

# DCDS connection

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



## Mission Statement

Serving the professional  
needs of our members

## In This Issue

The Write Stuff .....	2
Impressions .....	3
From the Hub .....	4
New Dentists .....	5
Members Message Board .....	6
Facility Rental.....	7
Diversity/Inclusion .....	14
TAMUSOD.....	17
DCDS Foundation.....	19
Classified Advertising .....	21

## 2023 SWDC Results

by Dr. Celeste Latham, 2023 SWDC Chairperson

### Refreshed, Renewed, Reconnected!

The 2023 Southwest Dental Conference proved to be a significant success, captivating attendees with stimulating topics, renowned national speakers, a cutting-edge Exhibit Hall and a touch of southern hospitality. From the clinical workshops to the immensely popular CE Express, the 2023 SWDC delivered the pinnacle of continuing education experiences. I hope you took advantage of this opportunity to Refresh, Renew and Reconnect so you could return to your offices, inspired and geared up with knowledge to incorporate into your everyday practice.

Every year, the SWDC materializes through the collaborative dedication of numerous exceptional individuals who share a common commitment to our mission of delivering “exemplary education, emerging technology, and service for the entire dental team.” While the Chairman receives considerable commendation, the true architects of this Conference’s success are the Scientific Committee, the 2023 SWDC Committee and the adept team at the Dallas County Dental Society. Under the guidance of Executive Director Jane Evans, they have cultivated a finely tuned operation that runs so seamlessly that their contributions often go unnoticed. A round of applause for their commendable efforts!

### Thank you, Scientific Committee!

- Dr. Celeste Latham
- Dr. Mary Swift
- Dr. Drew Vanderbrook
- Dr. Gabby Dizon
- Dr. Salvator La Mastra
- Dr. Sarah Poteet
- Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller
- Dr. Shad Hattaway
- Dr. Thomas Schlieve

### Thank you, SWDC Committee!

- Chairman: Dr. Celeste Latham
- Chairman-elect: Dr. Drew Vanderbrook
- Vice Chairman-elect: Dr. Gabby Dizon
- Vice Chairman-elect: Dr. Thomas Schlieve
- Exhibits: Dr. Jodi Danna
- Exhibits: Dr. Brad Crump
- CE Express: Dr. Mitra Bolouri
- Hygiene CE Express: Chelsea Moorman
- Hospitality Suite: Dr. Sarah Poteet
- Welcome Center: Dr. Missy Jaynes
- Workshops: Dr. Wayne Woods
- Workshops: Dr. Todd Baumann

At the 2023 SWDC, the Silver Stars exhibited their tireless dedication as clinician hosts and session hosts. Comprised of dentists, hygienists, assistants and office personnel, this devoted group worked inconspicuously to ensure the comfort of speakers and attendees, always ready with a warm smile. Numerous speakers have praised the exceptional hospitality extended to them at the SWDC, setting us apart from other dental conferences across the United States. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated; we eagerly anticipate your return next year!

Continued on page 12...



Dr. Celeste Latham, Chairman of the 2023 SWDC, shown here with Dr. Vanderbrook, who will chair next year’s Conference.

# The Write Stuff

Sarah Poteet, DDS, President

## Get ready for Fall with DCDS!



**A**s this HOT Texas summer gradually gives way to the cooler embrace of fall, we at the Dallas County Dental Society are thrilled to welcome you to an exciting season ahead!

Our committees and staff are busy preparing to make this fall one to remember, packed with a blend of education, camaraderie, and growth opportunities.

Our calendar is full of events that promise to expand your knowledge, foster connections, and elevate your professional journey. So, sit down, grab your phone and reserve these dates:

### Family-Friendly Mini Golf at Another Round

**- September 9th, 3-6pm:** The Membership Committee is hosting an afternoon of fun, laughter, and a friendly mini-golf competition. Strengthen your connections within the dental community while enjoying quality time with your family.

### General Membership Meeting with Dr. Steve Bender

**- September 19th, 6:30-9 pm:** Don't miss this valuable discussion on "The many faces of orofacial pain", presented by Dr. Steve Bender. This will be a hybrid of in-person and zoom, and registration is required for both.

