# 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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# **On Your Behalf**

The Texas 88th Legislature convened on January 10, 2023 for the biennial lawmaking session. DCDS Legislative Committee members, including Drs. Jonathan Vogel, Ali Bayat, Sara Ehsani, Bill Gerlach, Thalia Shirley, Mary Swift and Jon Williamson, attended TDA Legislative Day on February 15 to advocate on your behalf. The topics they covered with legislators included the following:

## Medicaid Dental – Increase Funding to Ensure Adequate Access to Care

- Texas has not increased reimbursement rates for Medicaid dental since 2007.
- Reimbursement rates have remained the same for 16 years despite the rising costs of providing dental care.
- A strong network of Medicaid dentists is needed to maintain good oral health for children and special needs patients, and to prevent avoidable increased program costs for the state.
- Increase Medicaid dental funding by \$190 million GR each year to match 2007 rates in today's dollars.

### Dental Insurance Reform – Support HB 1527

### **Retroactive Denials**

- Insurers can make mistakes adjudicating claims
- It is reasonable to allow them to collect valid overpayment errors within a reasonable time frame.
- State-regulated insurers should be prohibited from recovering an overpayment made to a dentist unless the carrier notifies the dentist in writing no later than 180 days after the dentist received the overpayment.
- The dentist should have 45 days after receiving the written overpayment notice to agree or challenge the overpayment request.
- If the dentist disagrees with the recovery of funds request, the applicable plan or policy must provide the dentist with an opportunity to challenge or appeal the overpayment recovery request.

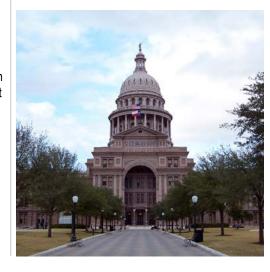
### **Prohibit Disallow Clauses**

- Dental benefits exist to help patients with the cost of dental care, not to determine the clinical decisions made by dentists and their patients.
- State-regulated insurers should be prohibited from using disallow clauses to both deny a dental benefit and prohibit the dentist from collecting any fees associated with the services provided.
- Healthcare decisions are personal, and treatment plans should be made in an informed, transparent, and fair way between the patient and their dentist.

### Silent Insurance Networks (Network Leasing)

- Insurance carriers must properly notify dentists when the insurance plan they join is sold, leased, or rented to a different payor.
- Dentists must have an opportunity to review the network sale or lease agreement, enabling the dentist to proactively decide whether to participate.

... continued on page 21



March/April 2023 DCDS Connection

# The Write Stuff

Mary Swift, DDS, President

# Legislative Day Jitters



get nervous when
Legislative Day
approaches. Several
reasons feed my nerves.
First, the Capitol building.
It intimidates me. I think I
heard it's supposed to. And
it does. There is a labyrinth

of underground hallways and meeting rooms, private chambers, the House side, the Senate side—my head spins. I feel like it's the first day of school and I can't find my locker. Somehow even the maps confuse me.

Second, the message. We are at the Texas State Capitol to share a position on legislation that either affects the practice of dentistry or protects our patients. I have never considered myself to be "political", so the idea of speaking intelligently to those who make a living in politics intimidates me.

So, over the years I've developed a strategy that enables me to navigate through my nerves and turn those nerves into an enjoyable and very satisfying experience. If I can do it, so can you when the next Legislative cycle takes place in two years..

TDA and the DCDS's Legislative committees will provide you with everything you need to

succeed. A legislative year is their time to shine and it's what they live for. Our Legislative teams will brief you and coach you on each bill they expect to be able to speak to during the session, as they follow these issues all year. They know everything there is to know about each bill and their enthusiasm and knowledge is infectious. TDA and DCDS are great at making sure we know the background of each bill, where it came from and what position organized dentistry takes. Being well prepared is the best strategy for limiting nerves and with the help of our leadership I have always felt well prepared.

Honestly, my nervousness about being in Austin at the Capitol, speaking to elected officials about our dental legislation lessens and my excitement grows every time I participate. I leave Austin feeling very patriotic and feeling like I've accomplished something important. TDA Legislative Day is a unique experience. To be there, seeing firsthand the work that is put into protecting our profession and our patients is something I wish every dentist could experience.

Legislative sessions are every two years in Texas. Please consider joining us in 2025.

Now all I need is to get over my fear of navigating the underground maze. Is there an app for that?





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# **Impressions**

# How to get your practice through the slow times



veryone experiences slow times. It is important to remember that even though times are slow you must continue to invest in your practice to help push through these hard times. This seems opposite

to what is popular belief.

As a dentist you know the ebbs and flows of the schedule. We find that around the State Fair, the schedule seems to slow down. We even find that after major disasters, such as ice storms, tornadoes, and COVID; that recall appointments around those times seem to be slower and sparser. Also, the number of patients decline in September around back to school due to activities and busier schedules.

The question is how do we deal and handle the down time? During slow periods it is important to stay on your toes. Don't panic and remain efficient and effective in your decision making.

- Use smart scheduling. Schedule patients early, leaving afternoons more open so you can do more treatments and handle all emergencies in the same day.
- Maintain your marketing. Even though you want to cut back on expenses, this is the time to spend money to drive more patients to the office.
- Work the books and call patients. If a
  hygienist has down-time have him/her make
  calls to patients. Patients love their hygienists
  and will be more willing to come in if they hear
  from them personally.

Editorial by Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD, Editor

When you are slow, use this time to be efficient with your team. Invest in your staff by doing trainings and staff meetings. Role play so that the office runs even more smoothly. Use this time to organize the office and operatories.

