

DCDS connection

Official Publication of DCDS
A tradition of integrity and care since 1908



Mission Statement

Serving the professional needs of our members

In This Issue

The Write Stuff	2
Impressions	3
From the Hub	4
Members Message Board	6-7
Facility Rental.....	9
Legal & Ethical Considerations	11
Insights	12
Classified Advertising	19

Pleading Our Case

The importance of participating in advocacy

Ballet recital, flu, work overload, Midwinter Meeting...we all have our important life-gets-in-the-way reasons for not traveling to Austin last month for TDA Legislative Day. But those reasons shouldn't keep us from finding another way to help defend the integrity, trust and honor of our profession.

It is essential that we build relationships with our legislators in order to effectively represent our interests. The best way to do that is by having constituents visit with them and explain why the issues are important, which is what is done on TDA Legislative Day.

But when life gets in the way of TDA Legislative Day, don't just sit back and think all the work was done that day. Local office visits, letters and e-mails are still very effective in influencing legislators' views.

**It's easy to determine your government officials!
Go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/> and enter your address to bring up contact information for your legislators.**

Take time to make your thoughts known to your state representatives and senator. While an in-person visit creates the biggest impression, taking a moment to write is something everyone should be able to find time to do.

Read over issues and form correspondence that is clear and precise before sending it to your state representative/senator. Handwritten letters take precedence over emails; legislators will usually respond to your letter, while staff members generally take on emails.

Write your letter on your business letterhead; or if you're emailing, send the email from your company email if possible. This lets the reader know that you, the writer, are not just speaking for yourself, but for your entire company. Even if they don't agree with you, they take note of how many people write to them expressing opinions about each issue.

To be effective in your communications, you need to be informed on the issues. Currently, our advocates at Texas Dental Association are working on six issues that directly affect the dental profession and oral health:

1. Dental Insurance: Patient Benefits Disclosure and Insurance Payment Choice
2. Access to Oral Health Care: Funding and Administration for Texas Programs
3. Water Fluoridation: Benefits, Disclosure, and Notification
4. Texas Dental Schools: School Funding and Clinic Operations
5. Dental Practice Models: Preserving Dentists' Independent, Professional Judgment
6. Scope of Practice: Preventing Scope Expansion of Non-Dentists

A briefing of our position on each issue can be found on TDA.org under Advocacy or at <http://htl.li/L2oM30nAOmV>. Use this briefing packet to help you form your correspondence with your representative/senator. You'll need to sign in to your account to reach the document.

The actions that our legislators take have lasting ramifications for dental education and the practice of dentistry. The actions that YOU take can draw their attention to improve public services, influence dental practice policies and can hold our elected officials to greater accountability on issues surrounding dentistry.

No need to reinvent the wheel! A template letter can be found at <http://www.texasabate.com/docs/SampleLetterToLegislators.pdf>.

The Write Stuff

Jodi D. Danna, DDS, President



Happy New Year! I know it's silly to hear that when for me January is just about over... but still, I hope that 2019 brings you all health, happiness and prosperity. Those of you who know me know

that I am not really a sports fan, but I do know we have a lot going on in the sporting world. As I am writing this column, the Super Bowl is this weekend; and so whatever team you root for, may the better team win.

This year we have so much to look forward to for Dallas County Dental Society. During Dr. Todd Baumann's presidency his article marking this month was about his task force strategically planning and implementing the feasibility of starting a DCDS Dental Assisting School and Learning Center. We all know that has come to fruition, and we are steps away from opening and having our inaugural class.

Once open, our inaugural class will boast 10 - 12 students. We hope that it will be in 3rd quarter. Ashley Smith, Director of the DCDS DAS, is quoted as saying "I am excited about the opening of the DCDS Dental Assisting School, and I am looking forward to seeing our students become valued team contributors for our DCDS member dentists." Her excitement and enthusiasm is infectious! We are so very lucky to have her. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to meet her, please do so. She is one of our greatest assets and is committed to making this a successful venture.

The DCDS Dental Assisting School has many benefits. One – It will be a great opportunity for the students to have a quality education presented by some of the finest most talented members of our dental community. Two – As a member benefit for us, DCDS DAS will provide quality dental assistants for our offices. Three – It will provide a revenue stream for DCDS to continue all of the hard work they do on our behalf on a daily basis. Four – Another benefit is the Learning Center will give us the ability to live feed video of patient/surgeries and or video demonstrations for members. Really, we do not even know yet the full potential of this Learning Center. Exciting, right?!

Of course we need your help. If anyone is willing to provide an office in which our dental assisting students can fulfill their externship hours, please let Ashley know (asmith@dcds.org.) She would love to have externships filled from our members' offices; and you never know, you may find the perfect addition to your team.

Southwest Dental Conference, October 10 – 11, 2019, planning is complete. Dr. Todd Baumann and the DCDS Scientific Committee have put together an amazing CE Program. Watch for an announcement via email when registration opens in mid-March.

It goes without saying how proud I am to be a part of an organization with a vision for the future. There is so much heart and soul in the membership here at DCDS. So many gifted and talented leaders that give their time and experience to keeping Dallas County Dental Society among the most respected local organizations that are a part of the ADA.



