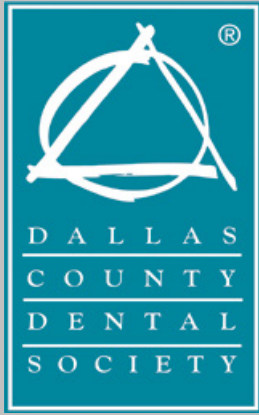


DCDS connection

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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2024 Annual Installation

Dentist of the Year: Dr. Brad Crump

Throughout his career, Dr. Brad Crump's dedication to dentistry and service to others remained unwavering, earning him a list of accolades and honors. This list now includes the esteemed title of 2024 DCDS Dentist of the Year, awarded last month at the DCDS Installation Ceremony and Dinner.

Born and raised in the heart of East Texas, Dr. Crump's journey to becoming a prominent periodontist in Dallas was one defined by tireless pursuit of mastery in his craft. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree from Baylor University in 1993, Dr. Crump embarked on a trajectory of academic achievement that would lay the groundwork for his career: graduating with honors from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1997, then completing his periodontal residency and earning a Master of Science in Oral Biology and Certificate of Periodontology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry.

Dr. Crump's impact extends beyond the confines of his practice, as evidenced by his extensive involvement in dental organizations and societies. From serving as President of DCDS and Chairman of the Southwest Dental Conference to holding leadership positions in TDA, ADA, American Academy of Periodontology, Southwest Society of Periodontists and Texas Society

of Periodontists, his influence reverberates throughout the dental community.

"I have watched Dr. Crump ascend from a dental schoolmate to a well-respected leader in the dental community," shares Dr. Carmen Smith, who attended Baylor School of Dentistry with Dr. Crump. "Whether he's sharing his wisdom with his graduate students, actively engaging his peers, growing an award-winning garden or baking a pastry that is magazine worthy, Dr. Crump inspires and motivates us all to persevere and strive for higher excellence in our professional and personal lives."

He continues to inspire future generations of dentists and professionals as an Adjunct Clinical Professor, Graduate Periodontal Residency, at the Texas A&M School of Dentistry. His dedication to continuing education, coupled with a voracious appetite for knowledge, ensures that he continues at the forefront of his field.

His unwavering commitment to serving others truly distinguishes him. As a clinician, educator and community leader, he champions the principles of total patient care and community service.

Dr. Celeste Abraham, a colleague at the School of Dentistry describes Dr. Crump's detailed and consistent treatment and management of his patients, and his full commitment to keeping the highest standards of periodontal care when teaching his residents. "Dr. Crump truly puts all of himself into his profession and embodies wholeheartedly what is at the core of the clinical teaching process. Additionally, he has opened his office to freely share his knowledge with previous predoctoral externs in our department and they have enjoyed their experience learning from him in his private practice."

DCDS Dentist of the Year is the highest award given to a member dentist by DCDS. Criteria for this long-standing tribute includes contribution to dentistry in private practice and to organized dentistry, service to the community and dedication to the principles of continuing education.



Dr. Brad Crump (left) is shown receiving his award from Dr. Drew Vanderbrook. View all of this year's award recipients on page 22 of this publication.

The Write Stuff

Celeste Latham, DDS, President

DCDS President Address



I'm excited and grateful to be starting my term as Dallas County Dental Society president. I have been involved with DCDS since dental school; in fact, ever since dental school graduation I can't

remember a time that this society was NOT part of my life. I consider this organization part of my family and I'm proud to represent you all this coming year as president.

I want to thank Dr. Sarah Tevis for her outstanding leadership as President this past year. We also have an outstanding group of people who sat on our board or were committee chairs to thank for their dedication and commitment to DCDS. Of course, we wouldn't be here without our fantastic DCDS staff! Rosemary, Ashley, Kisha, Angela and Jane – you all are phenomenal!

So how did I end up here tonight? It all started on the playground at lunch time in fourth grade at Edgemere Elementary school in El Paso. The day I decided that dentistry would be my future was a traumatic one! A classmate was throwing a large steel ball and it flew backwards right into my mouth breaking my beautiful front tooth, #9 to be exact! I will never forget the feeling of the broken tooth in my mouth and the trip to the dentist with my grandmother. Dr. Melton was so very kind and assured me everything would be OK. I was out of his office within an hour with a new tooth. I knew that I wanted to help people just like Dr. Melton had helped me. My family can attest to the fact that I've wanted to be a dentist since fourth grade!

The journey to this position has been long and has included many eras of my dental career. Don't worry, I will not be breaking out into song or having any wardrobe changes — although I know for a fact we have a few Swifties in the audience!

In my new dentist era I was extremely busy starting my dental practice and raising my kids. I volunteered as much as I could but never accepted any leadership positions. The wonderful mentors that led me through my new dentist era definitely inspired me to become more involved in organized dentistry. Dr. Danette McNew (who happened to be my group leader in school), Dr. Brad Crump (my close friend and classmate), Dr. Carmen Smith, Dr. Jodi Danna and many others – I look up to you all so much!

As my practice grew and my kids got older I started to have more time to focus on volunteering. During this era I was definitely taking on new challenges. Many opportunities were presented to me in leadership positions at DCDS and I was nervous but excited to accept. Brad Crump, when you asked me to be on the DCDS Board of Directors I was thrilled and I'm so happy I said yes! Serving on the Board of Directors and then as Chairman of the Southwest Dental Conference and being involved as a delegate to the Texas Dental Association have all been amazing experiences! The more involved I am with organized dentistry the more impressed I am. DCDS has such an admirable history of service to the dental

...continued on page 22

Dr. Latham (second from left) with her family at the DCDS Installation Ceremony and Dinner.



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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.

Editor Simmi Patel, DDS
Managing Editor Rosemary S. Martinez
Executive Director Jane D. Evans

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Impressions

Editorial by Simmi Patel, DDS, Editor

New Beginnings



First, I would like to introduce myself. I'm Simmi Patel, and I am honored to serve as the new editor for the Dallas County Dental Society Connection newsletter. I want to thank Dr. Jordanna

Contrucci Ruiz for her fantastic and enlightening contributions as the previous editor.

