

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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Give Kids a Smile – Dallas

By Preston Colven, DDS

Volunteers needed!



Dallas County Dental Society Foundation is hosting its annual Give Kids a Smile community service effort in February. The event will be held on February 2, 2024 at eight DISD campuses through

an outreach partnership with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program that specifically serves underserved communities. We are looking for dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental students, and anyone else who may be interested in participating. The event will consist of dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications as well as oral hygiene instructions and education. Give Kids a Smile – Dallas has been a huge success in previous years and we are looking forward to making this the best year yet!

The Give Kids A Smile initiative aims to unite dentists and communities in delivering essential dental services, including oral health education, screenings, preventive care, and treatment, to financially challenged families with children in the United States.



History of GKAS

In 2002, Drs. Jeff Dalin and B. Ray Storm held the first Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) event in a run-down, soon-to-be-demolished dental clinic in St. Louis, where 15 patient chairs were scraped together to deliver free dental care to nearly 400 children.

The ADA recognized that this grassroots effort had great potential to raise awareness nationally about the importance of oral health to overall health, and about the staggering need that exists among millions of children who go without care. So, in 2003, GKAS evolved into a nationwide program which has provided over 6 million underserved children with free oral health care.

With nearly one in four children under the age of five already experiencing cavities and 10 million children under 18 lacking access to dental care, Give Kids A Smile plays a crucial role in the ADA's Action for Dental Health. The overarching mission is to eradicate dental health issues in America by extending care to all, especially those facing the greatest need.

This is the fifth continuous year for DCDS Foundation to participate in the event, sponsored nationally by Henry Schein and Colgate.

[Click here to sign up to volunteer, or contact Dr. Preston Colven for more information at pcolven@gmail.com.](#)

The Write Stuff

Sarah Poteet, DDS, President

Redefining Engagement in 2024



2024 is right around the corner! Are you ready to hit your goals in the New Year?

People are getting harder and harder to engage in a meaningful way. Everyone is impossibly busy and

pre-occupied with life. People don't have much extra time these days as there are so many obligations as we try to balance work, life, and expectations. Societal expectations push everyone to ever higher goals, keeping us on the hamster wheel of busyness 24/7. When we are not busy working, we are working on our never-ending bucket lists, and it seems like our "relaxing time" is even full of limitless activities.

As a member-driven organization or a small-business, like a dental practice, what do we do? How do we engage with people and compete with their time by providing meaningful value? To do this, we need to redefine how we engage people.

When asking members of organized dentistry about why they value membership, they usually don't mention the benefits, events, or continuing education received; they talk about their experiences and how they felt. Engaged

members talk about the connections and relationships they made at meetings, being introduced to others, receiving a welcoming phone call or email from a fellow member or staff person, and feeling connected to a community. The feeling of not being alone and being recognized builds value and meaning more than anything else we provide.

I have heard stories of communities that seem cliquish, leaving new members or existing members, wanting to get more involved, feeling lost or overwhelmed not knowing what to do with their membership. DCDS provides personal connection in many ways, but we need to always remember that reaching out in personal ways and creating positive experiences goes a long way and we can do more to find moments to make a difference.

Let's remember this as we go into 2024 with a smile! This can also translate into how patients perceive their dental care at our offices as well. Every time we deliver value, we provide many experiences as well. We can plan, cultivate, and curate those experiences and make them positive, memorable, and engaging. Warm smiles, kind words, a friendly tone, and showing we care makes all the difference in creating loyal members and patients.

Questions to ask when planning for positive experiences in 2024:

- How do we want new members to feel after they join?
- How do we create value and engagement during our events and meetings?
- How do we keep existing members feeling important and involved?
- How do we want potential volunteers to feel when considering a volunteer role?
- How do we want patients to remember their dental care experience?



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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.

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 Managing Editor Rosemary S. Martinez
 Executive Director Jane D. Evans

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Impressions

Editorial by Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD, Editor

Feeling stressed?



I read an article that said “based on the stats, someone in your practice is getting ready to quit soon...” But why? The reason is STRESS. This is the thing that everyone and every team feels every day. I

feel it for sure! 80% of healthcare professionals feel overwhelmed. As a healthcare professional it is our job to take care of others; however, are you being taken care of in return? Dentistry is a selfless job, but we need to make sure that we are being taken care of outside of office hours.

It is important to check in with your staff regularly to make sure they are feeling heard, and their needs are met. Is your team overworked and not having enough time during the day to take a break and recharge? Some team members may need some extra TLC during the day with pre-blocked time to recharge.

