

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON School of Dentistry

UW PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY ALUMNI NEWS

Spring 2025



The UW Department of Pediatric Dentistry Proud to serve our patients and their families at The Center for Pediatric Dentistry

It has been a great year for UW Pediatric Dentistry, and we are excited to share all we have been up to. Look inside for exciting updates:

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We want to hear from you! Want to know where another alum is practicing or how to get in touch? We probably know. Send us your questions and personal/professional updates: macheso@uw.edu



CODA Accreditation

Every seven years, dental schools and residency programs undergo the rigorous Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) review process. This critical evaluation allows us to scrutinize our processes and make necessary improvements, ensuring we continue to meet the high standards expected by the public. Over the past few years, we dedicated ourselves to crafting a thorough self-study document and preparing for a seamless site visit. Dr. Tanbonliong and Cheryl Shaul worked tirelessly to ensure we were ready for November 2024. The hard work paid off: our visit was a resounding success, and we passed with flying colors, receiving no recommendations or suggestions for improvement!

Social Work at UW Pediatric Dentistry

Thanks to the generous support from the *Floyd & Delores Jones Pediatric Dentistry Endowed Support Fund* (established in 2017), the Center for Pediatric Dentistry (CPD) social work program is thriving. This past year we were very fortunate to recruit Regan Chase as the manager of our social work program. Here are a few words from Regan:

"My relationship with UW started back in 2016/17 when I graduated from the University with my Master's in Social Work. In my post-graduate career, I have worked primarily with families involved with Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) in two separate roles, first as a CPS social worker, and second, as a contracted in-home family therapist providing evidence-based practices to families involved with DCYF. One of the best things about my previous roles is that I've been exposed to a great deal of differing family circumstances and needs and if I don't know about a need a family has, I will always learn with them."

Social work services remain pivotal in ensuring our patients receive consistent dental care. Families visiting the Center for Pediatric Dentistry (CPD) often encounter transportation issues, health



insurance complexities, financial constraints, dental anxieties, and intricate social or family situations. The CPD social work program has been instrumental in assisting countless families by connecting them to essential resources, helping them

overcome these barriers and maintain regular dental visits.

Dr. Peter K. Domoto

On the evening of June 26, 2024, Dr. Peter K. Domoto passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. Dr. Domoto led the Department of Pediatric Dentistry as Chair from 1977 to 2002. Throughout his illustrious career, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enhancing dental health for all children, particularly those who were high-risk or disadvantaged. He pioneered opportunities for dental students to gain invaluable experience in underserved settings, including Alaskan native villages, farms with migrant worker

families, and other rural areas. Admired for his consensusdriven leadership, Dr. Domoto thrived on interdisciplinary projects that combined dentistry with nutrition, psychology, social work (such as reducing dental fear and improving maternal health),



and other fields. One of his proudest achievements was the establishment of the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program, which provided essential dental care to infants and toddlers from low-income families across the state. Dr. Domoto received numerous accolades throughout his career, with a special appreciation for the UW-Outstanding Public Service Award in 1995, recognizing his dedicated efforts for high-risk, disadvantaged children.

THE CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON School of Dentistry



WASHINGTON PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Washington Pediatric Dentistry Alumni Association

The Washington Pediatric Dentistry Alumni Association (WPDAA) has had a very active year. WPDAA hosted lively and well-attended receptions on the evenings before and after graduation, along with a sold-out continuing education (CE) event featuring Dr. Jim Coll, who presented on evidence-based pulp therapy. Due to generous and regular giving by UW Alumni, the WPDAA raised approximately \$30,000 this past year.

