

DCDS connection

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



Mission Statement

Serving the professional
needs of our members

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What was two weeks worth to you?

Jon Vogel, DDS

Chairman of DCDS Legislative Committee



Every year in preparation for TDA Legislative Day there is always one piece of advice — “Just tell your story.” At this point, we all have directly felt the impact of the coronavirus on our

communities, our families, and particularly our practices. We all have a story.

Picture it—March 16th, 2020. The pandemic was spreading across the United States, death rates were skyrocketing, and the American Dental Association put out a statement recommending postponing elective procedures. Remember how you felt. Was it scared? Frustrated? Hopeless? Alone? Remember the worry and concern you felt for your office, your staff, and your patients. And then, we were shut down.

It was unprecedented. Our profession was deemed non-essential. Our staff was furloughed, our practices shuttered. Thankfully, evidence quickly began to emerge that dentistry could be performed safely for both patients and providers with adequate PPE and hygiene. Yet the moratorium dragged on. Days became weeks, weeks became a month, and by late April the planned endpoint was still a month away. We needed a champion.

On April 27th, after weeks of providing invaluable input and testimony to the Governor’s Task force, vigorously advocating on our behalf, the TDA announced their success. The Governor’s task force would allow elective dental procedures to resume starting May 1st. The TDA was responsible for shortening the shutdown by two full weeks!

Many of us are small business owners, and in business, money talks. So, go back to your

“**Think about what those two weeks meant to you, to your staff, to your patients. The next chapter of the story is yours to write.**”

EHR, and scroll back to May 1st. Total your revenue up to May 14th. Now take this number and multiply it by 0.3 (national average for net income.)

This is what TDA saved you.

This is the value of your membership.

This is your donations to DENPAC at work.

For example, in 2019, according to the Levin Group Annual Practice survey (1) the average dental practice revenue was \$1.2 million, or approximately \$23,000 a week. Opening two weeks early would have generated about \$46,000 in revenue, or \$13,800 in net income for this practice.

At the national level, CARES Act Provider Relief funds were not initially available to dentists, and our eligibility was the result of the ADA’s efforts.

Continued on page 9...



The Write Stuff

Drew Vanderbrook, DDS, President

New Year, New Hope



It's a new year and I am hopeful that it can be a great year. This past year did not go as anyone would have imagined with many unexpected challenges caused by the pandemic. The effects of

the pandemic caused our dental offices to be closed for weeks, hard decisions to be made, and ultimately changed the way we practiced dentistry. We all became too familiar with acronyms like PPP and EIDL. Furthermore, the holiday season is a time for celebrations and gathering with friends and family – and that looked different to many of us as well.

I am hopeful and optimistic that 2021 is going to be a better year. There have been promising advances with three major COVID vaccines. We are now better prepared and have learned much more about this virus over the last several months. Hopefully these advances bring with them the chance of returning to “normal”.

At Dallas County Dental Society, we have continued to work hard and as best as we can, given the circumstances. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were not able to hold a Southwest Dental Conference last fall. Dr. Mary Swift and the Scientific Committee have been working to plan for a great event in August of 2021. Another change in 2020 was that our DCDS general membership and committee meetings have been held virtually since March.

Although not what we had originally planned, there were many benefits of these on-line meetings. We were able to increase access to more people, accommodate larger crowds,

and have flexible scheduling. We were also able to host a non-local speaker for a CE event. Our most recent general membership meeting was wonderfully received and we had nearly 200 people registered for the course by Dr. McNeill. We would not have been able to fit that many people in our auditorium if the event was held in-person.

Continuing education courses outside of the General Membership Meetings were also created virtually, with discounts for our members and their staff. We had great interest and we are planning a digital implant continuum in the spring with one course each month in February, March, and April.

I know 2020 might have been a difficult year for you, your staff and your loved ones. As dentists we were heavily impacted. As your president I am here to support you and it is important that we continue to support each other. I hope the new year can bring new hope and “normalcy” as we move on together.

“There have been promising advances with three major COVID vaccines. We are now better prepared and have learned much more about this virus over the last several months. Hopefully these advances bring with them the chance of returning to “normal”.



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Managing EditorRosemary S. Martinez
Executive Director Jane D. Evans

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Impressions

Editorial by Shad Hattaway, DDS, Editor

Relax, you have support.



It is Wednesday and you get the call we all have been dreading. The staff member you've been working very closely with for the past two days is not feeling well and they think they have

been exposed to someone who was COVID-19 positive. This is your first time having first-hand experience with COVID in your office and you have no idea what you are going to do. Questions start flooding your thoughts: Will my staff member be okay? Did any patients get exposed while they were in my office? Are we going to have to close the office? Panic sets in and brain freezes. The first thing you need to do is relax. As a member of organized dentistry you can rest assured that you have the resources needed to appropriately handle most COVID situations that come through your office.

I run a small private practice, but I have an advantage of being experienced with these questions because I am the president of a much larger dental non-profit. I have had the advantage of dealing with these problems in my non-profit well before anything happened in my own office. Out of necessity we have developed a COVID-19 protocol to outline the actions we will take. I have had these calls from my non-profit staff members well before anything

happened in our office simply due to the larger number of staff and larger volume of patients they care for daily.

If you have not already done so, you should have a dynamic protocol written out on what to do for COVID related occurrences that could happen in your office. This protocol should answer basic questions such as: Exposure of staff to suspected and confirmed COVID-19 positive people outside of the office, exposure of confirmed COVID-19 positive people in the office, employee travel and employee paid leave benefits, protocol for informing patients in your office during a time when they may have been present.