### "Cocktails & Conversations" - October 17th, 6-7pm (Zoom Event)

The Diversity and Inclusivity Committee invites you to an

engaging virtual gathering focused on the simple breakdown about how to make digital dentures in 2023. Grab a cocktail of choice and join in on the fun from the comfort of your couch.

### Mentor/Mentee Reception - October 19th time TBD

New Dentists, this one's for you! Join us for a reception that's all about mentorship. Build connections with experienced colleagues who can guide you on your journey to success.

### General Membership Meeting with Dr. Michael Ryan - November 14th, 6:30-9pm:

Discover the world of 3D printing with Dr. Michael Ryan. Learn how this groundbreaking technology is transforming the dental landscape. Plus, don't miss the special visit by the TDA President, Dr. Cody Graves, for an update from the Texas Dental Association. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person and zoom options. Please RSVP @dcds.org.

Stay connected and engaged...don't have the fear of missing out! Stay updated on all the exciting events by following us on Instagram (@dcdsdallas) and Facebook (@dallascountydentalsociety). When you attend meetings and social events, please take photos and share and tag us in the fun.

As the leaves change colors and the air turns crisp, or at least we can dream of cooler weather, let's come together to make this fall a season of learning, growth, and unforgettable connections. Sign up today for all these events and more at [dcds.org/events!](http://dcds.org/events!)



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

Editor ..... Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD

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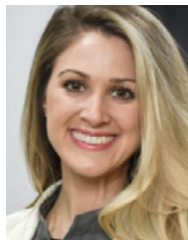




# Impressions

Editorial by Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD, Editor

## Patient retention for a new dental owner



**B**uying a dental practice is an exciting step; however, if you have not been the associate there and are going to start meeting patients after the sale, patient retention is a big deal. Especially since

“good will” is the most expensive part of a dental practice purchase price.

When a dentist decides to sell his practice, it can be challenging for the new owner. Common concerns that patients may have when their dentist retires include continuity of care, trust and familiarity, access to records, changes in practice policies, and financial implications. Patients may be concerned about the continuity of their dental care and wonder if the new dentist will provide the same level of expertise and quality of care as the retiring dentist.

Patients have built a trusting relationship with their retiring dentist over the years and may be concerned about establishing a new relationship with a different dentist. They also may be worried about the transfer of their dental records to the new dentist or practice, and want to ensure that their dental history, treatment plans, and any ongoing issues are properly communicated to the new dentist. When a practice changes hands, there may be changes in practice policies. It is important to provide reassurance that the new dentist will

maintain the same standards and practices they are accustomed to. Patients may wonder if there will be any changes in fees, insurance coverage, or payment options with the new dentist. I believe it is important to make changes slowly to not shock patients and allow them to get used to all the changes that are to come.

Some ways to improve patient retention include communication, excellent service, incentives, introductions and staying in touch. Being honest with patients about the reasons for sale, and any changes that may occur in the practice, makes patients feel comfortable and involved in the transition. Communicating with patients about changes in a clear way lets them know that the dentist is retiring and introduces them to the new dentist who will be taking over the practice.

Informing patients in advance and as soon as possible is the most important part! A well-written letter informing the patients about the change in ownership is a great first step. Patients are more likely to stay with a practice if they receive high-quality care and customer service. Make sure that the office staff as well as dentists are well-trained and have good bedside manner. Consider offering incentives to patients who stay with the practice after the retiring dentist leaves.

Introducing the new dentist is important. Patients may be more likely to stay with the

**“Being honest with patients about the reasons for sale, and any changes that may occur in the practice, makes patients feel comfortable and involved in the transition.”**

practice if they feel comfortable with the new dentist. The retiring or selling doctor should personally introduce the new dentist to patients and give them peace of mind that they are in good hands. Keeping in touch with patients through newsletters, social media, or other means can help to build a sense of community and loyalty among patients.

By following these strategies, a dentist can help ensure a smooth transition and patient retention for the new dentist taking over. Addressing patients’ concerns and providing clear communication will alleviate any anxieties that patients may have. When you address these concerns proactively, the transition can be smoother, and patients can feel more confident in continuing their dental care with the new dentist.



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

## Importance of Camaraderie in Dental Education and Practice



I recently attended the D-1 dental student orientation at Texas A&M University School of Dentistry and witnessed the enthusiasm of students embarking on their dental journey. Drs.