Another important item to consider is if you should be raising your fees. It is easy to stay stagnant and forget to increase your fees. It is awkward to tell patients that they owe more money and that there is increased cost; however, all prices are increasing right now, and patients should expect it. It is vital to remember that a few dollars per patient per procedure adds up a lot at the end of the year.

As a practice owner, it is the worst feeling to see an empty or slow schedule. However, remember, how you handle the slow times is what can make the biggest difference in the end!



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# From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

# Important Reminders



ot sure about you but as I get older time seems to fly by like the speed of lightning. I blinked and 2022 was gone and by the time you receive this issue of DCDS Connection we will be in

March. It was a whirlwind year with successes, opportunities and the transition moving the SWDC from the Convention Center to the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

## **CE Programs**

There were excellent virtual CE Programs last year and many more scheduled this year. Dr. Mitra Bolouri, on behalf of the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee has scheduled a slate of excellent virtual programs offered at no cost to DCDS members and their staff for 2023.

Hats off to Drs. Danette McNew and John Tunnell for the fantastic presenters they have scheduled for the New Dentist Symposium. The first presenter was Dr. Doug Lambert from Minnesota, and last month the very popular Dr. John Wright. More fantastic speakers are being scheduled so make sure you frequently visit DCDS Website https://www.dcds.org/events and read all your DCDS Communications.

### NEW at 2023 SWDC

Registration is still free to DCDS members, if you register by pre-registration deadline July 14, 2023. If you register after July 14, 2023, there will be a \$50.00 registration late fee. Rooms are assigned immediately after the deadline according to attendee registration for that course. Many are waiting to register after the deadline, and are disappointed when they are not able to sign up for the courses they choose due to rooms being full. So, DCDS Members, sign up before the deadline!

### **Emerging Speakers Workshop**

The DCDS Diversity and Inclusion Committee, led by Dr. Mitra Bolouri, organized an Emerging Speakers Workshop scheduled for April 28, 2023. Facilitated by Ms. Karen Cortell Reisman and free for ADA Member dentists, this amazing program is one we are confident will provide many pearls to help make those attending feel more confident with presentations and/or communication skills.

## **Dental Assisting School**

Take advantage of YOUR dental assisting school:

- · Schedule a BLS training for your entire office
- Teach a dental assistant extern at your office, with possibility to hire
- Have your dental assistants keep up to date with informational blogs on the DCDSDAS Website





# New Dentists

# The Secret to Happiness

Shawn Achor is a Harvard-trained happiness expert. His TED talk has over 25 million views, he's written multiple books including The Happiness Advantage and Big Potential, and I was fortunate enough to attend a lecture he gave at my church last October.

Shawn's research shows that we try to make ourselves happy by working harder to achieve our dreams, thinking the resulting success will make us happy. The problem is that our brain is constantly moving the goalpost for success, so we never reach happiness. Shawn says we need to "reverse the formula." He has found that "90% of your long-term happiness is predicted not by the external world, but by the way your brain processes the world." Shawn says, "to be happy, we don't need to chase success, but instead, we need chase gratitude."

In his lecture, Shawn discussed the finding from his study that people who wrote down three new things they were grateful for each day for 21 days actually rewired their brains to think more optimistically. As a practice owner and mother of two young children, I will only add something to my day if it is quick, easy, and promises to yield big results, so I decided to give it a try.

The day after the lecture, I started a gratitude practice on my morning commute. I thought of three things I was grateful for and it took about 30 seconds — not too hard, I thought. After a few days, to my surprise, I noticed my days seemed to be more pleasant. As I tried to figure out what had changed, I realized that I had previously created a habit during my commute of thinking about all I had ahead of me that day: the challenging patient, the difficult conversation, or my never

We try to make ourselves happy by working harder to achieve our dreams, thinking the resulting success will make us happy...we don't need to chase success, but instead, we need chase gratitude.

ending to-do list. But if, instead of thinking about the day's challenges, I took the effort to think about what I was grateful for, I actually had a more positive attitude throughout the day.

Before long, I decided to expand the impact of gratitude on me and try to influence my team at the office. A few years ago, we started a routine of a team member saying an inspirational quote at the end of our morning huddle as a way to start us off on the right foot for the day. I had noticed for a few months that the quotes were falling flat and they seemed more like a chore, but I hadn't yet found a viable alternative. So, I came up with a new routine: every day at the end of our huddle, I draw two team members' names out of a cup. The person whose name I draw first says something they are thankful for from the previous day: a positive interaction with a patient, something they accomplished, or how they helped someone. The second person says something they are looking forward to for the current day.

We often tend to focus on the negative (the angry patient, the annoying salesperson, the challenging procedure). But this new routine has allowed us to think about how we positively impact patients on a daily basis. It has helped us see our value and purpose. It really does seem to be re-training our brains to start seeing and finding the positive.

Here's my challenge to you: start your own gratitude practice. On your morning commute, at the dinner table with family, or before you fall asleep, think of three things you're grateful for and write them down if you can.

Try it for 21 days, and see how it changes your happiness!

