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DCDS connection

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A tradition of integrity and care since 1908

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

## Mission Statement

Serving the professional needs of our members

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# Practicing Without a License

## A caution for students and dental professionals

Many dental providers open their practices to dental and dental hygiene students offering them real world experiences that are invaluable to their professional growth as aspiring dental clinicians. The opportunities allow students to learn the intricacies of running a dental practice. However, both practitioners and students must take proper precautions to ensure legal compliance and protect themselves as well as their professional careers.

"While it may be tempting to participate in procedures beyond the basic approved duties of a dental assistant — particularly when encouraged by licensed practitioners, including employers, family members or mentors — students and clinicians must understand that doing so before the student is licensed constitutes a criminal offense," said Jennifer Barrington, associate dean of clinical affairs at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry.

According to sections 256.001 and 256.052 of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners Dental Practice Act, practicing dentistry without a license is a third-degree felony offense and practicing dental hygiene without a license is a class A misdemeanor.

She said students at Texas A&M College of Dentistry who provide patient care within the scope of the curriculum at the dental school's primary and contracted affiliated sites, are covered under the license and oversight of their faculty and the professional liability coverage provided by the college. Additionally, dental and dental hygiene students are covered at approved weekend volunteer events if a licensed clinical faculty is on-site to provide supervision.

Barrington warned that any student who provides patient care, even a visual oral exam, or renders an opinion that could be perceived as a diagnosis or treatment recommendation is practicing without a license. If this action occurs outside of the approved sites or events and faculty coverage guidelines, the student and the licensed practitioner involved are at legal risk.

"In today's world of social media, the opportunity for someone to notice is ever-present, and the risk is real even if all goes well during the procedure," Barrington warned. "Please do not jeopardize your license."

**Click for Resources:**

Texas Dental Practice Act Sec. 256.001 and Sec. 256.052

Texas Occupations Code Chapter 251. General Provisions Relating To Practice Of Dentistry

Texas Administrative Code RULE §108.9 Dishonorable Conduct

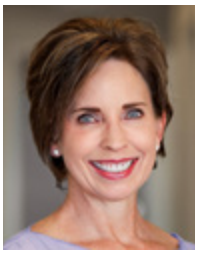
**TSBDE Notice: Practicing Without a License**

**TSBDE has received reports that some dental offices are allowing dental students who are not yet licensed to treat patients. Please note that in accordance with sections 256.001 and 256.052 of the Dental Practice Act, a person may not practice dentistry or dental hygiene unless the person is licensed by TSBDE. Practicing dentistry without a license is a third degree felony offense, and practicing dental hygiene without a license is Class A misdemeanor offense.**

# The Write Stuff

Celeste Latham, DDS, President

## Lesson from a Broken Toe



Gratitude. Sometimes an event occurs that really makes us sit down and evaluate just how grateful we are. I recently broke my left pinky toe by stubbing it on a chair in my kitchen. It's quite amazing how painful and debilitating something as tiny your pinky toe can be! Putting a shoe on, walking, sleeping, and exercising were all so painful. As I slowly healed and got back to normal function, I promised myself I will forever be grateful for pain-free walking! I will never take for granted being able to lace up my sneakers and walk four miles again. Of course, I know time will pass and I will likely forget how much pain I was in and my gratitude for my health will wane. I don't want that to happen, though! I want to wake up each day I can walk pain free and take full advantage of that feeling.

This experience brings to mind how we as members of organized dentistry sometimes forget to be grateful for all of the big and little things that Dallas County Dental Society, Texas Dental Association and the American Dental Association do for us! They are advocating for us through legislation that benefits practicing dentists, representing us in front of big insurance companies, and creating programs that help us, as practicing dentists and small business owners, navigate regulations and requirements. There are so many people working on our behalf. I'm willing to bet that if any of those benefits we sometimes take for granted disappeared, we sure would notice!

My advice to all of us is to take advantage of everything organized dentistry has to offer NOW. We need to be grateful for what we have and spread the word to our colleagues who are not aware of the benefits organized dentistry has to offer. I encourage all of our members to become involved in some way with Dallas County Dental Society. Don't wait until you're sidelined with problems or issues in your practice. Getting involved now allows us to network and develop a support system. I have such deep gratitude for Dallas County Dental Society and I want to help each of you develop that feeling too!

