

# 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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# Meeting the Oral Health Needs of the Elderly

By Chi Trieu, DDS, DCDS Foundation Chairman



As the global population ages, addressing the unique oral health needs of elderly individuals becomes increasingly important. The oral health of the elderly is integral to their

overall well-being, yet it is often overlooked or underestimated. Recognizing and addressing the oral health needs of the elderly is essential for promoting their overall health and quality of life, and dentists play a pivotal role.

To provide comprehensive care for this demographic, you can undertake several proactive measures:

- **Specialized Training:** Specialized training in geriatric dentistry can enhance understanding of the unique oral health challenges faced by elderly patients. The ADA and the Special Care Dentistry Association often provide continuing education on this topic.
- **Regular Oral Health Assessments:** Conducting regular oral health assessments is crucial for early detection and prevention of dental issues in the elderly. Customized assessment protocols can be developed to consider age-related changes in the oral cavity, ensuring a thorough evaluation of factors such as dry mouth, gum recession, and tooth decay. The ADA has a webinar that provides clear direction to the treatment planning process.
- **Education and Prevention Programs:** Actively engage in educational programs aimed at both elderly individuals and their caregivers. Providing information on proper oral hygiene practices, the importance of regular dental check-ups, and the impact of medications on oral health can empower seniors to take proactive measures in maintaining their oral well-being. DCDS

Foundation's Senior Smiles program offers opportunities to do this at local senior centers and assisted living communities. The Foundation's Dental Tree Program offers the chance to deliver oral health kits to home-bound residents, in conjunction with VNA Meals on Wheels.

- **Collaboration with Healthcare Providers:** Collaboration between dentists and other healthcare providers is essential for holistic elderly care. Work closely with your patient's physicians, geriatricians, and pharmacists to understand the overall health status of the patient, ensuring an integrated approach to healthcare that considers both medical and dental needs.
- **Accessibility and Affordability:** Explore ways to enhance the accessibility and affordability of dental care for the elderly. This may involve flexible appointment scheduling, home visits for patients with mobility issues and collaborating with insurance providers to create senior-friendly dental plans.
- **Technological Integration:** Embracing technological advancements in dentistry can improve the quality of care for elderly patients. Telehealth consultations, digital imaging for diagnostics, and electronic health records can enhance communication and streamline the dental care process for seniors.
- **Geriatric-Friendly Dental Facilities:** Creating dental facilities that are conducive to the needs of the elderly is essential. This may include wheelchair accessibility, comfortable waiting areas, and dental chairs designed for individuals with mobility challenges.

By adopting these strategies, dentists can contribute significantly to addressing the oral health needs of the elderly, promoting preventive care and enhancing the overall well-being of this growing demographic.

# The Write Stuff

Sarah Poteet, DDS, President

## Keeping Our Society Growing



Associations can no longer rely on the old adage “once a member, always a member.” In today’s competitive landscape, members have more options than ever before

when it comes to choosing which organizations that they want to be a part of. The Center for Association Leadership reported that on average, a new member is 50% likely to renew. This should be alarming for associations, as member retention is key to sustainability and growth.

While recruitment brings in new members, retention keeps the lifeblood of your association flowing. On average, it costs five times more to recruit a new member than to retain an existing one. Focusing on loyalty and retention leads to a stable membership base, higher member satisfaction, and a stronger association.

To gain true loyalty from members in 2024 and beyond, associations need to focus on delivering real value. Members want to feel engaged, connected to their community, and that their voices are being heard. They need to see how their membership dollars are directly benefiting them through high-quality events, networking opportunities, education, resources, and advocacy.

The Dallas County Dental Society strives to serve its members through continuing education events both online and in-person, by hosting mentor events for new dentists, by advocating for issues affecting our members, by hosting social and networking events, and by providing leadership opportunities and emerging speaker training. The Southwest Dental Conference is one of the best member benefits we work hard to provide.

With competition coming from all sides, associations must work harder than ever to prove their value. Members who do not feel they are gaining anything from their membership or that the association does not care about their needs will not hesitate to move on to another

organization. In fact, a recent “Marketing General Incorporated” report found that 33% of members dropped at least one membership in the past year due to lack of perceived value.

The key to improving member retention is enhancing the member experience at every touchpoint. From the initial welcoming experience to ongoing communications and events, associations need to make members feel valued, heard, and supported. Our membership committee is hard at work contacting dentists personally and hosting events for members.

For example:

- Building real connections and trust with your members is key. We send personalized welcome messages, offer networking opportunities, and engage members through our social online community. Loyalty is built through consistent high-quality experiences over time.
- Relevance is also essential for keeping members engaged. DCDS continually strives to improve its programs, events, education, and resources based on our members’ feedback and needs. Members will stay loyal to organizations that add ongoing value. DCDS continually surveys our members after each event and CE course to improve upon what our members want and need.

When members feel deeply connected to an organization and the community it represents, they become loyal advocates and ambassadors. But that loyalty must be earned through trust, transparency, and by consistently delivering on the promise of membership. If associations fail to make member retention a top priority, they risk losing not just members but their relevance.