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Allison Fowler, DDS, FAGD

# **DCDS Member's Message Board**

# **Upcoming Events**

March 2 – Cocktails and Conversation: Recession and Gingival Grafting: Assessment, Clinical Relevance and Treatment Options Available

March 24-25 – The PEEL Technique: A New Paradigm in Pediatric Tongue-Tie Treatment: A Two-day Course

March 28 - New Dentist Symposium with Mark Roettger, DDS

April 10 – Retired Dentists Committee Trip to Holocaust Museum

April 18 - General Membership Meeting: Osteonecrosis and

Osteoradionecrosis: Dead Bone and Dentistry

April 21 - Shred-a-thon

April 28 – So You Want to be a Speaker Workshop

April 28 – See, Swirl, Sniff, Sip & Savor: DCDS Wine Tasting

May 18 - DCDS Installation Ceremony and Dinner





## **Welcome New Members!**

### **General Practice**

General Practice Michael Cimba Kieu-Trinh Dao Dominic DiRusso

Ara Fatoure

Miracle Vania Firmalin

Jared Fletcher Ronnie Fox Hayden Han Alex Kim

Thomas Kim Nora Kweik Guanglin Li Brenden Manley

Behnaz Sepehripour Naraghi

Puja Patel Vishala Patel Thuan Pham Ghazal Rezaei Siddhi Sinha Ashley Snyder

**Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery** 

Tayler Schartz

**Prosthodontics**Gabrielle Jackson

In Memoriam:

Dr. Wesley Burgess

Dr. Jack Parker

Dr. Thomas Wilten

**Dr. Stanley Wyll** 



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.





# **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
- · Reduced cost in-person Basic Life Saving/CPR course
- 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 renewal reminders
- Networking/social opportunities with colleagues

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

DCDS 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 (833) 258-7645.

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.



# Looking for a job? Have a position to fill in your office? Want to sell or buy office space and 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.



# **Knowledge Sharing**

Catch up on news and information that other DCDS members would like to share through DCDS News on our website: https://www.dcds.org/news-media/dcds-news. If you have a topic you would like to provide to your peers on our website, please contact Dr. Gabby Dizon at gabrielledizondds@gmail.com. Recent topics include these below...click to read on!

Jan 25, 2023



by Wendy Steger, DDS

### **Prioritizing Mental Health in 2023**

Historically, dentists have had one of the highest suicide rates amongst any profession. Recent studies have reported that dentists are 17 times more likely to commit suicide than non-dentists. I repeat, SEVENTEEN times more likely. That's a staggering statistic and it's time for us to make a change.

Dec 15, 2022



by Blair Goodall, DDS

# The Power of Written "Resolutions" as We Set Goals in the New Year

As we approach the end of another year, it's natural for all of us to reflect on the events that took place for the past 365 days. Whether our intention was to eat healthier, live a more active lifestyle, spend more time with loved ones, or read that book that's been on our list for months, it seems that this time of year

routinely brings about a season of reflection.

# PRO BONO HOURS

Dallas County Dental Society is interested in learning about the amount of pro bono care our members provide. The pro bono care you provide makes a positive impact on your patients' lives. It also makes a positive impact on DCDS' legislative efforts with the Texas Dental Association on your behalf.

Please help our legislative efforts by completing this short Pro Bono Form on our website whenever you provide these services:





# **BLS/CPR Courses**

# Choose a Date | In-Person

Need to meet your bi-annual TSBDE requirement for Basic Life Support/CPR for your license renewal? DCDS is now offering a BLS (CPR and AED) Program, with the curriculum of the American Heart Association, to meet that requirement through the DCDS Dental Assisting School. You and your staff can now schedule a date and time to earn this continuing education credit. Training is held at the DCDS Headquarters.

\$40 per DCDS Member or their staff \$65 per non-member or their staff

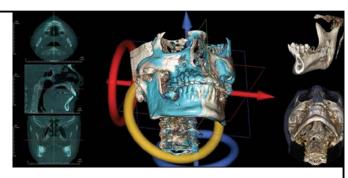
To start course registration, please click here. For more information, contact Angela Bush, Program Director for DCDS Dental Assisting School, at 972-386-5741 x222 or angela@dcds.org today!



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Dr. Hui Liang DDS MS PhD, Dipl ABOMR, Professor

**Dr. Mehrnaz Tahmasbi-Arashlow** DDS, Cert (OMR), Dipl ABOMR, Clin Asst Professor

Ms. Crystal Malek: Clinic Coordinator, Imaging Center

# 14TH ANNUAL DCDS SHRED-A-THON

**Friday, April 21, 2023** 

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in back of DCDS Executive Office

**RSVP VIA OUR WEBSITE TO CLAIM A DROP-OFF TIME SLOT!** 

https://www.dcds.org/events

**Free to DCDS members**. As a member benefit, DCDS has again contracted with Action Shred of Texas to provide on-site shredding and e-destruction services in the DCDS back parking lot. It's the perfect time to securely dispose of documents and electronics while making a positive impact on the environment!

**On-site Shredding Services**. 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.** Action Shred will accept computers/laptops, monitors, printers, fax machines, mobile phones, PDAs, modems, smart phones, cords and cables, keyboards, copiers, and more!

**Can't make it on this day?** Contact Action Shred for preferred DCDS pricing at 214-352-0113 (option 2). **Questions?** Contact ashley@dcds.org or 972-386-5741.



# Texas A&M University School of Dentistry

By Kristen Tribe

# Expertise of Wright and Woo sought for worldwide project

The expertise of two faculty members at Texas A&M School of Dentistry was called upon to develop and write portions of the reference book, "World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Head and Neck Tumours," which was recently published.

Dr. John Wright, Regents professor, and Dr. Victoria Woo, clinical professor and director of pathology and the advanced education program in oral and maxillofacial pathology, both in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences, were among only about 40 contributors worldwide invited to participate.

"They seek really high profile, experienced pathologists to create this," Wright said. "It's one of the greatest honors I've had in my life to get picked by the WHO to do this work."