The purpose of the WPDAA, and the Cheryl Shaul Fund for Resident Enrichment, is to support the UW Pediatric Dentistry residency program, enhancing its legacy and expanding its network. For more information, visit: https://wpdaa.org

Graduation and Law Lewis Lecture

This year resident graduation will be held on Saturday June 21, 2025 at the Woodmark Hotel and Spa in Kirkland. That Saturday morning, we are partnering with UW CDE to host the **Law Lewis Lecture**, with four excellent speakers from the UW covering the topic of Pediatric Oral Surgery. To learn more and register: https://dental.washington.edu/condented/law-lewis_oral_surgery_topics/



Selected Recent Publications from the Department

Forsyth AR, Melkonyan AA, Kerns K, Flake NM, Greene RM, Roberts FA. Training a rural oral health workforce: Effects of rural background on dentist practice choice. J Dent Educ. 2024; 1-9. https://doi. org/10.1002/jdd.13713

Kitsahawong K, Seminario *AL*, Pungchanchaikul P, Rattanacharoenthum A, Sutthiprapaporn P, Pitiphat W. Efficacy of chemo-mechanical caries removal: a 24-month randomized trial. Front Oral Health. 2024 Dec 3;5:1458530. doi: 10.3389/froh.2024.1458530.

Nelson T, Khosravi R, Ramos V, Hong S, Cook D. Interdisciplinary Dentistry for Complex Pediatric Dental Cases. *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry*. 2024; 00: 1–9

Oliveros Gómez D, Machavariani E, Altice FL, Gálvez de León S, Earnshaw V, Montenegro-Idrogo JJ, Sánchez J, *Seminario AL*. Influence of Stigma on Engagement in HIV Care and Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy in Specialized HIV Clinics Targeting Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender Women in Lima, Peru. AIDS Behav. 2024 Jun 15. doi: 10.1007/s10461-024-04401-3. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38878137. *Seminario AL*, Karczewski AE, Chung W, Wang Y, Wamalwa D, Benki-Nugent S, John-Stewart G, Slyker JA, Kemoli A. Salivary Cathelicidin (LL-37) in Children and Adolescents Living with HIV. Biomed Hub. 2024 Jan 29;9(1):25-30. doi: 10.1159/000535596.

Seminario AL, Martinez M, Opondo I, Stanley S, Saxton M, Kemoli AM. Integrating Oral Health Within Kenyan HIV Research & Policy Structure: Stakeholder Analysis. Ann Glob Health. 2024 Feb 13;90(1):14. doi: 10.5334/aogh.4150.

Seminario AL, Karczewski AE, Stanley S, Huamani JV, Montenegro JJ, Tafur K, Julca AB, Altice FL. Implementation of REDCap mobile app in an oral HIV clinical study. BMC Public Health. 2024 Feb 28;24(1):629. doi: 10.1186/s12889-024-17837-y.

Sritangsirikul S, Kitsahawong K, Matangkasombut O, *Seminario AL*, Pitiphat W. A longitudinal study on the impact of breastfeeding with or without formula milk on dental caries. Sci Rep. 2024 May 6;14(1):10384. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-60582-w. PMID: 38710791; PMCID: PMC11074103.

Resident Thesis Projects of our 2025 Graduates

Akabike A, Nelson T, Chi C, Lee P, Hoang H, Aung S. Dental Providers' Experiences with Caregiver Radiograph Hesitancy: A National Survey

Chavez A, Velan E, Reeves A, Wilkes J. Oral Health Documentation in a Pediatric Cancer Unit at Seattle Children's Hospital

Ko A, Chi D. The Association Between Parenting Engagement and Topical Fluoride Hesitancy O'Bannon, Nelson T, Chi C, Lee P, Hoang H, Aung S. Association Between Caregiver Opposition to Topical Fluoride and Dental Radiographs

Welter, Seminario. HIV Impact on Oral Health-Related Quality of Life for Kenyan 3-4 Year Olds

Interdisciplinary Special Needs Dental Access Network (I–SPAN)





2024-2025 is our 5th year of our I-SPAN Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII training grant. This grant has supported incredible enhancements in our didactic and clinical education as well as

expansion of the WA Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) network.

UW Interdisciplinary Dentistry Program

One of the most significant advancements driven by I-SPAN is the UW Interdisciplinary Dentistry (ID) program. Both our residents and patients continue to reap the benefits of participating in this collaborative, interdisciplinary care model. Additionally, our residents have had the unique opportunity to attend lectures from global experts on a wide range of topics, including sleep-disordered breathing, the management of impacted teeth, myofunctional therapy, tooth bleaching techniques for specialists, TMD management, and many other exciting areas of study.