Drew Vanderbrook, Gabby Dizon, and Mitra Bolouri shared their experiences, highlighting the vital role camaraderie played in their dental school journey.

The bonds formed with fellow students provided invaluable support throughout the ups and downs of dental school. Studying, laughing, and sharing with peers who became like family proved crucial, especially for those without close familial support. This camaraderie doesn't end after dental school; it's equally important during the early years of dental practice.

In today's fast-paced world, virtual meetings offer convenience, but the personal camaraderie often gets lost. Face-to-face interactions foster connections that virtual exchanges can't replicate. I encourage you to consider attending our upcoming General Membership Meetings in person. Reconnect with old friends or forge new connections – the camaraderie we build is a cornerstone of our professional growth.

Top and Middle: TAMUSOD students enjoy complementary lunch provided by TDA during the D1 Orientation.

Below: Drs. Gabby Dizon, Mitra Bolouri and Drew Vanderbrook presented on behalf of DCDS.



HALF  
PRICE  
DUES

A 50% discount of dues is eligible for new members who join mid-year or during the fourth quarter of the year, provided they have not paid dues in a previous year. Encourage your colleagues to join!



## New Dentists

### News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Noah Cruz, DDS

## Digitizing Dentistry

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in various industries, and dentistry is no exception. With the advancement of AI technologies, dentists are experiencing a profound impact on their practices, patient care and overall efficiency. Let's face it. Whether we like it or not, the advent of digitizing dentistry is here, and we all need to embrace it. Here are a few highlights on the influence of AI on dentists, applications, benefits and potential challenges.

Arguably the most significant impact of AI in dentistry is in diagnostics and imaging. AI-powered software such as Pearl AI™ can analyze dental X-rays, scans, and images with exceptional precision, aiding dentists in detecting dental issues early on. We see ads on this commonly pop up every day, as these systems can quickly identify cavities, bone loss and other abnormalities, leading to more accurate diagnoses. Will this replace a dentist's knowledge and expertise? I don't believe it is a better alternative, but I do believe AI empowers dentists to provide timely and effective treatment plans, thereby improving patient outcomes.

AI-integrated dental equipment and robotics such as Yomi™ are transforming the way procedures are performed. Robotic systems can assist dentists during complex surgeries, enabling more precise movements and reducing the margin of error. SprintRay™ has helped dentists in the design and fabrication of crowns and nightguards using AI, cutting the time it takes to design these cases. What used to take 30 minutes to design, can now be done in 5 minutes with minimal adjustments.

While AI presents numerous benefits, dentists should also be aware of potential challenges. Data privacy and security concerns arise as AI systems handle sensitive patient information. Ensuring that patient data is adequately protected becomes crucial to maintain patient trust. Moreover, some dentists may be hesitant to adopt AI technologies due to concerns about the replacement of human expertise. However, AI should be viewed as a powerful tool that complements and augments dental practices rather than a replacement for skilled professionals.

It is indeed a wonderful time to be a young and budding dentist! Advances in AI-driven diagnostics, robotics, and fabrication will lead to an extremely efficient workflow, and we must embrace the future. If you asked me 10 years ago when I entered dental school if I'd imagine my career to be futuristic in nature, I'd say no. To be completely honest, I still take traditional PVS impressions and I still use my WhipMix articulator. However, I do believe the way I've practiced 5 years ago has completely changed. Change is good, and change for the good is even better. While AI is still in its infancy, the technology is already available and in the right hands we can all create healthier smiles. Don't believe me? Parts of this article, and the anime graphic at the right depicting digital dentistry, were created with the help of AI.