Dallas County Dental Society has always felt like family and without that connection, I would feel lost and alone as a dentist. It is nice to have a network of colleagues to connect with and learn from. I encourage you to reach out to other members to talk about your experiences with DCDS, get involved in the society, be that shining light to others that draws in new members to keep our beloved society growing!



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Editor ..... Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD

Managing Editor ..... Rosemary S. Martinez

Executive Director ..... Jane D. Evans

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# Impressions

Editorial by Jordana Contrucci Ruiz, DMD, Editor

## Higher Staffing Costs



**H**as your dental practice been experiencing major staffing challenges? Mine definitely has! Everyone, not just the dental industry, has been feeling and dealing with it since 2021. No one

is immune, but general dentists are affected the most. This is due to having hygiene as an integral part of the practice. The hygienist position is the hardest to fill. We have been seeing rapid inflation everywhere, which has led to an increase in salaries as well. It is difficult to find the right person to fill job roles, and the cost of getting them is driving profits down due to increasing overhead costs. However, it is important to spend more on a salary to get the right candidate and keep profits.

According to CPA Scott Clynych from CWA, "What the dental industry is experiencing right now is a classic supply and demand issue: the supply of dental staff is down, but the demand for dental services is up. It's market forces at work." Scott believes, "it might be time for dentists to stop fighting the rising wage tide and

start paying more to get their team filled with good people. While this approach might seem counterintuitive, it doesn't mean dentists have to throw in the towel on profitability."

So, the question is, how do we keep our profits while staffing costs are increasing? Scott suggests, "Accept the fact that you're going to be paying more for staffing. As frustrating as that may be, dentists who don't accept that are going to lose out on candidates, and possibly their current staff, because they'll go down the street to a dentist or DSO that will pay it. The next thing we're telling our clients is to continue raising fees to keep up with the rising overhead." The third strategy, and the trickiest one to execute according to Scott, is to take a hard look at In-Network insurance plans with an eye toward renegotiating reimbursement amounts, paring down, or even moving away completely from those commitments, depending on the specific client situation.

We are starting to see a shift away from insurance. Many more offices are no longer accepting insurance, and patients are realizing this is more of the norm. It is important to educate

**“Most patients won't think twice because prices and fees are rising everywhere; however, when patients do notice or complain, it is the way you communicate with them that makes a world of difference.**

yourself and your staff on how to communicate with patients. Communication is key so they don't have a negative reaction. This also applies to a rise in fees. Most patients won't think twice because prices and fees are rising everywhere; however, when patients do notice or complain, it is the way you communicate with them that makes a world of difference. Now is the time to hire the right staff and raise your fees so you can have a profitable and proficient office.

## Speed-Gaming and International Potluck

The DCDS Executive Office transformed into a cultural melting pot on January 25, as colleagues and friends engaged in a night of table games. Approximately 40 people reveled in the vibrant festivities at the Speed-Gaming and International Potluck event hosted by the DCDS Membership and DCDS Diversity and Inclusivity Committees.

Laughter and friendly competition filled the air as participants embraced the wide array of quick challenges through board and card games, as well as an opportunity to race against each other on-screen with Mario Kart. The potluck aspect added a flavorful dimension to the evening, with attendees sharing their cultural favorites and celebrating the power of unity, friendship and cultural diversity within the DCDS community.



# From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

## Updates



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

DCDS built a state-of-the-art dental assisting school with the plan to help with the shortage of dental assistants. Some of you have recommended the

school to friends and family members, etc. We need you to continue doing so and promoting the school to many more. What sets the school apart from others is the director, Ms. Angela Bush, who continues to stay in contact with the students once they have completed the program and serves as a mentor. Also, she works with them on finding the perfect office to begin their career as an assistant. There is a former student who works for one of the DCDS Dental Assisting School Board members who is enjoying her career as a dental assistant so

much she encouraged both of her daughters to go through the program. They did, and now they are a family of three RDAs. Ms. Bush is always available to give a tour to anyone interested in touring the school.

### SWDC

This is always an exciting time at the DCDS Executive Office. The new year starts, SWDC program is complete, registration opened and our team is ready to answer questions. Hats off to Dr. Drew Vanderbrook and the Scientific Committee for another excellent program. Plan extra time to enjoy Jade Park at the Hilton Anatole to float on the lazy river! I look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference.

### Lobby Day

Registration is now open for Lobby Day 2024! Every year, Lobby Day gives you the chance to learn more about issues and policies that affect the nation's oral health. [Click here](#) now to attend

our annual gathering on April 7-9, 2024 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C., where 1,500+ dentists and dental students will come together to hear from political analysts, subject matter experts and dentists who are working with Congress and other federal officials to represent our industry, explore the issues and take action. PLEASE NOTE: ADA/ADPAC will be extending travel stipends to 38 dentists from the state of Texas who want to attend lobby day at the ATL stipend level of \$550...there are about 20 stipends left, so claim yours now by emailing Dr. Jon Vogel at [jonvogeldds@gmail.com](mailto:jonvogeldds@gmail.com).

### Dental Students Pantry

An Amazon Wish List has been set up to provide a quick and easy way to contribute to the Texas A&M School of Dentistry student food pantry. Let's come together to ensure our dental students have the nourishment they need for success. [Click here](#) to make a positive impact!