Incorporating Lasers into the Resident Curriculum

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to supplemental funding from the I-SPAN grant, we have acquired a LightScalpel CO2 laser this year.

This state-of-the-art instrument will significantly enhance our ability to perform a wide range of soft tissue procedures for our patients, including oral biopsies, gingivectomies, crown lengthening, frenectomies, and the exposure of unerupted teeth. While we have traditionally provided many of these procedures using conventional surgical techniques, the



LightScalpel CO2 laser offers numerous benefits, such as greater precision, reduced bleeding, decreased postoperative pain, and improved healing. We are eager to integrate this advanced technology into our program and look forward to the many advantages it will bring to our patients and residents.

Advanced Emergency Simulation



Through the I-SPAN program, we have made remarkable strides in medical emergency preparedness, especially with the integration of the Pediatric HAL (Gaumard Scientific, Miami, FL). HAL, a five-year-old training

mannequin, can blink, breathe, have seizures, and even talk! This has significantly elevated the quality of the emergency simulation experience. In collaboration with Gaumard Scientific staff, we have developed pediatric dentistry-specific emergency drills covering orientation for new users, anaphylaxis, asthma, CPR, seizures, and many other scenarios. This state-of-the-art simulation mannequin provides real-time feedback on the quality and effectiveness of resuscitation interventions, significantly enhancing the training

of our UW Pediatric Dentistry residents. These advancements ensure our program remains at the forefront of pediatric dental education and patient care.

It is amazing to look back and see how far we have come in the 5 years of this



program. We are incredibly grateful for our UW partners and the generous support of HRSA. It has enhanced our resident training and elevated the care that our patients receive.

Faculty Updates

THE CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON School of Dentistry



Dr. Jakob Holtzmann begins as part-time clinical faculty member

In October 2024, Dr. Jakob Holtzmann, a recent graduate of our program, joined us as an Acting Assistant Professor. Dr. Holtzmann, who served as Chief Resident, was honored with the 2024 AAPD Poster Award for his research titled "Education **Expenditure and Preventive Oral** Health Care for Washington Children." Originally from Colorado, he earned his degree from the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. His clinical and research interests focus on health equity and the care of children with special needs. We are thrilled to have Dr. Holtzmann continue his journey with us as a Husky!



Dr. Anna Forsyth appointed Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs

In mid-October 2023, Dr. Anna Forsyth was appointed as the Director of Dental Education, a temporary part-time role supporting the Office of Academic Affairs. She excelled in this position, ensuring the school was well-prepared for our CODA site visit. Following the retirement of Dr. Sara Gordon from her role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in December 2024, Dr. Forsyth has stepped into this position on an interim basis while a national search is conducted. She continues to hold her academic appointment as Associate Teaching Professor. Dr. Nelson has taken on the role of Interim Predoctoral Program Director, allowing Dr. Forsyth to focus on her new responsibilities.



Dr. Tanbonliong Serves in a number of Leadership Positions

Dr. Tanbonliong, our Graduate Program Director, is currently Vice President of the Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry. He adds to his roles in the AAPD Council on Clinical Affairs, AAPD Council on Post-Doctoral Education, and membership on ABPD QE exam committee.

UW Clinical Affiliates

We have a growing group of clinical affiliate faculty who provide attending coverage at the Center for Pediatric Dentistry. These dedicated affiliates work with us at least one day each month:

Dr. Shadi Araghi, Dr. Patricia Benton, Dr. Bri Butler, Dr. Chris Chen, Dr. Amelia Chim, Dr. Brenda Huynh, Dr. Kyle Kirk, Dr. Megan Miller, Dr. Gurveena Parhar, Dr. Caroline Shaw, Dr. Karen Yee-Lo, and Dr. Sahar Zolfaghari.

Thank you so much for the time and expertise you have donated to our program!