**“With the advancement of AI technologies, dentists are experiencing a profound impact on their practices, patient care and overall efficiency.”**

# DCDS Member's Message Board

## Upcoming Events

- September 9 – Mini Golf, Big Fun!
- September 19 – General Membership Meeting:  
The Many Faces of Orofacial Pain: Beyond TMD
- September 21 – North Texas Giving Day: DCDS Foundation
- October 17 – Digital Dentures — Are They Really That Good?
- October 19 – Mentor/Mentee Reception
- November 14 – General Membership Meeting  
Transforming Dentistry: 3D Printing and TDA Update



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

## Welcome New Members!

### General Practice

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Derek Albus         | Sruthi Katamneni    |
| Adeyeinka Anyaegbu  | Saima Khan          |
| Mark Ashby          | Awara Kawani        |
| Rebecca Atkins      | Haneen Kharoub      |
| Alexandra Bracaglia | Nguyen Le           |
| Uyen Cao            | Clark Mannas        |
| Khaled Daifallah    | Hani Matti          |
| Rigoberto Guerrero  | Haley Neal          |
| Nadya Hagee         | Amanda Ng           |
| Jemma Hanson        | Christine Nguyen    |
| Raquel Hazbun       | Jourdan Nguyen      |
| Sophia Hegazin      | Taemin Oh           |
| Anthony Henegar     | Anasinti Onyedebelu |
| Kylie Holliday      | Natalie Pan         |
| Ryan Horstmann      | Niousha Panahi      |
| Nicole Houshmand    | Maxwell Perelgut    |
| Kimberly Jacinto    | Brian Porsch        |
| Heera Jang          | Morgan Sample       |
|                     | Ali Shaikh          |

### Pediatric Dentistry

- Karishma Sheikh
- Megan Shen
- Ruasha Shrestha
- Srinitha Singanamala
- Milka Teklemicael
- Nicholas Tipton
- Dung Tran
- Tlen Tran
- Rachel Uher
- Stephanie Wakefield
- Frank Wang
- Courtney Williams
- Jayson Workman
- Morgan Yamek
- Samantha Young
- Ashly Okoli

## In Memoriam:

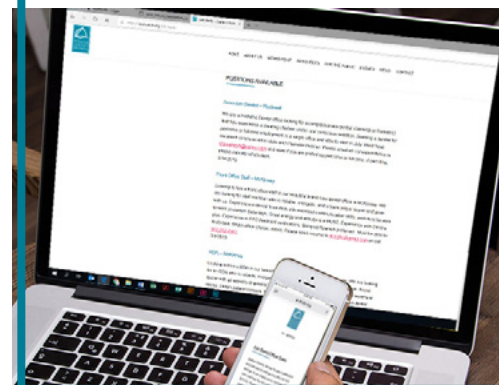
**Dr. John Davis**

### 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

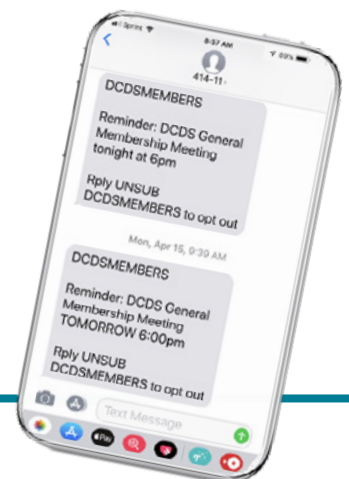
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

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 \*

EMAIL \*

**TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS BELOW**

**TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS BELOW**

This should equal hours reported below

CASE #	Who referred patient to office?	Time spent delivering care?	Value of Treatment?
CASE 1	Who referred p. <input type="text"/>	Time spent del. <input type="text"/>	Value of Treat. <input type="text"/>
CASE 2	Who referred patient to office? <input type="text"/>	Time spent delivering care? <input type="text"/>	Value of Treatment? <input type="text"/>
CASE 3	Who referred patient to office? <input type="text"/>	Time spent delivering care? <input type="text"/>	Value of Treat. <input type="text"/>

## 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>



# Applause, Applause!



Congratulations to DCDS Member Dr. Mitra Bolouri on being accepted in the prestigious ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership. The institute provides education and leadership training to dentists who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in leadership roles within the dental profession and their communities. As part of the institute, class members will put the leadership principles and training they receive to practical use by selecting an issue or challenge in their community, organization or the dental profession and developing and executing a plan to address it. Projects have included establishing a study club for new dentists, providing mentorship to minority students applying to dental school and increasing awareness of the dangers of vaping.