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Contributions: articles, letters to the Editor, announcements, advertisements, or other materials submitted for inclusion in DCDS Connection should be submitted electronically via email to the managing editor. Submissions must be received by the second Friday of the month prior to the month of publication. Acceptance of any submission is at the discretion of the Editor, and subject to editing for brevity or content. Anonymous letters or contributions will not be considered for publication. All submitted items must be accompanied by contact information, including the author's name, mailing address, telephone and/or email address. Illustrations should be submitted as .jpeg, .pdf, .eps or .tiff files. Photographs should be high resolution (300 dpi or better) and include a copyright release or statement of permission. Display and classified advertising will be accepted from reputable firms or individuals on a space-available basis in accordance with DCDS Guidelines. For current advertising rates or more information call 972-386-5741 X 225, or email rosemary@dcds.org.

Editor Larry W. White, DDS, MSD
 Managing Editor Rosemary S. Martinez
 Executive Director Jane D. Evans

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Registration for the
 2019 Southwest Dental Conference
 begins in March!

Watch for your registration email or visit
swdentalconf.org

Impressions

Editorial by Larry W. White, DDS, MSD, Editor

Purpose and Vision



Over the past several years, a number of retired dental friends have called to ask if I knew where they might find, at least, part-time employment.

The reasons varied, but

in the end it usually turned out to be boredom.

Apparently the amount of fishing, hunting, golfing or butterfly collecting has a limit and no longer offers the satisfaction previously anticipated.

In 1964, Viktor Frankl wrote a book titled "... trotzdem Ja zum Leben sagen: Ein Psychologe erlebt das Konzentrationslager," which was later translated into English from German as "Man's Search for Meaning: An Introduction to Logotherapy." The first part of the book recalls his experiences as a prisoner in several Nazi concentration camps, while the second part introduces his ideas of meaning and his theory of logotherapy.

At the time of his death in 1997, Dr. Frankl's book had sold more than 10 million copies and had been translated into 24 languages. A survey by Book of the Month Club and the Library of Congress revealed that "Man's Search for Meaning" was one of the 10 most influential books in the United States.

Frankl's psychotherapeutic method involved identifying a purpose in life to feel positively about, and then purposely imagining that outcome. According to Frankl, the way prisoners imagined their futures affected their longevities, i.e., when prisoners could keep in mind a purpose other than survival and could envision how that might work out in the future, their lives took on meaning that gave them hope and strength that helped carry them through their ordeals.

When you think about it, almost everything of value and usefulness that humans use came from people who found a purpose and a dream or vision of what they wanted to create, e.g., Archimedes and specific gravity, Henry Ford and the mass-produced automobile, Charles Goodyear and vulcanized rubber, Alexander

Bell and the telephone, Thomas Edison and the electric light bulb, Margaret Hutchinson and the mass-production of penicillin that made Alexander Fleming's discovery ubiquitous.

These successful creators had characteristics that the unsuccessful don't; and those were a purpose with a goal — a dream seen only in their minds and felt in their hearts. Napoleon Hill once said, "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." But what is success? It obviously means different things to different people, but the best generalized definition I have found is this: success is the progressive realization of a worthy ideal.

This means that persons engaged in achieving something which they consider a worthy ideal are successful. Contrarily, it means that those not so engaged are unsuccessful. With such a simple definition, you would think everyone would be successful; and they should be, but I have seen estimates that only about five percent are. For them life is little more than getting up - going to work - coming home - going to bed; getting up - going to work - coming home - going to bed.

When you ask most people what it is they seek, most will answer in vague terms such as happiness, good health, enough money to support my family, etc. But these are simply conditions that everyone wants — not goals.

Proceeding successfully through a lifetime should be a matter of progressively setting and achieving goals, one after another. Just as an airliner can have only one destination at a time, set your first destination; and after reaching it, set a new goal and then another. Most of the confusion found with many people comes from having too many goals simultaneously, and they continue proceeding aimlessly on fruitless endeavors, which accomplishes little.

I wish I could say that having a specific goal and progressively pursuing it would guarantee a successful outcome; but, of course, it doesn't. Sometimes our best efforts come up empty, but that doesn't negate the personal benefits of setting worthy ideals and striving progressively to achieve them. Michael Buonocore of acid

etch fame and Rafael Bowen who developed BisGMA had several failures before finding the ingredients and products that made dental bonding one of the consequential techniques dentists now use. Paul Ehrlich developed the first antibacterial drug, Salvarsan; but he first named it 606 because only the six hundred and sixth creation rendered the drug for which he had sought.

In 1881, the Reverend Theodore Thornton Munger wrote, "There is no road to success but through a clear, strong purpose. Nothing can take its place. A purpose underlies character, culture, position, attainment of every sort."

Several years ago I heard of a man who visited an insane asylum and witnessed a large number

“Our hope then depends on having a purpose and a worthy vision that we can progressively pursue to give our lives meaning.

of people who had great visions. Some saw themselves as Napoleon Bonaparte. Others envisioned themselves as Jesus Christ. These people had a vision but no purpose. Later he traveled along a highway and saw a group of prisoners grooming the roadway and thought that here were men with plenty of purpose but little vision. Our hope then depends on having a purpose and a worthy vision that we can progressively pursue to give our lives meaning. Indeed, the hope of the world depends on people with both purpose and vision to develop the ideas and useful products that propel civilization.

