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Pediatric Clinic Expands with New Open Bay

This summer, Penn Dental Medicine increased the number of operatories in its Pediatric Clinic by 60 percent, expanding the clinic space to create a new open bay area with six additional treatment areas. The expansion supports the continuing growth of the School’s Division of Pediatric Dentistry, which has doubled the class size of its Pediatric Residency Program, now accepting four residents each year (the first class at this increased size started in July).

The expansion will enable the clinic to see a greater number of patients, which in turn, will expose both predoctoral students and the postgraduate residents to a wider diversity of cases. “We are excited to be able to increase the number of children we serve,” says Dr. Betty Harokopakis-Hajishengallis, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, “and, to do so in such a bright, happy setting.”

The new bay features warm yellow walls with a colorful hand-print trim and each of the dental chairs is a different, bright color. Also part of the new addition is a residents’ room with work stations. This addition, which adjoins the existing clinic, previously housed faculty offices.

The new area is being used for the predoctoral student rotations through the clinic. “Because it is an open bay setting, it is better suited for older children, and usually, that is the patient pool of the predoctoral students,” says Dr. Harokopakis-Hajishengallis. However, she adds that the predoctoral student experience in pediatrics is growing this year. “While our predoctoral students will continue to complete a rotation in the clinic, we are going to start having them assist residents with cases as well, which will give them direct experience with more complex cases,” explains Dr. Harokopakis-Hajishengallis.

As part of this project, the existing clinic area, which features 10 private room operatories, and the waiting area were also repainted the same bright, golden yellow as the new addition, and the waiting area was finished in new hardwood floors.

The next steps will be to further update the original part of the clinic and to build resources for continuing the growth and development of the School’s pediatric services and educational programs. As part of the fundraising efforts for these initiatives, alumni and friends can make a lasting tribute through the following naming opportunities: Clinic Naming (1), $1,000,000; Residents’ Room/Station (1), $150,000; Operatories (16), $50,000. For more information on these and on supporting the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at all gift levels, contact: Maren Gaughan, Associate Dean for Leadership Giving at 215-898-8952 or gaughan@dentals.upenn.edu.