I'm off for my four mile walk now! Have a wonderful holiday season filled with celebration and gratefulness.




**ADA / TDA / DCDS recently changed communication platforms. During this time, it appears that members may have inadvertantly had a change of opting out of our communications. DCDS has re-instated email communications with all DCDS members. If you are CHOOSING to opt out of any ADA / TDA / DCDS email communications, please send a quick email to rosemary@dcds to let us know which communications you no longer wish to receive:**

**- No Dallas County Dental Society emails**

**- No Texas Dental Association emails**

**- No American Dental Society emails and/or**

**- No Southwest Dental Conference emails**

**Thank you for your patience as we work out the kinks of the new system!**




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# Impressions

Editorial by Simmi Patel, Editor

## Elevating Oral Health Through Outreach



At a recent general membership meeting, a senior doctor asked if he could refer his patients to me for dental treatment since he was retiring. He mentioned that he had provided plenty of pro bono treatment in his clinic and wanted to ensure his patients continued to receive care. There seem to be fewer and fewer resources available for dental patients who are financially struggling, and the community clinics in our metroplex cannot serve everyone. Dentistry has long been regarded as one of the most compassionate professions, with many practitioners going above and beyond to serve their communities. From pro bono care to public health education, there are countless ways we can make a difference.

Currently, there is a gap in care for special needs patients, as well as in endodontics and oral surgery. Our Dallas County Dental Society members are active participants in Texas Mission of Mercy (click for website) events and other programs that address the many underserved areas in our state. However, there are numerous other ways to contribute to our communities.

Every weekend, the dental college receives invitations for patient education and dental screenings. Oral health education is an essential preventive service, and the cost is minimal for the dentist. “Tooth Talks” and “Senior Smiles” through the DCDS Foundation are great avenues to start getting involved in outreach. Nursing homes and daycare centers need oral health education, and this is also an excellent way for a practitioner to promote their practice and services.

Not only do nursing home patients and children in daycare centers need education, but the staff who care for them often lack knowledge of the benefits of maintaining good oral hygiene. Early intervention can prevent conditions like aspiration pneumonia and reduce future costly dental treatments for children. If any member needs help preparing for dental screenings and educational events, please feel free to reach out to the DCDS Foundation, which can provide oral health kits and pamphlets.



**From pro bono care to public health education, there are countless ways we can make a difference.**

Another way to contribute is through UT Southwestern’s “Walk with a Doc” program (click for website). In February, I had the privilege of walking with patients around Bachman Lake, answering various questions while getting my daily workout in.

Many charities fund free dental care, such as the City of Dallas senior grant, the Baylor Oral Health Foundation and Miles for Smiles. When we contribute to these charities, we know our money goes toward dental care for those who cannot afford it. I particularly appreciate how the City of Dallas senior grant provides a breakdown of the amount needed to cover the cost of dentures for a senior citizen.

Being involved in the community has many benefits, including building stronger communities, helping at-risk youth, showing empathy and compassion, building friendships and preventing depression. Dentistry is one of the most respected professions because of our desire to give back to others. Let’s get started by volunteering in our local neighborhoods with the goal of expanding services throughout our great state.

*Please click on the links below for more information about upcoming events that need volunteers:*

*https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/events*

*https://www.dcdsfoundation.org/our-programs*

# From The Hub

by Jane D. Evans, Executive Director

## Future Events - Feedback Needed!



We've noticed a decline in participation in our scheduled activities, which has unfortunately led to some event cancellations. Activities suggested by our members—such as wine tasting, miniature golf, an "Ask Me Anything" session for new dentists, and bourbon tasting—have seen low turnout. To help us improve, we need your input! Please take a moment to complete a short survey (button below) to assist our team in planning successful events. Your responses will directly shape our upcoming event offerings, so your feedback is invaluable to us.