Below: Photos from various DCDS Dental Assisting School classes.



## DON'T BE THIS GUY ON APRIL 1ST.



## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW.

Don't lose access to exclusive member benefits designed to help you thrive professionally and personally! Belonging to ADA/TDA/DCDS means more than just membership. It's a gateway to connections with experienced colleagues, engagement with a diverse group of peers, and invaluable networking opportunities at local, state, and national events. [Click here to Renew!](#) Also, did you know you can set your membership to auto-renew and choose your payment plan?



## New Dentists

### Bet on Yourself: Planning a Dental Start-up

Some of the best advice I've ever received is "always bet on yourself". While I had heard that before, the phrase took on a new meaning when I went to a friend for advice back in early 2021. I'd been kicking around the idea of starting my own practice, so hearing those words gave me the spark I needed to make it happen. While having that conversation seems like an eternity ago in some regards, in others, it seems like it was yesterday. Having just eclipsed the two year mark since opening my own practice, I can look back and say these have been some of the most challenging, but also the most rewarding, years of my life.

If you're thinking about setting out on your own and starting up a practice, I'd recommend really taking some time to be introspective. Make sure it's something that you're passionate about and really want to do. There are many highs and lows that go along with being the owner of a new practice. Sleepless nights, long days at the office and tons of frustration accompany the wins of practice ownership. Be honest with yourself and make sure you're willing to make the sacrifices and do what it takes before you take the plunge.

Once you've decided to take the leap, try not to get too overwhelmed at the beginning. Setting up a practice is a complicated process. But don't let that scare you. There's a lot to do, but taking the time to get a game plan together and assemble the right team can pay dividends in the long-run.

Know that some things, like working through a lease and funding your loan, will take longer than others to complete. So start with the basics. You'll need to find a banker to help take out a practice loan, a real estate expert to find the ideal location and negotiate a lease, an attorney to review your lease, a contractor to build the space out, and a supply and equipment rep to help pick out the equipment that's right for you.

While this sounds like a lot, the good news is that most of these people are used to working together, so once you settle on one member of your team, like a good banker for example, they can help point you in the right direction of the other people you'll need. The best thing you can do to get started finding the right

people is to just ask around! Contact someone in your desired area who has done a start-up. The local dental society, like DCDS, probably has resources that can help you get in touch with potential team members. There are also several Facebook groups specific to dental start-ups that provide a lot of good information on things you'd never think to ask about.

Once you get the right people in your corner, you'll need to start thinking about establishing your processes. Develop a practice vision. Come up with a business plan. Think about how you'll market the practice. Things move slow at first, so take advantage of the lull that happens while negotiating your lease, for example, to get these things into place. Because once the ball starts rolling and the clock is ticking on your loan and construction is moving forward, it seems to go at warp speed from there!

All in all, starting and owning your own practice can be an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. There are a lot of people out there who are willing to help you. Building the right network can give you the confidence you need to start the practice of your dreams.

**“Once you've decided to take the leap, try not to get too overwhelmed at the beginning. Setting up a practice is a complicated process. There's a lot to do, but taking the time to get a game plan together and assemble the right team can pay dividends in the long-run.”**

News and perspective from dentists under 10 years of practice



by John Tunnell, DDS, MS

# DCDS Member's Message Board

## Upcoming Events

- March 26 – Cocktails and Conversation: Clinical Confidence with Invisalign Cases
- March 21 – Retired Dentists Presentation on Solar Eclipses
- April 4 – Wine Tasting
- April 10 – Dental Assisting School 12 Week Program Begins
- April 16 – General Membership Meeting: Emergency Drug Kits: Pharmacological and Technical Considerations
- April 19 – Shred-a-thon
- April 20 – Ladies' Tea
- April 26 – Emerging Speakers Showcase
- May 23 – DCDS Installation Ceremony and Dinner



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

## Welcome New Members!

### General Dentist

Jamie Alexander  
 Alberto Alfaro  
 Ashraff Buari  
 Daniel Campos  
 Justin Cortina  
 Andrew Naden

### Iman Naeem

Bradford Picot  
 Ritu Rao  
 Daniel Ryan  
 Andrew Naden  
 Roujau Rayetparvar  
 Shanelia Williams

### Periodontics

Vijaya Lakshmi Molli

### Orthodontics

Ryan Allo

### Oral Surgery

Shyam Indrakanti



*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.

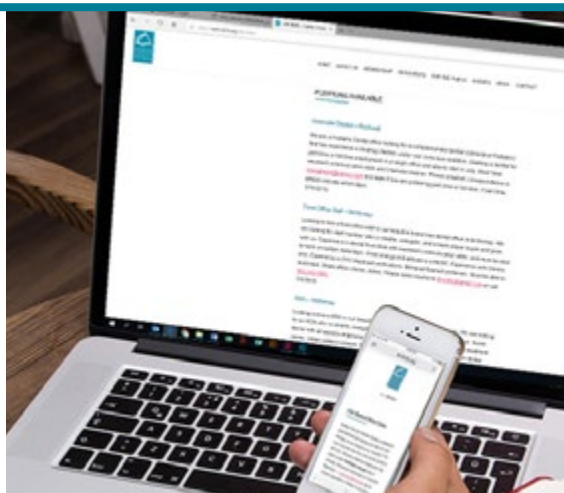
**CLICK HERE: YOUR LICENSE RENEWAL WILL GET MUCH EASIER!**

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





## REACH OUT TO HELP ANOTHER DENTIST

Watching a colleague suffer and feeling helpless is difficult and heartbreaking. Dentists Concerned for Dentists is a 24-hour confidential alcohol and drug abuse hotline you can call for assistance.

