

# 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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## Yes to Fluoride

by Mary Swift, DDS

TDA Community Water Fluoridation Committee Chairman



The Dallas City Council's Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Committee recently sought to explore arguments both for and against the addition of fluoride to our water supply. During the October 16, 2023

briefing, the TDA Community Water Fluoridation Committee, along with a panel of medical community leaders, presented up-to-date information on fluoride. Mr. Adam Bazaldua, the chair of the QLA&C committee from District 7, led the opposition to fluoridation. He believed our presentation was biased in favor of fluoride and promptly scheduled an emergency briefing to listen to those who opposed it. It is unfortunate that this issue has escalated to this point.

Our panel provided compelling scientific evidence of the safety and benefits of Community Water Fluoridation (CWF). The panel consisted of the Director of Health and Human Services for Dallas, a toxicologist, the engineer from Dallas Water Utilities, and two dentists. Despite our commitment to presenting

sound scientific evidence, Mr. Bazaldua perceived bias in the science itself. If Mr. Basaldua feels the science is biased, then the opponents have his ear. To date, no concrete evidence of harm has been established when fluoride levels are controlled. Unfortunately, those most adversely affected when fluoride is absent are the less privileged and the young in our population.

We've observed a 25% increase in dental decay in communities that discontinue fluoride use. When one City Council committee member inquired whether brushing, flossing, and regular dental visits could be as effective in preventing decay, I reminded her that for some households, a toothbrush is a luxury, but water is universally accessible. Simple, but undeniably true.

We have 75 years of unceasing research supporting the safety and benefits of fluoride, whereas our opponents rely on anecdotal evidence and conspiracy theories. It's not that they don't want fluoride in their water, they just don't want government in their water.

...continued on page 11



Dr. Mary Swift, former DCDS President and current Chairman for the TDA Community Fluoridation Committee, is seated in the center as she presented the case for fluoridation at the City of Dallas meeting on October 16.

# The Write Stuff

Sarah Poteet, DDS, President

## Celebrating Fall and Gratitude in Dentistry



As we near Fall and the season for giving thanks, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the Dallas County Dental Society and organized dentistry. In the spirit of thankfulness, I'd like to

share some of the reasons why I am thankful for my DCDS family and shine a light on some of the exceptional programs that make our dental community so remarkable.

October marks the beginning of a special initiative close to our hearts — the Mentor/Mentee program. It's a wonderful opportunity for new dentists to establish connections with experienced practitioners, gaining invaluable guidance as they embark on their professional journeys. This program not only fosters relationships but also ensures that the torch of knowledge is passed on to the next generation.

One of the highlights of this year was the resounding success of the Southwest Dental Conference in Dallas. With a bustling Exhibit Hall and a wide array of sold-out courses catering to the entire dental team, it was an exceptional event that showcased how special our long-standing meeting is and how it continues to thrive and evolve.

Our dedicated board of directors continues to go the extra mile to write handwritten notes to non-members, encouraging them to become part of our special organization. Their commitment to expanding our community is commendable and exemplifies the warm and inclusive spirit of DCDS.

The October General Membership Meeting was a testament to the spirit of togetherness and the pursuit of knowledge within our community. An outstanding continuing education program that is free, plus networking with fellow dentists and dental students; it is an event I encourage all to attend, particularly if you're looking to build new connections and referral sources in the Dallas area.

Participation in organized dentistry extends beyond our local community, and I was fortunate to represent Texas, the 15th district, at the ADA House of Delegates meeting in Orlando. The experience of witnessing dental leaders from across the country come together to protect and improve our profession was awe-inspiring. The passion and expertise of these individuals is contagious, reminding me of the love we all share for dentistry. I urge everyone to get more involved in this process and have a voice in shaping the future of our profession.

The DCDS Foundation deserves special mention for their remarkable contributions to our community. The "Dental Tree Program" offers dental teams an opportunity to serve Dallas County's most at-risk populations, planting seeds of improved oral health for a lasting impact. I encourage all of you to sign up for their upcoming give-back campaign from November 1st to 3rd at [dcdsfoundation.org](http://dcdsfoundation.org).

As we count our blessings, let us remember to extend our gratitude to our teams, families, patients, and friends. Every day, we are blessed with the ability to make a positive impact on others, improving their health and overall quality of life. What we do transcends mere smiles; it touches lives.

I am deeply thankful for the privilege of serving as your DCDS President. Together, we can continue to make a difference and build a brighter future for our dental community. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. Wishing you all a joyous and reflective fall season, filled with the warmth of gratitude.



DCDS Connection is published bimonthly for the members of DCDS, 13633 Omega Road, Dallas, Texas 75244. First class U.S. postage is paid at Dallas, Texas. Subscriptions are free to DCDS members, and non-members may purchase copies for \$10 per issue. Digital archives are available at [dcds.org](http://dcds.org).

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Member Publication  
**AADEJ**  
 American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists



# Impressions

Editorial by Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD, Editor

## Some Thoughts to Building a Successful Practice



I believe that success in a dental practice needs to have a healthy balance. Like a fine mechanical clock, the outcome is the sum of the parts.