Earlier this year, our Membership Recruitment & Retention and Diversity and Inclusivity Committees hosted an "International Potluck and Gaming Night." This event was a tremendous success, with attendees enjoying a variety of international dishes and great camaraderie. The diverse culinary offerings, made from members' special recipes and favorite restaurants, were a highlight. Plus, the gaming competition added to the fun! Many attendees have already inquired about a repeat, and I'm excited to announce that we've scheduled the next event for January 30, 2025.

We'd love to see more events like the "International Potluck and Gaming Night" flourish, so your feedback is crucial. Please complete the survey!

### Mark Your Calendar

The DCDS Foundation, in conjunction with the TDA Smiles Foundation, will be hosting another Texas Mission of Mercy on

**April 17-18, 2026**

at Watermark Church in South Dallas. Dr. Shad Hattaway will serve as the Dental Chairman for the event. We held our first planning meeting with the TDA team and experienced volunteers who make TMOM successful. Please save the date, and we hope many of you and your teams will volunteer!

Thank you for your continued support!

**CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE A SUPER QUICK SURVEY ON EVENT PREFERENCES!**
**UPON SUBMITTING YOUR SURVEY, YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A $100 VISA GIFT CARD**

## Mandatory Filing Requirement: The Corporate Transparency Act

The Corporate Transparency Act was passed two years ago to enhance the government's efforts to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes. It went live in 2024, requiring nearly every smaller U.S. business to submit a Beneficial Ownership Information Report to FinCEN, a division of the U.S. Treasury Department. Failing to file or errors in filing may lead to penalties (fines of $591 per day or $10,000.) These reports are not optional and must be filed in 2024. Some practices MIGHT have CPAs that filed a report for them this year; but most CPAs assume the owners will file it as it does not affect accounting.

For the very few exemptions, see the BOI Exemption Check Tool. Due dates are:

1) Entities created before Jan. 1, 2024, will have until Jan. 1, 2025 to submit the report.
2) Entities created on or after January 1, 2024 and before Jan 1, 2025, will have 90 days from creation or registration to submit the report.
3) Entities created on or after Jan. 1, 2025, will have 30 days from creation or organization to submit the report

Practices can go directly to the FinCEN BOI portal (https://www.fincen.gov/boi) and file the necessary report.

**Your dental practice MUST file under the act if you employ fewer than 20 people or if your practice generates less than $5 million (gross receipts) in revenue annually. More info is available at ada.org.**



Dr. Shad Hattaway (above center) joined members of The Alliance of DCDS to present oral health education to senior citizens at The Senior Source in mid- September. The Alliance members organized oral health kits (below) that were distributed that day.



# New Dentists

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



by Chance Choate

## Communication is key

At a time in our society where we all seem to be attached to our phones, distracted from the people around us, it is still communication and building relationships that will help dentists continue to build strong practices. Communication is key, whether it is to patients, staff, or other dentists in our community.

**“As experts in our field, our job is to educate our patients on their dental health and treatment options to help them make an informed decision.**

Communication with patients is essential to building trust. As experts in our field, our job is to educate our patients on their dental health and treatment options to help them make an informed decision about their care. Issues often arise when a patient feels like information was hidden from them or alternative treatment options were not discussed. When something doesn’t go as planned during treatment, don’t hide it, have a discussion with the patient about what happened and what they can expect going forward. Sometimes difficult conversations are necessary, and that conversation may save you from much bigger issues in the future.

Communication with staff is one way to help establish a strong team and ensure everyone is working together toward the same goal. Discuss expectations and job descriptions for each employee. Continue to instruct and train to make sure that your staff understands your expectations. Morning meetings are a great way to communicate with your team to make sure they are prepared for the day ahead.

Communication with other dentists will help ensure the best care of our patients and establish a strong community to work in. Interdisciplinary care is difficult. Coordinating each step of treatment requires constant communication with other dentists. Too often, we communicate through our patients. The more we can pick up the phone or send a quick text or email will ensure timely treatment for our patients.