Your phone call could be the lifesaving step for someone who is hoping and waiting.

- Founded exclusively to help dentists, hygienists, assistants and family members.
- No fees or charges.
- All contact is held in absolute confidentiality.

The Dentists Concerned for Dentists program provides a strictly confidential peer assistance program for health care professionals who struggle with drug and alcohol abuse. Please share this confidential hotline with your colleagues.

A confidential phone call may be the greatest gift a peer dentist, staff or family member could receive.

## DENTISTS CONCERNED FOR DENTISTS

24-hour Confidential Hotline  
**214-206-7496**

### HELP YOURSELF

If you're in crisis, there are options available to help you cope. You can call the above hotline at any time to speak to someone and get support. For confidential support available 24/7 for everyone in the United States, you can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

### Need Meeting Space?

As a member of the DCDS, you can take advantage of low member rates when renting the Society's Executive Office for your next meeting.

The Dr. O.V. Cartwright Reception Hall is perfect for registration and a pre-function gathering.

The Dr. Paul P. Taylor Executive Board Room can seat 14 around a large conference table.

The Dr. D. Lamar Byrd Auditorium is 1,650 square feet of meeting space that can seat up to 125.

Audio/visual equipment is also available.

DCDS facilities include free parking, free wifi, use of small kitchenette, and ability to bring in food and non-alcoholic beverages.

For more info, contact Ashley Hawkins at 972-386-5741 x231 or email [info@dcds.org](mailto:info@dcds.org).





## DCDS Membership Benefits

Being a member of the associations that work to protect your profession is important to the success of a practice. Pass along the benefits to your peers!

- Free registration to DCDS’s annual Southwest Dental Conference
- Peer Review mediation service to reconcile complaints between patients and doctors
- Rent DCDS meeting facilities at special member rates
- Free or discounted continuing education via seminars & General Membership Meetings
- First opportunity to hire fully trained, world-class assistants from DCDS Dental Assisting School
- Preprinted school excuse forms provided free of charge to dentists treating school-age children
- Confidential notary public at no charge
- DCDS Connection, the bimonthly newsletter of Dallas County Dental Society (member advertising at reduced rates)
- Member mailing labels available for purchase
- Grassroots legislator contact program with state and national legislative representation
- License renewal reminders
- Networking/social opportunities with colleagues

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

DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by American Dental Association, including photo directory and public referrals through Find-a-Dentist.

[www.dcds.org/membership](http://www.dcds.org/membership)

## TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS: Text DCDSMEMBERS to (833) 258-7645.

Have you ever wished you could receive reminders for DCDS meetings and events? Do you forget to put events/meetings on your calendar? DCDS implemented text messaging so you will not forget another meeting. Just sign up and you will be reminded of future meetings and events.



## BLS/CPR Courses

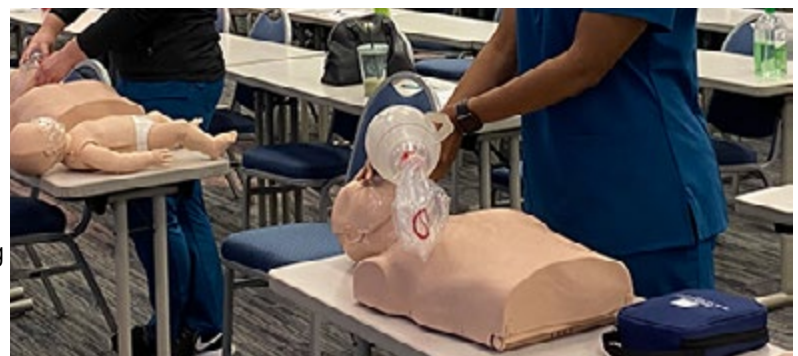
Choose a Date | In-Person

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](mailto: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](mailto:gabrielledizondds@gmail.com). Recent topics include these below...click to read on!

Jan 12, 2024



by Martin Kahn, DDS

## Do not fear transitioning from your practice!

I hesitate to use the term 'retirement' since that should be the last thought on your mind when transitioning from active practice. I left my practice almost 12 years ago and now find myself busier than ever and very content with my lifestyle.

Jan 2, 2024



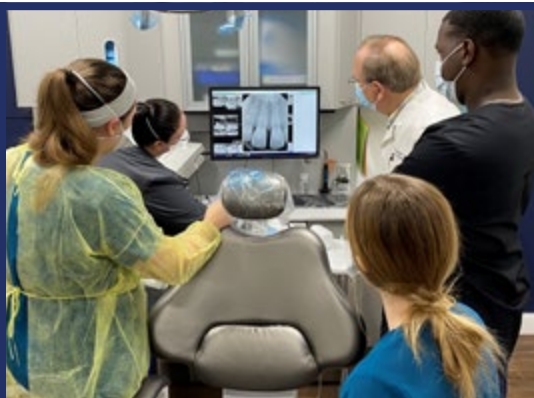
by Noah Cruz, DDS

## New Year, New Plan

Entering a new year presents an opportunity for dentists to reflect on the past, set goals for the future, and adapt to the always changing landscape that is our career. It can even be as simple as recognizing the small achievements and taking it a step further. Technology is certainly something that most dentists are buying into, and we've become spoiled with the wide availability of advancements in dentistry. Here are some tips for dentist owners as we enter the new year.