I find that little surprises help to boost morale in the office. For example, bring in breakfast,

order a sweet treat, or buy lunch one day just because. This small gesture will mean more to the office than you think. It may just decrease stress, increase engagement, and lead to a happier work environment.

As the owner or dentist, we should be leading by example. Setting a positive example for your team is important. We should be good listeners, show empathy, and be respectful. Acknowledging your team’s hard work and dedication is important and hopefully will trickle down to the team to motivate them to be complimentary of each other. Saying “thank you” goes a long way in making someone feel valued and appreciated. Feeling appreciated makes all the hard work worth it.

With the holidays just behind us, it was important to take a break to recharge. It was just as important for the dentist as it was for the staff. At my office we had a half day of work right before the holiday break where we had lunch and indulged by getting pampered at the nail salon. This fun half day was followed by a

“**Acknowledging your team’s hard work and dedication is important and hopefully will trickle down to the team to motivate them to be complimentary of each other.**”

week off from work, so the office could enjoy the holidays and bring in the new year refreshed and ready to hit the ground running.

Dentistry is a stressful profession but with the right mindset and attention to detail, we can reduce stress in the workplace and maintain a happy team.



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. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a dental assistant, send them this way!

For more information on having a student extern at your practice, please contact the Program Director, Angela Bush, at info@dcdsdas.org or [click here](#).



NOW ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR SESSION STARTING JANUARY 10

www.dcdsdas.org



From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

Updates



Facility Rental

Just a friendly reminder that the DCDS Executive Office has available rental space. Please share this information with anyone you may know who is in search of a venue for hosting

meetings. For detailed information on renting the facility, individuals can visit dcds.org online. The rental package includes access to state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment to enhance the overall experience.

Membership Price Adjustment

In today's dynamic business landscape, being a member of organized dentistry holds great significance. The field is undergoing numerous changes, making it crucial for you to align with your leaders who are dedicated to advocating for both you and the dental profession.

The recent 2024 dues statements you've received carries noteworthy news—a \$30.00 reduction in ADA dues. This positive adjustment stems from a resolution presented at the October 2023 ADA House of Delegates meeting in Orlando.

We understand that certain years pose financial challenges when it comes to covering membership dues. Recognizing this, TDA offers a convenient solution: a ten-month payment plan designed to accommodate diverse circumstances. If you're interested in availing yourself of this option, feel free to reach out to Rachael Daigle at rdaigle@tda.org. Note that on March 31, 2024, ADA will drop all members that have not renewed their dues for 2024.

Your commitment to organized dentistry is not just an investment in your practice but a strategic move to navigate the evolving landscape of dentistry.

Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM)

Consider volunteering at one of the upcoming Texas Mission of Mercy charity dental clinics in 2024. TMOM is an amazing experience. I have been volunteering since 2004, and receiving a big smile and thank you after a patient receives treatment is what it is all about!

February 23-24 – Lumberton, TX

April 12-13 – El Paso, TX

July 19-20 – Marlin, TX

November 8-9 – Amarillo, TX

DCDS Foundation will host another in this area in spring of 2026.

Southwest Dental Conference

Mark your calendars for the 2024 SWDC scheduled for August 16-17. Dr. Drew Vanderbrook and the Scientific Committee finalized an excellent program. Registration is scheduled to open February 15, 2024.



Left: In October, DCDS Retired Dentists and their spouses/guests toured the Frontiers of Flight Museum then lunched together.



Right: In December, Dr. Mike Jones presented information on care and cleaning of cast iron ware, showing his collection to retired dentists and DCDS staff.



The Retired Dentists Committee hosts lunches, tours and other outings for retired DCDS Members. To be included in their event emails, send an email to ashley@dcds.org.



New Dentists

Would I do this for my Mom?

At least once a day we all get asked “What would YOU do?” For me it is the most difficult but also the most meaningful question a patient can ask. In that moment, your patient is placing the fate of their oral health, and often their confidence and quality of life, in your hands. While we cannot make the decision for them, it is our duty to use clinical judgment and scientific background and provide them with all the options. No two patients are the same, so there is just no secret formula for this. When presenting treatment, especially when the patient asks me that question, I always pause and think, what would I say if my Mom was in that chair?