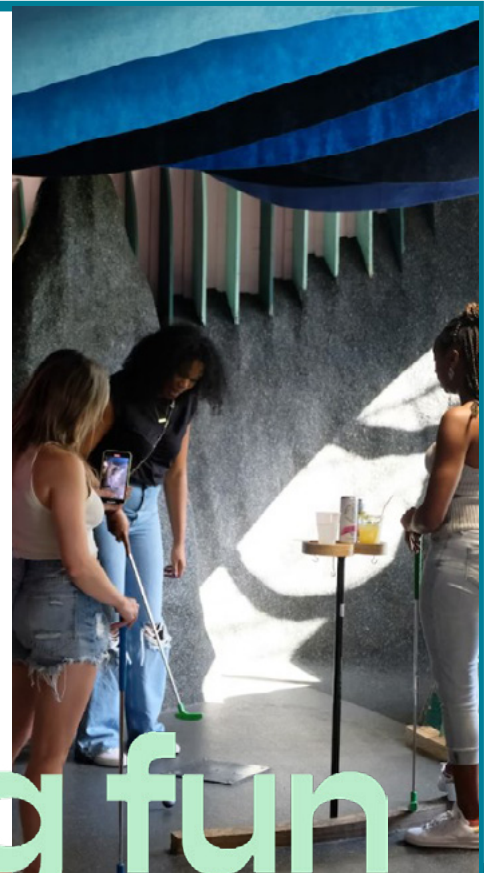


## GOT YOUR TEAM READY?!

Join us at Another Round to enjoy the funkiest mini golf in Dallas that is unlike any mini golf that you've played before! Challenge your DCDS colleagues on the original Daze course with the cone monster, swinging foam blocks, and treacherous ball ponds or finesse your way with family members through on the interactive, newer Nite course. Food and beverages (including cash bar) are available for purchase. Sign up now and get ready to putt your way through an unforgettable experience!

SEPTEMBER 9

# mini golf, big fun





# 2023 Southwest Dental Conference

Thank you to all who attended and supported the Southwest Dental Conference!  
These photos and more from the Chairman's Dinner can be found by [clicking here](#).





# General Membership Meeting - September 2023

## The Many Faces of Orofacial Pain: Beyond TMD

### STEVEN D. BENDER, DDS



Dr. Bender is a 1986 graduate of Baylor College of Dentistry and studied orofacial pain at the University of Florida College of Dentistry. He is currently a Clinical Associate Professor in the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas Texas and serves as the director of the Clinical Center for Facial Pain and Sleep Medicine, Texas A&M Health, Dallas, TX. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orofacial Pain and has earned Fellowships in the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, the American Headache Society, the International Academy of Oral Oncology and the American College of Dentists.

The number one reason patients seek care from their health care providers is for pain. In the dental practice, when pathology is not easily identifiable, the diagnosis becomes more difficult often leading to well intentioned but misguided therapies. Therefore, it is important for clinicians to be able to identify the various presentations of nonodontogenic pains in the face and oral cavity. This presentation is designed to help the dental team become confident with the diagnosis of some of the more common nonodontogenic orofacial pain complaints encountered in the dental practice. Strategies for the management of these disorders as well as determining when referral is recommended will also be discussed.

Sponsored by DocGiv.



#### Learning Objectives:

- Understand the basic classifications of pain and the relevance to clinical practice
- Formulate a differential diagnosis and successfully triage orofacial pain complaints
- Identify appropriate treatment strategies for the more common orofacial pains
- Understand when a team approach is recommended

Audience: Dentists

CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific

AGD Code: 200

CE Verification provided

**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.**

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

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is September 12, 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 September 12, 2023.



# SEPTEMBER 19

6:00 PM IN-PERSON • 6:30 PM VIRTUAL • REGISTER TODAY AT [DCDS.ORG/EVENTS](https://dcds.org/events)

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY • DALLAS, TEXAS 75244 • 972-386-5741 • [INFO@DCDS.ORG](mailto:info@dcds.org)

**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](http://www.ada.org/goto/cerp).



### Thank You, 2023 Silver Stars: Our Ambassadors of the SWDC Conference!

Ms. Merrit Alve  
 Dr. Nadia Bahramnejad  
 Dr. Todd Baumann  
 Ms. Tiffany Beierschmitt  
 Dr. Mitra Bolouri  
 Dr. Tina Bui  
 Dr. Linda Cheng  
 Dr. Brad Crump  
 Dr. Noah Cruz  
 Dr. Jodi Danna  
 Dr. Gabby Dizon  
 Ms. Karen Dyer  
 Dr. Sara Ehsani  
 Ms. Denise Francisco  
 Dr. Stephanie Ganter  
 Dr. Bill Gerlach  
 Dr. Gayle Glenn  
 Dr. David Goydan