Classification of head and neck tumors is part of the larger "WHO Classification of Tumours," also known as the WHO Blue Books, which documents tumors in all organ systems of the body. The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, is responsible for the publication of the classification series, currently in its fifth edition. It was previously updated every 10 years, but it recently shifted to a five-year cycle because "the science is moving so quickly," Wright said.

"The WHO classification is pretty much considered the bible," he explained. "Almost every practicing pathologist in the world will get access to the WHO classification. As oral pathologists, we're included in the head and neck tumors category because of the uniqueness of odontogenic cysts and tumors, which come from the tissues that make our teeth.

"Quite frankly, the only pathologists in the world who know anything about this area are oral pathologists."

Wright said tumor research is mostly at the molecular level, studying the genes in the cells.

"Every cancer in the body is due to genetic mutations, and we now have the ability to find those mutations and study them, so most of the research is on the molecular or genetic characterization of these tumors," he said. "Our contribution is in three major areas: odontogenic cysts, cystic lesions that arise from our tooth forming cells; odontogenic tumors, benign and malignant; and allied lesions, lesions that don't arise from the tissues that make our teeth but occur with great frequency in the mouth."

This is the second time Wright has participated in the process, the first being in 2017 when he was one of seven international pathologists who determined the classification and assigned the writing to authors around the world. This year Wright served on an expert panel, acting as a consultant to the editors. He and Woo both wrote sections of the current publication.

"The opportunity arose, and I jumped at it," Woo said. "It was a great chance to work with other contemporaries and well-respected pathologists in the field. It was an honor to be part of the process."

Texas A&M School of Dentistry was the only institution with two faculty members participating in the 2022 classification process. Wright explained that no more than two faculty members from one institution are allowed, but rarely are two from the same institution asked to participate.

"When you consider how many oral pathologists there are in the world, it says a lot about this school and this division that the WHO would tap two people from here to help determine and write this." he said.

Dr. Madhu Nair, interim department head of diagnostic sciences, shared his congratulations with Wright and Woo, noting their participation in the process set the Texas A&M School of Dentistry apart.

"WHO Classification of Tumours" is online at tumourclassification.iarc.who.int. The print edition has not yet been released.





# School of Dentistry

Texas A&M School 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 School 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.

# **Diversity + Inclusion**

by Mitra Bolouri, DDS DCDS Diversity and Inclusion Chairman

# Women's History Month



About a year ago a social media post from the Texas Dental Association caught my eye: it featured a photo of nine women and the caption stated that for the first time, a majority of the members of the TDA board

were female dentists. Several of these amazing women are members of the Dallas County Dental Society and have served in local leadership roles over the years: Drs. Carmen Smith, Jodi Danna, and Jacqueline Plemons. I feel fortunate to be able to serve alongside these amazing women and not only call them my colleagues, but my friends as well. And while I feel quite fortunate to have such dedicated women as role models, I couldn't help but be somewhat surprised that it wasn't until now that the board was filled by a majority of female dentists.

I was very fortunate to be surrounded by some amazing women growing up: my mother, aunt, and older sister are all medical doctors. It never crossed my mind that being a dentist wasn't in the cards for me simply because I am a woman.

While attending Texas A&M College of Dentistry, I would walk down the hall where the class photos hung and see how, over time, women slowly filled more and more seats in each class. One day, I was walking my patient to our chair on

the busy clinic floor. As she looked around, she commented on how nice it was to see so many female students. These moments have stayed with me over ten years later: the patient made me realize how far our profession had come that the makeup of my class would be something worth commenting on. The photos from decades prior made me realize how thankful I was to the women who were trailblazers, those who were the sole female in their 100 person class, who I'm sure got their fair share of negative comments from classmates, faculty, and patients as they dedicated themselves to their education and their patients.

In my ten years of practice, I have experienced a good amount of sexism. The seemingly innocuous comment from a male patient saying he prefers female dentists because we have small hands. The statements made to my face about my physical appearance, when all I wanted was to be acknowledged and praised for my skills. For several years, I worked as a locum tenens dentist, and I once had a colleague tell me it must be nice that my husband was willing to support me so I could work "when I wanted to."

At Dallas County Dental Society, I have always felt included and felt welcome to express my thoughts and ideas. I credit this, in part, to the women who came before me. I'm sure in the previous decades, there were women who fought hard to

be included in organized dentistry, who had to make sure their voices were heard when they were a member of a small minority.

When the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion was newly formed and still a Task Force, I was often the youngest member in the room and, as an "elder millennial", would speak on behalf of what I thought young dentists may be interested in. Now, serving on the DCDS Board, I am happy to look around the room and see that not only is our Board also composed of many women, but I am far from being the youngest person in the room. In fact, we have several young women with amazing ideas who are ready to put in the hard work to carry on our wonderful Society in the coming years.

Last fall I had the opportunity to visit TDA headquarters for the first time. As I looked upon the wall of past presidents, I was honestly quite surprised to count only four women in the lineup. I have no doubt that will change in the coming years, and I know several of those future presidents will be women from Dallas County Dental Society. I think it's important to look back not only to see how far we've come, but to also acknowledge how much farther we can go. I'm not sure if my long term plan will include having my photo up on that wall at TDA, but I know I will do everything I can to uplift my female colleagues at DCDS so they may get there if they so desire.



**DCDS Connection** March/April 2023

# Recession and Gingival Grafting:

Assessment, Clinical Relevance and Treatment Options Available

# ALINE KAYE, DDS, MS





Dr. Kaye obtained her DDS degree graduating Summa Cum Laude as Class Valedictorian and gained her Periodontics Certificate and Master of Science Degree at The University of Texas Health Science Center. School of Dentistry in Houston. Dr. Kaye takes pleasure in dental research, with her main interests focused on periodontal regenerative procedures, dental implants, and the interrelationship between periodontal disease and systemic diseases. She has several articles published, including in the prestigious international Journal of Periodontal Research and has lectured nationally and internationally. Dr. Kaye has served as a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the Implant Surgery Course in the Department of Restorative Sciences at Texas A&M University School of Dentistry.