The dentist-patient relationship is largely based on trust. The strength of this relationship in society fluctuates over the years. Who doesn't remember the dentist that hunted Cecil the Lion in Africa? It is up to us to protect this relationship of trust we have with patients and society, and to uphold the reputation of our profession. By keeping our ethical values in mind when treating each patient, it can help us to wade through all the other pressures that often influence treatment planning. We all want to make the patient happy, and as specialists, we want to make the referring doctor happy, but we also want to do the procedures we love most, and at the end of the day, we all need to make a living. When this balance tips in the wrong direction, that trust is broken, and patients can get injured.

I recognize that making these decisions daily is much easier said than done. Although dental school and residency teaches you how to treatment plan and perform the procedures, nothing truly prepares you for what it's like outside. Your best friend isn't in the cubicle next to you, and the specialists aren't just one floor away. In providing the highest quality care for our patients, we have to rely on our colleagues to help. We must be okay with sometimes not having all the answers, or not having the skill set to give a patient what they need and deserve. To uphold the principle of “do no harm,” it almost always means working with a team. You will not always be the most important member, and you will not always be the leader, but that shouldn't stop you from being a part of it. Together, we all work to put the patient's needs above our own and work for the best possible outcome.

Alexander Holden, who has frequently written of dental ethics and our trust with society, wrote, “It is widely felt that the health professions have lost their altruism and their ability to regulate themselves in an effective manner.

These are key aspects to the social contract that are expected by society, and if these elements of professionalism are lost, the health care professions will cease to exist in the capacity that they presently operate in (2017).”

Patients always have a goal. It can be as simple as getting out of pain, or asking for teeth that can eat corn on the cob again. Sometimes their goal isn't attainable, and that's okay. It is our job to educate them and be honest about if, when, and how we can help them reach that goal. As much as we would all love to say a certain procedure we do has “100%” success rate, nothing that we do in dentistry is one hundred percent guaranteed to be perfect or last forever. We must be comfortable with this, and more importantly we must be able to convey this to our patients.

A mentor recently reiterated a quote to me by Maya Angelou: “At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, but how you made them feel.” Even if you cannot “guarantee” a procedure will turn out perfectly, if that fundamental trust exists that you are doing the right thing, the patients will stick with you. With each new patient that walks through the door, these decisions will become more intuitive, but they will always be difficult. Next time you're talking to a patient about treatment, think about if you would do the same thing for your friend, your spouse, or your Mom.

“It is up to us to protect this relationship of trust we have with patients and society, and to uphold the reputation of our profession. By keeping our ethical values in mind when treating each patient, it can help us to wade through all the other pressures that often influence treatment planning.”

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Stephanie Bowers, DDS, MS

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

- January 24 – Cocktails and Conversation: An Overview of Inflammatory Conditions Affecting the Oral Cavity
- January 25 – Speed-Gaming and International Potluck
- February 2 – Give Kids a Smile - Dallas 2024
- February 20 – General Membership Meeting: Managing Trigeminal Nerve Injuries and an Update on Nerve Repair
- April 16 – General Membership Meeting: Emergency Drug Kits: Pharmacological and Technical Considerations
- April 19 – Shredathon



Register at www.dcds.org/events

Welcome New Members!

General Dentist

Farnaz Namazi
Amal Noureldin
Felicia Patel
Aziz Pradhan

Orthodontics

Michael Ragan

Yashaswini Jagadeesh

Elizabeth Smith

Sara Soofian
Alice Wiley
Megan Yamaguchi
Aisa Zamani

Endodontics

Revanth Chada

David Liberman

Kirsten Rouse

In Memoriam

Click on name for obituary

Patrick LeBlanc

John A. Grinaldi



Through TDA

Track Your CE: Upload courses you've taken, see what you've done.

Browse Courses: Easily find courses that meet your requirements.

Set Reminders: Send yourself reminders on courses that need to be completed.

Submit to TSBDE: Selected for a CE audit? No problem. Easily submit documentation to TSBDE.

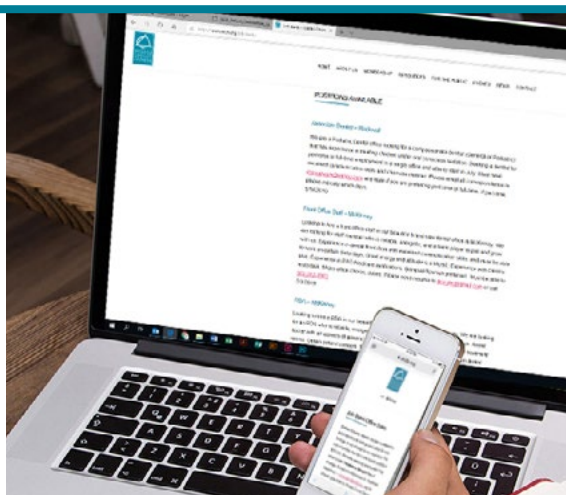
CLICK HERE: YOUR LICENSE RENEWAL WILL GET MUCH EASIER!