There is plenty in dentistry that can offer clinicians a real purpose; and with just a bit of imagination they can develop a worthy goal, which they can progressively pursue, and it will significantly enrich their lives. What is your current goal?

From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

Breaking News



SWDC

By now you should have received Save-the-Date postcard for the 2019 Southwest Dental Conference and hopefully marked your calendar for October 10-11. After going through

the process of analyzing the Conference, it was decided to change to two days with both the Exhibit Hall and courses to be held on Thursday and Friday. The SWDC Registration Brochure should be on the website by the middle of March. Once the brochure is posted and registration is live our office will send you an email to let you know so you and your team can begin to review the program and plan your schedule.

Make sure you allow time to visit the Exhibit Hall with its showcase of latest products and equipment and say thank you to the Exhibitors for supporting the SWDC.



DCDS Team

I am pleased to introduce Ms. Blair Calvo in the capacity of Member Relations Coordinator. She comes to us with an association background and am certain she will be an asset to our team. Blair's responsibilities will include membership recruitment, retention, peer review and other member related activities.



Ms. Ashley Hawkins has taken on the role of Meeting and Special Events Manager. Her responsibilities will include assisting with the SWDC, scheduling CE in the DCDS Facility and the Learning Center. Ashley has been with DCDS for three years and with her knowledge and enthusiasm this will be an easy transition.



DCDS Dental Assisting School

Construction is completed! Ms. Ashley Smith has worked diligently with the vendors to make sure the school is perfect in all areas.

We have received the certificate of occupancy from the City of Farmers Branch and the Application for Certificate of Approval has been submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission. The licensing process involves a site visit along with up to 90 days of review and revisions from the state. Once approval is received we may begin marketing the school. Plans are for the first class to begin in June 2019. If you would like to sign up to have a student shadow in your office please contact Ms. Smith at asmith@dcds.org.



Above: Program Director Ashley Smith unboxes equipment in the lab of the new DCDS Dental Assisting School.

In honor of
Brad Crump, DDS, MS
as incoming president
and the
2019-2020 Board of Directors
Officers and Committee Members

Dallas County Dental Society
requests your presence at the

Installation Dinner & Ceremony
May 16, 2019

Hilton Dallas Park Cities
5954 Luther Lane | Dallas, TX 75225
Reception 6:30 p.m. | Dinner 7:00 p.m.

\$25 Per Person
Business Attire

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

- March 19, 2019 – General Membership Meeting
- April 16, 2019 – General Membership Meeting
- April 19 2019 – Shred-a-thon
- May 16, 2019 – Installation Dinner & Ceremony



Welcome New Members!

General

Jihee Hong

Endodontics

Kristine Knoll

Orthodontics

Francesca Smith

Graduate Student

Macey Cartrite

In Memoriam:

Kent Pollard

Evan Blakely

Applause, Applause!

Gayle Glenn, DDS, MS was awarded the 2019 TOSC Trailblazer Award by the Texas Orthodontic Study Club (TOSC) in January. The Trailblazer Award is the highest recognition bestowed upon an individual member of TOSC to recognize significant contributions to the orthodontic profession, and to TOSC where she has been a member since 1989.



DCDS Membership Benefits

Pass along the benefits to your peers! Being a member of the associations that work to protect your profession has never been more important.

- Free registration to the annual Southwest Dental Conference
- Peer Review mediation service to reconcile complaints between patients and doctors
- Rent the DCDS meeting facility at special member rates
- Free or discounted continuing education via seminars & General Membership Meetings
- First opportunity to hire fully trained world-class dental assistants from DCDS Dental Assisting School
- Pre-printed school excuse forms provided free of charge to dentists treating school-age children
- Confidential free notary public
- DCDS Connection, the bimonthly newsletter of Dallas County Dental Society (member advertising at reduced rates)
- Member mailing labels available for purchase
- Grassroots legislator contact program with state and national legislative representation
- License and permit renewal reminders
- Networking/social opportunities with colleagues

Dallas County Dental Society members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

Dallas County Dental Society members receive ALL membership benefits offered by American Dental Association, including photo directory and public referrals through Find-a-Dentist.

www.dcds.org/membership

REACH OUT TO HELP ANOTHER DENTIST



Watching a colleague suffer and feeling helpless is difficult and heartbreaking. Dentists Concerned for Dentists is a 24-hour confidential alcohol and drug abuse hotline you can call for assistance.

Your phone call could be the lifesaving step for someone who is hoping and waiting.

- **Founded exclusively to help dentists, hygienists, assistants and family members.**
- **No fees or charges.**
- **All contact is held in absolute confidentiality.**

Founded by Dr. James Hill in 1979, the Dentists Concerned for Dentists program provides a strictly confidential peer assistance program for health care professionals who struggle with drug and alcohol abuse. This award-winning program saves lives; please share this confidential hotline with your colleagues.