This course will help build your confidence in identifying cases that require surgery and in communicating this to your patients: Review gingival recession and its relevance to you, your patients, and your practice. Cover the etiology of recession, new classifications (including papilla type A, B, and C), the role of attached gingiva, and how much of it is enough. Consider the optimal order/timing for mucogingival surgery as well as current advancements in surgical techniques. Discuss the role of watchful waiting in the setting of gingival recession, and when it is and is not appropriate.

Audience: Dentists, Office Staff

AGD Code: 490

CE Hours: 1 technical and/or scientific

CE Verification provided

Sponsored by: DCDS Diversity & Inclusion Committee

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Provide tools to identify gingival recession and predict how much root coverage can be achieved with treatment
- Define a reasonable observation protocol and establish when watchful waiting is and is not appropriate
- Maximize your contributions as an interdisciplinary team member in cases involving soft tissue grafting

### ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS **VIRTUAL COURSE BY FEBRUARY 23.**

Register online at www.dcds.org/events. A link to the 6:00 p.m. session will be sent to your email address.

**DCDS Members DCDS** Member staff Free

Non-member dentist

\$25

Free

Non-member staff

\$25

Students

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is February 23, 2023. 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 23, 2023.



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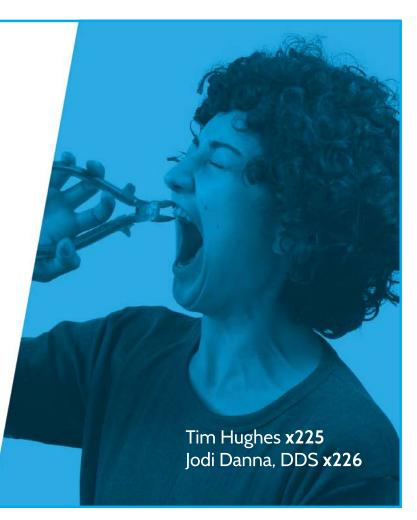
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Choice walked me through the process, presented the best offers, and made the experience much less stressful by handling all the negotiations. In the end, I received more for my practice than I ever expected. The best part is that Choice provided all the consultation and services to me without charging any fees! If you are considering selling to a DSO, I highly recommend you contact Choice instead of directly contacting the DSOs.

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DCDS Connection March/April 2023

# The PEEL Technique: A New Paradigm in Pediatric Tongue-Tie Treatment: A Two-day Course

# ROBERT CONVISSAR, DDS / JOY FUNSTON, RN, IBCLC





Dr. Robert Convissar earned his dental degree from New York University College of Dentistry. He is a fellow of the American Academy of General Dentistry and American Society of Laser Medicine and Surgery and diplomate of the American Board of Laser Surgery. Dr. Convissar maintains a private practice in New York.

Ms. Joy Funston is a registered nurse and international board certified lactation consultant. She is the founder and CEO of Joyful Start and board member of the International Affiliation of Tongue-tie Professionals.

Candidates who successfully complete this course will receive a Certificate in Pediatric Tongue Tie and Lip Tie Diagnosis and Treatment recognized by the American Board of Laser Surgery, the only Medical Certifying Board in the world dedicated to Lasers and Light Energy in Medicine and Dentistry.

Participant Requirements: Loupes, tweezers/cotton pliers and periosteal elevators are recommended. Dentists who own diode lasers are encouraged to bring them if they want to be certified on their own units – otherwise lasers will be supplied for the attendees.

Audience: Dentists AGD Code: 135/430

CE Hours: 16 technical and/or scientific

CE Verification provided

ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

In this two-day course, attendees will be introduced to the concept of laser frenectomies, an increasingly popular method by which dentists and physicians can treat tongue- and lip-ties in their patients. Five percent or more of the babies born in the United States have such tight tongue-ties and frenum pulls that they cannot successfully latch onto their mother's nipple and breastfeed. For the baby, serious consequences include loss of weight and the label of "failure to thrive". For the mother, this results in sore and cracked nipples, mastitis, painful engorgement and post-partum depression due to an inability to nurse her baby. This has classically been treated by a physician taking a scalpel or a pair of scissors to the newborn's mouth and cutting the attachment.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Accumulate all of the required data via history intake forms
- Perform a clinical examination to arrive at the correct diagnosis
- Evaluate when this procedure should be done
- Perform the procedure using laser technology
- Network with lactation consultants, pediatricians, neonatologists and the rest of the medical team
- Grow your practice of neonatal dentistry

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS IN-PERSON COURSE BY MARCH 17. REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS FOR THIS TWO DAY 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. CLASS.

**DCDS Members** 

\$895.00

Non-member dentist

\$995.00

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is March 17, 2023. 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 March 17, 2023.



# MARCH 24-25

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

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**Dallas County Dental Society** is an ADA CERP recognized provider.

ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. Dallas County Dental Society designates one (1) credit per hour for CE activities, unless otherwise noted.

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



# **Odontogenic Infections 2023**

# MARK ROETTGER, DDS



Dr. Roettger serves as Chief of the Dental Service in the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis MN and serves on the Medical Executive Committee of the Hospital. In this position he is responsible for oversight of all dental care done within the hospital in the Consult Service, Admitting Service and Emergency Service. He also is the Associate Director of the GPR Program in the UMMC. A graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Dr. Roettger owned and operated a solo general dental practice in Stillwater Minnesota for 25 years. He lectures across North America on the topics of dental trauma, medically complex patients, medical emergencies in the dental office, the opioid epidemic and sports dentistry. Dr. Roettger is a Past President of the Academy for Sports Dentistry and editor/Author of the textbook; "Modern Sports Dentistry".