## PRO BONO HOURS

DCDS 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 TDA on your behalf. Please help our legislative efforts by clicking here to complete this short Pro Bono Form on our website whenever you provide these services.



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](mailto:info@dcdsdas.org) or [click here](#).



NOW ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR SESSION STARTING APRIL 10

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



# Diversity + Inclusivity

by Mitra Bolouri, DDS  
Chairman, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee

## The Unlikely Mentor



Last fall, I was invited to attend the DCDS Mentor-Mentee Reception. The running joke I made in the weeks leading up to the event was, “Can I sign up to be a mentee instead of a mentor?”. Although I said this joke enough times that it was no longer funny, in reality, I kept thinking about the quote from the movie *Annie Hall*: “I would never want to belong to any club that would have someone like me for a member”. Why would I want a mentee who would want someone like me for a mentor?

During my fourth year of dental school, I remember composing a list of big dreams I had for myself that I hoped to accomplish in the next ten years. Over eleven years later, I have accomplished exactly zero of them. (In my defense, I had no idea I was going to meet my

future husband six months after graduation or that in less than ten years we would have two beautiful boys together. Those three guys have kept me fairly busy.) When I walked into the reception that evening, I looked around and saw colleagues who owned successful practices, friends who had built their practices out of nothing, dentists who often did high-end full-mouth cosmetic cases, and several specialists. To say I felt a little out of place would be an understatement.

Those who know me in person know I tend not to take myself too seriously. Rarely do I introduce myself as “Dr. Bolouri” outside of private practice. To celebrate the last year of my thirties, I had neon green streaks dyed in my hair. I like to tell my staff “I’m not a regular dentist, I’m a cool dentist”. I keep trying to omit certain four-letter words from my vocabulary, but it’s fudging hard! I had absolutely no idea what I was bringing to the table as a mentor. But that

evening, I kept wanting to share my story and thoughts that I’ve formed since beginning my career as a dentist. I grabbed the microphone out of Dr. Vanderbrook’s hand more times than he would have liked and felt compelled to keep speaking (which should come as no surprise to anyone). As the panelist session ended and the mingling began, I looked around at the small groups forming around my colleagues, content to once again be a small part in a successful event at DCDS headquarters.

Much to my surprise, I made eye contact with a dental student who literally pointed at me from across the room. She made a beeline towards me and started asking me questions based on the stories I had shared about my past experiences. She asked for my phone number. And then another student asked for my phone number and wanted to chat. One of the young ladies wanted help making her curriculum vitae. The other asked if she could shadow me when she had the time. They found value in what I said and wanted more of it, which I guess is a big part of being a mentor.

My point is (I promise I have one), there is such a wide range of what it means to be a mentor, and what someone is looking for in a mentor. Those two young ladies found that I was a good match for what they were looking for, but it’s like when I was online dating before I met my husband (unless my dad is reading this. Dad, ignore that last part, Nelson and I met through mutual friends): what works for one person might not work for another. I probably wouldn’t have been a good match for a lot of their classmates or the other new dentists looking for guidance, but they felt their personalities clicked with mine. Because there is such a growing diversity in dental students, we need diversity in mentors. So if you think you wouldn’t be a good mentor, I think you’re wrong. I think you probably just haven’t met the mentee that will be your perfect match. Sometimes you want the suave guy running a successful practice who’s wearing a sports coat to give you advice on what you should do. But sometimes you need the goofy woman with the green hair and the denim jacket to share the mistakes she’s made along the way. They’re both cool dentists in my book.



Dr. Bolouri (back left) with several young dentists at a DCDS mentoring event.



JOIN US FOR A

# Wine Tasting

THURSDAY, APRIL 4  
6:30 P.M.

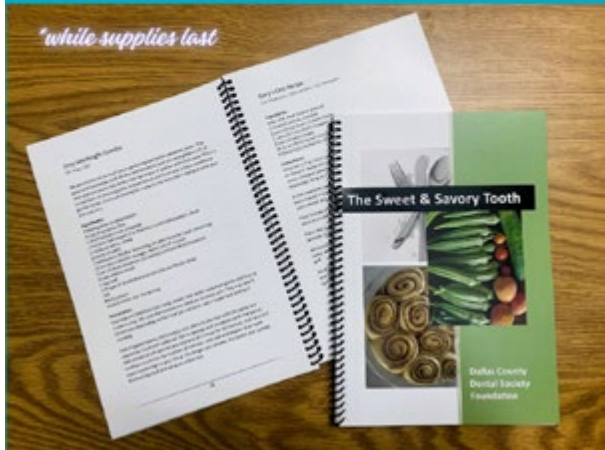
Helm Dental Lab  
2801 Capital St, Wylie, TX 75098

Heavy hors d'oeuvres included  
Spouses/guests welcome

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



Receive cookbook with  
your \$25+ donation



Spice up your cooking this year with a little something extra! The DCDS Foundation Cookbook has a diverse collection of delicious recipes, 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!](http://dcdsfoundation.org/donate!)