If you are interested in becoming a clinical affiliate, please email: macheso@uw.edu

Affiliate Spotlight: Dr. Bri Butler

Dr. Bri Butler graduated from UW Pediatric Dentistry over 10 years ago. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, the AAPD Public Policy Advocate for the State of Washington, a member of the AAPD Council of Government Affairs, a member of the Washington State Dental Association Legislative and Medicaid Task Forces, and is Advocacy and Legislative Liaison for the Western District of Pediatric Dentistry. In addition to all these responsibilities, Dr. Butler is the dental director for the Jamestown Dental clinic in Sequim, WA. She travels each month from the Olympic Peninsula to teach our students and residents at the Center for Pediatric Dentistry, and she has mentored many of them during annual visits to the Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. We would like to say a special thank you to Dr. Butler for all of the time and expertise she has dedicated to training our residents!



2025 Graduates



Andrea Akabike was a 2020 graduate of UCSF and after graduation, was employed in the San Francisco area in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) treating a large number of underserved children. Before,

during, and after dental school, Andrea has had extensive experience in state-wide and national leadership roles and local community service activities. During her first year of residency, she was named Leadership Intern for the WSPD/CSPD. Her Master's research was on "Dental Providers' Experiences with Caregiver Radiograph Hesitancy: A National Survey." She hopes to remain in the greater Seattle area after she graduates.



Amarina Chavez graduated in June 2023 from the University of Utah School of Dentistry and had previous experience as a registered nurse in a medicalsurgical unit seeing critically ill patients. In dental school, she

organized the Special Care Dentistry Association chapter, was president of the UU Pediatric Dentistry Club, and was the recipient of a National Health Service Corps scholarship. Her thesis topic incorporated her interest in the intersection of medicine and dentistry and was entitled "Oral Health Documentation in a Pediatric Cancer Unit at Seattle Children's Hospital." She will be working in Alaska at a community health center after graduation.



Alice Ko graduated from Tufts School of Dental Medicine in 2015. After practicing in western Washington as a general dentist for five years, she was admitted to the UW as a post-doctoral trainee. The following year, she was accepted into the UW PhD program in the Department of Oral Health Sciences. Her strong interest and passion for public health is the basis for her research and she is committed to using scientific findings to improve the oral health of vulnerable populations. Dr. Ko gave birth to her beautiful son, Eli, in October of 2023, and her Master's thesis was entitled "The Association Between Parenting Engagement and Topical Fluoride Hesitancy." She is going to Nebraska after graduation where her husband has a new position.



Kerry O'Bannon graduated from the UW School of Dentistry in June 2023. During dental school, she was president of both the Pediatric Interest Group and the local chapter of the American Academy of Developmental

Medicine and Dentistry, a tutor for several dental school courses, and an enthusiastic volunteer for a variety of community service events. Her research in residency was entitled, "The Association Between Caregiver Opposition to Topical Fluoride and Dental Radiographs." Kerry would like to stay in the Seattle area but she and her husband are open to other opportunities.



Erin Welter was a 2023 graduate of UCSF. During her years in dental school she was recognized for her exceptional promise in research and her passion for community outreach. Before dental school, she was a science teacher which

helped her to develop the Next Generation Science Standards curriculum (NGSS) dental health lesson plans for elementary school students in schools in the Bay Area while she was in dental school. Her research centers on the impact of HIV on oral health-related quality of life for young Kenyan children. She is hoping to stay in Washington to practice before returning to California.



2026 Graduates



Max Black graduated in June of 2024 from the University of Alabama. As an undergraduate, Max earned a certificate in Disability Studies and spent many years working with children who have a wide variety of physical

and intellectual disabilities. Before dental school, he taught chemistry to 10th and 11th graders with Teach for America for two years in Los Angeles. Max continues to play basketball when time allows. His research centers around analyzing dental and socio-economic data in Kenya to assess social determinates of dental health.