I currently serve as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Texas A&M School of Dentistry. Every year, I feel sad during this time because the fourth-year dental students graduate and leave. I am also like a "mama bear" and share their anxiety about entering the profession. I still remember when I graduated 23 years ago and hadn't found a practice yet. I started mailing out my CV to private practices, and maybe one doctor contacted me just to chat. While I was thankful he reached out, I felt helpless in my job hunt. That's when I contacted the Greater Houston Dental Society and Dr. Tommy Harrison invited me to a New Dentist meeting. I went that evening, and lo and behold, the speaker, an endodontist, asked if any of us were looking for positions. I was the only one who raised a hand. That's how I found my first gig as an associate. I stayed at the practice for six months, but we all know how things go as an associate sometimes.

Fast forward 23 years, and the students are going through the same trials and tribulations. When they ask me for advice, I tell them to come to the general membership meetings at the society office to network with all members. I tell them these members care about our profession and look out for our needs daily.

Honestly, I am anxious about what some of our graduates will uncover about the real world of dentistry. However, I know that if they

need help, our members will lend an ear and advise them. I know this because Dr. Harrison, a person I had never met before, listened to me on the phone while I explained all the bad interviews I went through. Dentists would promise me a lot of money, but that's not what I was looking for. I wanted to gain experience and confidence in a field that was so challenging.

One would think these doctors would know that's what I was looking for since they were probably searching for the same thing when they graduated. However, they were more interested in how much I could produce to make their practices thrive. I get it—dentistry is a business, and that's the part dentists struggle with the most. However, I saw some of my classmates find great mentors and remain associates for years. I wondered if I would be able to find the same thing. Eventually, I found my calling in public health, and all I want to do is serve others.

When students approach me with their contracts, it's hard not to cringe at the language they don't understand. For example, the contracts state that they will be paid a percentage of collections. So, the first question I ask is how they plan on keeping track of collections. Then, I ask them whether it is better to get paid based on production or collections. One would think the answer would be clear—production, of course. Unfortunately, our scientific minds have a hard time transitioning to the business of dentistry. Something I never understood when I was in private practice is why contracts were not clear. We hear all these horror stories about how associates have to work a certain amount of time or owe the practice money if they leave early. Many times, we hear about associates who are promised mentorship and are left alone to practice at one location while the owner handles a separate

I believe that every member can reach out to our new graduates and let them know that they are available to teach them about our profession. This is a great opportunity to keep them involved in organized dentistry and serve as leaders in our society and associations.

office. Worst of all is when we discover the associate is not making enough to make ends meet.

While some of us may have had bad experiences in the beginning, we eventually found our way. At the next general membership meeting, I encourage all of us to find the new faces of our profession and mentor them. It is understandable that some practice owners cannot mentor these new graduates due to their commitments. However, I believe that every member can reach out to our new graduates and let them know that they are available to teach them about our profession. This is a great opportunity to keep them involved in organized dentistry and serve as leaders in our society and associations. The new graduates are our legacy and future. I would like to congratulate the Class of 2024 and welcome them to our profession and the Dallas County Dental Society.



ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR JULY 10 SESSION
dcdsdas.org

From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

Tripartite Updates



Installation

The DCDS Installation of Officers is always an exciting event. Attendees on May 23, were privileged to view a video featuring past DCDS Foundation Presidents who shared

insights into the foundation's history. Special recognition goes to Dr. Chi Trieu and Ms. Rosemary Martinez for their work in developing the video, viewable at <https://youtu.be/TQCSbhbSMBQ>.

Each installation brings a mix of emotions for me. It's a time of both sadness and excitement as some of those with whom we've worked closely complete their terms and depart from the board. If we're fortunate, they continue their volunteer commitments within DCDS, or they transition to roles within TDA or ADA.

TDA House of Delegates

I had the honor of attending the TDA Annual Session and TDA House of Delegates alongside DCDS Delegates/Alternates. Dr. Jacque Plemons (editor) and Dr. Carmen Smith (Secretary/Treasurer) were re-elected for another term, while Dr. Drew Vanderbrook will begin his second year on the Board as Senior Director. Additionally, Dr. Jodi Danna was appointed by Dr. Georganne McCandless, TDA President, as the first female parliamentarian. It was an electrifying TDA House of Delegates for Dallas, and we take pride in their exemplary leadership.

DCDS Half Dues Initiative

It's that time of year to promote half dues for dentists. If you know someone who was not a member in 2023, they can join for half dues starting July 1, 2024. They can become a member by visiting TDA.org. Once they become a member, they are eligible to register for the SWDC at no additional registration fee.

SWDC Reminder

DCDS members may register for free through July 8, 2024. After July 8, 2024, DCDS members will be required to pay a \$50.00 registration fee.



Tell your colleagues about the Half Year Dues Campaign! Any dentist joining Dallas County Dental Society who was a non-member in 2023 can be eligible for 50 percent off the full ADA dues amount for the remainder of 2024, gaining all the membership benefits offered by the Texas Dental Association and the American Dental Association as well!

Bottom left: DCDS Members at the TDA House of Delegates in May 2024.

Bottom right: The DCDS Retired Dentists group attended a spring luncheon.



New Dentists

AI in Dentistry

The field of dentistry is no stranger to constantly evolving with advancements in technology. The age of digital dentistry has been rapidly expanding for decades now since the advent of CAD/CAM, optical impression, digital x-rays, 3D printing, etc. The routine equipment in modern day offices and dental schools looks very different than it did 20 years ago. Yet, as artificial intelligence (AI) makes itself more prevalent in our daily lives (chatGPT, self-driving cars) we encounter a different type of technology shift, one that brings about moral dilemmas and legal debates. This technology has the power to impact the future of the industry and human beings, but it is a double-edged sword.