A confidential phone call may be the greatest gift a peer dentist, staff or family member could receive.

DENTISTS CONCERNED FOR DENTISTS

**24-hour Confidential Hotline
214-206-7496**

TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS

Have you ever wished you could receive reminders for DCDS meetings and events? We have heard so many say they did not put an event on their calendar or forgot about a meeting.

DCDS implemented text messaging so you will not forget another meeting. All you need to do is sign up for the service and you will be reminded of future meetings and events. To get text message reminders for DCDS meetings & events:

Text
DCDSMEMBERS
to 41411



Senior's Smiles Volunteers Needed



Do you enjoy working with the elderly? Senior's Smiles, a program aimed at nursing homes, need your expertise and time! In coordination with the Dallas Dental Hygienists' Society, the DCDS Foundation provides this oral health education in our community. To volunteer, contact: Lori Dees at lori@dcds.org or 972-386-5741 x228.

Upcoming DCDS General Membership Meetings

Our general membership meetings feature a new speaker each month discussing popular topics in the dental community.

Non-member dentists and dental students are welcome.

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Presentation: 7:30 p.m.

March 19th

An Update on Oral Cancer and Pre-cancerous Lesions

John M. Wright, DDS, MS



April 16th

Oral Cancer in Young People and the Role of HPV

Thomas Schlieve, DDS, MD, FACS



Need Meeting Space?

As a member of the DCDS, you can take advantage of low member rates when renting the Society's Executive Office for your next meeting.

The Dr. O.V. Cartwright Reception Hall is perfect for registration and a pre-function gathering.

The Dr. Paul P. Taylor Executive Board Room can seat 14 around a large conference table.

The Dr. D. Lamar Byrd Auditorium is 1,650 square feet of meeting space that can seat up to 200.

Audio/visual equipment is also available.

For more info, contact Ashley Hawkins at 972-386-5741 x231 or email info@dcds.org.



Tooth Talk Volunteers Needed

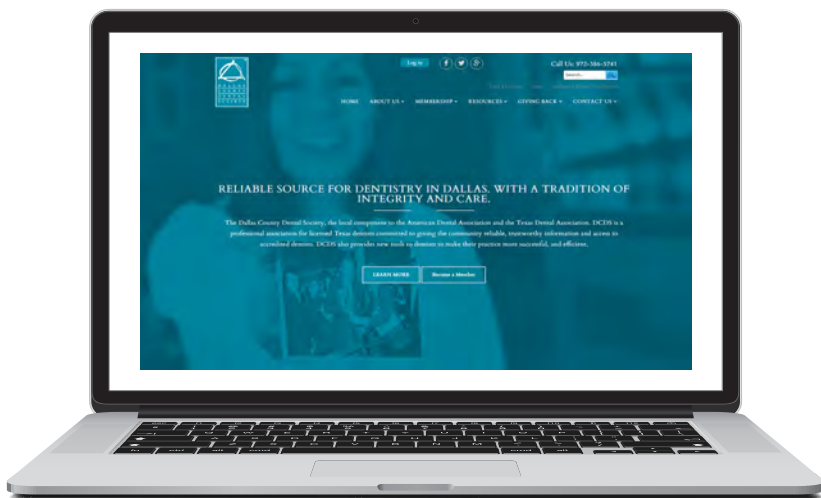
When school kicks into gear, so do we! Tooth Talk volunteers give oral health presentations at local elementary schools, in coordination with the Dallas Dental Hygienists' Society, with supplies provided by the DCDS Foundation.

To volunteer, contact:

Lori Dees at lori@dcds.org or 972-386-5741 x228.



Looking for a job? Have a position to fill in your office?



List it on the DCDS.org Job Bank!

Members list for free
(\$75/month for non-members)

Email a brief summary (100 words or less) of the position to: info@dcds.org.



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Legal and Ethical Considerations

Editorial by Robert M. Anderton, DDS, JD, LLM

From 1840 to 2019 – Where Do We Go From Here?



I recently read a speech delivered by the then President of the American Dental Association to the 1953 ADA House of Delegates. The speech summarized the accomplishments of

the dental profession during the previous one hundred thirteen years from the establishment of the first dental school in 1840 to the beginnings of the American Dental Association in 1859 and to the origin of our Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct in the 1920's.

As remarkable as those accomplishments were, they seem to pale in comparison to the accomplishments the profession has made since that speech was delivered in 1953. Since then, we have enjoyed the high-speed handpiece, panoramic radiographs, implants that actually integrate, and Cone Beam imagery to name only a few; and for the public, enhanced community fluoridation, preventive measures, safe anesthesia, sedation, antibiotics and much improved function and esthetics.

Besides the obvious advances in scientific and technological advances during the past sixty-six years, the ADA itself has experienced dramatic changes and challenges as well. In 1953, 79,000, or 86%, of the 92,000 dentists in the United States at that time were members of the ADA. Today a much smaller percentage of dentists belong to the ADA. This smaller percentage of membership creates challenges in representation and advocacy with the legislature and administrative bodies along with the culture and nature of dental practice itself. This challenge has evolved from many sources, but the advent of large multiple clinic practices, the cost of dental education and the huge student debt that seems to force new graduates into occasional adverse employment situations seem to be at the forefront.