Bita Fathipour was a 2024 graduate from the UW. She was born in Tehran and started out as an electrical engineering student before changing to dentistry and coming to the U.S. During her years in dental school, she was involved in a wide variety of

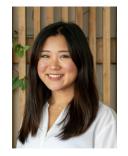
research projects – in Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, and in Pediatric Dentistry. In addition to being an AHEC Scholar, she has also conducted research with the DeRouen Center in Kenya. Bita's Master's research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of providing pain medications on children's pain levels following dental treatment under general anesthesia.



Anthony Leisure graduated in 2024 from the University of Missouri/Kansas City School of Dentistry. During his time in dental school, Anthony was active in the student-run clinics for underserved adults and children. He also worked with Challenge

Baseball, an organization established to help people with physical and intellectual disabilities

participate in the sport. Anthony helps to organize activities in his cohort. His research area will evaluate how hands-on training enhances clinical skills, confidence, and preparedness for managing pediatric dental trauma by developing a realistic CBCT-based 3D-printed simulation model.



Alyssa Moy is a 2024 graduate of the University of California, San Francisco. As a Bioengineering undergraduate at University of Michigan, she honed her research skills and interests which continued through dental school. She was a dedicated volunteer

with organizations that help others, including the student-run free clinics in the San Francisco area and as a team track coach for "Girls on the Run"for elementary and middle school girls. Alyssa's research is entitled "A Comparative Analysis of U.S. State Regulations on Minimal and Moderate Sedation in Pediatric Dentistry."



Deepak Sharma graduated from the UW School of Dentistry in 2022. His undergraduate degree was in Anthropology with an emphasis on Medical Anthropology and Global Health. Before and during dental school, Deepak volunteered with a

wide variety of groups, including SNDA, local schools, DECOD, and he was a NHSC recipient. After graduation from dental school, he divided his working life between a private practice south of Seattle and an FHQC in Pierce County for lowincome, uninsured and under-insured patients. His research area explores the effectiveness of chlorhexidine-containing products as adjuncts to regular oral health practices for children with special needs.

Incoming Residents



Jason Choi will graduate from the University of British Columbia's School of Dentistry in May of 2025. A constant interest of his since he was a child in BC is sports – basketball, soccer, softball, golf, skiing – and he was

the Sports Activities Director for all four years of dental school. He is also a longtime volunteer with the BC Cancer Agency, providing support for patients who are going through radiation therapy, and with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. One of his instructors described him as "not only likeable, gentle, reliable, and well-balanced, but also a dependable team member who thrives under pressure."



Jasmeen Kaur is a UW dental student in the graduating class of 2025. She was born in Punjab, India, and immigrated to the U.S. at an early age. Her experiences as a young English language learner have given her greater

awareness of cultural sensitivity in the clinical environment. She is a longtime volunteer with a variety of organizations and clubs, such as Union Gospel Mission's dental clinic, and the UWSOD Hispanic Student Dental Association. Jasmeen is also a NHSC scholarship recipient. One faculty person said that "she is prepared, aware of the big picture, generous in thinking, and shows respect to patients, regardless of their backgrounds, instilling confidence in her by others."



Esther Lee will graduate from the University of North Carolina in May of 2025. Her undergraduate studies in public health focused on health policy and nutrition. In dental school, her interest in public health continued with her

involvement in several organizations, including

the SMILE mobile clinic, which served refugees and families facing homelessness, and children getting dental care for the first time. She received several honors and awards and scholarships and was described by one faculty member as an outstanding team member who "seeks out ways to help others reach their potential while she is reaching hers."



Tino LoGerfo is a UW dental student in the graduating class of 2025. He was strongly influenced in his career choice by his adoptive brother's first dental experiences. His brother spent his early years in Ethiopia where

dental visits were only for emergencies and had his first dental exam in the U.S. Tino's interest in access to care and interdisciplinary teamwork has continued in his volunteer work as the preceptor coordinator for University District Street Medicine, the Union Gospel Mission, and Mary's Place Women's Shelter. He is the proud father of young twins and has been described by faculty as the "rare student that inspires their teacher."