We must start off with a competent practitioner, with characteristics which I like to refer to as the 3 A's: Affable, Available, and Able. However, we cannot practice on our own. We need office staff that complete the practice, including hygienists, assistants and front office, along with a competent office manager. They also need to be affable, able, and always available to the needs of their job descriptions.

To create harmony amongst a diverse group of talent is not always easy. All individuals have

their issues and often bring their stress to work. I believe it is important to teach our staff that when they come to work, they should leave their worries behind; and likewise, never take their stress and work home with them.

Perception and expectations are key. Once employees know what their responsibilities are and what is expected of them, they can then be emotionally secure at work. All employees need to balance their ego with respect. There is no room for egos but always room for the utmost respect to the dentist, staff and patient.

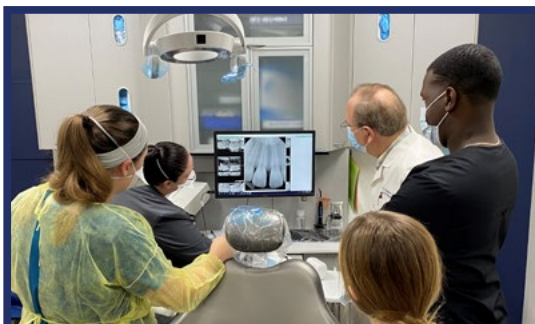
There is no "I" in team. The reality in modern day practice is that employees come and go. Sometimes it is a spouse whose job is transferred, taking our employee with them;

**“ Perception and expectations are key. Once employees knows what their responsibilities are and what is expected of them, they can then be emotionally secure at work.**

or for various other reasons people relocate. Having an office filled with talented and competent workers doesn't mean they will work well as a team. One must be able to identify this and make changes when needed.

Everyone, including the dentist, is an employee of the practice, and the practice always comes first. Communication is critical and frequent meetings and discussion of issues will keep issues from festering and becoming out of hand. Workshops, tutorials, and frequent meetings are critical. There needs to be a forum for the employees to vent and discuss their feelings.

A happy staff is a productive staff and when they look good, we look good!



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 Program Director, Angela Bush, at [info@dcdsdas.org](mailto:info@dcdsdas.org) or visit <https://www.dcds.org/dental-assisting-school>.

**NOW ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR SESSION STARTING OCTOBER 4**

[www.dcdsdas.org](http://www.dcdsdas.org)



# From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

## Dedication



I was recently reflecting on Dr. Tom McDougal conducting the Installation of Officers this past May 2023 and the message he presented.

*"It is an honor tonight to install the 2023-2024*

*officers of the Dallas County Dental Society. Our society was founded in 1908. In our 115 years of existence, there has been no time where our leaders are more important and more challenged than they are right now. All of our members must be thankful for those individuals who step forward to serve. We need to appreciate the dedication, energy, and sacrifice required of each of those individuals who represent us as our leaders. To the incoming officers, board members, committee chairman, committee members, delegates, and alternate delegates: you have a high responsibility. The Dallas County Dental Society gives you a title*

*and an office tonight, but each of you also assumes significant duties and responsibilities by agreeing to serve. The future of the Dallas County Dental Society is in your hands. You are truly the keepers of our profession."*

As I continue to reflect, I am sharing a few of the memories of this past year...

Prior to a recent DCDS Board meeting I had a call from Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller, DCDS Secretary/Treasurer, in a dilemma. His wife, who is an MD, had been called in and he would not be able to attend due to having no one to take care of their son. After talking, I suggested he bring him to the meeting. His son was the model guest (shown below.)



Hats off to DCDS members who represented the TDA 15th District at the ADA Annual Session in Orlando. They took many days away from their practice and family to represent Texas and their colleagues. Dr. Vanderbrook (shown above) went above and beyond at the event, helping a fellow delegate who only wears bow ties and had not previously tied a tie. True teamwork!

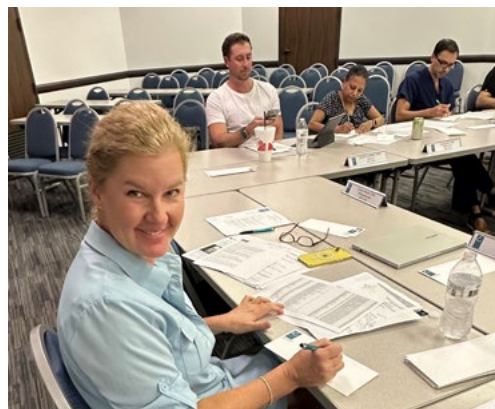
DCDS Members representing organized dentistry answered questions and shared their experiences with the D1 Students at Texas A&M College of Dentistry this past August. (Drs. Mitra Bolouri, Gabby Dizon and Drew Vanderbrook are shown below.)

### Commitment, Values and Expectations of DCDS Leaders

**Commitment to Serve:** Members serving on committees and as officers are expected to ascribe to the following set of values and expectations as identified by the Board of Directors.