It is easy to work each day in your practice and feel alone, especially if you are the only dentist in your office. Dentistry can be mentally and physically taxing. No one understands the difficulty of your job day in and day out like your colleagues. Don’t hesitate to call the dentist around the corner, go to lunch with those dentists in your area, set up a network of people around you to not only help support your practice, but help to support you. It is nice to be able to talk to those who understand what you do everyday. Talk to colleagues, meet with dentists, go to meetings, and dive into the dental community to help support one another.



Dental assistants who train through the DCDS Dental Assisting School know more than just the basics. They are specialized assistants who can take x-rays and perform CPR. They have foundational knowledge of nitrous oxide sedation and are HIPAA/OSHA proficient. They are trained to work as part of a dental team.

DCDS member dentists are given the unique (and first) opportunity to hire new, fully trained dental assistants from each graduating class. For more information, please contact the Program Director, Angela Bush, at info@dcdsdas.org or visit https://www.dcds.org/dental-assisting-school.

DCDS Dental Assisting School

NOW ENROLLING STUDENTS FOR SESSION STARTING JANUARY 8

www.dcdsdas.org

# DCDS Member's Message Board

## Upcoming Events

November 6-8 – Dental Tree Program by DCDS Foundation

November 18 – Active Shooter Presentation

November 19 – General Membership Meeting:
Metallosis and Peri-implantitis

December 5: Cocktails and Conversation: Special Needs Dental Care

December 8: Gumdrops & Giggles Family Gingerbread House Decorating

January 30 – Speed Gaming and International Potluck

February 18 – General Membership Meeting:
Managing Prosthetic Complications

April 15 – General Membership Meeting:
A Practical Approach to Oral Cancer and OPMD's

April 25 – Shred-a-thon




**Register for these and more at www.dcds.org/events**

## Welcome New Members!

**General Dentists**

Peter Guirguis

Ashley Onwu

Ho Yun Ryu

Madhulika Yemba

Marina Youssef

**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**

John McCullum

## In Memoriam:

Dr. William Lawhorn

TDA TEXASDENTAL ASSOCIATION

## Encourage your colleagues to join!

When they become a member of TDA, ADA, and DCDS now, their membership is FREE for the rest of the year. They pay no dues until 2025! Send them to tda.org/member-center/join-renew.

**Looking for a job?**

**Have a position to fill in your office?**

**Want to sell or buy office space and office equipment?**

List it on the DCDS.org Job Bank/ Practice Sales! Members list for free ($75/ month for non-members.)

Email a brief summary (100 words or less, in paragraph format) of the post to: rosemary@dcds.org.






**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 or email info@dcds.org.





# DCDS Membership Benefits

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

- Free registration to DCDS's annual Southwest Dental Conference
- Peer Review mediation service to reconcile complaints between patients and doctors
- Rent DCDS meeting facilities at special member rates
- Free or discounted continuing education via seminars & General Membership Meetings
- First opportunity to hire fully trained world-class assistants from DCDS Dental Assisting School
- Preprinted school excuse forms provided free of charge to dentists treating school-age children
- Confidential free notary public
- DCDS Connection, the bimonthly newsletter of Dallas County Dental Society (member advertising at reduced rates)
- Member mailing labels available for purchase
- Grassroots legislator contact program with state and national legislative representation
- License renewal reminders
- Networking/social opportunities with colleagues

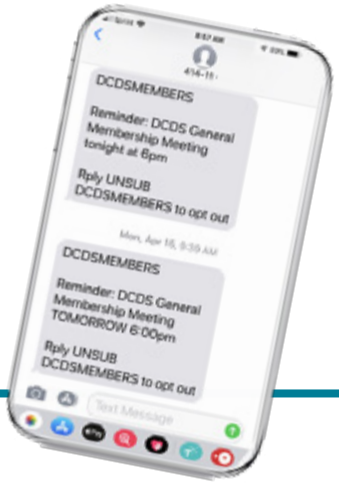
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by Texas Dental Association, including free entry to TDA TEXAS Meeting.