The purpose of the course is to review and discuss the challenges of diagnosis and management of odontogenic infections. These are patient problems that make it impossible to plan your treatment, so periodic reviews are important for practicing dentists. Odontogenic infections, if not managed properly, can become severe and may even become life-threatening. This course will discuss the sources of these infections and how they may spread possibly affecting vital structures and the airway. We will also discuss medical and surgical management of these infections and when to refer to OMFS.

> Hosted by the DCDS New Dentists Committee

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Review patient evaluation and assessment of routine and severe odontogenic infections
- Understand anatomy of head and neck fascial spaces
- Discuss microbiology and antibiotic selection for odontogenic infections
- Understand appropriate surgical and medical treatment

Audience: Dentists, Assistants AGD Code: 310
CE Hours: 1 technical and/or scientific CE Verification provided

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is March 21, 2023. 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 March 21, 2023

# ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS VIRTUAL EVENT BY MARCH 21, 2023.

Register online at www.dcds.org/events. A link to the 6:00 p.m. event will be sent to your email address.

DCDS Members Free Non-m
DCDS Member staff Free Non-m

Dental Students Free

Non-member dentists \$95 Non-member staff \$95



New

**Dentists** 

# MARCH 28

**REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS** 

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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.



DCDS Connection March/April 2023

# **Your DCDS Foundation at Work!**





## Dallas TMOM Recognition

Dallas County Dental Society Foundation received a letter from U.S. Congressman Colin Allred, to recognize the accomplishments of the Texas Mission of Mercy event for Veterans on Nov. 4th-5th of 2022. Colin Allred represents the 32nd Congressional District including parts of Dallas, Collin and Dental counties. His office supported our T.M.O.M. reaching out to Veterans groups and searching for a location matching the requirements needed to treat 288 patients and provide over \$385,000.00 of dentistry to residents in need.



### Give Kids A Smile (GKAS)

With the original date of Give Kids a Smile - Dallas 2023 interrupted by an ice storm, GKAS-Dallas Chairman Dr. Preston Colven rearranged schedules for the event at 10 different afterschool locations (photos below) with a scaled down volunteer team. 35 volunteers including 14 dentists, 12 dental assistants, nine pre-dental students and one community volunteer visited the ten locations where students could receive a screening and fluoride treatment along with talking about teeth. In addition 432 oral hygiene kits were delivered along with a video made by DCDS Foundation member Dr. Rei Iwase, on how to take care of your teeth, visiting the dentist and career options. Thank you to Dr. Colven and all our dedicated volunteers making a special for these school kids.

Dr. Colven also visited Central Elementary in Carrolton to handout 250 GKAS oral hygiene kits and provide a video for students on the importance of oral health, dentist visits and career options. Dr. Colven is shown above in the grey jacket, visiting five classrooms to talk with students on taking care of their teeth.



### **Volunteer Opportunity**

The Nelson-Tebedo Health Clinic, part of the Resource Center in Dallas, pursues societal equity by proudly offering LGBTQIA+ affirming resources designed to improve health and wellness, strengthen families and communities, and provide transformative education and advocacy. The Center has been providing dental care to people with HIV/AIDS for over 20 years.

Their Dental Health Clinic in northeast Dallas (9535 Forest Lane, Suite 230) has a specialized dental program that provides comprehensive oral health care free-of-charge to people living with HIV/AIDS who meet eligibility requirements. The clinic has 10 dental suites and is staffed by two full-time dentists and two full-time hygienists, but is looking for volunteer dentists to help at their clinic when the dentists take leave and to help expand access of care to specialty procedures like root canals and surgical extractions.

To volunteer, contact Dr. LaShaun Shaw, Dental Program Director, at lshaw@myresourcecenter. org or 214-540-4463. View their website at www.myresourcecenter.org/location/dental-health.







Help us make these events bigger, better and more impactful for dentistry!

TO VOLUNTEER WWW.DCDSFOUNDATION.ORG

**TO GIVE** 

DCDS Foundation is now an eligible charity listed on AmazonSmile. This program through Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon. com purchases to the Foundation when selected by customers. Our unique charity link is https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2790709.

# **General Membership Meeting - April 2022**

Osteonecrosis and Osteoradionecrosis: Dead Bone and Dentistry

# THOMAS SCHLIEVE, DDS, MD



An Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dr. Schlieve is also Director of the residency training program and the Medical Director for oral and maxillofacial surgery at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Schlieve holds a B.S. in biology from the University of Wisconsin, earning his dental surgery degree at Marquette University, his medical degree at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport School of Medicine, a four-year residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery and an internship in general surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center before an oral/head and neck oncologic surgery fellowship program at the University of Tennessee Medical Center and Cancer Institute. Dr. Schlieve is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a Fellow of both the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He has lectured nationally and internationally and authored multiple scientific articles and textbook chapters in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

We will discuss the history of medication related osteonecrosis of the jaws and gain an appreciation for the course of this disease since it was first reported 20 years ago. In addition, we will discuss the much longer history of radiation induced osteonecrosis of the jaw. Attendees will develop an understanding of the pathophysiology of these disease processes, the clinical criteria for diagnosis, prevention strategies, and the best practices for management of these complex and often perplexing diseases of dead bone.