If you have not needed to use your protocol and do not know if it will stand the test to an actual action plan – you can use some simple resources available through the ADA and the TDA to answer these questions. As we have been weathering this COVID-19 storm, we have resources that are constantly developing and adapting to our changing environment. There are more definitive answers on what to do that we did not previously have available and we should use our network of resources through organized dentistry to help us along the way.

Regarding the COVID protocol, in our office the first thing we do is get confirmation of a COVID diagnosis. As dentists, we already follow

“If you have not already done so, you should have a dynamic protocol written out on what to do for COVID related occurrences that could happen in your office.”

a very high standard of infection control and daily tasks are normally completed with PPE on, which includes an N95 mask. This is an advantage to other professions where they do not have staff properly trained to properly don and doff PPE. We have developed a protocol that all team members have been an integral part of developing and implementing. We have been very accommodating to patient and staff fears and have worked through them in a very systematic fashion.

No matter what systems you have in place, there are always variations that seem to go outside of a designed protocol. Those are situations where you have to use your good judgment. These good judgment calls are much easier when you have prepared yourself to similar circumstances. Here in Texas, we have been afforded this luxury and we can not take it for granted. Just like we prepare for medical emergencies in the office, we have been practicing our COVID-19 protocol and changing it as new information has come to light. Since our initial protocol, we have updated our process four different times. We need to keep our offices open to be able to treat the communities we live in, but we also need to make every effort to be safe and respectful. Do not wait until you have a positive COVID-19 case in your office, start preparing today.

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 related protocols in your office, you can visit some of the provided resources we have listed here. Stay safe, stay informed and God bless.

Click for Member Resources Regarding COVID-19 Exposure

TDA: COVID-19 notification requirements for Texas. Here's what you must do if you have a positive case in your practice.

TSBDE COVID-19 Emergency Rule. See tab at bottom labeled *Protocol if DHCP Suspects an Exposure to COVID-19*

ADA: When Staff or Household Members Test Positive for COVID-19. This includes a flowchart, risk assessment and strategies for self-quarantine and returning to work if a staff member or someone in their household tests positive for COVID-19. (member login required)

ADA: When a Patient Tests Positive for COVID-19. Learn the steps high- and low-exposure staff should take if a patient reports a positive COVID-19 test after their dental appointment.

ADA: Managing COVID-Related Leave in the Dental Office. Video on who in the dental office is entitled to employer-paid COVID leave or unemployment under recent federal legislation.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Telephone: 214-819-2000

Testing Centers in Dallas. Locations for Covid-19 Tests.

From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

2020 Recap



I have tried to write my article three times and find it a difficult task with the pandemic we are going through. I miss my family, friends, going out to dinner, traveling and meeting face to face for meetings—as I am sure each of you do as well. On the bright side, we have resources to meet virtually to conduct business, visit with family and friends. Since March all DCDS meetings and CE have been held virtually. I am hopeful that with a vaccine 2021 will be a better year for all of us!

DCDS Dental Assisting School

We were approved to continue with in-person classes since class size is small. The current class has three students who will graduate on December 18, 2020. All three students have passed their RDA and have interviews scheduled prior to completing the program. Ms. Angela Bush (director) has implemented new procedures to the program and is an asset to the DCDS Dental Assisting School.

Dues Dollars at Work/ Membership Value

- ADA lobbied that oral health is essential for overall health. This resulted in dentists being classified as an essential business.
- ADA/TDA/DCDS kept you updated regularly on guidelines for infection control, resources for PPE, EIDL and/or PPP loan information. All three entities regularly communicated to the public that it is safe to go to the dentist.
- TDA is lobbying for the dental team to be moved up a tier to receive the vaccine.
- You have access to the most updated information and answers to your questions by going to tda.org/COVID19-Resources.

DCDS Foundation

Due to COVID 19 the foundation will not be able to host an in-person Give Kids A Smile event in 2021. Currently Dr. Rei Iwase is working on a plan to host an educational event virtually for the students.

DENPAC

If you have not made an investment by giving to DenPac do so today. DenPac supports candidates for state office who support dentists and patients.

Quoted by Dr. Jacqueline Plemons, TDA President, in the August edition of TDA Today: “Through advocacy, the TDA helped prevent dentists from being completely shut down (eg, no care at all — not even emergency care) which happened in other states. The value of being at the table can’t be underestimated.”

SWDC

I reported in the July/August issue of DCDS Connection that the DCDS Board of Directors along with the upcoming SWDC Chairmen made the difficult decision that it was impossible to hold the 2020 SWDC due to Covid-19. I am pleased to report that we are planning an in-person meeting for the 2021 SWDC. The program is complete with most of the clinicians that were scheduled for the 2020 SWDC along with a few additions. Also, approximately half of the exhibitors had faith that we will hold a Conference next year and rolled their exhibit booth fees to the 2021 SWDC. The SWDC Website should be live early February for registration.

DCDS Website

We are currently working on a redesign of the DCDS website that will allow members to login to the DCDS website, TDA website and ADA website with the same login, making access to all three membership-only areas effortless! We hope to have the redesign complete after the New Year rolls in.

Survey Question of the Month

15 DCDS members completed each and every one of the nine single-question surveys sent out electronically and were put in a drawing for a giftcard. Congratulations to Dr. John Bercier, who won the \$50 Visa giftcard.



Do you know what other dentists are charging for treatments?

Click here for the ADA’s 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, available for download from the Association’s catalog. It is free for members and for purchase by nonmembers. The survey includes a national-level snapshot of fees charged for more than 250 of the most common dental treatments, average fees for general practice and specialties, and average fees reported by general practitioners and grouped by US Census region.