**DCDS Values:** Ethical and honest; possess leadership skills; oriented toward the DCDS mission; decision maker; progressive and innovative; team player; possess the ability to communicate; professionally and organizationally knowledgeable; hardworking; involved in the community.

**Expectations:** Follow ADA Principals of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct; read DCDS publications; participate in DCDS functions; give input at meetings, in publications, etc.; keep leadership informed.



At another DCDS Board Meeting, Dr. Sarah Poteet (shown above) took time at a recent board meeting to have the members present to write personal notes to non-renewing members.



DCDS is fortunate to have so many dedicated leaders that give so much of their time!



## New Dentists

### Build Your Team of Professionals

You spent four years in dental school and possibly a few years after in advanced education programs to learn your craft. Patients trust you to help them make the best decisions concerning their dental and overall health. When it comes to dental health, you are the expert. Once we get out of school, we are also struck with the task of trying to run a business. Not only do we worry about great clinical work, but also have to manage staff, manage patients, and manage overhead. It may seem daunting, but as dentists, we can create a team of people that are experts in their fields to help us succeed in ours. If you own your own practice, are thinking of starting a practice, or even work as an associate, there is a group of people who can help.

#### Certified Public Accountant

Accountants can offer several benefits to a dental practice and personal finances. If you are considering starting a practice, talking to a CPA is crucial in order to set up business entities that determine how you are taxed and how you can pay yourself. They can help with payroll, track expenses versus revenue, help you manage your budget, manage overhead, and help with debt structuring. CPAs will also help you prepare your business and/or personal tax return come tax season. A CPA is a critical member for your team.

#### Banker

Choosing the right bank to help with the financial aspects of your practice is extremely valuable. Sometimes the bank you use for your personal finances is not always the bank to use for business purposes. Make sure you shop around for different banks that may have better products for your needs. Often times banks will have special lending programs for dentists so don't be afraid to look around. Things to consider when checking banks include fees, rates, and convenience.

#### Insurance Agent

Protecting yourself or your business is important should the unexpected occur. Setting up personal disability insurance or life insurance can be critical to protecting yourself and your family should you lose the ability to practice. If taking out a loan, the bank may require certain insurances to cover the amount of your loan. When it comes to owning a business there is business owners policy, workers compensation, general liability insurance just to name a few. Be sure to protect your biggest investment by talking to an insurance agent.

#### Certified Financial Planner

A CFP and your CPA can oftentimes be the same person. While a CPA will focus on taxes, a CFP will look at financial strategy to help you achieve your financial goals. A CFP will help with budgeting, savings, investment portfolios, estate planning and retirement planning. There are several groups that have CFPs that work with dentists. These groups have a lot of experience advising dentists on their financial future.

#### Mentor

It has been said and repeated many times, but finding mentors that are dentists can give you valuable advice on not just the clinical side of dentistry, but the business and personal side as well. Do not hesitate to find someone to talk to about whom they work with or advice on best practices.

There are a lot of hats a dentist must wear. Managing staff, managing finances, and maintaining a high level of clinical proficiency can be difficult, but utilizing a team of professionals to help you, can give you a plan to help relieve some of that burden. While it can be challenging, the opportunities we have as dentists to set up a practice the way we choose is one of the aspects that makes this profession so great.

“It may seem daunting, but as dentists, we can create a team of people that are experts in their fields to help us succeed in ours.”

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Chance Choate, DDS, MS

# DCDS Member's Message Board

## Upcoming Events

- November 1-3 – Dental Tree Program (Volunteer Opportunities)
- November 3 – Basic Life Support/CPR Training
- November 13 – DCDS Retired Dentists Frontiers of Flight Museum
- November 14 – General Membership Meeting  
Transforming Dentistry: 3D Printing and TDA Update
- December 4 - Cocktails and Conversation:  
Digital Workflows in Surgical Dentistry

**Register at [www.dcds.org/events](http://www.dcds.org/events)**



## Welcome New Members!

### General Dentistry

Matthew Arnold  
Josh Capwell  
Viachaslau Charnashei  
Zachariah Elkhatib  
Waleska Flores  
Tonjoliq Jackson  
Parth Khatsuria  
Noah Kippenbrock  
Jennifer Maguire  
Nikita Murarka

### Kimberly Murguia

Tri Nguyen  
Sabrina Noorvash  
Stephanie Onyeka  
Deesha Patel  
Kheya Patel  
Taft Richards, III  
Madison Riley  
Virali Soni  
China Stroud