Dr. Greg Grave  
 Ms. Angie Hallmark  
 Ms. Cindy Harmon  
 Ms. Holly Hattaway  
 Ms. Laureli Hattaway  
 Dr. Shad Hattaway  
 Ms. Morganne Hawkins  
 Ms. Line Heideman  
 Dr. Bob Hunsucker  
 Dr. Gabrielle Jackson  
 Dr. Missy Jaynes  
 Ms. Thao Kim  
 Ms. Madison Land  
 Dr. Celeste Latham  
 Dr. Layla Lohmann  
 Mr. Nate Lublin-Good  
 Dr. Mac McDonald  
 Dr. Danette McNew

Ms. Laurie Miller  
 Ms. Chelsea Moorman  
 Mr. James Needy  
 Dr. Mike Neeley  
 Dr. Phuong Ngo  
 Dr. Ane Poly da Rocha  
 Ms. Michelle Popovich  
 Dr. Sarah Poteet  
 Ms. Maira Quiroz  
 Dr. Michael Rainwater  
 Mr. Shawn Ramezani  
 Ms. Michelle Ray  
 Ms. Stacie Ray  
 Dr. James Reisman  
 Dr. Thomas Schlieve  
 Dr. Jordan Schweitzer  
 Dr. Jeff Siebert  
 Dr. Carmen Smith

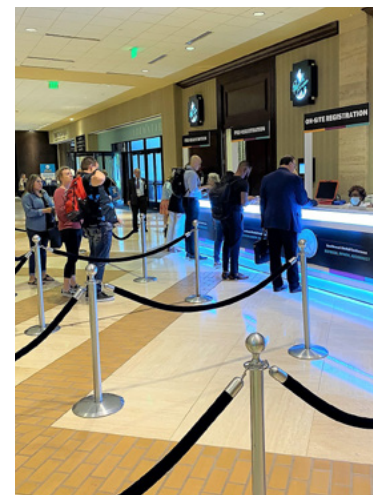


Dr. Steven Spivack  
 Dr. Wendy Steger  
 Dr. Meenal Thirtha  
 Dr. John Tunnell  
 Dr. Drew Vanderbrook  
 Dr. Jon Vogel  
 Ms. Christy Warnock  
 Dr. Claude Williams, Jr.  
 Dr. Jon Williamson  
 Dr. Wayne Woods

...continued from page 1

While not a record-breaking number, this year's attendance showcased a strong post-COVID presence, illustrating the continued desire for in-person CE. With the number of vendors up from 2022, foot traffic in the Exhibit Hall remained robust and exhibitors departed satisfied. All said and done, the 2023 SWDC stood as a remarkable event, accentuated by exceptional speakers, gracious hospitality and invaluable opportunities for camaraderie.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude is extended to DCDS for affording me the opportunity to serve as the 2023 SWDC Chairman. It was a true privilege to work alongside such a remarkable group of devoted and encouraging colleagues!







**A big THANK YOU to DCDS Members who shared their thought leadership by presenting!**

Ben Curtis, DDS	Laura Nelson-Rabe, DDS, MS
Edwin "Mac" McDonald, III, DDS	Leah Spittle, RDH, MS
Jacqueline Plemons, DDS, MS	Paras Patel, DDS
Jonathan Clemetson, DDS, MS	Rajiv Patel, BDS, DDS
Jordan McHone, DDS	Salvator La Mastra, DMD
Kathleen Kasper, DDS, D-ABFO	Shawn Seifkar, DDS
Kerin Burdette, DDS, MPH	Thomas Schlieve, DDS, MD



# Diversity + Inclusivity

by Mitra Bolouri, DDS  
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee Chairman

## Who is next?



**R**ecently I attended my first Texas Dental Association Leadership Conference. The conference, held in Austin, brings together many of the great leaders we have from local component societies from across the state, as well as leaders from the TDA. The weekend consisted of socializing with friends both old and new, learning about everything the TDA has to offer our component societies, and brainstorming how we can all improve and serve our members better.