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.





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.



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

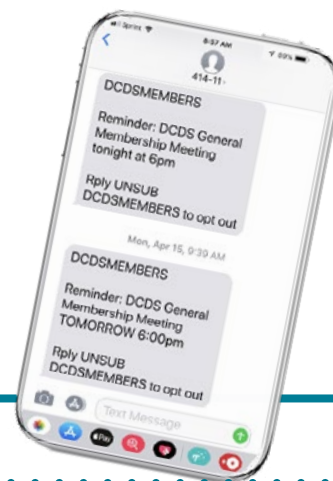
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

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

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.



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 offers a Basic Life Support Program (CPR and AED) with the curriculum of the American Heart Association, to meet that requirement through the DCDS Dental Assisting School. You and your staff can schedule a date and time to earn this continuing education credit. Training is held at the DCDS Headquarters.

\$40 per DCDS Member or their staff

\$65 per non-member or their staff

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



Knowledge Sharing

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

Nov 10, 2023



by Leslie Powell, DDS

4 C's of Healthy Office Culture

A dental office usually has more than just the dentist working. Office managers, front desk, dental assistants, dental hygienists — every person has a part to play and every person helps the office function as a cohesive unit. I have always viewed the dental team as family.

Sep 25, 2023



by Gabrielle Jackson, DDS

The Necessary Art of the Ask

Whether it's asking for a second opinion, mentorship, patient reviews or referrals, requesting help is an important skill to develop. As a new dentist or associate building a career, it's necessary to learn "the art of the ask" early on as it will help guide the path of your professional career.

Aug 10, 2023



by Andrea Sauerwein, DDS

Listening is Key

We spend years obtaining our undergraduate education, followed by four fantastic years of dental school, potentially more years in residency honing in on a specialty skill set, and many more hours of continuing education to be able to provide patients with the highest standard of care. After an abundance of years and thousands of hours stuffing our noggin with clinical

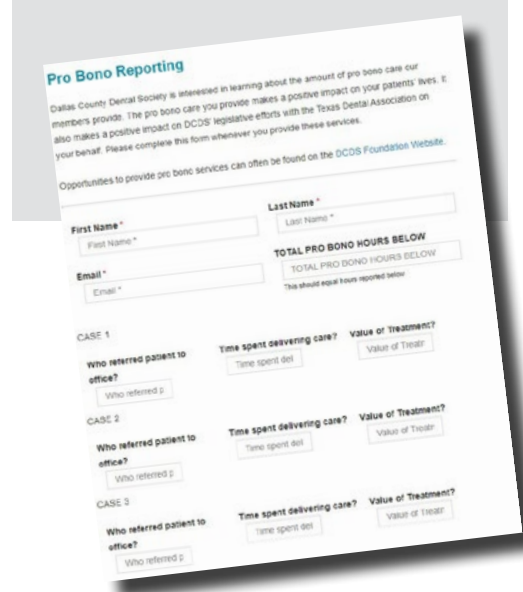
research and the latest advances in technology, many dentists find themselves ready to talk about all the information they have acquired. However, in an ironic twist, the number one thing I have learned in my years in practice is patients just want you to LISTEN.

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>



Diversity + Inclusivity

by Martin J. Kahn, DDS
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee

Enriching Life's Perspectives



During my years of higher education and continuing on with my time serving with the Marine Corps and eventual solo practice, I have always enjoyed being engaged with a diverse population of

people. I found this to have enriched my life's perspectives on the many cultural traditions held by so many people.

Along with my involvement in DCDS, for the past 60 years I have been fortunate to have been a member of the Alpha Omega International Dental Society (AO). This relationship began during my freshman year in 1963 at the School of Dentistry at Marquette University.

Alpha Omega is the oldest dental organization in the United States, having had its beginning in the School of Dentistry at the University of Maryland-Baltimore in 1907. A small group of Jewish students united together to form AO. They were determined to work toward inclusion and against discrimination. At that time,

Jewish students were not allowed to join any organization on campus. Membership in AO is now open to all students and dentists regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or gender.