Human Trafficking Course

Texas Legislature passed HB2059 this past year, requiring continuing education in human trafficking prevention for all health care practitioners providing direct patient care. Courses taken to meet this requirement must be approved by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). This CE must be completed before a license or registration renewal. Click here for Course ID 1087568, a free, 1-hour online course for health care practitioners...and share it with your staff!

New Dentists

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice

by Priscila Schaefer, DDS

An In-House Lab: The Priceless Commodity



We've all been there — going through the inconvenience of having to send a restoration back and reschedule a patient because it didn't fit or look right. Either the shade is way off, or it is out of occlusion or missing a contact. It is probably one of the biggest daily headaches for a restorative dentist.

The benefits of having an in-house lab are invaluable and can help increase productivity significantly. It can be incredibly tempting to cement and send the patient home with something that's "good enough", but is that what the patient paid for? Is that up to the standard of something that we would want in our own mouth?

To have a functional lab that can carry out all the necessary tasks, you need to begin with the right person that is congenial and qualified to run it and who is familiar with the right equipment.

Patients place an enormous trust in us, and challenge us at the same time to deliver a fully functional, quality and esthetic product — and in a timely manner if it's not too much to ask. It is all too common that an added pressure to deliver a denture, crown, etc. is put on us to accommodate an upcoming event or time frame that the patient has in mind. It is quite advantageous to not have to send or ship a case and add extra days for delivery or extra rush fees with external labs. The ability to oversee every step of the way—from pouring and pinning

master impressions and ditching your own dies to digitally designing a framework—is worthwhile in the long run.

Setting up an efficient lab, however, is no easy task. To have a functional lab that can carry out all the necessary tasks, you need to begin with the right person that is congenial and qualified to run it and who is familiar with the right equipment. Safety standards and protocols for each material must also be observed while keeping up with new materials and techniques that are constantly released into the dental world.

Though having a lab in house may add more things to your daily to do list of practice management, your involvement and clinical input while each restoration or prosthesis is being fabricated is priceless. I consider myself privileged to be able to work with an in-house lab in our private practice and get to implement all the knowledge imparted to me during residency. I highly recommend to all new practitioners out there setting up a new office—or even making changes to their existing one—to consider integrating such a valuable addition to their office.



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DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

Register at www.dcds.org/events

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – Let's Prevent Oropharyngeal Cancer

February 16, 2021 – Digital Implant Dentistry, Pt. 1

February 23, 2021 – General Membership Meeting: Common Pathologic Lesions/Conditions a Dentist Should Recognize and Be Able to Manage

March 23, 2021 – Digital Implant Dentistry, Pt. 2

April 13, 2021 – Digital Implant Dentistry, Pt. 3

April 20, 2021 – General Membership Meeting: Fit to Lead: 2021



Welcome New Members!

Graduate Students

James Womack

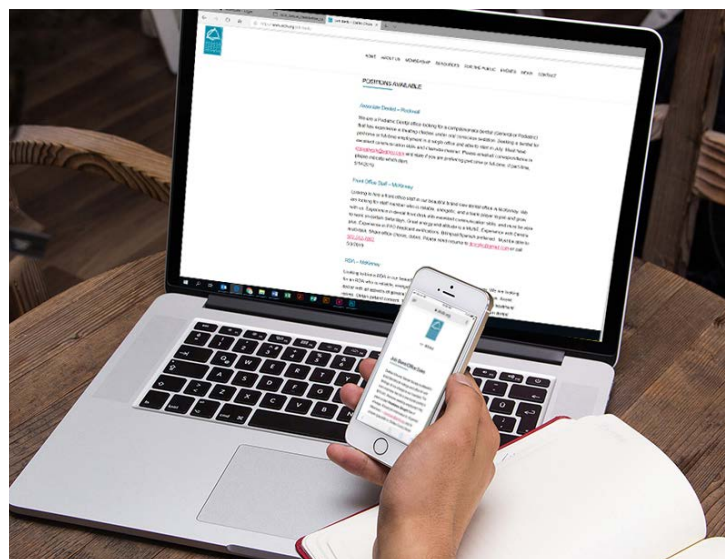
In Memoriam:

John Adams Ludden

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

**Want to sell office space?
or office equipment?**

List it on the DCDS.org Job Bank/Practice Sales!
Members list for free (\$75/month for non-members.)
Email a brief summary (100 words or less, in paragraph format) of the post to:
rosemary@dcds.org.



DCDS Membership Benefits

Being a member of the associations that work to protect your profession is important to the success of a practice...pass along the benefits to your peers!

- Free registration to DCDS's annual Southwest Dental Conference
- Peer Review mediation service to reconcile complaints between patients and doctors
- Rent DCDS meeting facilities at special member rates
- Free or discounted continuing education via seminars & General Membership Meetings
- First opportunity to hire fully trained world-class assistants from DCDS Dental Assisting School
- Preprinted 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

TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS: Text DCDSMEMBERS to 41411

Have you ever wished you could receive reminders for DCDS meetings and events? Do you forget to put events/meetings on your calendar? DCDS implemented text messaging so you will not forget another meeting. Just sign up and you will be reminded of future meetings and events.





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.

The Dentists Concerned for Dentists program provides a strictly confidential peer assistance program for health care professionals who struggle with drug and alcohol abuse. 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

HELP YOURSELF

If you're in crisis, there are options available to help you cope. You can call the above hotline at any time to speak to someone and get support. For confidential support available 24/7 for everyone in the United States, you can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

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.