### Endodontics

Alex Chavez

### Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Suzzane Horani

### Pediatric

Conrad Chou

### Periodontics

XiXi Wu

## In Memoriam:

Dr. James Clayton, III  
Dr. Perry Goldberg

**Join now and pay \$0 dues until 2024!**



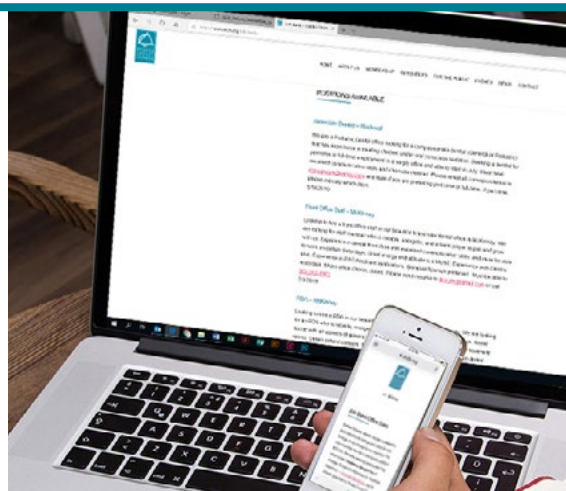
## Encourage your colleagues to join!

When they become a member of TDA, ADA, and DCDS now, their membership is FREE for the rest of the year. They pay no dues until 2024! Send them to [tda.org/member-center/join-renew](http://tda.org/member-center/join-renew).

**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](mailto:rosemary@dcds.org).





## 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 125.

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](mailto: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
- 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

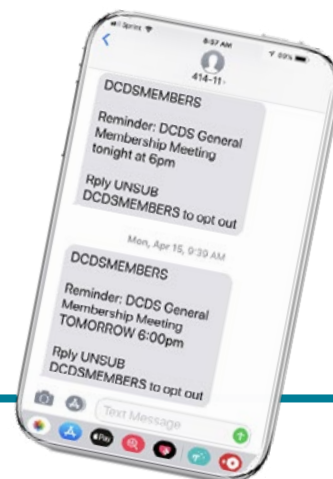
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

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](http://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.



### Pro Bono Reporting

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 complete this form whenever you provide these services.

Opportunities to provide pro bono services can often be found on the DCDS Foundation Website.

First Name \*

Last Name \*

First Name \*

EMAIL \*

EMAIL \*

**TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS BELOW**

TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS BELOW

This should equal hours reported below.

CASE 1

Who referred patient to office?

Time spent delivering care?

Value of Treatment?

CASE 2

Who referred patient to office?

Time spent delivering care?

Value of Treatment?

CASE 3

Who referred patient to office?

Time spent delivering care?

Value of Treatment?

## 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:

<https://www.dcds.org/member-center/pro-bono>



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

## on-hold media group

Proudly Serving DCDS Members Since 2008



### On-Hold Messaging Will:

- Present a cordial, professional image
- Reduce caller hang-ups
- Shorten perceived hold times
- Educate & inform patients
- Reinforce other marketing efforts
- Introduce new providers & staff
- Encourage online check-in & referrals

Our **SHUFFLE** system lets you to quickly & easily:

- Manage your content on a near real-time basis
- Select the precise messages your callers need
- Submit new Custom Script Requests
- Match the background music to the season
- Generate a new weekly production sequence and so much more...

For a live, online virtual tour of our **SHUFFLE** Content Management System, please contact us today!

Ask us about the special program for DCDS Members



(866) 758-1300  
www.OnHoldWizard.com  
info@onholdwizard.com



The Retired Dentists Committee hosts dinners, movies and other outings for retired DCDS Members. To be included in their event emails, send an email to [ashley@dcds.org](mailto:ashley@dcds.org).

# 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](mailto:angela@dcds.org) today!





# Diversity + Inclusivity

by Brad Crump, DDS, MS  
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee

## The Spice of Life



The other day I was browsing the internet and came across a picture of some thoughts by renowned dog trainer Lisa Desatnik. As I read this collection of thoughts, I thought to myself that these statements truly embody what each of us seek out and should try to achieve as individuals struggling to exist in our own worlds and within the collective of humanity. I would like to talk about them with you today.

First, one of the most basic of human needs is having that sense of belonging. Many of us find this with our families of origin or our chosen families, while some find this with their chosen faith. Some people may find it within their profession, co-workers, or professional organizations. We all remember how isolated we felt during the COVID pandemic and psychologists have yet to determine the emotional ramifications of this. As a result of this, we all have become aware that self-

isolation is not good for the soul. Find others that share your interests, your mantra and create your tribe.

Second, all of us want to be included, loved and respected. We all want to have friends. Wow, inclusion, love, and respect are three heavy hitters that I feel are scarce these days. We should all remember that those individuals that are around us every day deserve all three of these items as difficult as it may be, and I want to point out not only to practice inclusion, love, and respect towards others, but we should also be inclusive, respecting, and loving to ourselves. We should include self-care in this to allow ourselves to open-up to receive these gifts from others and from ourselves. A simple hello to a stranger can make a difference in someone's day.

Third, we all want to feel like our contributions are important. We can agree that being heard and being acknowledged by others is important. Now remember, this does not equate to agreeing with everyone on every topic of discussion, but allowing others to talk, share

**“So do not settle with what is familiar, challenge yourself to experience different people, opinions, environments. Make your “garden” vibrant, colorful, and full of diversity and beauty.”**

and contribute to the group. Some of the most productive board discussions I have been a part of were germinated by individuals who I originally thought were outliers and had minimal to contribute. So, give everyone sitting around the table a chance to share in an open and non-threatening environment, because the next comment shared may be the answer you are looking for!