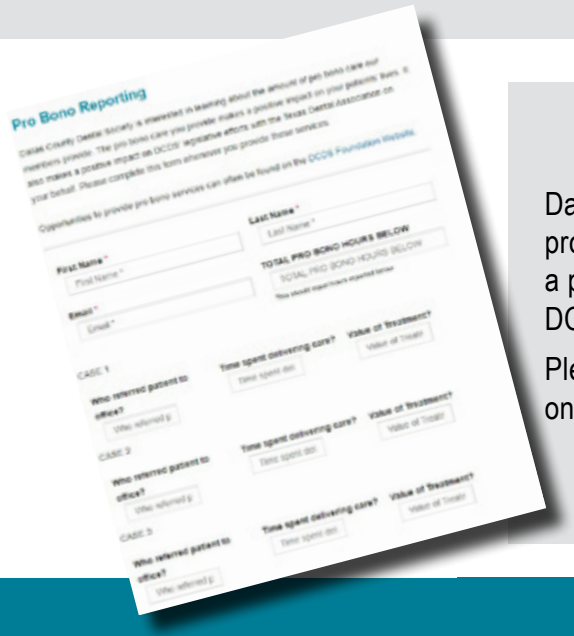
DCDS members receive ALL membership benefits offered by American Dental Association, including photo directory and public referrals through Find-a-Dentist.

**www.dcds.org/membership**

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

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




## PRO BONO HOURS

Dallas County Dental Society is interested in learning about the amount of pro bono care our members provide. The pro bono care you provide makes a positive impact on your patients' lives. It also makes a positive impact on DCDS' legislative efforts with the Texas Dental Association on your behalf.

Please help our legislative efforts by completing this short Pro Bono Form on our website whenever you provide these services:

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

# Applause, Applause!



Congratulations to **Dr. Mike Neeley** who was recently inducted into the Woodrow Wilson High School Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement recognition of his missionary work to Guatemala over a 20 year period, his research on migraine headaches and dental occlusion and his effective non-medicated treatments for migraine headaches. In addition, he was given a resolution by Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price for the same contributions.

SAVE THE DATE!
SHRED-A-THON COMING
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# Find Your Power Track!

by Bill Gerlach, DDS

## Developing your most fulfilling practice



*In golf, some holes offer a distinct advantage if you hit your drive to the perfect spot. By doing so, your ball may roll an additional 50-100 yards simply because you found the Power Track, also known as the power slot. Perhaps the most famous of these is Hole 10 at Augusta National Golf Club, home of The Masters.*

*What if we adopt that analogy to your dream practice? By finding your Power Track, can you realize the practice of your dreams—a practice with high-quality, fulfilled employees, and patients who are Raving Fans?*

*Do you dream of owning your own practice? Are you currently pursuing one? Perhaps you recently purchased a practice. This series will primarily focus on the final group—the dentist-owner who either owns a practice or desires to do so, but this series will also have insights for employee dentists.*

## Part One: Know Yourself and How Others Perceive You

I read a quote recently: "Whenever a treasure map is for sale, the treasure is no longer there." You have undoubtedly scanned (and deleted) numerous blast emails today promising future riches within dentistry by simply following the author's prescription. While we can pick up a pearl here and there, the ultimate power lies not within the author and their chosen pathway to success but rather within you.

We are all different. What works well for one person may not work for another. You have a unique "secret sauce"—your personal attributes that have led you to success. These attributes helped you achieve great grades in college, gain acceptance into dental school against tough competition, and guided you in becoming a licensed dentist.

These same attributes—your personal strengths—can serve as a foundation for a fulfilling professional life. The key is knowing what they are, recognizing their importance, relying on them when needed, and, perhaps most importantly, learning how to expand these strengths into "Creative Competencies"—skills that can propel you toward the most fulfilling practice (and lifestyle) you can imagine.

Are you more inclined toward academia? Perhaps you're more interested in being a fabulous clinician with no desire for business ownership. Or maybe you want to be a clinician, leader, and entrepreneur. Whichever you choose, follow your unique path. The goal is self-awareness and truthfulness—'Know Yourself.' This is a cornerstone of fulfillment and contentment.

A decades-old growth tool has been used by business managers and executives, known as the 360 Review. In this process, the Leader (you) is evaluated by those who know you best: family, friends, peers, direct reports, your boss, and your boss's boss. The Leader also evaluates themselves using the same criteria. The results show how the Leader is perceived by others and how the Leader perceives themselves.