Join us as we  
welcome Author and  
Eclipse Ambassador,  
Leticia Ferrer  
to learn about the  
upcoming  
Solar Eclipse!

**WHO: RETIRED DENTIST AND SPOUSES**  
**WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024**  
**TIME: 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**  
**WHERE: DCDS EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**RSVP: [ASHLEY@DCDS.ORG](mailto:ASHLEY@DCDS.ORG)**

# Clinical Confidence with Invisalign Cases

**CHRISTINA BLACHER, DMD**



Dr. Blacher is a general dentist in Frisco, TX. She is a global faculty member for Align, keynote speaker for Align, and a fellow and board member for the American Academy of Clear Aligners. Dr. Blacher is a mentor to other dental offices, successfully helping to integrate Invisalign into their practices. She started an Instagram page @queenofinvisalign to share her insights into Invisalign as a general dentist. Dr. Blacher became a dentist to change lives, including the lives of other dentists. She prides herself on creating a positive professional community united to help one another.

**This course will cover how to predictably treat Invisalign cases to drive the best results. Many doctors are not clinically confident in setting up treatment plans which can result in tracking issues and posterior open bites. We will cover how to evaluate treatment plans and what to look for in order to get the most predictable movements. We will also cover how to handle common tracking issues and posterior open bites.**

AGD Subject Code: 370  
CE Hours: 1 technical and/or scientific  
CE Verification provided  
Conflict of Interest: Invisalign

Sponsored by:  
DCDS Diversity & Inclusivity Committee

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand common tracking issues that can occur during treatment
- Know which movements in orthodontics can help create more predictable treatment plans
- Learn how to correct tracking issues and posterior open bites
- Feel confident editing ClinChecks for more predictable results and less complications

**ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS VIRTUAL COURSE BY MARCH 19, 2024.**

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

DCDS Members	Free	Dental Students	Free
DCDS Member staff	Free	Non-member dentist	\$15
ADA Member/staff	Free	Non-member staff	\$15

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is March 19, 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 March 19, 2024.



# MARCH 26

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**Dallas County Dental Society**  
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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](http://www.ada.org/goto/cecp).





# General Membership Meeting - April 2024

## Emergency Drug Kits: Pharmacological and Technical Considerations

### SHAWN SEIFIKAR, DDS



Dr. Shawn Seifikar, a board-certified dentist anesthesiologist based in Dallas/Fort Worth, brings over 13 years of experience in delivering in-office anesthesia. He serves as associate faculty at Texas A&M College of Dentistry, specializing in instructing graduate periodontic residents in intravenous sedation techniques. As president at Southwest Sedation Education, Dr. Seifikar conducts lectures for dentists across Texas, covering topics related to dental sedation and office emergencies. Dr. Seifikar also serves as the clinical director and staff anesthesiologist at Special Care Dentistry, a practice dedicated to offering high-quality dental care specifically tailored to individuals with special needs.

This course provides comprehensive knowledge and skills essential for recognizing and handling common office emergencies. Delve into the intricacies of emergency medications, learning about indications, dosages, and administration routes for the most prevalent drugs. Learn to construct personalized emergency kits tailored to your own experiences and familiarity, fostering a practical and hands-on approach to emergency preparedness.

AGD Subject Code: 142  
 CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific  
 CE Verification provided  
 Conflict of Interest: None Reported

Sponsored by: Garfield Refining



#### Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to recognize and manage most common office emergencies.
- Understand the indications, dosages and routes for most common emergency medications.
- Discover how to differentiate between urgencies and emergencies.
- Determine contents of a customized emergency kit, based on your own experiences and familiarity.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT [WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS). IF YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE YOUR VIEWING PREFERENCE AFTER REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL THE DCDS OFFICE.**

**IN-PERSON BEGINS WITH DINNER AT 6:00 P.M.  
 VIRTUAL BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is April 9, 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 April 9, 2024.



# APRIL 16

**REGISTER TODAY AT [WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS)**

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activities, unless otherwise noted. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at [ccep.ad.org/ada-cerp-standards](http://ccep.ad.org/ada-cerp-standards).





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# Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Caleb Vierkant

## Faculty members honored at annual retreat

**T**exas A&M School of Dentistry kicked off the spring semester with its annual faculty retreat, presenting awards across a variety of categories including research, teaching and service to the school and community.

“Looking ahead to 2024, it’s a new year and new beginnings,” said Professor Lisa Mallonee, associate dean for faculty affairs and professor of dental hygiene. “I want us to continue to move forward in a positive direction, to strengthen the School of Dentistry and our commitment to excellence.”