It was not that many months ago that my front desk called up a patient's dental insurance to appeal against the denial of his scaling and root planing. This patient's chart had been meticulously documented with probing depths, bleeding on probing, intraoral photos of calculus and gingival inflammation.

However, we were told point blank by his insurance that their "AI software did not detect any bone loss" so his deep cleaning was not covered. *Jaw drop moment*. My apologies, did you just invalidate my degree and years of student debt to tell me that your computer algorithm trumps my clinical knowledge?! Thus began my journey of attempting to understand how AI is truly going to impact our profession.

The application of AI in dentistry encompasses several key areas, including diagnosis, treatment planning, image analysis and patient management. While my knowledge of AI is newly developing, artificial intelligence programs that aid in dental diagnostics work via "narrow AI" versus "general AI" (i.e., human robots). This type of AI is highly specialized and stores large volumes of data and experiential knowledge to use as references for identifying/solving problems going forward. It views and analyzes hundreds of thousands of images and stores them in its memory, allowing it to learn what the different objects are and be able to identify them in the future. The more images the program views, the more it learns and the quicker its accuracy improves. This is the underlying fundamentals of how AI softwares aids in caries detection (Overjet and Pearl to name a few).

While the potential of AI in dentistry is immense, it is essential to address certain challenges, including data privacy, algorithm bias and regulatory considerations. Collaborative efforts between dental professionals, AI experts and policymakers are crucial to developing robust frameworks that ensure the responsible and ethical implementation of AI in dentistry.

Last year the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics released a white paper outlining the roles of artificial and augmented intelligence (Aul) in dentistry. Augmented intelligence is sometimes referred to as intelligence amplification. Aul plays a similar role to AI except that it keeps human intelligence elements in its procedure. Rather than performing an assignment for a clinician like AI might do, Aul acts as a tool to assist the clinician in the task. This definition emphasizes that Aul's design enhances human intelligence rather than replacing it. "While the integration of AI and augmented intelligence in dentistry is progressing, it's important to note that human expertise and clinical judgment remain essential," said Manny Chopra, DMD., chair of the ADA Council on Dental Practice.

When it comes to dental insurance, artificial intelligence technology is helping to streamline processes and review claims and pre-authorization requests faster. AI companies state when all claims-associated images undergo analysis, then fraud, waste and abuse in dental insurance claims will be largely eliminated. My personal perspective of AI being used in this capacity is mixed skepticism.

Recently my office onboarded Pearl Second Opinion AI caries detection software. While the on-screen visualization of decay being outlined in pink is helpful for patient education purposes, the algorithm has margin for error when teeth are overlapped and often mistakes areas of burnout as caries. The software tends to mis-identify periapical radiolucencies in areas where bone trabeculation is different.

Narrow AI cannot be considered a magic elixir for our profession. As AI and Aul become more integrated into dental practices, it is important for clinicians to remember that these technologies are not a replacement for our own medical proficiency. So, before letting a computer make the final call, let's ask ourselves: Is my clinical knowledge being dismissed?

“Did you just invalidate my degree and years of student debt to tell me that your computer algorithm trumps my clinical knowledge?!”

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by Andrea Sauerwein, DDS

DCDS Member's Message Board

Upcoming Events

- July 10 – New DCDS Dental Assisting School Program Begins
- July 18 – New Dentists Happy Hour (Grads from 2014 thru 2024 only)
- August 15-17 – Southwest Dental Conference
- September 17 – General Membership Meeting: Denture Delight: Achieving Patient Approval and Delivering Successful Complete Dentures
- November 6-8 – Dental Tree Program
- November 19 – General Membership Meeting



Register for these and other events at www.dcds.org/events

Welcome New Members!

General Practice

Joshua Fountain
Cory Nguyen

Endodontics

Qian Wang

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 pages! 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.

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>

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.





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.



Applause, Applause for New Board!



Top to bottom, left to right:

Celeste Latham, DDS
President

Andrew Read-Fuller, DDS, MD, MS
President-elect

Sarah Tevis, DDS
Past President

Mitra Bolouri, DDS
Secretary/Treasurer

Shawn Seifikar, DDS
Program Chairman

Corbin Alhadeef, DDS
Parliamentarian

Simmi Patel, DDS
Editor

Bob Hunsucker, DDS
Director

Salvator La Mastra, DMD
Director

Thalia Shirley, DDS
Director

Moein Sadrkhani, DDS, MSc
Director

Stephanie Bowers, DDS, MS
Director

Noah Cruz, DDS
Director

Gabby Dizon, DDS
2024 SWDC Chairman

Laurie Fernandez
Texas A&M University School
of Dentistry Undergraduate
Student

Ryan Daniel, DDS
Texas A&M University School of
Dentistry Graduate Student

Jane D. Evans
Executive Director

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

Applause, Applause!



Congratulations to Dr. Carmen Smith, who was recently awarded the TDA President’s Award, and the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service.

Dr. James Grogan was recently awarded the Silver Patrick Henry Award for outstanding service by the Dallas Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars, an organization of former military officers.



2024 Dallas County Dental Society 60 Year Members

Dr. Roger E. Alexander

Dr. James A. Archambeau

Dr. Robert A. Bettis

Dr. L. Jack Bolton

Dr. Malcolm T. Dobbins

Dr. William E. Litle

Dr. Ernest T. Lontos

Dr. Jerry L. Loveless

Dr. Tom M. McDougal

Dr. David N. McGehee

Dr. Louis Montanio

Dr. Robert W. Pritz, Jr

Dr. A. Gary Rainwater

Dr. John H. Wilson III

2024 Dallas County Dental Society 50 Year Members

Dr. Ronald E. Boshier

Dr. John R. Burnett III

Dr. Larry A. Dunn

Dr. Arlet R. Dunsworth

Dr. Jimmy B. Eubank

Dr. Stephen K. Harrel

Dr. Dean A. Hudson

Dr. Harvey P. Kessler

Dr. Robert H. Levy

Dr. J. David Malone

Dr. Robert B. Mitchell

Dr. Larry L. Pace

Dr. William T. Parker

Dr. Tommy B. Shultz

2024 Dallas County Dental Society Good Fellows (25 Year Members)

Doctors obtaining Good Fellow status have maintained 25 years of continuous membership with the Texas Dental Association.