The data and analysis from a 360 Review result in a detailed report. It not only reflects what you think you know about yourself but also how others perceive you—how you show up for them, whether at home, work, or play. The results can be confirming, but they are often eye-opening. Moreover, they may reveal your "blind self"—that part of you that everyone recognizes except you!

The first level of results highlights your Reactive Tendencies. These are the personal qualities that guided you to success early in life—your allies. They are the attributes you can rely on when all else fails. However, relying solely on these traits throughout life yields minimal growth. Over-reliance on these early traits can even hinder growth. A simple example is technology: a person who had no interest in computers 30 years ago and still rejects them will struggle mightily in today's world. They failed to adapt and grow.

Earlier, I mentioned the term "Creative Competency." These are the growth dimensions an individual develops over time. The Leader uses their Reactive Tendencies, listens and learns from others, and grows their Creative Competencies. These Creative Competencies are the traits that endear you to others. They position you as a leader, forming your new foundation of strength through values and vision. The long-term result: trust and respect.

> **Knowing yourself and understanding how you are perceived by others are the first two keys to finding fulfillment.**

Knowing yourself and understanding how you are perceived by others are the first two keys to finding fulfillment. These form the basis, the foundation, upon which a successful practice is built. Dentists often make the mistake of going into business as dentist-owners thinking clinical proficiency is the key to success. While it is critical to your business, most building blocks of any successful business depend more on knowing the Leader's strengths and weaknesses and growing from them.

Leadership is the key. Any dentist who wonders why their practice is languishing despite their marketing and CE efforts needs to look inside oneself for the answers. How others perceive you and your values, how they perceive your authentic approach to quality, and how they perceive your vision will serve as the foundations of your Power Track practice.

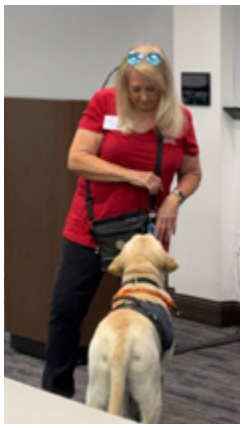



**As the incidences of active shooter situations increase, knowledge can make the difference between life and death. An active shooter is defined as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. The Dallas Police Department will provide fast, critical thinking skills if you find yourself or your loved ones in this situation. In an active shooter situation, every second counts! Presented by the Dallas Police Department, hosted by the DCDS Retired Dentist Committee.**

**REGISTER YOURSELF OR YOUR STAFF MEMBER NOW AT WWW.DCDS.ORG/EVENTS. SEATING IS LIMITED!**

# Patriot PAWS

PATRIOTPAWS SERVICE DOGS



DCDS Retired Dentists Committee hosted a presentation from the Rockwall-based organization, Patriot PAWS. From prison cells to college campuses, Patriot PAWS has developed innovative and effective partnerships to support their mission to train service dogs of the highest quality for disabled Veterans. Dr. Roger Alexander, an ambassador for the organization, and trainer Renee Sterling provided attendees with a demonstration of service dog Wilbur's abilities in assisting with tasks such as fetching and carrying objects, opening doors and mobility aid. Each service dog in training will spend around 3-4 months in each branch of training and will rotate through each one depending on their training needs over the course of their 2-2.5 years of training. By the end of their training, a Patriot PAWS service dog is estimated to value over $35,000. Each Veteran that Graduates from Patriot PAWS will receive their dog at no cost to them. For more information or to contribute to this worthy cause, go to patriotpaws.org.





# Diversity + Inclusivity

by Mitra Bolouri, DDS
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee Chairman

## Leadership Lessons



Organized dentistry has provided so much good not only to our profession, but to me as an individual as well. I am wrapping up my year as a member of the American Dental Association Institute for Diversity in Leadership (IDL), a program I would never have known about had I not been an active member of DCDS. IDL is a yearlong program designed to promote leadership skills in dentists and dental students who come from various underrepresented backgrounds. My yearlong experience has been nothing short of fantastic. Not only have I gained skills that will benefit me both in organized dentistry and my private practice, but I have also had the privilege of meeting some amazing dentists from across the country.