The above cultural and economic changes have brought about challenges to our ethics as well. All members of the ADA take an oath to uphold and follow the provisions of the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

Too often, though, it appears that ethics give way to economic or expediency considerations. Almost all dental board and Medicaid violations have their origin first in ethical violations. A common alleged violation of Medicaid and Dental Board Rules is "overtreating", a violation of TSBDE Rule 108.9 Dishonorable Conduct and a violation of the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct - Section 5.B.6. This usually involves either diagnosing and/or charging for a treatment that was not verified radiographically or documented. This also includes "up-coding" or charging codes in error—commonly charging for a restorative procedure when the actual service was a preventive restoration or a sealant. Also, in this category is charging for a high noble restoration when the actual service was a base metal. A consistent pattern of the above violations could be and have been, interpreted as fraud – not merely Rule violations or unethical behavior

Many alleged violations come from a direct violation of the ADA Code - Section 4.C - Justifiable Criticism. In short, a dentist should not criticize the work of another dentist or make

disparaging remarks about another dentist without justification. This provision of the Code is frequently violated. Occasionally I encounter a case where the criticizing dentist, before knowing any of the circumstances, encourages a patient who has come in for a second opinion, to contact and complain to the Board about a previous diagnosis and/or treatment plan presented by another dentist.

It appears to be safe to say that through the years since our profession was begun in 1840 on sound professional and ethical principles, there have been many improvements and advancements benefiting both dentists and patients. Along with those advances have come some daunting challenges as well. These challenges have had a considerable impact on our ethical principles — an impact that surely will require changes. Those changes will require a critical evaluation of the character of our practices and our current ethical behavior. This in turn will require dedicated, committed and strong professional leadership.

Stay tuned – More to come!!



Insights

Book Review by Larry W. White, DDS, MSD, Editor

Vertical and Horizontal Ridge Augmentation; New Perspectives



I would think this formidable book would be on the shelf of any dentist engaged in the discipline of osseous ridge augmentation. I have never seen techniques so exquisitely displayed in photographs

and illustrations and the chapter on the surgical anatomy of the floor of the mouth would make this book well worth its price.

This reviewer has never seen such meticulous and descriptive dissections of this complicated area of the head and face. Everyone who performs any type of surgery in the mouth will gain a new appreciation for the susceptible nerves arteries and muscles with which they must contend; and I challenge anyone to ever again have a cavalier attitude about these easily

accessed but threatening anatomical features of oral surgery.

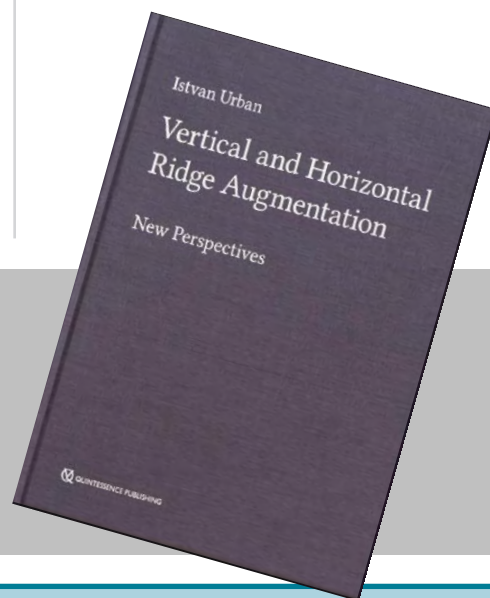
The narrative is sparse but entirely lucid and provides just the right amount of description to accompany the multitude of photographs and illustrations. Although this book is very much a how-to manual, it has copious bibliographies associated with each chapter.

Many of the chapters come from previous articles published by Dr. Urban, and dentists familiar with his work will appreciate having this collection along with other offerings in a single source. Dr. Urban devotes each chapter to the unique and particular needs of different areas of the mouth, e.g., the augmentation needs of the posterior mandible, anterior mandible, the anterior maxilla, papilla reconstruction, etc.

He discusses the various materials used for membranes and osseous sources and concedes

that although particulated autogenous bone remains the gold standard for augmentation, clinicians can supplement it with a 1:1 sharing of deproteinized, sterilized, bovine cancellous bone to provide a favorable scaffold for bone formation. A final chapter on recombinant human platelet-derived growth factor offers some encouragement for dentists and their patients

No simple review can do this book justice, but if you want and need a definitive guide to osseous augmentation, this is the best source I know.



Vertical and Horizontal Ridge Augmentation; New Perspectives

Dr. Istvan Urban
 \$244, 390 pp, 1229 illustrations & photographs
 Quintessence Publishing Co.
 Surrey KT3 3AB, United Kingdom



DCDS Foundation (DCDSF) is the philanthropic arm of the Dallas County Dental Society. Our mission is to enhance oral health in our community, including funding and supporting volunteers for activities such as the Veteran's Texas Mission of Mercy, schools and health fairs, scholarship program assisting Public Health Residency students, oral health education and dental sealants to DISD students and new smiles on the faces Hopeful Smiles women.