Dr. Robert D. Brumbaugh

Dr. Rowan H. Buskin

Dr. Sigurd Enoksen

Dr. Chi H. Huyhn

Dr. Nicholas L. Neville

Dr. Stephen M. Parel

Dr. David E. Witherspoon

2024 Dallas County Dental Society (Life Members)

Dr. Jodi Danna

Dr. Mark S. Geyer

Dr. Elizabeth D. Jaynes

Dr. Jeffrey C. Jaynes

Dr. Albert M. Jowid

Dr. Michael A. Rainwater

Dr. Jill Wade

Dr. Dennis E. Youngblood

2024 Installation of Officers and Award Ceremony



Dr. Brad Crump
Dentist of the Year



Dr. James Reisman
Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller
President's Award



Dr. Bob Hunsucker
Texas A&M School of Dentistry
Faculty Member Award



Dr. Gabby Dizon
New Dentist of the Year



Outgoing Board Members



Past DCDS Presidents in Attendance





2024 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

To register or for more information, go to swdentalconf.org.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

COURSE #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
SPECIAL EVENTS					
F01	CE Express: See page 25 for list of clinicians and topics.		8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	\$70	\$80
F02	Hygiene CE Express: See page 30 for list of clinicians and topics.		12:30-4:30 p.m.	\$70	\$80
WORKSHOPS					
F03	Oral Surgery for the General Practitioner Workshop	Edwab	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$325	\$335
F04	Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop	Burkhart	9:00-11:00 a.m.	\$60	\$70
F05	Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop	Burkhart	1:00-3:00 p.m.	\$60	\$70
F06	Oral Surgery for the General Practitioner Workshop (repeat)	Edwab	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$325	\$335
F07	Esthetic and Functional Periodontal Plastic Surgery Workshop	Grisdale	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$325	\$335
F08	Create Beautiful and Functional Temporary Restorations Workshop	Trost	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$175	\$185
F09	Safety and Simplicity in Root Canal Instrumentation Workshop	Evans	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$195	\$205
F10	CBCT Workshop	Green	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$145	\$155
F11	Dental Sleep Medicine Workshop	Spencer	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$195	\$205
MORNING LECTURES					
F12	Anterior Esthetic Techniques and Materials	Brady	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F13	Ergonomics - It's a Balancing Act!	Dewhirst	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F14	Key Essentials for Successful Bone Grafting Techniques for Socket Preservation and Augmentation for Implants and Restorative Dentistry	Grisdale	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F15	Implant Basics and Maintenance	Pencek	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F16	Safety and Simplicity in Root Canal Instrumentation and Obturation: Myths, Metal and Motion	Evans	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F17	CBCT Basics	Green	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F18	Stay in the Know: Recent CDT Changes, Common Errors and Underutilized Codes	Grobmyer	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F19	Delivering W.O.W. Service - People Will Forget Everything Except How You Made Them Feel!	Mausolf	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F20	The Dentist's Role in Sleep Related Breathing Disorders: Looking Beyond the Teeth and Saving Lives!	Spencer	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
F21	Reduce Your Temporary-Making Anxiety	Trost	8:30-10:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50



2024 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

To register or for more information, go to swdentalconf.org.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

COURSE #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
MORNING LECTURES					
F22	Reinventing Restorative: Shot Free Pediatric Dental Restorations with an All-Tissue Laser	Curtis	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F23	You ARE What You EAT...and DRINK!	Mallonee	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F24	A Practical Approach to Evaluating Patients with Oral Pathology in Clinical Practice	Wright	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
AFTERNOON LECTURES					
F25	Mastering Anterior Implant Esthetics	Brady	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F26	Hot Topics in Infection Control - And Some Cool Tips	Dewhirst	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F27	Dental Hygiene Considerations for Full Arch Implant Supported Prosthetics	Pencek	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F28	Top Coding and Documentation Strategies: Maximize Your Insurance Reimbursement	Grobmyer	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F29	Communication Solutions - Attitudes, Breakdowns and Conflict Resolutions	Mausolf	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F30	Integrating Oral Medicine Into Your Practice - Maximizing the Care You Provide	Plemons	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F31	Bugs, Drugs and Food Fads: Consideration for the Dental Professional	Mallonee	2:00-5:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F32	Therapeutic Use of Botox for TMJ and Smile Enhancement: Give it a Shot	Sanovich	2:00-5:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
F33	A Comprehensive Review and Update of Oral Pathology for Dentists and Dental Hygienists	Wright	2:00-5:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50

SWDC APPRECIATION

SOIRÉE

FOR ATTENDEES AND EXHIBITORS

Join us at the SWDC for a fun networking soiree Friday, August 16 in the afternoon between 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar as you mingle with colleagues and discuss new services and technology with exhibitors. All attendees and exhibitors are welcome. Badge is required for entry.





