Several individuals from our department traveled to Washington, D.C., in March for the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) Public Policy Conference. Advocating for children’s oral health were Dr. Matt Geneser, along with residents Drs. Amy Lesch, Megan Rohman, and Nicole Youngers.

Dr. Arwa Owais attended the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) meeting in San Francisco March 23-25. She had a poster presentation entitled “Iowa Biorepository: A Unique Opportunity for Collaborative Research.” Two other posters were also presented based on departmental research from the Kalona clinical trial on silver nitrate authored by Drs. Karin Weber-Gasparoni and Alberto Gasparoni.

On Saturday, April 29, College of Dentistry students, residents, and faculty members participated in an outreach event, “Celebration of the Young Child,” held at the Iowa Children’s Museum at Coral Ridge Mall. Several organizations had displays and interactive events for young children and their parents. Our department personnel provided dental education, screenings and fluoride varnish to 50 children. Children received oral hygiene supplies and stickers. A great time was enjoyed by all!

Ms. Cathy Skotowski recently presented at three meetings on information concerning “Dental Outreach Program Resources.” She presented posters at the Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health in Des Moines and at the National Oral Health Conference in Albuquerque, NM. She also presented a table clinic at the Iowa Dental Association’s meeting in Cedar Rapids.

Also presenting at the Iowa Dental Association’s meeting in Cedar Rapids were Drs. Mike Kanellis and Arwa Owais. They gave a presentation during the Lunch and Learn Sessions entitled “Silver Nitrate and Silver Diamine Fluoride: Indications for Use, Protocols and Limitations.”
Dr. Kecia Leary has been busy delivering presentations all over the country. In March she attended the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) meeting in Long Beach, CA and delivered a poster presentation. In May she presented at the Tri-State Primary Care Conference (Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee) in Nashville, TN.

On Wednesday, May 10, members of the Pediatric Dentistry department gathered for an awards luncheon. Receiving special recognition were Walker Clark and Casey Goetz, both Class of 2017. Walker Clark received the 2017 Dale Redig Student Excellence Award and Casey Goetz received the 2017 American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate of Merit Predoctoral Student Award. Both Walker and Casey have excelled in their academic pediatric dental performances and have been very active in participating in pediatric dental outreach events, leadership and research. Both plan to further their education in pediatric dentistry residencies. The Department of Pediatric Dentistry wishes them continued success and happiness!

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) held their 70th annual session in Washington, D.C., May 25-28. Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni participated in the Council of Clinical Affairs workshop, which revises and updates the AAPD guidelines. This committee is chaired by Dr. Ed Rick (adjunct faculty). Other department faculty attending the AAPD annual session included Drs. Matt Geneser, Mike Kanellis, Steve Kelly, and Tad Mabry. Drs. Mike Kanellis and Jarod Johnson (adjunct faculty) delivered oral presentations. Three of our second-year residents, Drs. Ursula Diehl, Kaitlin Hoogeveen and Brandy Kleinheksel, presented their research as poster presentations. Third-year dental student Alison Christensen also presented her research at the meeting.

Several Iowa graduates were acknowledged by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry as having completed the board certification process. Drs. Vanessa Axelsen, Nick Barnard, Annie Fencl, and Jarod Johnson were successful in sitting for their oral
clinical examination and were installed by the College of Diplomates during a ceremony on May 25. Congratulations new diplomates!

As usual, on Saturday evening of the AAPD meeting, an Iowa reception was well attended by Iowa alumni traveling from all over the US. The evening provided an opportunity for alumni, current residents and faculty to reminisce, share good times, and of course, sing a rendition of the Iowa Fight Song led by Dr. Steve Kelly!

**Photo caption:** Drs. Matt Geneser, Ursula Diehl, Brandy Kleinhelse, Amy Lesch, Kaitlin Hoogeveen, and Tad Mabry in Washington, D.C. attending the AAPD meeting.