Audience: Dentists AGD Code: 310

CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific

CE Verification provided

SPONSORED BY Bank of America



### **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the history of osteonecrosis and osteoradionecrosis
- Learn the pathophysiology of osteonecrosis and osteoradionecrosis including new medications for osteoporosis and new drugs associated with osteonecrosis
- Discuss the historic and novel treatment options, prevention strategies, and long-term outcomes for osteonecrosis and osteoradionecrosis.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ACCESS. IF YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE YOUR VIEWING PREFERENCE AFTER REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL THE DCDS OFFICE.

**REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS** 

DCDS Members DCDS Member staff Dental Students Free Free Free Non-member dentist Non-member staff \$95 \$95

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is April 11, 2023. 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 April 11, 2023.



# APRIL 18

**REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS** 

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Inspire - Lead - Make a Difference

# SCDA 35th Annual Meeting in Special Care Dentistry

April 27-29th, 2023
Fairmont Downtown Dallas Hotel
Dallas, TX

The burgeoning age 65+ patient population need not only a medically well-trained dentists, but also dentists with above average knowledge of dental clinical care due to these patients' complicated dental presentations.

The SCDA Annual Meeting brings together leading national and international dentists and hygienists to exchange cutting edge research and best practices in hospital, geriatric and persons with disabilities dentistry. SCDA offers cutting edge, high-quality continuing education programs excellent for expanding your knowledge of medically & clinically complicated patients.

Separate yourself from the average dental provider by this high-level training. It pays off not only with better patient care but also increased referrals because of your expertise.

www.scdaonline.org/scda-annual-meeting

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER 🖓

VIEW 2023 PROSPECTUS



# So You Want To Be A Speaker...

Here's How to Give a Great Presentation

# KAREN CORTELL REISMAN

Karen Cortell Reisman, communication expert, author and coffee ice cream eater, works with leaders on how to 'Speak For Yourself' to make even more money. President of Speak For Yourself®, Karen has had a blast speaking across North America, Germany and Israel, and has become a Certified Virtual Presenter. Karen's training program ranks as the #3 best program in the world for Communication Development 2022 by her global peers according to Global Gurus. Karen has presented at dental meetings from Yankee to Panky and has worked one-on-one with many dentists.

### **Workshop Schedule**

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast and check-in 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Program by Ms. Reisman 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Panel of experienced speakers Want to persuade, teach, and inspire? It's all in how you communicate.

The goal of this fun and high-content workshop is to build your confidence and credibility whenever you open your mouth—whether you're speaking at a dental meeting, running your morning huddle or doing a case presentation.

- Communicate your message with even more gravitas and listener retention.
- Incorporate Karen's Speak For Yourself® 8-Step Blueprint to construct your presentations.
- Learn strategic communication best practices around the content, organization and delivery of your presentations.

The workshop will feature a panel of experienced speakers who can offer advice, tips, and answer any questions you may have. The panelists have experience in presenting both live and online courses to groups small and large. This informal discussion will give you the chance to gain knowledge they have garnered after years of experience.



**REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS** 

# FREE TO ALL ADA MEMBERS

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...continued from page 1

### Texas Dental Students and Schools

# Dental Education Loan Repayment Program Funding

- The DELRP provides a dental school loan repayment incentive to dentists in return for their practice in underserved areas throughout the state.
- History proves the program works and increases access to care by increasing the number of dentists in areas of need.
- Texas needs only 475 existing dentists practicing in underserved areas to meet 100% of the need.
- Reinstating funding to this successful and valuable program means that more dentists will connect with more patients, increasing access to oral health care for more Texans.

### **Dental School Funding**

- Texas dental schools provide critically needed oral health care to underserved populations.
- Texas dental schools train a diverse group of future clinicians for important roles in Texas' oral health workforce, improving the oral health of individuals and communities throughout the state.



(L-R) Drs. Ali Bayat, Sara Ehsani, Thalia Shirley and Jonathan Vogel were among the DCDS Members who attended TDA Legislative Day to make your voice heard on issues affecting the practice of dentistry in Texas.

- The state provides much of the funding to the dental schools.
- State dollars to the schools must be increased to ensure that the schools can continue operating their dental clinics and educating and training the state's dental workforce.

### Access to Oral Health Care

### State Dental Director

- There is no statutory requirement that the dental director for the OHIP at DSHS be a Texas-licensed dentist.
- Mandating in law that the program be led by a dentist ensures that it is directed by a person with the most appropriate level of education and training that the position demands.

### **Oral Health Improvement Program Funding**

- Failure to treat dental disease has serious economic and medical consequences.
- The OHIP at the DSHS encourages Texans to improve and maintain good oral health.
- The OHIP works with various partners across the state to identify the oral health needs of Texans and the resources to meet those needs.
- Adequate funding helps ensure that the OHIP has the resources necessary to collect, analyze, and disseminate essential oral health data, develop and implement comprehensive oral health education campaigns, and possibly expand the direct delivery of dental services for uninsured children, pregnant women, and other at-risk populations.

# **Enhancing Oral Health Care Options for Texans**

- Properly trained and educated Texas-licensed dentists can safely administer neurotoxins and dermal fillers for esthetic purposes to patients and should have authority to do so in law.
- Being able to perform both therapeutic and cosmetic neurotoxin and dermal filler injections expands minimally invasive treatment options to address dental conditions.

### **Dental Practice Models**

- Texas must ensure that citizens have access to high-quality dental care delivered by licensed dentists.
- Only dentists have the training and experience required to make appropriate clinical dental treatment decisions.