I was thrilled to look across the room and see every aspect of our amazing profession and organizations well represented. New dentists, more seasoned dentists, specialists, professors, public health and private practice dentists, employee and owner dentists all filled the room. And of course, women and minorities filled many chairs, which I have grown to expect from both DCDS and the TDA. One of the main reasons my non-member friends and colleagues give for not joining organized dentistry is that they don't feel welcome and like there's a seat at the table for them, and I'm proud to say as both a woman and a minority I always feel like there is a seat for me!

I always feel like my voice can be heard, and I don't feel like my pathway towards leadership has ever been hampered merely by who I am.

As my path hopefully continues on and I can continue to work for our members here in Dallas and Texas and perhaps even at the ADA, I am excited to see what my future holds. However, that doesn't stop me from looking to the future of our organizations. Who is the next Dr. Mitra Bolouri? Who will fill the seats on our board in five or ten years? Who will represent DCDS at the upcoming Leadership Conferences? We must continue onward and make sure our society continues to flourish and continues to represent our profession well, both with our ideas and hard work and by the makeup of our leadership.

As our profession continues to become more diverse, so should our leadership and membership. If you have an interest in becoming more active, if you think the path to leadership may be for you, please speak up! I talked to many people that weekend who had a defined mentor who charged them with becoming a leader in organized dentistry. That was not the case for me. I have met many role models who, whether they know it or not, brought me to the point where I am now, but there was no one voice urging me on. Let me be that voice for you, if you so desire. I am happy to tell you my story, give you advice, or just listen if that's what you need. I can always be reached via email at [mitrafb@gmail.com](mailto:mitrafb@gmail.com).



## BLS/CPR Courses

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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!





# Digital Dentures - Are They Really That Good?

EVA BOLDRIDGE, DMD, PA



Dr. Eva Boldridge is a Prosthodontist & Maxillofacial Prosthodontist that has practiced in the greater Houston area for over 18 years. Her practice is limited to Prosthodontics & Maxillofacial Prosthodontics. She was also a part-time clinical faculty at UT Health School of Dentistry in the AEGD/GPR program, in addition to a Prosthodontist at Clear Choice Houston. Dr. Boldridge is finishing her term as the Membership Director of Region 4, on the American College of Prosthodontics Board of Directors. She is also currently serving a two-year term on the Greater Houston Dental Society's Board of Trustees, in addition to the GHDS Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Digital Dentures – you hear about it all the time now, but are they really good? Workflows, printed vs milled, stock denture teeth vs. milled vs printed teeth, and shade options, it all can be very overwhelming. Grab a glass of wine and get the simple breakdown of what it takes to make digital dentures in 2023.

Audience: Dentists, Office Staff  
 AGD Code: 010/670  
 CE Hours: 1 technical and/or scientific  
 CE Verification provided

Sponsored by:  
 DCDS Diversity & Inclusivity Committee

### Learning Objectives:

- Review the current trends in making digital dentures.
- Discover what you need to start making dentures digitally.
- Become familiar with the different workflows for digital dentures.
- Learn what materials are currently being used to make digital dentures.
- Learn how to integrate digital dentures into your practice.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS VIRTUAL COURSE BY OCTOBER 10, 2023.**

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

DCDS Members	Free	Non-member dentist	Free
DCDS Member staff	Free	Non-member staff	Free
Students	Free		

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is October 10, 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 October 10, 2023.



# OCTOBER 17

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# Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Caleb Vierkant; Photo by Steven Crow

## McWhorter surprised with named endowment

**D**r. Alton McWhorter, clinical professor and department head of pediatrics at Texas A&M School of Dentistry, is known for his compassionate care for patients. Only the third pediatric department chair in the school's history, he is well regarded by colleagues, students and patients. This legacy of care and excellence will now grow to help even more people, thanks to a brand-new endowment in his name.

"Dr. McWhorter was – and still is – championing our department," said Dr. Carolyn Kerins, a faculty member who aided in fundraising for the endowment. "This is a great way to honor his years of service to teaching and providing care to pediatric and special needs patients."