DCDSF is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift at <https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/> to ensure we have the financial resources to continue to enhance oral health in our community. THANK YOU for your continued support!



www.dcdsfoundation.org

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

by Jennifer Fuentes

Bridging college and profession through continuing education

With nearly 50 learning opportunities and enrichment programs every year, the Office of Continuing Education at Texas A&M College of Dentistry provides the highest-quality CE credits to dental professionals.

This represents at least one program a week says Dr. Amerian Sones, director, whose department recently completed reaccreditation by the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program. Lifelong learning with the latest technology in dentistry continues to bring alumni back to the college.

"Bridging College and Profession" is the department's slogan as its CE programs have ventured out of the lecture hall and into the clinic, a goal of Sones' since assuming the position in 2012. Providing lecture, hands-on and actual clinical experience uniquely positions the department in the continuing education realm.

One such program, the seven-month Dental Implant Continuum, currently in its fifth year, has trained approximately 70 general dentists and four full-time faculty members in implant placement through work on more than 150 patients. The continuum has provided a venue for Institutional Review Board-approved clinical research, conducted through the CE office, focusing on 62 of the continuum's patients.

Sones explains her leadership roles among general dentists and specialists in the Academy of Osseointegration have been good preparation for her department's initiatives.

"Continuing education requires similar leadership skills as a private practice except rather than patients coming to your office, you have dental professionals attending," she says. "Managing and balancing a budget and ensuring that productivity is met are important for our department, too. The academy has taught me about staying current with new trends in dentistry and the importance of organized dentistry."

This year, new part-time continuing education staff members who are Caruth School of Dental Hygiene graduates will help expand the department's marketing footprint and coordinate development of online courses for around-the-clock accessibility.



Dr. Minh Nguyen, left, and Dr. Amerian Sones treat a patient during the Continuing Education Dental Implant Continuum in spring 2016.

"New to 2019, we aspire to provide CME — continuing medical education — credit through Texas A&M College of Medicine," Sones says. "This will permit us to award a credit letter to nurses, physicians, radiation oncologists, pathologists and other health professionals to enhance our interprofessional, collaborative efforts in continuing education.

"As the only maxillofacial prosthodontist at the Sammons Cancer Center since 2012, I hope to invite the head and neck team to our CE program on oral pathology and provide CME credit. This could ultimately impact patient outcomes positively as we collaborate on the diagnosis and treatment of oral and systemic diseases."

Sones explains the CE program will remain on the sixth floor of the existing building after the college's new clinical facility opens, bringing clinical hands-on courses and even more live-patient programs.

"Our goal is that the next generation of dental professionals will look to the college for

lifelong learning and return to sharpen and enhance their skills in a world-class facility using the latest technology, materials and equipment," Sones explains. "As our local programs develop, we also have plans to expand into an international reputation as dental professionals travel to Dallas to gain education and knowledge. As you can see, continuing education has a bright future!"



Texas A&M College of Dentistry (formerly Baylor College of Dentistry) in Dallas is a part of Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Health Science Center. Founded in 1905, the College of Dentistry is a nationally recognized center for oral health sciences education, research, specialized patient care and continuing dental education. Learn more at dentistryinsider.tamhsc.edu or follow @TAMUdental.

10th Annual DCDS Shred-a-Thon

Friday, April 19, 2019
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
DCDS Executive Office
(behind the building)

Free to DCDS members. As a member benefit, DCDS has once again contracted with [Action Shred of Texas](#) to provide on-site shredding and e-destruction services in the DCDS back parking lot. This is a great opportunity to securely dispose of documents and electronics while making a positive impact on the environment! Enjoy complimentary lunch (grilled hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings) with your colleagues.

On-site Shredding Services. While you watch, your materials are shredded into tiny pieces. Watch the results through a porthole in the side of the Action Shred truck, ensuring chain of custody has been maintained to meet any regulatory requirements. X-rays should be separated from paper prior to drop off. Due to time constraints, some materials will be shredded at the Action Shred facility.

E-destruction Services. Ready to upgrade your computers, servers, phones or other electronics? Need to dispose of those outdated electronics? Action Shred will accept computers/laptops, monitors, printers, fax machines, mobile phones, PDAs, modems, smart phones, cords and cables, keyboards, copiers, and more!

RSVP to ashley@dcds.org
or 972-386-5741 by April 17.
Please provide the number
attending for lunch along with
an email address with your
RSVP.





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✔ Adjunct Professor, Texas A&M College of Dentistry



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Staying Ahead of the Game: Your Tripartite Membership Working for You

ADA Response to "Root Causes"



January 29, 2019

A version of this letter was sent to executives at Netflix, Amazon, Apple and Vimeo.

The American Association of Endodontists, the American Dental Association, and the American Association for Dental Research are concerned about a film on your platform entitled *Root Cause*, which alleges root canals are linked to numerous medical issues — a claim that has been disproven by decades' worth of peer-reviewed, scientific evidence.

Our organizations, which represent 8,000 endodontists, 163,000 dentists, and 3,300 dental researchers believe your platform is doing a disservice to subscribers by hosting this film. We are concerned its baseless claims may cause unwarranted alarm among your viewers to the point where they might avoid a very necessary dental procedure.