DCDS facilities include free parking, free wifi, use of small kitchenette, and ability to bring in food and non-alcoholic beverages.

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



...Continued from page 1

This program provided dentists two percent of annual revenues. Applied to the example practice above, this is about \$24,000. So, in total, dental advocacy delivered \$37,800 to an average Texas practice this year. This lifeline was essential to keeping many practices open and safely caring for our patients.

Remember — organized dentistry gained access to financial support to your practice that otherwise never would have existed. What government relief we received was no coincidence. Please remember this the next time your membership renewal comes up, or when someone from DCDS or TDA asks you to donate to DENPAC. \$37,800 pays for decades of membership. We need your help, and we need your donations to keep our advocacy efforts successful.

Think about what those two weeks meant to you, to your staff, to your patients. The next chapter of the story is yours to write. Please go to <https://www.tda.org/denpac> and donate today. Any amount, even ten dollars. Dental advocacy has been there for us, and now is the time to return that support.



DENPAC

Sneak Peek at TDA Legislative Day

TDA Legislative Day will take place on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions closing the Texas Capitol to the public, it will be held virtually this year. The TDA is still determining what this will look like, but the hope is to have a keynote speaker and to go over our legislative agenda with participants. Instructions on setting up virtual meetings with legislative offices will be forthcoming. Three of our top legislative priorities include:

Teledentistry

- Many Texas dentists currently utilize technology to care for their patients. If existing standards of care are strictly met, the TDA supports using technology to provide care to patients.
- As directed by the House of Delegates, the TDA will pursue legislation to align dentistry with telehealth and telemedicine, uphold the current standard of care in dentistry, and mandate proper dentist oversight, supervision, and delegation.
- The effort will include defining teledentistry in law to authorize and limit services delivered by a dentist, or a health care professional (dental hygienist, dental assistant) acting under the delegation and supervision of a dentist, within the existing standard of care and scope of their respective license or certification to a patient at a different physical location using telecommunications or information technology.

Dental Insurance

- *Network Leasing/Silent PPO*
 - o Dental insurance can often be confusing for both patients and dentists. This is certainly true with silent preferred provider organizations (PPOs).
 - o In a silent PPO, the original insurance plan sells or rents its provider network to other payors of dental services such as insurance companies, self-funded plans, or others. Participating dentists routinely have no knowledge of the sale or the rental.
 - o Contracting dentists must clearly be made aware when an insurance carrier sells or rents its network to other payors.

- o The TDA will pursue legislation to mandate that insurance carriers properly notify dentists when the plan they join is sold or rented to another payor.
- *Retroactive Denials*
 - o Dental insurers audit their claim payment/adjudication activities before and after payments to ensure accuracy and efficiency. While it is appropriate for insurance carriers to audit payments for errors and adjust accordingly, it is unfair for carriers to expect dentists to refund payments after a significant amount of time has passed before the dental insurer determines that it erroneously paid the dentist.
 - o The TDA will pursue legislation establishing a process for dental insurance carriers to use if auditing dentist providers that will include a reasonable audit timeframe during which a carrier must complete the audit.

State Budget

- The legislature must pass a balanced budget every two years. The budget is always a priority and focal point of legislators and stakeholders including the TDA.
- When lawmakers gather in Austin at the beginning of 2021, they will face challenges with the budget they must write for the 2022-23 biennium. The current pandemic has negatively impacted state revenue streams including sales tax and oil and gas severance taxes.
- Specific to dentistry/oral health, state government provides vital funding to the TSBDE, the Medicaid dental program, the dental schools, clinic operations at the dental schools, loan assistance programs, and many other programs that affect dentistry. Many of these programs rely on discretionary funding which will be extremely limited.
- The TDA will work in the 87th session to maintain—and increase where possible—funding levels for these and many other programs that affect dentists and dental patients.

As the voice of dentistry in Texas, the TDA is the state's leading oral health advocate in the legislative and regulatory arenas. Go to <https://www.tda.org/advocacy> for more information.

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Spring General Membership Meetings

FEBRUARY 23 ORAL PATHOLOGY • VIRTUAL MEETING

Two hours CE credit now provided as a member benefit. Please note new fee structure:

DCDS Members	FREE
TAMUCOD Students	FREE
DCDS Member staff	FREE
Non-member dentists	\$95
Non-member staff	\$95

General Membership Meetings provide an excellent opportunity to introduce potential members to the many benefits of organized dentistry, so please take time to welcome them.



Common Pathologic Lesions/Conditions a Dentist Should Recognize and be able to Manage

John M. Wright, DDS

AGD Code: 730/739
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided

As dentists, you are responsible for the oral health of your patients. In addition to tooth decay and gum disease, you are responsible for any pathologic condition that might occur in one of your patients' oral cavity. Some of these conditions are sufficiently rare and require referral to a specialist for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment; but common things occur commonly. This lecture will provide an overview of those conditions/lesions that a dentist should be able to recognize, diagnose and treat confidently and competently.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THESE VIRTUAL EVENTS!
REGISTER ONLINE FOR BOTH EVENTS AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS**



Fit to Lead: 2021

Meridan Zerner, MS, RDN, CSSD, LD

AGD Code: 150/770
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided

Now more than ever, health matters. We can appreciate what small, intentional changes can do to increase our quality and quantity of life and pull from evidence-based strategies to guide those changes. Stress management, better nutrition and mindful movement have been shown to enhance energy and performance in the moment and deliver a long, healthy prescription for our later years.