Fourth, we all have within us the power to do our part in fulfilling these needs in those around us. In my opinion, today's society is becoming more self-centric with some individuals being incapable of looking outside of themselves. The origins and causative factors of this is another discussion, but this does not diminish the need for each of us on a daily basis to actually acknowledge and truly “See” and “Be aware” of others who are around us. By doing this we will learn more about ourselves.

Lastly, when we make the effort to learn about others' points of view, to include and welcome others who are different from ourselves aren't we all better for it? I am an avid gardener, so I will use this analogy: No one wants a garden where every plant or flower is the exact same. It is the variety of plant species, types of trees, colors of flowers, leaves and different times of blooming that brings beauty to the overall landscape and garden. So do not settle with what is familiar, challenge yourself to experience different people, opinions, environments. Make your “garden” vibrant, colorful and full of diversity and beauty. As they always say, “Variety is the spice of life!”



A section of Dr. Crump's garden, with its vibrant array of foliage and blooms.



# Mentor/Mentee Networking Event

The DCDS New Dentists Committee hosts a Mentor and Mentee Program to form relationships that provide insight for the less experienced professional and enable dental students and new dentists to obtain counsel and guidance when beginning a dental career.

In October, the program provided a networking event with approximately 35 dentists and students in attendance. A panel of experienced dentists fielded questions on a range of topics including contracts, fees, student loans, patient communication and production expectations. Their responses included stories of their own experiences that were often moving and poignant.

Dentists with less than 10 years since graduating from dental school are encouraged to participate in events hosted by the New Dentists Committee. Watch for future events on the DCDS website at [www.dcds.org/events](http://www.dcds.org/events).



Continued from page 1...

Ideally, this issue will be resolved within the committee and never reach the City Council. However, if it does land on the City Council's agenda, a referendum might be inevitable. The removal of fluoride from Dallas' water would essentially erase 75 years of progress.

Public outcry is powerful. I implore you to inform your council member of your stance. Taking a stand can be challenging, especially when faced with irrational, emotionally charged individuals peddling conspiracy theories about water contamination. The most impactful response in such situations is no response; do not engage. Remember, we have substantial scientific evidence supporting the safety of fluoride.

If this matter progresses further, we must pack the council chambers with supporters. One of the opponents' tactics is to rush the issue onto the agenda, knowing full well that we have busy schedules and patients to attend to. If you can't be present in person, please reach out to your City Council representative and ensure your voice is heard. Without fluoride, Dallas children face a 25% increased risk of dental decay.

## Resources:

[Click here](#) if you would like to view **video of the City Council Fluoride Defense Hearing with the TDA/DCDS leaders defending fluoride.**

Below is **sample text to use** in corresponding with your Dallas Council Member:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

*I stand against the removal of fluoride in the Dallas water system.*

*Community water fluoridation has been declared one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century. When fluoride is taken away from a water supply, the decay rate increases by 25% in that community and those most affected are under-privileged households and children.*

*We have history and science on our side. Opponents have speculation and propaganda.*

*Removing fluoride from Dallas's water supply would negate 75 years of progress against dental disease and take dentistry back to a time where almost everyone will experience decay. Please keep our water fluoridated.*

## EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Dallas Council Members serving on this committee include:

Adam Bazaldua (Chair, District 7)  
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# Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Kristen Tribe; Photo by Steven Crow

## Outstanding alumni honored

**T**exas A&M University School of Dentistry and its alumni association presented outstanding and distinguished alumni awards during a reception Aug. 25 at the Southwest Dental Conference in Dallas.

This was the first year the reception had been held since the pandemic, so several honorees were recognized. They included Dr. Jacqueline Plemons, 2020-2021 Distinguished Alumnus; Dr. Sarah (Percy) Tovar, 2020-2021 Outstanding Young Alumnus; Dr. Wayne Woods, 2023 Distinguished Alumnus; and Dr. Gabrielle C. Dizon, 2023 Outstanding Young Alumnus.

Dr. Julie Stelly, alumni association president, and Dr. Chad Capps, immediate past president, presented the awards and shared highlights of each recipient's career.

### Dr. Jacqueline Plemons, 2020-2021 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Plemons received her dental degree from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1986, and her certificate in periodontics in 1988. She has a master's degree in oral biology from Baylor University and completed a one-year fellowship in oral medicine during her residency in

periodontics. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Periodontology and has a private practice in the Park Cities area serving patients with periodontal and oral medicine needs. Dr. Plemons is a part-time clinical professor in the Department of Periodontics at Texas A&M School of Dentistry and is the director of the dental school's stomatology program.

She is active in organized dentistry on a local, state and national level and has served as president of the Texas Dental Association, as well as chair of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education and Licensure. She has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and lectures across the United States in the fields of periodontics and oral medicine.