The endowment was a surprise to McWhorter. Kerins had been planning to fundraise for the department for a while, she said, and earlier this year decided to do so in McWhorter's name. She and Ian Wilson, director of development with the Texas A&M Foundation, quietly reached out to a select group of alumni over the spring. Wilson said that everyone was generous and eager to contribute, quickly raising \$250,000. They surprised McWhorter with news of the endowment's creation in May at the annual American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Conference.

"I knew she was fundraising, but I had no idea she was doing it under my name," McWhorter said. "That was a big surprise. I don't think it's quite sunk in yet; it's kind of funny. It's such an unbelievable honor."

The endowment will be used to provide care for pediatric and special needs patients who otherwise cannot afford proper dental care. Wilson explained the money raised will be invested by the Texas A&M Foundation, and the returns on the investment will be used to help cover the cost of treatments. As more money is raised and the investments grow, more people will receive care thanks to the endowment.

"The cool thing about an endowment is that it lasts in perpetuity, meaning it'll outlive us," Wilson said. "With Dr. McWhorter's endowment, we're really helping pediatric families that don't



Dr. Alton McWhorter

have the resources to pay for their kids' dental needs. This is something that Dr. McWhorter cares about immensely. It's high time that we honor this man; he's been here for 36 years. He's a staple within the school and one of our most beloved faculty members."

Another round of fundraising was planned for the summer. Although there is no set goal, they hope to hit a total of \$500,000 raised.

In addition to covering pediatric care, Kerins said the legacy fund will also offer more training opportunities for residents.

McWhorter said his passion for pediatric care grew over time. He practiced general dentistry for a few years after graduating and naturally began to evaluate his favorite aspects of the job. Eventually, the scope of what he enjoyed most narrowed to pediatric care, so he "bit the bullet" and went back to school to specialize. Part of what he really enjoys about his specialization is giving kids a good impression of going to the dentist and setting them up for good dental experiences in the future.

"We get to do all of the things in general dentistry for the most part - fillings, extractions, that sort of thing - but the smaller patients can be trickier to work with," McWhorter said. "It's just an easy transition from us to a general dentist. We've trained them to be good patients, they've had good experiences prior to that, and they can go on and be a good patient for someone else."



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.

### ALSO JOINING US:

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



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.

#### 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

Audience: Dentists

AGD Code: 010

CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific

CE Verification provided

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# Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Chi Trieu, DCDS Foundation President

## Dental Tree Program

Join Dallas County Dental Society Foundation for our inaugural Dental Tree Program event November 1-3, 2023.

The Dental Tree Program is a cooperative service event open to all Dallas dentists and dental teams for participation. Much like North Texas Giving Day encourages individuals to donate to their favorite organizations and charities in a set few days, the Dallas County Dental Society Dental Tree Program encourages dentists and their teams to unite during the early days of November each year to serve our community. Together, we can serve the most vulnerable populations in Dallas County through service work in our own practices or at DISD Title I schools, senior community centers or non-profit dental organizations in need of volunteers.

Join us! To participate, please contact Rosemary at [info@dcdsfoundation.org](mailto:info@dcdsfoundation.org) or 972-386-5741. Together, we can plant the seeds of improved oral health!



## North Texas Giving Day

DCDS Foundation will be participating in North Texas Giving Day on September 21. North Texas Giving Day is a 18-hour online giving event designed to encourage people to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about in one easy-to-use platform.

Everyone can be a philanthropist on North Texas Giving Day! No matter the size of the gift, your role as a giver increases the capacity of nonprofits such as DCDS Foundation to do their work. And by giving to our cause on that particular day, you're helping DCDS Foundation qualify for one or more financial and in-kind prizes. Your donations to DCDS Foundation will go towards hosting the Dental Tree Program, oral health supplies for schools and senior living centers and towards dental equipment/supplies needed by local charitable organizations.

Just \$25 on this day can supply a classroom with oral health supplies! Doing our part individually helps our collective, so let's be there for each other on North Texas Giving Day!



### HOW TO GIVE:

- Go to [NorthTexasGivingDay.org](http://NorthTexasGivingDay.org)
- Search for **DCDS Foundation**
- Donate on NTX Giving Day on 9.21.23 or make your gift early beginning 9.01.23
- Tell your friends why you give with the hashtag #NTxGivingDay



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