Faculty members honored included:

- Dr. Andrea Rothman, Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award
- Dr. Hui Liang, Premier Performance Award
- Professor Maureen Brown, Teaching Excellence Award
- Dr. Feng Tao, Faculty Research Excellence Award
- Dr. Hua Zhang, Basic Science Faculty Research Award

- Dr. Poorya Jalali, Clinical Faculty Research Award
- Dr. Jayne Reuben, Institutional Service Award
- Dr. Shaun Logan, Professional Service Award
- Dr. Matthew Kesterke, Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award, college level, academic year 2023-2024
- Professor Leah Spittle, Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award, college level, academic year 2023-2024.

“I know so many amazing faculty here that deserve to be recognized, so I feel really fortunate to get this award,” said Liang, professor of diagnostic sciences. “It’s really meaningful for me. Receiving this award is a highlight of my teaching career.”

Logan, instructional associate professor in biomedical sciences, added she was humbled to receive her award. She said it was an amazing feeling to get recognized by those around her, many of whom helped her develop her skills as a teacher.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the day included team building exercises, discussions on how best to train future dentists and dental hygienists and preparations for the new semester.

“We had great attendance, and we hope to keep building every year,” said Dean Lily T. Garcia. “The energy is so positive, and everyone here is ready to take us to the next level of excellence.”



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

Founded in 1905, the School of Dentistry is a nationally recognized center for oral health sciences education, research, specialized patient care and continuing dental education. Learn more at [dentistryinsider.tamhsc.edu](http://dentistryinsider.tamhsc.edu) or follow @TAMUdental.

Left to right: Dr. Matthew Kesterke, Professor Maureen Brown, Dr. Hua Zhang, Dr. Poorya Jalali, Dr. Shaun Logan, Dr. Andrea Rothman, Dr. Hui Liang and Dr. Jayne Reuben. Not pictured are award winners Dr. Feng Tao and Professor Leah Spittle.



## 15TH ANNUAL DCDS SHRED-A-THON

# Friday, April 19, 2024

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



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

**On-site Shredding Services.** X-rays should be separated from paper prior to drop off. Due to time constraints, some materials will be shredded at the Action Shred facility.

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

**Can't make it on this day?** Contact Action Shred for preferred DCDS pricing at 214-352-0113 (option 2).

**Questions?** Contact [ashley@dcds.org](mailto:ashley@dcds.org) or 972-386-5741.

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

# DCDS Foundation Awards Scholarship

The Dallas County Dental Society Foundation presented Nalini Dhurjati, BDS, MPH with a DCDS Foundation Public Health Scholarship at the February General Membership Meeting. Requirements for the scholarship include enrollment in the Texas A&M School of Dentistry

Dental Public Health Residency program; high GPA, leadership roles and community involvement; and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Having pursued a Masters in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology, and currently

undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Dental Public Health at Texas A&M University, Dr. Dhurjati exhibits a commitment to academic excellence and professional development. Her impressive academic record, including a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Surgery from Ragas Dental College and Hospital, India, underscores her dedication to dentistry.

Dr. Dhurjati's extensive research experience and work as a Community Health Data Intern, Health Disparities Research Intern, and Research Team Coordinator reflect her proactive engagement in addressing public health challenges. Her contributions to various research projects demonstrate a keen understanding of dental public health issues and a proactive approach to finding solutions.

Moreover, Dr. Dhurjati's service experience, including volunteering as a Dental Assistant at Mission of Mercy and Remote Area Medical, showcases her commitment to serving underserved communities and promoting oral health equity.





# Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Preston Colven, DCDS Foundation Vice-President

## Give Kids a Smile – Dallas 2024

On February 2nd, the spirit of Giving Kids a Smile (GKAS) shone brightly across Dallas County! This year, a dedicated team of 75 volunteers—including dentists, hygienists, assistants, dental students and community members—brought their expertise and compassion to eight DISD schools enrolled in the City of Dallas Out-of-School Time program and two other schools in Dallas County, reaching approximately nine hundred students in need.

Our volunteers provided essential dental screenings and applied fluoride varnish to prevent cavities and promote healthy smiles. But it wasn't just about treatment—we also spread awareness about oral hygiene through engaging educational sessions. Students at one Irving ISD school and an Uplift location learned the importance of brushing, flossing, and maintaining a healthy diet for a bright smile.

This year, we were thrilled to partner with Texas A&M School of Dentistry Pediatric Dentistry residents, who joined forces with us at the Uplift location, sharing their knowledge and passion for children's dental health. This collaboration exemplifies the spirit of Give Kids a Smile—bringing together professionals and volunteers to make a difference in young lives.

The positive impact of this event goes beyond dental care. By providing free services and education, we empower children with the knowledge and resources they need to build healthy habits that will last a lifetime. We saw countless smiles light up throughout the day, reminding us of the true joy of giving back.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers and partners for making this event such a success! Your dedication and generosity have brought brighter, healthier smiles to countless children in our community. Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to shine with a confident, healthy smile.

We look forward to making Give Kids a Smile even bigger and better next year!



TO VOLUNTEER

[WWW.DCDSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.DCDSFOUNDATION.ORG)

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# DCDS Ladies Tea

April 20, 2024

Details coming soon! Stay tuned at [www.dcds.org/events](http://www.dcds.org/events)!