"I'm honored to receive this award," Dr. Plemons said, "and I'm mindful of the many opportunities our dental school has opened for me and my family. Service is in the heart of most of us, and nowhere is it more evident than in members of our alumni association.

"I'm grateful for the guidance and mentorship our alumni have provided me over the years, and I look forward to many more in service to our patients and our profession."

### Dr. Sarah (Percy) Tovar, 2020-2021 Outstanding Young Alumnus

Dr. Tovar took an interest in dentistry after a bicycle accident landed her in the oral surgeon's chair as a fifth grader. In high school, her science fair and summer research projects were about teeth. After graduating from Texas A&M University, she earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry in 2012 and completed an AEGD residency at UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry in 2013.

Dr. Tovar's commitment to organized dentistry was recognized in 2019 when she was named Texas New Dentist of the Year by the Texas Academy of General Dentistry and again in 2020, when she was awarded the Rising Star of the Lone Star by the Texas Dental Association. Her lifelong dream of practice ownership came to fruition when she opened her dental office in 2021 alongside her husband, James, class of 2013. She is a fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry and the International College of Dentists.

"Winning the Outstanding Young Alumnus award is extra special because it takes me back to where it all began," Dr. Tovar said. "I wouldn't be the clinician, leader and practice owner that I am today without the strong foundation I established at the Texas A&M School of Dentistry.

"I am especially grateful for the remarkable people the dental school placed in my life," she continued. "Their influence on my life and my

...Continued on page 17

From left, DCDS members, Drs. Gabrielle Dizon, Jacqueline Plemons and Wayne Woods were honored August 25 at the Texas A&M University School of Dentistry alumni reception during the Southwest Dental Conference. Dr. Sarah (Percy) Tovar was also recognized but was unable to attend.



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](http://dentistryinsider.tamhsc.edu) or follow @TAMUdental.

# General Membership Meeting - November 2023

## Transforming Dentistry: Exploring the Potential of 3D Printing in the Dental Practice

MICHAEL RYAN, DDS, MS



Dr. Michael Ryan shares a practice with his wife in Allen, Texas, where he is a private practice Prosthodontist focusing on implant dentistry and complex rehabilitations. He has a passion for leveraging dental technology to improve treatment techniques, communication and the overall patient experience. This commitment has resulted in his selection as a key opinion leader by implant and digital imaging companies. Dr. Ryan received his DDS from Baylor College of Dentistry and his Master of Science degree in Oral Biology and certificate of Prosthodontics from Texas A&M University College of Dentistry.

Digital technologies like intra-oral scanning and 3D printing have had a profound impact on the modern dental practice. While these concepts are enticing, the actual implementation of these groundbreaking advancements can be intimidating. This discussion will highlight the 3D printing aspect of the digital dentistry workflow and aims to help the attendees make a more informed decision when acquiring a printer by providing a better understanding of how 3D printing works, how different types of printers benefit different practice needs, and how the pairing of 3D printing with other new digital technologies is creating revolutionary abilities for dental practices.

Audience: Dentists

AGD Code: 010

CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific

CE Verification provided

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### Learning Objectives:

- Develop a basic understanding of 3D printing and its relevance to dental practice
- Discuss what printer types best fit different practice needs
- Identify dental workflows that can be enhanced by in-house 3D printing

### ALSO JOINING US:

TDA President Dr. Cody Graves provides a brief update regarding the recent news, actions and changes at the Texas Dental Association.



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Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is November 7, 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 November 7, 2023.



# NOVEMBER 14

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# Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Chi Trieu, DCDS Foundation President

## Year in Review

DCDS Foundation has had a tremendous year of service. Our volunteers have served 650 children during Give Kids a Smile, educated 500 children at our Tooth Talk programs, and reached over 700 adults and close to 300 children at various Back to School events.

By year's end, we will have served an estimated 2300 children and adults through education, outreach and delivery of much needed oral health supplies. Thank you for your continued support!

## North Texas Giving Day Thank You

THANK YOU for all who donated to DCDS Foundation during North Texas Giving Day (NTGD)! On September 21, 2023, DCDS Foundation received a total of 23 gifts, totaling \$4025. This year, we had a record number of new donors and reached over 80% of our goal. These gifts will benefit low-income families, seniors and children of Dallas County. Your Foundation continues to work to support those in need and help educate Dallas County residents on the importance of dental health.