The Dallas Alpha Omega Chapter consists of approximately forty members. The chapter includes 40% female members as well as members of all ages, specialties and diverse backgrounds. I am proud to add that our chapter has helped support the DCDS Foundation's program of outreach to educate and assist children of our community. It is also worth noting that six of our members have proudly served as presidents of DCDS over the past 40 years as well as two members serving as directors of the DCDS Foundation.

As for my involvement in organized dentistry, I am pleased to have seen the many positive changes in organized dentistry these past 50 years concerning diversity and inclusion in our membership. These changes have not only strengthened our organization but have contributed to many innovative initiatives that are now part of DCDS and the DCDS

Foundation. As a frequent volunteer for the Foundation, I have presented programs to school children of all ages, assisted at a variety of health fairs and encouraged students during career days at high schools. Most of the Foundation supported events include serving at risk student populations in our community who otherwise would not have access to dental treatment and education vital to their health.

One of my more memorable experiences involved speaking to gifted minority students at a junior college who had completed a summer course program in the health sciences. Many were very interested in exploring dentistry as a career and asked well thought out questions. I hope some of these students were able to continue on to have careers in dentistry and contribute to the growing diversity of our profession.

As an active member of both DCDS and AO, I have had many opportunities to share my knowledge and skills through volunteer opportunities. As a veteran, I have especially enjoyed participating at events held at the main Veteran Affairs center and at the Agape Clinic near the dental school. Being part of a Texas Mission of Mercy event stands out as an example of our dental community coming together to treat the dental needs of so many people over a two day period. It gives every participant a great sense of satisfaction.

I enjoy volunteering knowing that my hard work helps the diverse population of Dallas and beyond. Everyone assisting at these events comes away knowing they have contributed to the health of needy and very appreciative individuals in our community from all walks of life. I have enjoyed the many additional opportunities I have had when volunteering through DCDS and AO, and I hope to see more members respond to a request by DCDS when a Foundation or other volunteer event is being planned.

Dr. Martin Kahn (in maroon) volunteers often with the Dallas County Dental Society Foundation.



An Overview of Inflammatory Conditions Affecting the Oral Cavity

PARAS PATEL, DDS



Paras B. Patel DDS obtained his DDS from Howard University College of Dentistry in 2011 and did his residency in oral and maxillofacial pathology at TAMU (Baylor) College of Dentistry. Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Patel took a position at the college of dentistry as a full-time faculty member for five years then transitioned into private practice and established the Center for Oral Pathology. He currently serves as director with ProPath, where he was instrumental in establishing the division of oral and maxillofacial pathology. Dr. Patel stays active in clinical research involving oral potentially malignant disorders/ precancerous lesions and oral cancer. His training and experience have shaped his approach to diagnosis and management of disease. Besides leading the Center for Oral Pathology, he is Associate Editor for the Texas Dental Journal.

This course will cover common immune-mediated and autoimmune conditions that can affect the oral cavity. It will familiarize the practitioner with the clinical manifestations of specific diseases and provide a brief discussion on their etiology. We will discuss how to obtain a definitive diagnosis for affected patients as well as patient management with a focus on current treatment options.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the clinical manifestations of specific inflammatory conditions
- Understand the etiopathogenesis of the inflammatory conditions with their patients.
- Gain knowledge on how to obtain a definitive diagnosis as well as understand the treatment options that are available for patient management.

Audience: Dentists and Staff
 AGD Subject Code: 730
 CE Hours: 1 technical and/or scientific
 CE Verification provided
 Conflict of Interest: None Reported

Sponsored by:
 DCDS Diversity & Inclusivity Committee

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS VIRTUAL COURSE BY JANUARY 17, 2024.

Register online at www.dcds.org/events.

A link to the 6:00 p.m. session will be sent to your email address.

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

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is January 17, 2024. 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 January 17, 2024.



JANUARY 24

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY • DALLAS, TEXAS 75244 • 972-386-5741 • 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/cecp.



SPEED-GAMING



Join us Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of quick games and fun conversation! You'll be teamed up with colleagues and friends to speed through a wide variety of games in 15 minute segments, while enjoying a variety of culinary delights.

Admission is your potluck dish of choice (a chance to share your cultural favorite!) DCDS members and their guests welcome.

Registration required by January 19 at www.dcds.org/events.

AND INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK!

Hosted by the DCDS Membership and Diversity and Inclusivity Committees.