Business Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
CE Presentation: 6:45 p.m.

APRIL 20 • VIRTUAL MEETING

2021-2022 DCDS Nomination Slate

Elections will take place at the February 23, 2021 General Membership Meeting.

POSITION	TERM	NOMINEE
Board of Directors - Director	3 Years	Thomas Schlieve
	3 Years	Wendy Steger
Editor-elect	2 Years	Jordana Contrucci Ruiz
Program Chairman	1 Year	Stephanie Briggs
Southwest Dental Conference Vice Chair-elect	1 Year	Drew Vanderbrook
Secretary/Treasurer-elect	2 Years	Andrew Read-Fuller
Alternate Delegate to the Texas Dental Association	1 Year	Jon Vogel
	1 Year	Andrew-Read Fuller
	1 Year	Wendy Steger
	1 Year	Sara Eshani
	1 Year	Chi Trieu
Constitution & Bylaws	3 Years	Corbin Alhadeif
Financial Advisory Committee	5 years	Brad Crump
Judicial Committee	5 Years	Brad Crump
Peer Review Committee	3 Years	Stephanie Briggs
	3 Years	Linda Cheng
	3 Years	Brooks Haney
	3 Years	Kimberly Sheppard
	3 Years	Aline Speer
	3 Years	Joe Simmons
	3 Years	Andrew Read-Fuller
President-elect	1 Year	To be nominated from the floor

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Kathleen Green Pothier

Dental school steps in with oncology care to fill closed clinic's void

For nine years, Texas A&M College of Dentistry faculty have overseen care for oral cancer patients at Sammons Dental Clinic within Baylor University Medical Center. That commitment to patients continues despite two major changes that occurred this spring: COVID-19 and the pre-planned permanent shuttering of the clinic in May.

The College of Dentistry has kept its commitment to existing oncology patients despite the clinic closing and the dental school's move to emergency-only protocol, says Dr. Amerian Sones, who has treated patients at the clinic since 2012. Oral cancer patients meet Texas Dental Association and American Dental Association guidelines as must-see urgent care patients, so treatment went uninterrupted.

"Unfortunately, cancer doesn't recognize that there is a pandemic occurring and patients continually need care," says Sones, director of the Office of Continuing Education at the dental school and AEGD prosthodontic faculty member. "It was a time of uncertainty as I continued to see patients during this shelter-in-place without the benefits of N95 masks and face shields. It was really a difficult and trying time. I was very creative in my PPE."

The school is now working toward opening its own dental oncology department, Sones says. Faculty members Dr. Robert Triplett, Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller and Dr. Likith Reddy are pitching in as they organize and hammer out all financial and clinical aspects.

Services will start with pre-treatment support—including determining the need for pre-radiation



Dr. Amerian Sones, a DCDS member, leads the transition as a recently closed clinic's oral cancer care moves to the dental school.

extractions and dental care—immediate surgical obturator prostheses for patients after cancer surgery, and post-surgical care, she says. A continuum of care provided at the previous clinic will remain intact for patients and their referring physicians.

The school's role will expand as it involves more faculty, students and dental alumni, including additional restorative dentists. Dental students will be offered a dental oncology selective rotation, and graduate students will learn how their area of expertise overlaps into head and neck oncology, Sones says.

"The future holds many possibilities with student education to include clinical research, fellowship programs and residency programs," she says.

The clinic will also collaborate with the dental school's wide range of in-house experts. That includes Dr. Jacqueline Plemons, director of stomatology, as well as Dr. Yi-Sheng Lisa Cheng, head of the diagnostic sciences department, which will play a role in biopsies and final diagnoses of intraoral tumors, Sones says. Rounding out the all-encompassing approach will be Dr. Hongjiao Ouyang, associate professor in endodontics, whose expertise has the potential to propel the college onto the national stage in cancer research.

"Maxillofacial prosthodontics requires a multidisciplinary approach among dental specialists and is truly an interprofessional collaboration of the ENT, radiation oncology and oncology physicians and speech pathologists," Sones says. "I have had a chance to work with these amazing professionals since 2012, and we appreciate and understand the important role we all play as we care for our head and neck cancer patients."

Sones was trained in maxillofacial prosthodontics at UCLA in the early '80s, and her program director and mentor (whose book on maxillofacial prosthodontics is the "go-to" textbook) prepared her for this special opportunity to guide the school in establishing a one-of-a-kind center serving the patients of Texas, she says.

As the program develops and more providers join in, patient load will increase, along with expanded services and hours, she says. Because head and neck health care falls into the realm of both

dental and medical health, many patients' medical insurance plans will cover dental and maxillofacial prosthodontic treatment and procedures, along with their dental insurance. Ways to fund the uninsured are also being explored, as are avenues for raising funds for the clinic.

"Head and neck cancer is so devastating because it affects how we present ourselves to the world—our face and smile, our ability to speak, drink, enjoy our favorite foods, display our emotions, and present to our friends and family," Sones says. "Restoring these important personal characteristics is why intraoral and extraoral rehabilitation is so important and appreciated by patients."

Head and neck cancers account for about 4% of all cancers, affecting more than twice as many men as women, as well as those over age 50, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the past, tobacco and alcohol were causative factors, and they still play a role. However, in recent years, the human papillomavirus has been found to be a cause of many oropharyngeal cancers in young adults. In July, the Food and Drug Administration included oropharyngeal HPV positive cancers as an indication for the Gardasil HPV vaccination, which has been shown to prevent specific types.