2024 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

To register or for more information, go to swdentalconf.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

COURSE #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
SPECIAL EVENTS					
SD1	ICD BREAKFAST		7:00-9:00 a.m.	\$45	\$45
SD2	Hygiene CE Express: See page 38 for list of clinicians and topics.		8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	\$70	\$80
SD3	Therapeutic Botox Certification - Live Patient Training/Workshop	Meinecke	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	\$1675 Dentist	\$1775 Dentist
SD3A	Therapeutic Botox Certification - Live Patient Training/Workshop	Meinecke	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	\$180 Staff	\$205 Staff
WORKSHOPS					
SD4	Cosmetic Flowable Composite Workshop	To	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$400	\$410
SD5	Occlusal Equilibration - Why, When and How Workshop	Davis	12:30-3:30 p.m.	\$325	\$335
SD6	Cosmetic Flowable Composite Workshop (repeat)	To	12:30-3:30 p.m.	\$400	\$410
SD7	Mastering Dental Photography With Your Smartphone Workshop	Kleive	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$175	\$185
SD8	Do Your Dentures Suck...? They Should! Achieving Suction the Digital Way Workshop	Schnell	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$325	\$335
MORNING LECTURES					
SD9	Predictability in Restorative Care	Davis	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD10	The Simple Approach to Occlusal Stability	Kleive	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD11	Adhesive Bonding, Direct Composites and Bioactive Dental Materials	Kugel	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD12	Bones, Bugs, Fire and Flies. An Introduction to Forensic Odontology	Riley	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD13	Digitally Fabricated Complete Dentures...Not Your Grandma's Denture Anymore	Schnell	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD14	All TMJ Patients are N.U.T.S.: Diagnosing and Treating the Most Common TMJ Disorders	Spencer	8:00-11:00 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD15	Prescribing Controlled Substances: Drugs, Monitoring and Standards of Care	Plemons	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	\$60	\$70
SD16	Patient Centric Care	Cannon	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD17	The Surgical/Restorative Connection in Dental Implant Treatment for a Successful Long-Term Outcome	Grisdale	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD18	Emergency Medicine: Cardiac Emergencies and Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Malamed	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50
SD19	Clear Aligner Therapy in the GP Practice: Who, What and How to Treat	Ranta	8:30-11:30 a.m.	\$40	\$50



2024 SOUTHWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

To register or for more information, go to swdentalconf.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

COURSE #	TITLE	CLINICIAN	TIME	EARLY BIRD	AFTER JULY 14
AFTERNOON LECTURES					
S20	The Future of Dentistry: Digital Dentistry and 3D Printing	Kugel	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
S21	Patients, Pills and Pathologies	Riley	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$40	\$50
S22	Total Pediatric Dentistry	Cannon	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50
S23	Peri-Implant Disease: Diagnosis, Treatment and Maintenance IOI for the Dental Team	Grisdale	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50
S24	Hit Me With Your Best Shot	Malamed	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50
S25	The Team Approach to Clear Aligner Therapy	Ranta	1:30-4:30 p.m.	\$40	\$50

DCDS MEMBERS: REGISTER BEFORE JULY 8 TO ENJOY FREE REGISTRATION! \$50 FEE INCREASE AFTER THAT DATE.

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Diversity + Inclusivity

by Mitra Bolouri, DDS
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee Chairman

This One's for the Parents



Some of the best parenting advice I have ever received was along the lines of “you’ll feel like you’re doing 80% of the work and your spouse will feel like they’re doing 80% of the work and you’re both right because there’s now 200% more work”. As my first born graduates kindergarten and approaches his sixth birthday, I now feel that more than ever. Chauffeuring to various weekend events, buying new clothes for kids who seem to immediately outgrow them, volunteering at school and, of course, the never ending laundry...there is always work to be done!

What does parenting have to do with organized dentistry? Twenty years ago the answer probably would have been, “not much”. These days, however, it is everything. Organized dentistry is another thing on my never ending to do list: attending board meetings is (almost) just as important to me as attending parent teacher conferences. Committee meetings need to be scheduled in conjunction with school pick ups and early bedtimes. It is one more thing I, and the other parents who volunteer their time to our dental society, have to juggle.

When Dr. Drew Vanderbrook first approached me about joining the board in early 2020 I was of course honored. But I was also nervous: I was newly pregnant with my second son and I didn’t know if I should warn Dr. Vanderbrook that my time may be split. I didn’t know how I would be able to juggle a newborn with monthly board meetings. Soon after I accepted the position, the Covid pandemic began, and the silver lining for me was that all board meetings were virtual. I could hold a sleeping baby (after I had held him up to the camera for Jane to inspect his growth!) and attend meetings from the comfort of my home. Miraculously, I was able to make it all work. Like many new parents, I was juggling with a lot of balls in the air at that time, and somehow they weren’t crashing down to the ground.

These days, of course, our board meetings have resumed to in person. This past year, the board has been honored to have three offspring attend meetings: Dr. Read Fuller’s son, who is his spitting image, has been in attendance, and Drs. Contrucci Ruiz and Steger have both been kind enough to bring their newborns for us to ooh and aah over. I am so happy to be serving DCDS at a time where our members know that we are not just one thing: we are not just a dentist, not just a board member, not just a parent...we are all these things, at all times, and adjustments may need to be made to accommodate all our different roles.

Some of the biggest areas for potential growth within organized dentistry are within the groups of female and new dentists. With both these groups comes the potential for dentists who are also parents to young children. In order to flourish, we need to continue to adapt to their schedules, needs and availability. Virtual CE continues to be popular even now with our Cocktails & Conversations: I know it makes my life easier to host a course from my home, where I can immediately pop back into “mom mode” once the class has ended. With the Southwest Dental Conference being held at the Hilton Anatole, it is common to see someone attend a class in the morning, then hit the water park with their children in the afternoon. It is

no surprise to see a child (and potential future dentist?) attend a board meeting or our annual installation dinner.

I am also thankful for my colleagues and friends within DCDS who have older children. While I prepare for a kindergarten graduation, Dr. Celeste Latham prepares for her youngest to graduate from high school. Dr. Latham has grown to be someone I know I can approach for parenting advice, and I was happy to meet her children at last year’s Chairman’s Dinner. Other members have also given me advice on elementary schools, potty training and, of course, attempting to balance work with home life.

I am thankful to be an active member of an organization that knows “dentist” is not the only, or most important, hat that I wear. I hope to continue to see young parents at our events and in board meetings, and I know that in the not too distant future I will be the one dishing out advice and preparing to send my boys out into the world on their own. After all, the days may be long but the years are so, so short.

I am thankful to be an active member of an organization that knows “dentist” is not the only, or most important, hat that I wear. I hope to continue to see young parents at our events and in board meetings, and I know that in the not too distant future I will be the one dishing out advice.