General Membership Meeting - February 2024

Managing Trigeminal Nerve Injuries and an Update on Nerve Repair

ANDREW READ-FULLER, DDS, MD



Dr. Read-Fuller is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Texas A&M School of Dentistry. He received his certificate in oral and maxillofacial surgery from UT Southwestern Medical Center in 2017, after receiving his MD degree in 2014 from the UT Southwestern Medical School and graduating Magna Cum Laude from the UCLA School of Dentistry in the concurrent DDS/MS program. Dr. Read-Fuller has held numerous national and international leadership positions in oral and maxillofacial surgery including serving on the OMS Foundation Board of Directors, the American Association of OMS Committee on Continuing Education and Professional Development, and the North American Representative to the NexGen Committee of the International Association of OMS. As a resident, Dr. Read-Fuller was President of the Resident Organization of the American Association of OMS (ROAAOMS).

Inferior alveolar and lingual nerve injuries are some of the most feared complications in dentistry. Proper identification of these injuries, as well as understanding the indications for nerve repair are essential, particularly for any dentists who perform dentoalveolar surgery.

AGD Subject Code: 310/340
 CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
 CE Verification provided
 Conflict of Interest: None Reported

Learning Objectives:

- Identify risk factors for nerve injuries and the mechanisms by which nerve injuries occur
- Understand how to perform a proper nerve exam, and its correlation to the degree of nerve injury
- Recognize when an injured nerve may require surgical repair, and when it is necessary to refer to a specialist
- Review the latest literature regarding nerve repair, and the important prognostic factors for successful nerve recovery
- Understand the indications and techniques for nerve grafting in dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery

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Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is February 13, 2024. A 20% administrative fee will be assessed for all cancellation requests on or prior to this date. Since this is a limited attendance course, "no shows" will forfeit the full course fee. No refunds will be granted after February 13, 2024.



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Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Kristen Tribe; Photo by Steven Crow

Oral pathology services provides world-class insight and support

Texas A&M Dentistry Oral Pathology Services (OPS) — one of the larger biopsy services in the United States — boasts a history of providing exemplary service to the practicing community.

Started in 1980, service today is provided by four board-certified oral pathologists — laboratory director Dr. John Wright, Dr. Victoria Woo, Dr. Madhu Shrestha and Dr. Leticia Ferreira Cabido.

Services offered include processing and interpretation of biopsy specimens and clinical and radiologic consultations.

“This is a monumental service to the practicing community,” Wright said. “All four of us are available for chairside consultations. We’re there to help them manage their patients in any way we can.”

Wright said advances in digital technology have enhanced consultations because they’re now able to review photos and help the dentist determine if a biopsy is even needed. All four of the pathologists also have clinical training, giving them a unique perspective of oral diseases and an in-depth understanding of the treatments required.

“All of us have experience seeing clinical patients where we treat those patients and use that experience to advise others who are treating people with the same diseases,” Wright said. “We understand the clinical challenges, and we’re available in a variety of ways to help colleagues make the best decisions for their patients.”

Texas A&M OPS has one of the largest oral pathology databases in the world, which serves not only the practicing community and their patients, but also contributes significantly to the academic mission of the school and university.

Texas A&M School of Dentistry has had an oral pathology residency since 1999. Woo, who is director of the residency, pointed out that “in addition to the quality of the faculty, the biopsy



Dr. Victoria Woo (left) and Dr. John Wright

service and the experience it provides residents gives the school a competitive advantage attracting the best oral pathology residency candidates.” Most of the residents utilize the database for their master’s thesis research.

The OPS team is committed to providing the best diagnostic service available and training residents in the discipline, so they work to remain abreast of new developments in the field of head and neck pathology.

“We sincerely appreciate and take seriously the confidence and trust the practicing community places in us, and we’re here to serve them, to improve the quality of care they can provide their patients,” Wright said.

Additionally, the lab offers free biopsy kits, free mailing of specimens and one-day turnaround after the specimen is received. For more information, visit the lab’s website, email oralpath@tam.u.edu or call 214-828-8111.



Texas A&M College of Dentistry (formerly Baylor College of Dentistry) in Dallas is a part of Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Founded in 1905, the College of Dentistry is a nationally recognized center for oral health sciences education, research, specialized patient care and continuing dental education. Learn more at dentistryinsider.tamhsc.edu or follow @TAMUdental.



ADA American Dental Association®

On Friday, February 2, 2024, thousands of dentists across the country will take time from their practices to help underserved children get the oral health care they need. Give Kids A Smile® is an annual volunteer program that provides free educational, preventive and restorative services to children from low-income families.

Last year, we worked together across the nation to provide care to more than 300,000 kids.
Let's make it half a million this year.