In "Parent Perceptions of Dental Care Providers' Role in Human Papillomavirus Prevention and Vaccine Advocacy" in the August issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association, a survey found that most parents felt comfortable with dental professionals discussing HPV and its vaccination with their patients ages 9 to 17.



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.

In Memoriam: Three Former DCDS Presidents

As 2020 comes to a close, we take a moment to reflect upon the lives of three of our most vibrant colleagues, who served DCDS so thoroughly during their lives.

Robert M. Anderton, DDS, JD, LLM

1937 - 2020 • Born in Dallas, Dr. Anderton spent much of his time in the summers growing up caddying for his father and developing a life-long love for the game of golf. Family members had farms in east Texas, where he would also work summers in their fields picking watermelon, cantaloupe and corn.



He enjoyed a wonderful and fulfilled personal life raising his family in Argyle, Texas. He loved traveling and outdoor activities and enjoyed countless skiing, golfing, hunting and adventures with his family and friends.

At an early age and as an exceptional student, he developed an interest in math and science. He was also a gifted and talented athlete and musician with many scholarship prospects. Inspired by family members connected to the dental industry, teachers and a physician advisor, he found his path to the Baylor University College of Dentistry, where he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1961.

Dr. Anderton established a successful general dentistry practice in Carrollton, Texas. In a profile published in the October 2005 issue of the Texas Dental Journal, Dr. Anderton said that his "proudest accomplishment, from a dental aspect, is the honor and privilege of practicing and serving in the same community for over 40 years."

Dr. Anderton was president of DCDS from 1979 - 1980 and president of the Texas Dental Association from 1989 - 1990. He received the TDA's Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and was named the 1993 Dentist of the Year by the Dallas County Dental Society. In 1995, he then became a member of the ADA Board of Trustees as 15th District trustee. Dr. Robert M. Anderton became the ADA president from 2000 - 2001.

As president of the Texas Dental Association and while tending to the critical issues facing the dental industry, Dr. Anderton recognized his need for a law degree as it pertained to the health industry.

"At that time, managed care and dental HMOs were just beginning to get a foothold," he said. "I decided that it might be a good idea to learn more about these entities and get an education in law."

In 1995, he earned a J.D. from the Southern Methodist University School of Law and a master's degree specializing in health care law in 1997. He was a member of the Texas State Bar and the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

He began his legal practice in 1996 while still practicing dentistry. He was encouraged by colleagues to run for the presidency of the American Dental Association. Dr. Anderton's campaign slogan for ADA president was "A Man for All Reasons." He became president of the ADA from 2000 - 2001. As an attorney, he successfully maintained his legal practice until the day he died.

Helping people was his guiding principle throughout his career and personal life. With this core value, he made a positive and lasting impact on the dental and legal professions and the lives of his family, friends and colleagues. As his esteemed dental and law career ascended to the highest ranks, he became a member of the Board of Regents of The American College of Dentists.

Dr. Anderton, a resident of Argyle, Texas, was married to the late Eddie Bea Anderton, and father of his late daughter, Robin Anderton. He is survived by his son, Bryan, his daughter-in-law Lynn and their son Blake.

Bettye M. Whiteaker, DDS, MSD

1933 - 2020 • Dr. Whiteaker was born to Claude and Bettye McIntosh in Tennessee on February 17, 1933, and died August 29, 2020. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Claude, and her husband Kermit and is survived by her sister Ruby McIntosh Deviney.



A graduate of Union University (Distinguished Alumnus), Oklahoma State University, and Baylor College of Dentistry (Distinguished Alumnus), Bettye further distinguished herself in professional service and community involvement. She was

the first Periodontist to establish an office in Oak Cliff, Texas. DCDS President from 1994-1995, she was a strong voice and professional leader in her chosen field, being selected to leadership offices within the community and state.

She and her husband Kermit were active leaders in the local Baptist congregations they served, both in teaching and training as well as the establishment of countless scholarships of students now serving across the world.

Throughout her years of service, much has been written in magazines and journals describing her life of professionalism and service; however, the best monuments are to be found around the world in the students she sponsored and encouraged, and in the hearts of the friends who knew and loved her for who she was even more than the accolades she so deservedly received.

Justin E. Aurbach, DDS

1943 - 2020 • Dr. Aurbach, 77, retired endodontist passed away on October 20, 2020. Dr. Aurbach earned a BA and MS from the University of Kansas, and received his DDS from the Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas. He completed graduate work in endodontics at the Henry M. Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry at Boston University, and finished his endodontics residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston.



Dr. Aurbach was a Clinical Assistant Professor of Endodontics at Texas A&M University-Baylor College of Dentistry, the past president of the DFW Endodontics Society, the Southwest Society of Endodontics, and the Dallas County Dental Society (2005-2006), all while maintaining his private endodontic practice.

Dr. Aurbach was preceded in death by his wife, Michelle (Weiss) Aurbach, and is survived by daughters Stephanie Jill Aurbach, Leslie Ann Ferguson, Jennifer Lynn Smith, and Allison Nicole Aurbach; his grandchildren, Jacquelyn Leigh Ferguson and Kathryn Paige Ferguson; his brother, Michael Aurbach of Overland Park, KS, and his dear friend Ruth Hendelman.

To honor the life and work of our former DCDS Presidents, please consider making a donation in his/her name to the DCDS Foundation.

Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

We are excited to spotlight one of our Charity Summit 2020 organizations, The Family Place Dental Clinic at Ann Moody Place. Dallas County Dental Society Foundation works with The Family Place Dental Clinic and many other organizations that improve the lives of Dallas County citizens every day.