Isabelle "Izzy" Tseng will graduate from the University of California at San Francisco's dental school in June of 2025. While at UCSF she was the recipient of several awards and scholarships and has held several

leadership positions including the President of the UCSF ASDA chapter. In addition, she volunteered for several organizations in dental school, and for Tzu Chi, a global humanitarian NGO, since she was in kindergarten. One of Isabelle's faculty wrote about her: "When my own younger brother presented to the student clinic for a dental emergency, I immediately assigned him to Izzy because I trusted that she would be able to provide him with outstanding and compassionate care."





Top photo: 2025 and 2026 classes after completing Sprig zirconia crown training; bottom photo: 2023 and 2024 Graduates



Lifetime Donors, \$1 Million and Greater

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SUPPORT RESTS ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

We would like to recognize the Anderson Foundation and the Beverly J. Jewell Memorial Foundation, two partners whose support has helped underwrite much-needed oral health care for the children of our community and region. This support enables the Department of Pediatric Dentistry to serve children with special needs, from underserved populations, and/or at risk of dental disease. In addition, their support is instrumental in helping the department to function as an oral health care safety net for the community. They are both among the School of Dentistry's Distinguished Benefactors. Not only are they among the department's most generous donors, but they are also among the most loyal, as they have each provided support each year for well over a decade.

"Partnerships with the Anderson Foundation and the Beverly Jewell Memorial Foundation have enabled UW Pediatric Dentistry to provide needed dental care to children who would otherwise have gone without treatment. We are incredibly grateful for their generous and loyal support."

-Dr. Travis Nelson, Chair of Pediatric Dentistry

How to donate:

- Give online at the UW Giving Page at Make a gift | Give to the UW (washington.edu).
- Send a check payable to the UW Foundation to: UW School of Dentistry, Office of Advancement, Box 357137, Seattle, WA, 98195-7137, or
- Contact Doug Day in the Office of Advancement at (206) 543-6017 or <u>daydoug@uw.edu</u>.

Words from the Chair

THE CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON School of Dentistry



It's important to pause occasionally and reflect on where you came from. As many of you know, my father Gary Nelson is a retired pediatric dentist. He practiced in rural Northern California

dedicating his professional career to the care of very young children with Medicaid insurance and severe dental disease. When I entered the field of dentistry, I didn't know that I would specialize in pediatrics, but I was certain that I wanted to help people the way my dad did.

When I decided to apply to specialty programs, the University of Washington (UW) was at the top of my list. How could it not be, with renowned educators like Drs. Berg, Sheller, Slayton, and Williams on the faculty? Upon joining the UW program, I discovered the rich history of the department, shaped by influential figures such as Drs. Law, Lewis, Barriga, and Domoto, who helped mold it into a top-tier program. After graduation, I was fortunate to spend my first year on the faculty with Dr. Cook, another "rookie" who became both a friend and mentor during our decade of teaching together. I also had the privilege of teaching and learning alongside esteemed colleagues like Drs. Avenetti, Canares, Chan, da Fonseca, de Bord (Webb), Gandhi, Kelly, Marion, Reeves, Sarvas, Sims, Velan, and Wilson, all of whom have gone on to serve in significant academic leadership roles within our community and beyond. And that's not even to mention the

contributions of other UW Pediatric Dentistry faculty members, such as Drs. Chi (UW Associate Dean for Research), Forsyth (UW Associate Dean for Academic Affairs), and Seminario (Director of The DeRouen Center for Global Oral Health) who are immensely influential within our community.

Growing up, I witnessed firsthand how one person could have an enormously positive impact on children and families. In my current position, I will never care for as many patients as my dad did. However, my decision to pursue academic dentistry was driven by the desire to have an influence beyond what I could achieve with my own two hands. I am truly amazed when I consider the incredible work being done every day by graduates of this program. This collective impact is the most satisfying aspect of my work and the greatest motivation to strive for improvement.

To our clinical and administrative team, alumni, donors and other supporters. Thank you so much for your gifts of time, talent, and money. You make all of this possible.

Travis Nelson DDS, MSD, MPH Associate Professor and Chair