One vision. **Half a million smiles.**



Friday, February 2, 2024

2:45 pm - 5:00 pm

Dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, dental students and community volunteers needed at eight Title I DISD school locations in South, East and West Dallas

Sign up at <https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/events/gkas2024>

It is simply unacceptable that thousands upon thousands of children in 21st century America suffer needlessly from untreated dental disease.

Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Chi Trieu, DCDS Foundation President

The Year in Review

Happy New Year 2024! Looking back as we reflect on 2023 DCDS Foundation events, we are always struck by how fortunate we all are to call each other friends and colleagues. Dallas County Dental Society, our Foundation and friends of DCDS and DCDSF have rallied together to always promote and enhance oral health. Each year can bring new needs and challenges to light in our community, and in the end, we stand together to serve and represent.

In 2023, DCDS Foundation and friends served over 1870 children and adults in need through Give Kids a Smile, Tooth Talk, Senior Smiles, and participation in school fairs and community health fairs.

This past year, we also hosted our inaugural Dental Tree Program – a three-day program that highlights all the ways to serve our most vulnerable populations. This year’s event highlighted Senior Smiles with a partnership with VNA Meals on Wheels. At this specific event, we had a total of 20 dental volunteers delivering 155 meals and oral health kits. A total of 129 Meals on Wheels clients were served in a single morning!

In addition, Dental Tree Program invites dentists in their private offices to aid their most vulnerable patients as they are able. With our efforts, many new populations were served in Dallas County. Our private office event yielded over \$22,000 in donated dental services. Thank you to Dr. Michael Rainwater, Dr. William Phillips, Dr. Mary Swift, and Dr. Chi Trieu and teams for providing the care for these patients.

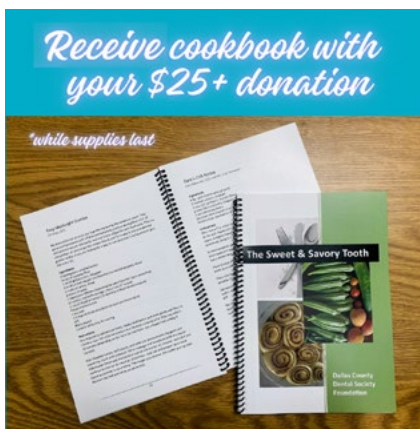
DCDS Foundation hosted it’s fourth annual Dental Charity Summit in early 2023, continuing the sharing of strategies, solutions and challenges between invited leaders of community health organizations.

Looking forward, DCDS Foundation is looking forward to a year filled with continued service and professional comradery that may include YOU. Join us as we come together to serve Dallas County residents to enhance oral health in our community. Upcoming service events including Give Kids a Smile on February 2, 2024 and the second annual Dental Tree Program on November 6-8, 2024. Texas Mission of Mercy is scheduled to return to the Dallas area in the Spring of 2026.

Please check your calendar to see which events you can volunteer at this year! And it is never too late to start a list of deserving and vulnerable patients in your office that may need a little lift. We look forward to serving with YOU!



Photos from the Dental Tree Program efforts reflect the joy gained from volunteering with dental colleagues.



Spice up your cooking in the new year with a little something extra! The DCDS Foundation Cookbook has a diverse collection of delicious recipes to try, and it’s a great way to support an amazing cause. Your donation of \$25 or more will directly help the DCDS Foundation serve underserved people in Dallas County with oral health education, kits, and general and restorative treatments. So give back and get creative in the kitchen today...visit dcdsfoundation.org/donate!

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For Sale/Lease - Offices

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



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 DCDS DAS Program Director, Angela Bush, at info@dcdsdas.org or visit <https://www.dcds.org/dental-assisting-school>.