Making a Difference for Victims of Family Violence

Dr. Greer noticed a need for dental care for victims of domestic violence and had a dream to spearhead the design of a clinic treatment room where dentistry could be provided for women living in the emergency shelter. It seemed perfect to team up with an organization that's mission is "to empower victims of family violence by providing safe housing, counseling, and skills that create independence while building community engagement and advocating for social change to stop family violence". The immediate goal was to provide dental cleanings, x-rays, exams and simple dentistry that would be beneficial to the women seeking to find jobs where the lack of dental care has affected their physical appearance and sometimes their ability to find a job. The need is great and helping address their dental problems and concerns, remedy their pain and increase their self-confidence is a gift more valuable than you can imagine. Some of these women have never seen a dentist.

The biggest challenge faced right now at The Family Place Dental Clinic is finding dentists and hygienists to volunteer professional services. We were off to a good start in early 2020 and then the Covid virus hit and all dental offices closed. We have not had volunteers in the past several months due to the virus still being active and a possible threat.

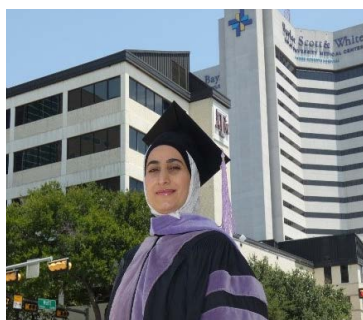
Call with any questions and/or your willingness to volunteer your professional services: Dr. Dale Greer at 214-616-9479, dalegreer@sbcglobal.net or Kim Greer at 214-616-9484 kimberligreer@yahoo.com.



Above Left: (L-R) Paige Flink (CEO of The Family Place), Kim Greer and Dr. Dale Greer. **Above Right:** Dr. Michael Rainwater and DCDS Executive Director Jane Evans prepare a donation of toothpaste for delivery to nearby charity, Union Gospel Mission Dallas, which provides services for the homeless.



Above Left: Drs. Robert McNeill, Rei Iwase and Stephanie Briggs pose with students during GKAS - Dallas 2020. **Above Right:** Dr. Raghad Obeidat, 2019 DCDS Public Health Scholarship Winner



Give Kids A Smile - Dallas 2021

The success of last year's Give Kids a Smile program is still fresh in our minds as we get ready for the pandemic-forced Zoom edition in February 2021. Dr. Rei Iwase leads the GKAS action once again, working with DISD educators to provide oral hygiene information via video, as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste and coloring/activity sheets, to students in low-come area after-school programs. We are grateful for the opportunity to reach out to the community in a safe way, but the necessary on-line platform eliminates the oral exams and decreases the demand for volunteers. We look forward to resuming in-person GKAS visits once in-person activities are allowed in schools, but for now we are excited to do what we can to make a positive impact with children in our community!

DCDS Foundation Awards Public Health Scholarship

COVID-19 may have delayed our announcement, but it cannot dampen our enthusiasm for our second recipient of the Dallas County Dental Society Public Health Scholarship. In late 2019, the Foundation awarded the scholarship to Dr. Raghad Obeidat for her academic achievement, leadership roles and community involvement.

Dr. Obeidat's strong interest in public health pushed her to pursue a master degree of Public Health from University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health in 2019. Her MPH concentration was maternal and child health with a focus in epidemiology. Dr. Obeidat completed her dental public health residency at Texas A&M College of Dentistry in 2020. The program provided her with the skills and training in dental public health practice as well as the development, implementation and evaluation of effective community programs. She also was trained to develop and complete research projects in dental public health particularly social determinants of oral diseases to improve the total health of communities. Currently, she is working as part-time fellow researcher with "Texas Recruits and Retains (TRR): A Dental Public Health Workforce Development Program" at TAMU Public Health Sciences.

TO VOLUNTEER

WWW.DCDSFOUNDATION.ORG

TO GIVE

Let's Prevent Oropharyngeal Cancer (and Avoid Awkward Conversations While Doing It!)

RHONDA STOKLEY, DDS



Dr. Stokley is the State Public Health Dental Director at the Texas Department of State Health Services. She leads public health initiatives to improve the oral health of Texans, with a focus on maternal and child oral health. Activities include the Smiles in Schools and Smiles for Moms and Babies Programs. Other activities include conducting and analyzing oral health surveillance data. The program shared some of their data recently in the September issue of the Texas Dental Journal. She is a firm believer that the dental community should recommend HPV vaccination. Dr. Stokley is a member of the Capital Area Dental Society in Austin. She has represented the 10th District as a TDA delegate or alternate delegate for many years and has also served as an ADA alternate delegate.

In 2017, Dallas County ranked lowest in human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates in Texas. Vaccination is important to the dental community because most oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) is HPV-associated. OPC affects both men and women. The HPV vaccine also prevents five other types of cancer. Our patients need a strong recommendation from us to vaccinate. This presentation provides information about HPV, OPC and the HPV vaccine. We will also explain what a strong recommendation is and how to integrate HPV vaccine conversations into your practice without having awkward talks about sexual activity.

Audience: All dental professionals
AGD Code: 730/736
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided

Learning Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of the prevalence of HPV in the population.
- Identify the recommended ages for HPV vaccination.
- Become familiar with the percentage of oropharyngeal cancers associated with HPV.
- Learn how to integrate HPV vaccination conversations into their practices.
- Define the connection between HPV and OPC to patients and make a strong recommendation for vaccination.

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VIRTUAL COURSE BY JANUARY 12, 2021.**

Register online at www.dcds.org/events. A link to the 6:30 p.m. session will be sent to your email address.