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Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Kristen Tribe; Photo by Steven Crow

Committee creates change surrounding students' mental health

Depression, anxiety and stress has snaked through generations of dental students, but feelings that were once considered a rite of passage are now understood to be a serious blow to students' mental health and a threat to their overall well-being.

Instead of being told to "shake it off," students at Texas A&M School of Dentistry are now learning how to take better care of themselves through the school's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, spearheaded by Drs. Alicia Spence and Janna Burnett.

Burnett, a clinical associate professor in comprehensive dentistry, said the committee was created after dental school faculty members saw an uptick in student stress and anxiety. She said students regularly confided in her and Spence, a clinical assistant professor in comprehensive dentistry, and "it came to a point where it was becoming outside the scope of what we felt comfortable doing," she said.

"Also, we just felt like we should be doing more to try and get ahead of the problem to build up resiliency because everyone was very flappable," she explained. "Dental school has always been difficult, but it's always been kind of a culture of 'we got through, so can you.' And although that's true, there's more we can do to support them."

"We made a presentation to Administrative Council, and it was not difficult to get everyone to agree," Spence said. "They all recognized this was needed at the school."

Alum Dr. Erik Harrington, who experienced a mental health crisis while a student, gladly joined the effort, making a donation to kick things off and offering to speak at the first Wellness Wednesday.

"That really threw gasoline on the fire and got us off the ground," Burnett said.

Wellness Wednesday is a cornerstone of the program. Offered once a month, each session includes a free meal, a stress relieving activity and a lecture covering stress management, time management or overall health and wellness. Sessions have included crochet lessons, cooking classes, yoga and even a kazoo sing-along.

The committee has also partnered with campus offices and student organizations to open a pocket pantry, revive the school talent show and host a holiday market.

"We used to have all these grand traditions at the school, and then all those went away after COVID," Burnett said. "There's a lot of research that shows that lonely people have poor mental health, so I think that rebuilding that sense of community and bringing back traditions is helpful because not only does everyone get together, but you also see a different side of people."

The committee's latest work includes advocating for an on-campus counselor, planning mental health and crisis training for faculty and staff and seeking exercise classes or discounted gym memberships for students.



Dr. Janna Burnett (left) and Dr. Alicia Spence

Harrington contends that dentistry, and specifically Texas A&M School of Dentistry, can lead the way in improving mental health among students and professionals in the health care industry.

"We can be a light for the rest of health care," he said.

In the fall of 2023, Harrington helped establish the Harrington Student Wellness Endowment through the Texas A&M Foundation to increase dental school students' access to mental health resources, including the efforts of the Mental Health and Wellness Committee. If you would like to make a contribution, go to txamfoundation.com. If you'd like to contribute directly to the Wellness Wednesday events, as a speaker or financial donor, email Dr. Burnett, jeburnett@tamu.edu or Dr. Alicia Spence, aspence@tamu.edu.



Left: Faculty member Dr. Lara Coseo teaches students how to crochet during a Wellness Wednesday session.



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.

SKILLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

DCDS Dental Assisting School proudly unveils its new Dental Assisting Skills Training Program, which will offer comprehensive training sessions led by expert instructors and conducted at the DCDS Executive Office. Participants must hold a current license issued by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners as an RDA, RDH, DDS, or DMD. Course fee includes all necessary PPE, supplies, and supplemental materials.

Designed to help you elevate dental care standards in your dental practices, this initiative underscores DCDS's commitment to continual education and excellence in the field. For registration and details, visit the DCDS website at dcds.org/events or email angela@dcds.org.

- **Basic Life Support/CPR:** Participants will meet the bi-annual TSBDE license renewal requirement for Basic Life Support/CPR through this CPR and AED program with the curriculum of the American Heart Association. Other times/dates can be offered upon request to accommodate your entire office. (AGD Code 142, 3 CE Hours Technical/Scientific)

Tuesday, July 23, 2024	9:00am – 12:00 pm	\$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	\$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Friday, August 2, 2024	9:00am – 12:00 pm	\$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	\$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	9:00am – 12:00 pm	\$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	\$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Friday, November 1, 2024	9:00am – 12:00 pm	\$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	\$65 per Non-Member/Staff
Monday, December 9, 2024	9:00am – 12:00 pm	\$40 per DCDS Member/Staff	\$65 per Non-Member/Staff

- **Provisional Fabrication Skills Workshop:** Participants at all career stages will gain theoretical knowledge and practical experience in impression taking and temporary restoration techniques. (AGD Code 250, 4 CE Hours Technical/Scientific)

Monday, June 17, 2024	8:00am – 12:00 pm	\$125 per Participant
Tuesday, July 2, 2024	4:00pm – 8:00 pm	\$125 per Participant
Wednesday, October 2, 2024	4:00pm – 8:00 pm	\$125 per Participant

- **Radiographic Exposure Skills:** Participants will learn to assemble and position various film holding devices to obtain high-quality diagnostic radiographs, including mastering techniques such as paralleling, bisecting-the-angle, and proper patient positioning for panoramic radiographs. (AGD Code 010, 4 CE Hours Technical/Scientific)

Tuesday, September 24, 2024	8:00am – 12:00 pm	\$75 per Participant
Tuesday, October 22, 2024	8:00am – 12:00 pm	\$75 per Participant

- **Basic Orthodontic Skills Workshop:** Participants will acquire essential techniques such as untying, changing, and retying wires using o-rings and elastic chains, positioning patients, and maintaining a clean work area, as well as providing home care instructions for patients. (AGD Code 370, 4 CE Hours Technical/Scientific)

Tuesday, November 11, 2024	8:00am – 12:00 pm	\$75 per Participant
Tuesday, December 17, 2024	4:00pm – 8:00 pm	\$75 per Participant

All courses held at the DCDS Dental Assisting School, 13633 Omega Rd, Dallas, TX. 75244

REGISTER AT [DCDS.ORG/EVENTS](https://dcds.org/events)

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/ceerp.



Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Chi Trieu, DCDS Foundation President

\$1,000,000 Milestone Reached!

Over 25 years ago, a seed was planted within DCDS to consistently promote oral health and provide essential care to the underserved in Dallas County. A foundation was established, supported by our membership and friends of DCDS. We fundraised, established an endowment fund, protected it and let it grow.

Today, I am happy to report that we have reached our endowment goal of one million dollars. With these funds, we are able to support the Dallas community with programs like Tooth Talk, Senior Smiles, Texas Mission of Mercy, the new Dental Tree Program, and now, we will be able to fulfill grants to support local dental clinics that are already doing this important work.

To help us celebrate and to share the work that we do, DCDS Foundation interviewed our past presidents to discuss their goals and their aspirations for service for the Dallas community.

Dr. James H. Reisman: When I was serving as president, I was constantly getting calls from my patients, from other people saying, "I have a housekeeper, I have a lawn care person who needs dental care, and they can't get into parkland that can't get into Baylor. What are their options?" They just don't have the funds needed. And about that time, I had a patient that was very, very appreciative of the work I'd done and asked how he might thank me. And I said, well, we're in the process of thinking about organizing a foundation. And we were like, maybe you would like to make a donation. And he did, right there on the spot. He wrote a check for \$10,000. And that became the seed money for the forthcoming Dallas County Dental Society Foundation.

Dr. Terry Watson: We were there to protect the corpus of the foundation so that we could continue it. And, I think we were off to a good start.

Dr. James H. Reisman: On a monetary basis, our first goal was to raise \$100,000. I eventually wanted to add another zero on that and make it \$1 million, which we have just achieved this year. It's very, very special.

Dr. Terry Watson: For fundraising, I think some of the more enjoyable and fun things that we did revolved around the things that we planned and we were able to do to raise money. One was a reception at the Adolphus Hotel, and the other one was at the Filter House at White Rock.

Dr. Joel Small: You know, really, at that time, we were trying to create enough in the fund so we could go out into the community and [do] some more aggressive type dental projects, volunteer projects.

Dr. Frank Higginbottom: We had a gift of the dental van, and we thought it would be nice to go to schools and other events and do services. And we had a group of volunteers that would volunteer on the dental van.

Dr. Joel Small: You know, we got involved with TMOM, and Dentistry with a Heart and so forth, and those were really, I think, worthwhile projects. Obviously, we've expanded since then, but at that time, those were kind of the premier projects we were working on at that point in time and in some outreach programs as well.

Dr. Michael Rainwater: Our Dallas County Dental Society Foundation has served as an organizer, almost like a pass through for charitable care. We have hosted 8 TMOMS-Texas Mission of Mercy over the years, and grouped different charitable organizations together to help with those.

Dr. Sloan Hildegarde: Being a part of the Texas Mission of Mercy, the TMOMs, we were able to serve those that needed dental care and deserve dental care in our Dallas Fort Worth area and to be able to rejuvenate their smile, eliminate pain and infection, and just give them something that they need and deserve.

Dr. Michael Rainwater: Bob McNeil brought up the idea of gathering any of these groups, charitable dental groups, together in Dallas County. I tried to get them to work together to form partnerships. And soon after that, Charity Summit was started. And we have done that since 2020. And each year and as a group together, charitable dental organizations help

with relationships, communication to better serve Dallas County citizens

Dr. Michael Rainwater: Working with kids and working with seniors, working with the TMOMs, hosting TMOMs, which have been so important and also try to add some new initiatives to the hard work that's been done in the past. Basically, keep the good work going.

Dr. Chi Trieu: The Dental Tree program is our newest service program that bookmarks the first Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each November to serve our most vulnerable patients in our own private offices. This program has also partnered with Meals on Wheels and several local dental clinics.

Dr. James H. Reisman: I think we as a society of dentists need to give back to the community. We have a responsibility to the community we live in to be aware of the general needs.

Dr. Terry Watson: One of the most important things is to start early; not only in your career but in your service.

Dr. Sloan Hildegarde: I think that if you can get involved, in even a Texas Mission of Mercy or a local charity dental event, it will impact your life exponentially. I think that it's something that you'll cherish and you'll carry on through your family and through your practice for your whole life.

Hundreds of dental care professionals have helped the foundation bring care to thousands of underserved individuals in Dallas County. Whether you choose to volunteer your time, donate resources, or simply spread awareness, you can play a vital role as well.

Explore our website to discover how you can become part of the impactful mission of the Dallas County Dental Society Foundation. Join us in making a difference through volunteer opportunities and donations to support the ongoing work of the DCDS Foundation.

The Foundation video of the interviews can be found on the DCDS YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/TQCSbhbSMBQ> and please visit at dcdsfoundation.org.

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...continued from page 2

profession and community. I can't help but be so proud of our society.

I would say now is the most fulfilling era of my career. It's been 25 years since I opened the doors of my practice and I couldn't be happier! Dr. Chi Trieu, the most amazing business partner who has been by my side for 23 of those years, has been nothing but encouraging as I take on leadership roles.

It's such an honor to serve DCDS. My hope for this coming year as president is to increase membership, not only in quantity, but in involvement and inclusivity as well. Membership numbers have not recovered fully since the pandemic. One way Dallas County Dental Society can boost our membership engagement is to meet members' needs in whatever era they are in. Some people just need the support system and a friend, so social activities and continuing education are key.

Some members are eager and ready to lead. I would say many aren't sure what they would

like to do for DCDS and I'm certain that many members are not even aware of everything we can do for them! I want to be here to help members find their way discovering everything organized dentistry has to offer. In order to meet members' needs, we as leaders need to understand that there are multiple models of practice and we need to embrace the fact that dentistry is changing rapidly. Our members should be excited about what DCDS is doing and I hope all will invite non-members to join and become involved.

Wellness will be another priority. You will see links to the ADA's wellness program in the Connections newsletters. I will be working to create programs that engage all members and contribute to wellbeing — both inside and outside of the practice of dentistry.