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

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

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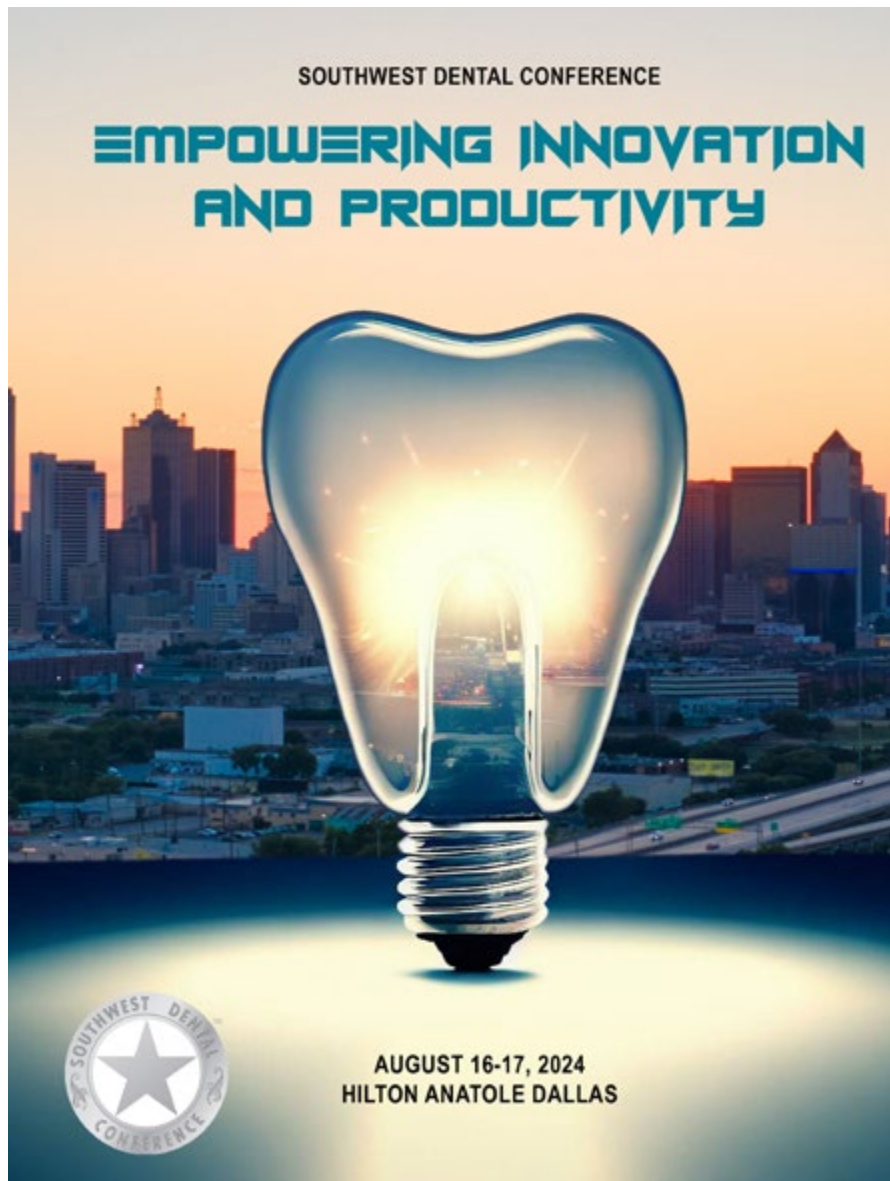
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## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

As we gear up for the highly anticipated 2024 Southwest Dental Conference, I am thrilled to extend a warm invitation to all dental professionals to join us this year at the Hilton Anatole. As the Chairman of the Conference, I am excited to provide a glimpse into what attendees can expect and share some insights on why early registration is crucial.

First and foremost, early registration offers numerous advantages. Early registrants enjoy discounted rates, ensuring a cost-effective investment in professional development. Moreover, securing your spot promptly allows you to plan your schedule effectively, ensuring that you and your team can participate in the lectures and workshops most relevant to your practice. You can register you and your team now at [www.swdentalconf.org](http://www.swdentalconf.org).

For new dentists, this year's Conference holds particular significance. We have curated a series of sessions tailored to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by those in the early stages of their career. From Dr. Keith Evan's Root Canal Instrumentation lecture and workshop to Dr. Peter Green's CBCT Basics lecture and workshop, our program is crafted to equip new dentists with the tools they need to thrive in a dynamic healthcare landscape.

However, the benefits extend beyond individual practitioners. The 2024 Southwest Dental Conference is an excellent opportunity for the entire team to come together to enhance their collaborative efforts. Team-building lectures, interdisciplinary workshops, and networking events provide a platform for dentists, hygienists, assistants, and administrative staff to strengthen their bonds and streamline their workflow for optimal patient care. This year we have Judy Kay Mausolf offering two practice culture lectures that your team won't want to miss along with Dr. Stanley Malamed

giving a lecture on medical emergencies that will sharpen your team's skills when dealing with emergencies that might arise.

In conclusion, make sure to register you and your team early this year to make a smart financial decision (registration fees for DCDS Members increase to \$50 after July 8) and ensure you get the sessions you desire the most. I look forward to welcoming you all to a Conference that promises to be both educational and inspiring.



**Dr. Drew Vanderbrook**  
 2024 Southwest Dental  
 Conference Chairman