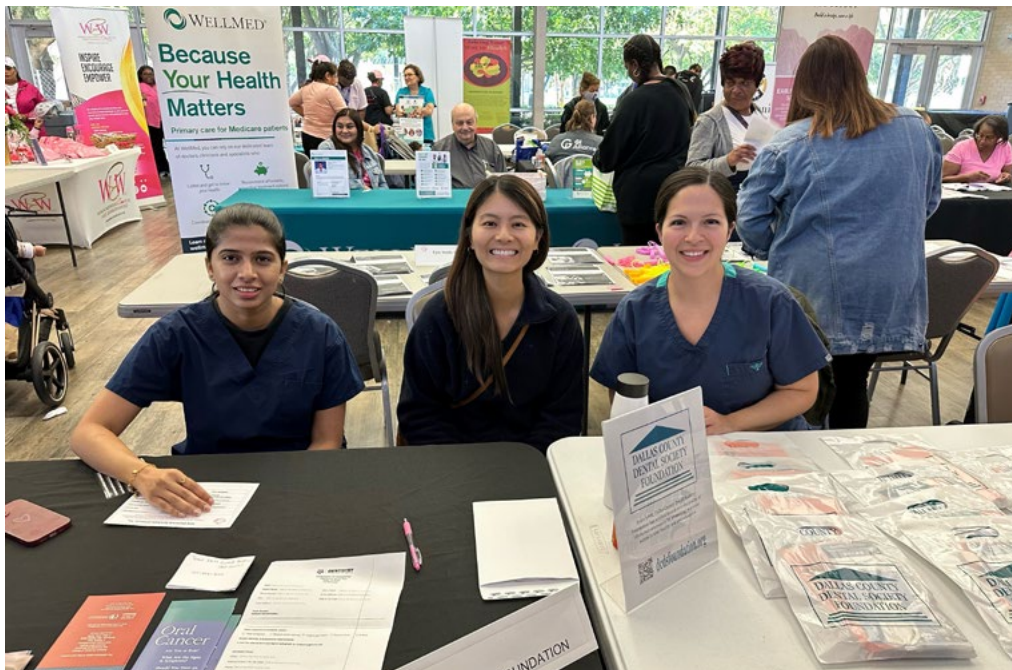


\* estimated for year end

Photo below: DCDS Members, Dr. Yuhong Lin (center) and Dr. Monica Goff (right) represented the DCDS Foundation at the Best Southwest Community Health Fair along with dental assistant Virajitha Damarla. They distributed oral health kits and provided dental education at the Duncanville event in October. If you would like to volunteer for future events, please sign up via the Foundation website at <https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/volunteer>.

## Dental Tree Program

We still have work to do, and there is still time to participate in the inaugural Dental Tree Program! By joining DCDS Foundation, we can collectively serve Dallas County community members in need on November 1-3, 2023. Please go to [www.dcdsfoundation.org](#) for more information. If you missed our event this year, please check other volunteer opportunities available throughout the year.



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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.

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[Click here to check out Job Bank/Classified ads on the DCDS Website for more opportunities!](#)

Continued from page 13...

career has been invaluable – and none more so than my wonderful husband (class of 2013). What an honor to be recognized in this way by my alma mater!"

Dr. Tovar recently welcomed a baby boy to her family and was unable to attend the awards ceremony.

### Dr. Wayne Woods, 2023 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Woods followed his childhood dream of becoming a dentist and attended Baylor College of Dentistry where he received his dental degree in 1988. He remained at Baylor College of Dentistry for 12 years as a clinical instructor in the Department of Restorative Sciences and was later promoted to associate professor. During his tenure at Baylor, he was honored to receive the Teacher of the Year award.

While teaching at Baylor, he also maintained a private practice. In 2003, Dr. Woods returned to the college to specialize in orthodontics. He received a certificate in orthodontics and a Master of Science degree in 2005. He practiced orthodontics in the Park Cities area for more than 11 years, and in 2017, he opened his own orthodontic practice in North Dallas.

Dr. Woods also serves in numerous positions of leadership with the Dallas County Dental Society and on the board of the Dallas County Dental Society Foundation. He has received many awards, including New Dentist of the Year, the Presidential Award and Dentist of the Year.

While away from the office, he and his wife, Michelle, enjoy keeping up with their three children: Julia, Hudson and Hampton.

"After learning that I was chosen to receive this award, I looked back over the list of names of those who had been chosen before me, and I am humbled and honored to be included among them," Dr. Woods said. "I take great pride in our profession and the wonderful school that got me to this place. "I think what has made my career even more rewarding is the time that I taught at the dental school," he said. "Receiving this award encourages me to continue giving back to those who are just beginning their careers in this amazing profession of dentistry. This is truly an unexpected honor, but one I will cherish for a lifetime."

### Dr. Gabrielle C. Dizon, 2023 Outstanding Young Alumnus

Dr. Dizon grew up in the East Dallas area and graduated from Ursuline Academy of Dallas before earning her undergraduate degree in exercise science from Texas A&M University in

College Station. She continued her education at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, where she earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery in 2017. She is a member of the Central Dallas Chapter of the Spear Education Study Club.

Dr. Dizon is passionate about advocating for the dental community through her involvement in organized dentistry. She has served on the board of directors for the Dallas County Dental Society and currently holds various leadership roles within the organization. She also serves on councils with the Texas Dental Association and American Dental Association.

Dr. Dizon earned fellowships with the American College of Dentists and Pierre Fauchard Academy, dental honor societies that recognize leadership and service in the dental field. She has also been recognized in D Magazine as a Best Dentist in the "Best of Big D."