For example, in *Root Cause*, it is repeatedly stated that "97 percent of women who have breast cancer had a root canal tooth on the same side as their breast cancer." This statement exploits the public's fear of cancer and is not supported by medical evidence.

The premise the film is based on dates back to research conducted in the 1920s which was later disproved because the original conditions for the experiments were poorly controlled and performed in non-sterile environments. Perhaps most importantly, other researchers have not been able to duplicate the results from the original experiment. Why portray information demonstrated to be incorrect as fact?

Approximately 25 million new endodontic treatments, including root canals, are performed safely and effectively each year. Root canal treatment eliminates bacteria from an infected tooth, prevents reinfection of the tooth, and saves the natural tooth. Endodontic treatment is often the best option for a patient with an infected tooth, allowing the person to keep their tooth, continue to eat normally, and maintain their natural smile.

We do not know if this film has been widely viewed on your platform, but we are concerned for those who have seen it. We respectfully suggest that continuing to host this film is potentially harmful to the public, allowing the spread of fear based on misinformation and speculation that is not supported by medical evidence.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Taylor, D.D.S.
President
American Association of Endodontists

Jeffrey M. Cole, D.D.S., M.B.A.
President
American Dental Association

Maria Emanuel Ryan, D.D.S., Ph.D.
President
American Association for Dental Research

Staying Ahead of the Game: Your Tripartite Membership Working for You

Regulatory Reminder: Dental X-Ray Equipment

The state of Texas is rewriting the rule governing dental radiation machines. Since early 2018, TDA worked closely with the Radiation Control Program and leadership at the Texas Department of State Health Services on the new rule language. TDA's efforts are helping to ensure that the final rule represents a regulatory approach that protects the public's health and safety and does not subject dentists to unnecessary regulation.

TDA will keep members informed when the final rule is adopted and will also provide members with regulatory assistance.

— Texas Dental Association

Dental Board to Clarify Rules for Sedation/Anesthesia

All Texas dentists holding a sedation/anesthesia permit—Nitrous Oxide, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4—are required to create and maintain preoperative checklists, meet emergency preparedness standards, and meet requirements governing prevention and response to sedation/anesthesia emergencies.

To help members with compliance, TDA worked closely with the dental board to better refine the rule language and dispel incorrect information being circulated throughout the state. The TSBDE is amending current rule language to clarify the requirements specific to each sedation/anesthesia permit level. After the dental board finalizes the rule changes, TDA will host a free compliance assistance webinar for its members.

— Texas Dental Association

ADA Statement on Study Involving Dental Floss

Recent, wide-spread news coverage based upon a recent research study may raise unwarranted concern about the safety of certain types of dental floss. The ADA Science Institute finds the data insufficient to support the conclusions

presented in this research and associated media coverage.

No restrictions on the use of dental floss have been issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the regulatory agency that oversees clearance of dental products marketed to the public. It is also important to bear in mind that this is a single study. Public health policy and safety decisions should be based on the collective weight of scientific evidence.

The study, published in the *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology*, involves a small sample of 178 women and their self-reported use of a wide array of consumer products and foods.

The study measured blood samples from 178 women and found that those who reported using a certain brand of dental floss had higher levels of a type of PFAS called PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid) than those who didn't.

One of many shortcomings of this study, according to the ADA Science Institute, is that the study measured fluorine as a marker of PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene), though the women in the study who reported using a particular brand of floss were found to have elevated levels of PFHxS.

PTFE is often used in food and beverage, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic applications. The fact that the researchers were able to find the PTFE marker in several brands of floss does not mean that it is the source of the PFHxS in the women.

Given that this was a retrospective study including self-reported use of products, there are likely many other differences between women who did and did not report having used the brand of floss mentioned.

The ADA sees no cause for concern based on current evidence, and above all continues to encourage people to clean between their teeth daily with floss or other interdental cleaner as part of the ADA's daily oral hygiene recommendations.

— by American Dental Association

ADA Practice Transitions

ADA Practice Transitions is a new service offered through ADA Business Innovations Group to foster relationships between dentists at key points in their careers. The purpose is to match dentists who are looking to join a practice with owners who are seeking a partner, associate or someone to purchase their practice

ADA Practice Transitions was developed after field research uncovered a need in the marketplace for dentists who want to connect for both employment opportunities and to facilitate the transition of a practice from one owner to another but have had difficulty doing so. Research also found additional needs around learning skills related to basic business management, ownership, patient acquisition, purchasing and staff relationships.

Dentists from Wisconsin and Maine will be the first to test an online platform in the first quarter of 2019. Using an algorithm, the online service will match dentists with practice owners by considering aspects such as philosophy of care, personality traits, location and desired practice characteristics. The online platform also will offer tips, tools and training relevant to each dentist's situation. An advisor will be assigned to the partnership to help facilitate the process and foster a positive relationship for both parties beyond the transaction.

In addition to the online platform, ADA Practice Transitions will also oversee the ADA board-approved pilot initiative to test the feasibility of purchasing up to two dental practices with an intention to sell the practices to dentists who express interest after a target period of time. This initiative was developed after research found a surprising number of practices that are closing down simply because the owner dentist could not find a buyer for the practice. Many of these practices are located in rural areas.