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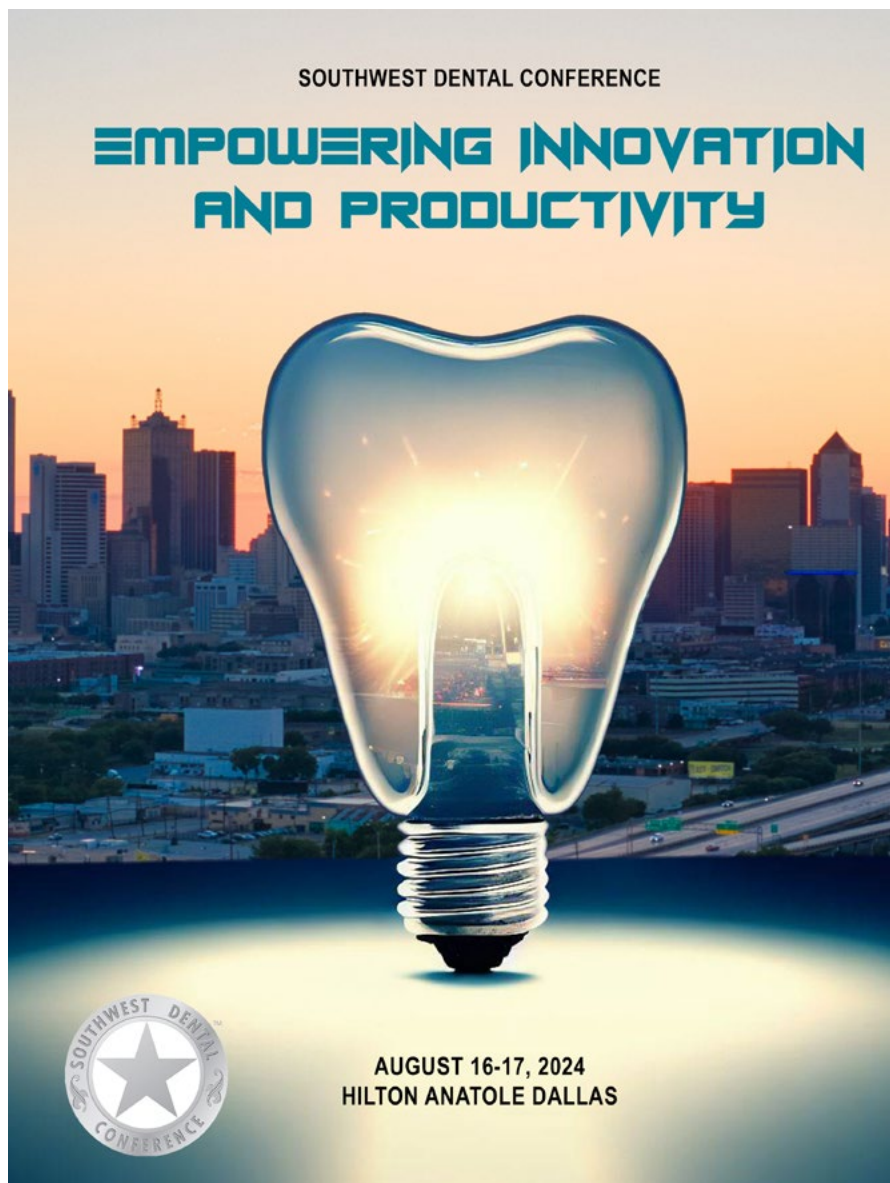
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As we usher in a new year, I am honored to address you as the Chairman of the 2024 Southwest Dental Conference. This year, our Conference theme — Empowering Innovation and Productivity — resonates deeply with the ever-evolving landscape of dentistry.

Innovation has become the cornerstone of progress in our field. As we witness technological advancements shaping the future of dentistry, it is imperative that we not only adapt but also harness these innovations to elevate patient care. The 2024 Conference is dedicated to exploring cutting-edge technologies and providing you with the tools to integrate these advancements seamlessly into your practices.

Productivity, a companion to innovation, is essential for success in our profession. In a world where time is a precious commodity, optimizing workflows, improving patient management, and enhancing the overall efficiency of our practices are paramount. SWDC 2024 is designed to equip you with practical strategies, insights, and solutions to boost productivity without compromising the quality of care.

This new year brings with it a wealth of opportunities for growth and transformation. It is a time to renew our commitment to excellence, to embrace change, and to empower ourselves with the knowledge that propels our profession forward. As dental professionals, we are not just witnesses to progress, we are architects of it.

I invite you to seize the opportunities that 2024 holds for each of us and our collective impact on the world of dentistry. Let the SWDC be a catalyst for innovation in your practice, a forum for collaboration with colleagues, and a source of inspiration for the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead.

As we gather together in August, let us celebrate the spirit of a new year filled with new possibilities. Together, we can shape the future of dentistry, empower our practices, and ensure that the smiles we create and restore leave an indelible mark on the lives of the patients we serve.

Here's to a year of empowerment, innovation, and productivity. I eagerly anticipate the shared insights, collaborative discussions, and transformative experiences that awaits us at the 2024 Southwest Dental Conference.

Wishing you a year of professional fulfillment and unparalleled success.



Dr. Drew Vanderbrook
 2024 Southwest Dental Conference Chairman