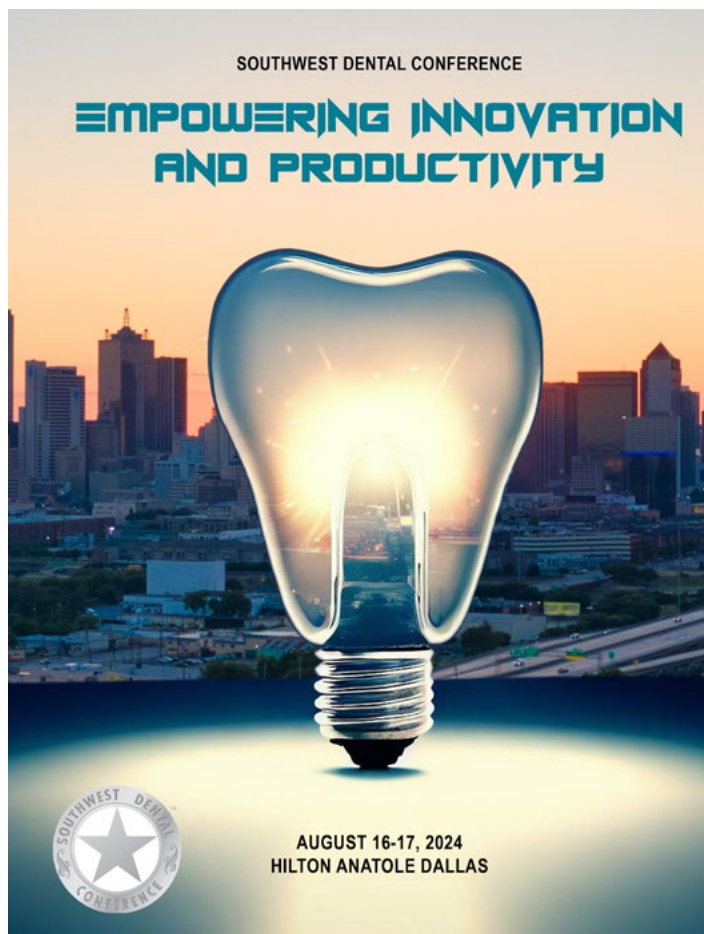
Dr. Dizon married her high school sweetheart, Greg, and is looking forward to raising a family in the Dallas area.

"I'm so honored ... it has been a joy to be able to give back to the community and school that has provided me with so much opportunity as a student and recent graduate," she said. "I feel very fortunate to be part of a supportive and tight-knit alumni organization."

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I am delighted to welcome you all to the 2024 Southwest Dental Conference, Dallas's annual gathering for dental professionals and their staff. As the Chairman of this year's Conference, it is my privilege to share our vision and enthusiasm for the theme, "Empowering Innovation and Productivity."

Over the years, dentistry has witnessed remarkable advancements in technology and patient care. Our profession continually evolves, and it is crucial that we stay at the forefront of these changes. The theme of this year's Conference reflects our commitment to embracing innovation and enhancing productivity in our practices.

Innovation has become synonymous with progress, and the field of dentistry is no exception. In an era of rapid technological advancements, staying up to date with the latest tools, techniques, and practices is essential. At the 2024 Southwest Dental Conference, we have curated an exciting lineup of sessions and workshops that will provide you with valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies and strategies.

One of the focal points of our Conference will be the exploration of digital dentistry. From courses on 3D printing and digital integrations with Dr. Mark Kleive to CBCT interpretation with Dr. Peter Green, we will delve into how these innovations can revolutionize patient care, streamline workflows, and enhance diagnostic accuracy. Our aim is to empower you with the knowledge and skills to integrate these innovations seamlessly into your practices.

Productivity is another critical aspect of our theme. We understand the challenges that come with running a dental practice efficiently. From optimizing appointment scheduling and improving patient management to enhancing the overall patient experience, our Conference will offer practical solutions to boost productivity without compromising the quality of care. We will have Judy Kay Mausolf lecturing on practice management and Dr. Greg Grobmyer lecturing on maximizing insurance reimbursement for your practice.

Collaboration is key to innovation and productivity. The 2024 Southwest Dental Conference will provide ample networking opportunities for you to connect with fellow professionals, industry experts, and exhibitors. Sharing experiences and insights can spark new ideas and lead to meaningful collaborations that drive positive change in your practice.

Furthermore, we have an impressive roster of renowned speakers and educators who will share their expertise on various topics, including Drs. Lee Ann Brady and Todd Davis presenting restorative topics, Dr. Stanley Malamed presenting on anesthesia, and Dr. Gigi Meinicke presenting a hands-on workshop with Botox. Their knowledge and experience will empower you to take your dental practice to new heights.

As we gather in Dallas for the 2024 Southwest Dental Conference, I encourage you to embrace the theme of "Empowering Innovation and Productivity" with an open mind and a commitment to continuous improvement. Together, we can shape the future of dentistry, ensuring that our patients receive the best possible care while making our practices more efficient and rewarding.

**Dr. Drew Vanderbrook**

2024 Southwest Dental  
 Conference Chairman