- The following principles, which are codified in statute-coupled with strong, effective laws and regulations of dentists and dentistryprotect Texas dental patients:
  - Dental practices in Texas must be owned by dentists.
  - 2. Dentists are the head of the dental team.
  - 3. Dentists must make all decisions regarding clinical care without improper influence from non-dentists, as dentists are ultimately and appropriately held accountable for the care rendered.
- Non-dentists who influence clinical care should be held accountable for their illegal actions, as they undermine the safety of patients and sanctity of the dentist/patient relationship.

## Scope of Practice

- The TDA is committed to working with state and community leaders to identify and advance solutions that meaningfully address barriers to oral health care for Texans.
- Dentists, as the head of the dental team, are properly educated and trained to provide comprehensive care to patients.
- Every Texan—regardless of where they live or their socio-economic status—deserves to be treated by a dentist.

Join thousands of dentists and dental students to advocate for your patients, profession and practice at ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day on March 5 - 7, 2023 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC. ADPAC will be providing travel stipends to all dentists attending Lobby Day this year (up to \$550 per Texas dentist.)

Register today at https://www.ada. org/advocacy/advocacy-dentist-andstudent-lobby-day. March/April 2023 **DCDS** Connection



# Your Transition

is closer than you think!

Is your practice ready?

Go with a Guide that knows the territory!

Hoping one day to get top dollar for your practice? Considering adding a dentist to your practice? Wondering how to coordinate the real estate and practice sale?

"Seek advice now... while your practice is at its peak!"

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## **SELLERS** are waking up!

DSO's are falling short with their inflated promises! They are going bankrupt too! Start the year off right; Get our FREE Appraisal.

### **BUYERS** Beware!

You can't afford to not buy a practice! You will never pay off your loan as an associate!

We can get you financed!

Let's Plan an **AWESOME 2023** Together!

# Are You Using the Right Tools ... In Your Marketing Efforts?



- Reduce caller hang-ups
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- · Educate & inform patients
- Reinforce other marketing efforts
- · Introduce new providers & staff
- · Encourage online check-in & referrals
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- Match the background music to the season
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Dental assistants who train through the DCDS Dental Assisting School know more than just the basics. They are specialized assistants who can take x-rays and perform CPR. They have foundational knowledge of nitrous oxide sedation and are HIPAA/OSHA proficient. They are trained to work as part of a dental team.

DCDS member dentists are given the unique (and first) opportunity to hire new, fully trained dental assistants from each graduating class. For more information, please contact the DCDSDAS Program Director, Angela Bush, at info@dcdsdas.org or 972-386-5741 x222.

**ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR APRIL 5TH SESSION** 

dcdsdas.org











# Classified Advertising

Classified Advertising for DCDS Connection is accepted on a space-available basis and must meet the advertising guidelines of the DCDS.

Rates and information are posted on-line at https://www.dcds.org/news-media/sponsoring-advertising or call 972-386-5741.

# For Sale/Lease - Offices

### **OFFICE TO SHARE**

Rent space in our new fully digital and equipped dental office located in Richardson near 75 & Campbell Rd; available 2-3 days per week on a daily fee basis. Take a video tour at DrJackBodie.com.

Call 214-212-9413 or email Jack@DrJackBodie.com for details.

### Looking for Equipment

### Amalgamator/Triturator

Looking for a working Amalgamator/ Triturator for the Texas Mission of Mercy.

Contact Dr. Wade Barker at wade@wadebarker.com

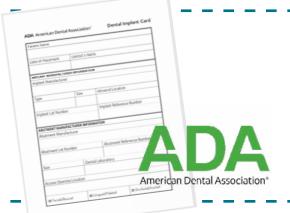
Click here to check out Job Bank/Classified ads on the DCDS Website for more opportunities!



### **ADA Member Perk Alert**

Consolidate information regarding implant restorations in one place to assist you and your patients with the ADA Dental Implant Card. Dentists can keep one copy of the form in the patient's dental record as well as provide a copy to the patient.

This card is a downloadable product available in the ADA Store with four cards per sheet. Members can download for free at https://store.ada.org/catalog/ada-dental-implant-form-102799.



March/April 2023 **DCDS** Connection



### **DCDS**

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### **Follow DCDS and SWDC** on social media!













Registration is now open! Register your entire team for the 96th Southwest Dental Conference, August 25-26 at the Dallas Hilton Anatole. Registration after July 14th will incur an additional \$50 fee per person, even for DCDS members this year.

We have classes for every member of your team. New courses such as "Creating and Sustaining a Positive Work Life: Breaking the Seven Habits of Negativity and Other Secrets of Getting Along" and "Get READY for Rapid Change!" will motivate your staff and help create a cohesive team. Dental assistants can hone their skills in "The Exceptional Assistant" workshop, "Equipment Maintenance" course, and many others. Dentists can look forward to many new offerings such as "The Oral Microbiome and The Link to GI Health", "Food as Medicine", and "Disrupting Dentistry: A Patient Flow For the Future".

The Exhibit Hall will be hopping for two days with many exciting vendors. See the latest dentistry has to offer and join us for our soiree on Friday afternoon. We will have hors d'oeuvres and cash bar with a wonderful opportunity to network.

Whether you are attending a class together, gathering for a staff lunch or taking advantage of the beautiful outdoor spaces, the Southwest Dental Conference at the Hilton Anatole Dallas is the perfect place to team build. There are course topics to fit every dental role, so register your entire staff today to refresh, renew and reconnect in August!

Registration is now open online at swdentalconf.org. Book your room at the Anatole and plan on a wonderful time to Refresh, Renew and Reconnect.



Dr. Celeste Latham 2023 Southwest Dental Conference Chairman