For more information on ADA Practice Transitions, visit ADA.org/PracticeTransitions.

— by American Dental Association

Capitation v. Fee-for-Service – Update

by Robert M. Anderton, DDS, JD, LLM

I asked the question in a previous article in Connection, CAPITATION v. FEE-FOR-SERVICE?, “If State Dental Medicaid plans can be converted to capitation plans, can private managed care fee-for-service plans be far behind? In that same article I stated, “.....” actual negotiations are underway at this time beginning with larger, multiple clinic practices.” The semantics can be confusing, but make no mistake – Value Based Model and Alternative Payment Plan, are the preferred terms of Texas HHSC and the Dental Managed Care Organizations, (DMOs) but they mean the same thing – Capitation Plans.

The report of negotiations was true then and it is true now. In fact, Texas Dentists for Medicaid Reform reported in its December 11, 2018, issue that Brident Dental, a Texas organization that operates 34 clinics in Texas, announced that they have worked out with the

State of Texas and their dental partners in the Medicaid program a value-based program. To my knowledge, Brident is one of the first Medicaid providers to make a value-based payment agreement, while others are currently negotiating.

At its December meeting, the HHSC Medicaid Advisory Committee, received a report that the goal is to convert all Dental Medicaid providers to “value-based payment models” by the end of 2023. The plan obviously is to enlist the large providers first and then the smaller, individual practices. While HHSC and the DMOs consistently emphasize that no provider will be forced to convert to a capitation plan, every provider must periodically sign a participation contract that can be canceled usually with 60 days’ notice.

Why should non-Medicaid providers be concerned? In a November 11, 2018

memorandum to Representative Richard Raymond, Chair House Human Services, for presentation to attendees at a meeting of DMOs, HHSC officials, representatives of TDA and Medicaid Providers, TDA reported that 47.9% of dentists in Texas are Medicaid providers. Surely if the number of providers remains the same, the above goal of HHSC and the DMOs is achieved and 47.9% of Texas dentists convert their Medicaid payment plans to a Value-Based Payment Plan (Capitation), it will not go unnoticed by private fee-for-service payers. Value-Based Models can and will work for some, and we should work to see that reimbursement system is as good as we can make it for those; but at the same time we have to ensure that our traditional fee-for-service system is also enhanced and preserved.

Sounds like a major challenge for our 2019 Legislative Agenda!

Tooth Talk Fun

Dr. Steve Levy volunteered on February 6, 2019 at Ignacio Zaragoza Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. He spoke with sixty students in two classrooms about the importance of oral health. “The kids were attentive, appreciative and fun,” said Dr. Levy. “Volunteering is a great way to give back to our community as well as to our profession. Consider it the next time an opportunity presents itself!”

DCDS Foundation provided goodie bags with toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste and match-game puzzle sheet.



Thank you for your membership in the ADA, TDA and DCDS!

You should have already received your 2019 Annual Dues Statement in the mail. We offer 3 easy ways to pay:

- 1) Send a check or your credit card information in the envelope enclosed with your statement; OR
- 2) Call the office to pay over the phone with a credit card; OR
- 3) Quickly and easily pay online today! Visit tda.org, login and then click on the “Membership Renewal” button located just beneath “Access My Profile.”

PAYMENT OPTIONS are available for all members with monthly payments through October or a 3-month plan. Sign up now to take advantage of the maximum number of payments.

AUTO-RENEWAL is also available for all members! As you pay your 2019 dues, you can choose to auto-renew for 2020.



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Six months...for many it simply means half a year. For a dental practice, it often means scheduling patients for recall. For a conference planning team, it feels like too little time. It seems hard to believe, but we are just a 'tad' bit over six months away from the Southwest Dental Conference.

This year we have a unique opportunity to offer a highly impactful meeting in a two-day format. We maintain the reputation of world class speakers, top-notch hands-on workshops and topics that enlighten the whole team.

The Dental Team will be well informed by practice management speakers Lois Banta and Kirk Behrendt, while Drs. Tieraona Low Dog and Uche Odiatu discuss nutrition and health. These energetic speakers provide priceless information in an engaging and entertaining way.

Periodontics and Oral Health will be led by our own extremely talented Drs. Jacqueline Plemons and Pat Allen, along with Dr. Theresa Gonzalez.

Dental Implant technology and utilization is ever changing. Who better to expand our knowledge, treatment modalities and proficiencies than Dr. Will Martin and Dr. Eric Blasingame?

Lectures and hands-on workshops in the field of Restorative Dentistry allow us to sharpen our skills in esthetics and functionality. Drs. Robert Margeas and Dennis Hartlieb will lead the charge here, and who other than Dr. John Burgess to give us the latest and greatest in dental materials.

These topics are just a hint of what the 2019 Southwest Dental Conference will offer to help you develop your skills, motivate your staff and improve your bottom line. The outstanding clinician speakers will encourage you to become Inspired-Empowered-Equipped. Set October 10-11 aside for your whole team to join us!

Dr. Todd Baumann
 2019 Southwest Dental Conference
 Chairman