I am committed to serving DCDS with integrity, passion and dedication and will ensure that no matter which dental era members find themselves in, there is a place for everyone at Dallas County Dental Society.



Dr. Celeste Latham (right) receiving the President's gavel from former DCDS President Dr. Brad Crump following her installation as DCDS President for 2024-2025.

Classified Advertising

Classified Advertising for DCDS Connection is accepted on a space-available basis and must meet the advertising guidelines of the DCDS. Rates and information are posted on-line at <https://www.dcds.org/news-media/sponsoring-advertising> or call 972-386-5741.

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As we get closer to our 97th annual Southwest Dental Conference, I want to highlight a few of our available lectures and give you some useful information for this year's conference. First, don't forget to register early to avoid any additional fees. **Our pre-registration deadline is July 8th** this year. I encourage all attendees to secure their spot soon to take advantage of discounted rates.

Once registered, don't forget to download this year's SWDC app, available to download in your app store. The app serves as your comprehensive guide to the event. Its user-friendly interface and robust features are designed to provide you with all the tools you need at your fingertips. It includes the conference schedule, speaker bios, session descriptions and room locations. You can also use your completion code from your courses to verify your CE credits and print/email your CE certificate. I encourage all attendees to take full advantage of the SWDC app to enhance your conference experience. By leveraging this technology, you can maximize your learning, networking and exploration of the venue.

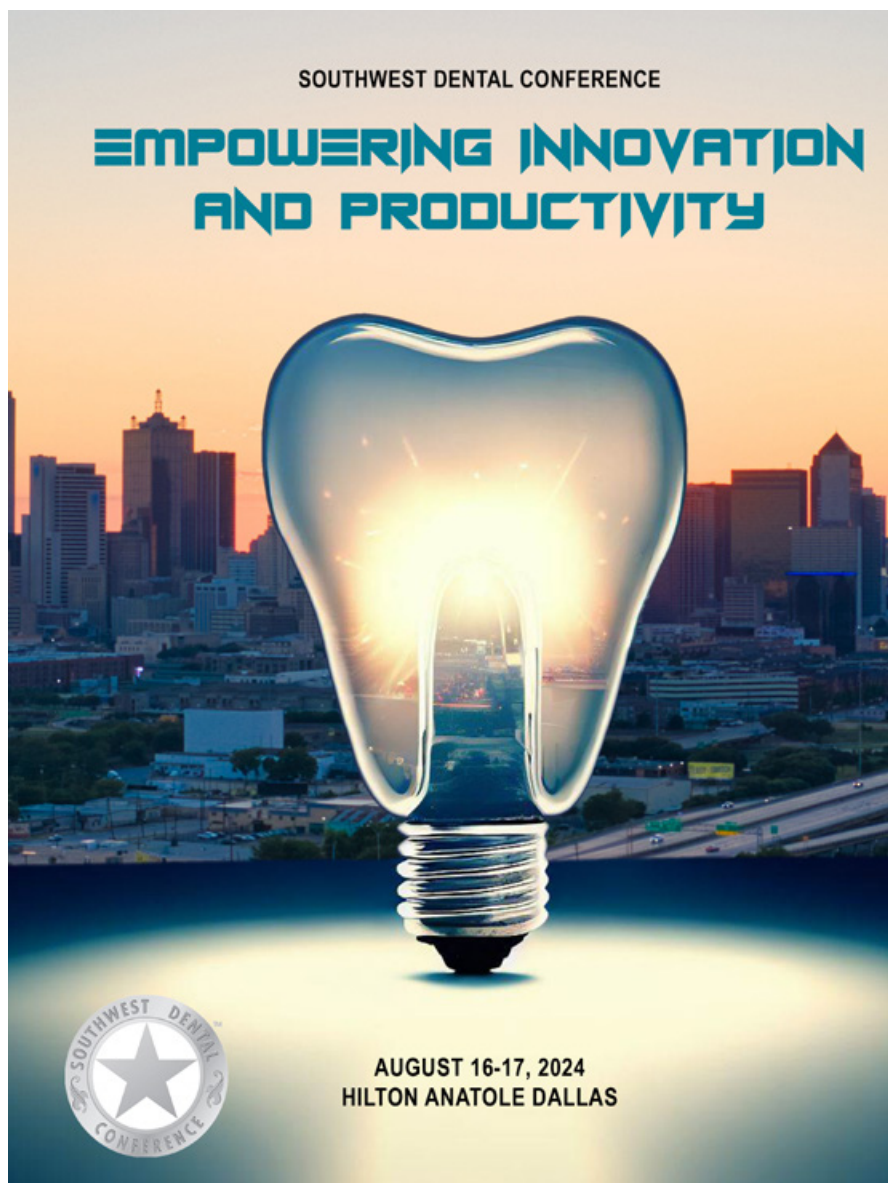
We have a diverse range of lectures and workshops available for you and your team. We also understand the importance of self-care and wellness in maintaining a healthy work-life balance. That's why we've included sessions focused on your well-being, including:

1. Ergonomics: It's a Balancing Act: Learn ergonomic principles and techniques to improve posture, reduce musculoskeletal strain and prevent work-related injuries in the dental office.
2. You are What You Eat...and Drink: Explore the connection between nutrition, oral health and overall well-being, and gain insights into promoting healthy lifestyle choices for yourself and your patients.

A major highlight of the SWDC is our dynamic exhibit hall, featuring numerous vendors showcasing the latest advancements in dental technology, products and services. The exhibit hall is not only a marketplace, but also a place

you can engage with colleagues, discover new tools and gain insights into emerging trends.

Thank you for being a part of the 2024 Southwest Dental Conference. Your participation and enthusiasm are what make this event truly special. Together, we can continue to advance the field of dentistry and make a lasting impact on the communities we serve. I look forward to welcoming you to the conference and sharing in this exciting journey of learning and growth.



Dr. Drew Vanderbrook
2024 Southwest Dental
Conference Chairman