This course is a free event.



January 19

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Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at www.ada.org/goto/cerp.

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Digital Implant Dentistry: From Exam to Restoration

JOHN W GANNON, DDS • BRENT DESUTTER, DDS



Dr. John Gannon completed dental school at the University of California, San Francisco and went on to complete his residency training at the University of Miami. He maintains a full-time practice in the Dallas area with a focus on dental implants, wisdom teeth, nerve reconstruction, jaw and TMJ surgery.



Dr. Brent DeSutter graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio Dental School in 2013 and completed a general practice residency at the VA Hospital in Portland, OR. In 2017 he started a private practice in East Dallas focusing on cosmetic and restorative implant dentistry.

Single unit implant restorations can be a fantastic option for a long-term esthetic solution. But often we rush into surgery without an understanding of what our final restoration will look like. Conventional treatment planning and analog models are helpful but have limitations. Using digital tools, we can plan our case with a better understanding of the potential surgical and restorative complications and can communicate this with our entire restorative team. With more efficient communication and better data, we can mitigate risk for both the surgeon and restorative dentist. The overall long term success and predictability is greatly improved with digital treatment planning focused on the final prosthetics.

Learning Objectives:

- Review the factors and options that need to be considered when treatment planning an anterior single tooth replacement.
- Understand the surgical procedures, requirements, and complications that commonly occur with single tooth implant placement.
- Discuss how digital technology can be utilized as a tool for treatment planning and communication between dental professionals.
- Understand the need for clear communication with the entire restorative team during treatment planning, procedure, and post-operative phases.

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS THREE-SESSION VIRTUAL COURSE BY FEBRUARY 6.
Register online at www.dcds.org/events. A link to each 6:30 p.m. session will be sent to your email address.

DCDS Members	\$150	Non-member dentist	\$450
DCDS Member staff	\$150	Non-member staff	\$450
Dental Students	\$15		

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is February 6, 2021. A 20% administrative fee will be assessed for all cancellation requests on or prior to this date. Since this is a limited attendance course, "no shows" will forfeit the full course fee. No refunds will be granted after February 6, 2021.

Audience: Dentists, Assistants
AGD Code: 610/690
CE Hours: 6 technical and/or scientific (three session course)
CE Verification provided



Feb. 16, Mar. 23 & Apr. 13

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Dallas Fort Worth, TX General Practice for Sale

New to the market is an excellent general dental practice in the greater DFW area. The practice is located in a popular retail center with easy access and parking. Additionally, the practice is gorgeous with a recent remodel in 2018. 5 ops with collections over \$1.4 million in collections. EBITDA of \$245,000. Over 25 new patients per month.

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Excellent periodontal practice for sale in the DFW area. 4 fully equipped operatories and collections over \$1.5 million. EBITDA of \$220,000 and SDE of \$695,000. Over 16,000 active patients! Current doctor open to staying on for a smooth transition.

Contact Kaile Vierstra with Professional Transition Strategies to learn more: 719.694.8320 or kaile@professionaltransition.com

For Sale/Lease - Real Estate/Practice

Southern Dallas, TX General Practice for Sale

New to the market is an busy general practice on the southern most side of the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex. This long-standing practice has been in the community for over 25 years, however recently moved into a gorgeous new space! Located in a free-standing building, the space adjacent to the practice is open for expansion. 5 ops with an additional op plumbed for expansion. Real estate for sale. Collections of \$1.1 million and EBITDA of \$320,000.

To learn more and review the prospectus, contact Kaile with Professional Transition Strategies: 719.694.8320 or kaile@professionaltransition.com

Northeast Dallas General Practice for Sale

This is the practice you've been looking for in the greater DFW metroplex! This general practice is located in a highly desirable suburb just a stone's throw from Dallas. The practice itself is expansive with 8 operatories currently equipped and a large expansion opportunity as well. 8 operatories. Collections over \$1.1 million. SDE of \$360,000. 2,000 active patients and room for an additional dentist.

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If the past year taught us anything it is that we need to be able to adapt to changing circumstances. When the 2020 SWDC was cancelled, the DCDS Board and the Scientific Committee worked hard to bring virtual CE to our members, modifying presentations so our members could fulfill state requirements for license renewal through online learning.

Thanks to this past year, now our practices look a little different. Our PPE looks a little different. And our 2021 Southwest Conference may look a little different too. As I write this, we are still waiting on an approved Covid vaccine and in-person meetings are still, for the most part, not happening. We may have to adapt by wearing masks and social distancing, but we are planning an in-person Conference for 2021.

So mark your calendars, as we are set to meet at the Kay Baily Hutchinson Convention Center on August 20th and 21st. We have a dynamic roster of new presenters as well as many of our favorites returning to provide you with timely, actionable information you can take and apply first thing Monday morning when you return to your practices.

The SWDC has long been the go-to meeting for doctors to bring the whole staff for education and team building, and 2021 continues the legacy. This year as a special symposium for assistants, Dr. Mac MacDonald will be offering his "MAC" (Master Assisting Class) program. In this class you and your team will "learn how to build agreements and execute systems that reflect the standards, protocols, and objectives that are important to the practice performance."

Hygienists will have a robust roster of classes including Dr. Tracey Nguyen addressing the latest sleep/breathing issues with kids, and Dr. Thomas Viola speaking on how marijuana affects dentistry.

So sign up, mask up and bring your entire team! I hope you all are as ready as we are to see your smiling eyes at the Conference.



Dr. Mary Swift
 2021 Southwest Dental
 Conference Chairman

ACTIONABLE LEARNING

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