helpful Links
The Latest Research News
Filling Station Menu

Lend a Hand to a Coworker
Due to medical issues, Holly Bolt, Oral Surgery Dental Assistant, has exhausted her sick leave and vacation. If you would like to help Holly by contributing vacation time, please fill out the form at: https://hr.uiowa.edu/sites/hr.uiowa.edu/files/ contrib.pdf.

UI Center for Teaching Invites Dean Johnsen to Speak on Critical Thinking
On Wednesday, March 7 from 12-1pm, David Johnsen, dean of the College of Dentistry, will give a lecture encouraging instructors to create a culture of inquiry in courses by analyzing, modeling, and articulating their own critical thinking processes. Discussion and brief activities will provide opportunities for participants to begin identifying learning bottlenecks and threshold concepts that can be barriers to student learning. Register here.
BODY IMAGE Week  February 26-March 4

We are excited to announce our first ever full week of events in collaboration with National Eating Disorder Awareness (NEDA) week! NEDA’s theme this year is “Let’s Get Real” and the goal of this campaign is to expand the conversation and highlight stories many don’t often hear.

“Our culture has complicated relationships with food, exercise and appearance. 30 million Americans will struggle with a full-blown eating disorder and millions more will battle food and body image issues that have untold negative impacts on their lives. Due to stigma and stereotypes, many people don’t get the support they deserve.”

Monday, Feb. 26: 12-1, First & Third Floor Links
“Trash Your Insecurities & Mirror, Mirror Campaign”
Make a pledge to “Trash” an insecurity you have for the week and receive an “I Love My Body” button to show your support for NEDA Week! Starting Monday, Feb. 26, bathrooms on the North side and select areas of the College of Dentistry will have positive body image messages displayed on the mirrors to raise awareness and instill a message of positivity for the week. For all students, staff and faculty.

Thursday, Mar. 1: 12-1, W220 A/B
Lunch-n-Learn workshop – “Let’s Get Real – Body Image & Confidence in Your Community”
This is a chance to engage in an interactive workshop designed to identify vulnerabilities, inspire confidence and find commonalities within your community here at the COD. This is an RSVP event for students only and will be limited to 40 participants. Please RSVP to Lisa Piper by 5:00 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 26.

Tuesday, Feb. 27: 12-1, Galagans A/B
“Medical Food for Thought”
Eating Disorder expert Dr. Robert Mehler from the Eating Recovery Center in Denver, CO will be offering a CE presentation entitled: Medical Food for Thought: Treating patients with anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. For all students, staff and faculty. Lunch provided to the first 70 participants.

Friday, Mar. 2: 12-1, Galagans 14 A/B
“Let’s Get Real!” discussion lunch
Join us while we watch two short Ted Talks with discussion after to get real about the “Beauty Sickness Epidemic” and effects of social media on body image today. For all students, staff and faculty. Lunch provided to the first 50 participants.

Wednesday, Feb. 28: 12-1, First & Third Floor Link
“NEDA Walk Sign Up & Photo Campaign”
Student Advisory Board members will be signing up participants for the College of Dentistry’s team that will take part in the NEDA walk on April 28. This is a huge event in our community and we are excited to get involved. Our #lovemybody because photographers will also be on hand to take pictures of those who wish to be part of our campaign. For all students, staff and faculty.

Sponsored by the Counseling Office and Office of Student Affairs
I Love My Body Because
Photo Campaign
#bodyimageweek
Feb. 26 – Mar. 2

Join us!
MEDICAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT
The medical issues of patients with anorexia nervosa & bulimia nervosa

Philip S. Mehler, MD, FACP, FAED, CEDS
February 27, 2018
12:00-1:00 pm, Galagans A/B

Lunch provided to the first 70 participants

Dr. Mehler is the Executive Medical Director & Chief Medical Officer of the Eating Recovery Center in Denver, Colorado

Target Audience: Faculty, Dental Students, Residents and Staff who attend will receive 1 hour of CE Credit

Sponsored by the Michael W. Finkelstein Centennial Teaching Professorship and Counseling Office/Office of Student Affairs
UIVA FUNDRAISER
University of Iowa Veterans Association

Proceeds support a new student veteran job placement Initiative

SATURDAY • MARCH 3, 2018
PORK DINNER 5:30-7:00 MUSIC TO FOLLOW
IOWA CITY VFW
Iowa City VFW, 609 Hollywood Blvd, #2
ADULTS $15  STUDENTS $10

Music By
HomeBrewed

Sponsored By
Iowa City and Riverside VFWs
UI Center for Diversity and Enrichment
Military and Veteran Student Services
UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics

University of Iowa
Public Policy Center
Army ROTC
Air Force ROTC
Diane Downing will be retiring, join us for her party on:
Tuesday, March 6, 2018
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Filling Station Dining Room