My favorite part of being an active member of organized dentistry has always been meeting new colleagues, whether it's in a hotel lounge in Chicago, a classroom at the annual TDA meeting, or in the boardroom at DCDS headquarters. This past August, I was in Chicago for one of the three IDL in-person meetings. I bonded with colleagues over our love of cats, each of us pulling up photos on our phones. I shared my experiences with a female dentist about the struggle of raising small children while being a dentist (and at times, feeling like we are failing miserably at both!). Another dentist was nearing the end of his career as a full-time faculty member, and talking to him reminded me so much of talking to my own father. All the while, we attended lectures and workshops to improve our leadership skills.



Dr. Mitra Bolouri, top far right, with her colleagues at an ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership meeting.

**Applications and more information on the TDA Leadership Institute can be found at www.tda.org/tli**

For anyone who may be interested, no matter where you are in your career or time in organized dentistry, I strongly encourage you to apply for the Institute for Diversity in Leadership. My cohort included individuals from all walks of life, including private practice dentists, full-time faculty members, and individuals who work for DSOs. New dentists and mid-career dentists made up the majority of the group, but there were also dentists nearing retirement who were looking for skills to help mentor newer dentists to take over their leadership roles.

If a national program seems like a daunting task (much credit goes to my husband for holding down the fort while I made my trips to Chicago and attended monthly Zoom meetings), the Texas Dental Association Leadership Institute is accepting applications, due January 2, 2025. Modeled after the ADA IDL program, the TDA Leadership Institute will teach many similar leadership skills and give participants a similar experience while keeping the in-person meetings close to home.

Whether it's an organized program like IDL or the Leadership Institute, or simply finding mentors, organized dentistry has given me the skills to be a better and more effective leader. I encourage all members to utilize these resources if possible, and, as always, I welcome any further questions via email at mitrafb@gmail.com.

# General Membership Meeting - November 2024

## Metallosis and Peri-implantitis

## TOM G. WILSON, JR., DDS



Dr. Wilson is a board certified periodontist who has been a private practitioner of periodontics in Dallas since 1974. He has taught his innovative techniques to colleagues around the world and is the author of numerous professional publications and books on periodontics and implant dentistry. A Clinical Associate Professor at the University of TX Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School and Baylor University College of Dentistry, Dr. Wilson has served as editor-in-chief of an international dental journal, been an Associate Editor for The Journal of Periodontology and is currently Editor in Chief for the journal Decisions in Dentistry.

**Today most would agree that the etiology of dental implant failure is related to oral biofilm. At present, one group of scientists and clinicians feel that these bacteria are solely responsible for bone loss around the devices. However, there is strong evidence that particles and ions of titanium released into the surrounding tissues, a process termed Metallosis, can be responsible for bone loss around some dental implants. These findings are reinforced by similar responses found around failed metal on metal hip prosthesis. How to prevent Metallosis and deal with it, it it occurs, will be the topic of this presentation.**

Audience: Dentists
AGD Code: 690
CE Hours: 2 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand Metallosis and its relation to inflammation around dental implants
- Learn how to reduce the probability of Metallosis occuring
- Discover how to treat an implant that has suffered from Metallosis

## ALSO JOINING US:

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



**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ACCESS. IF YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE YOUR VIEWING PREFERENCE AFTER REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL THE DCDS OFFICE AT 972-386-5741.**

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

Cancellation Policy: The cancellation/refund deadline is November 12, 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 November 12, 2024.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

# NOVEMBER 19

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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.

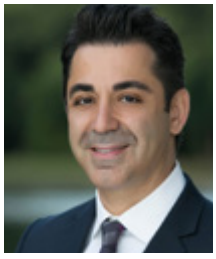
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# Special Needs Dental Care

## SHAWN SEIFIKAR, DDS

cocktails & conversations



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.

**Special Care Dentistry is a branch of dentistry that provides oral care for people with physical, medical, developmental, or cognitive conditions which limit their ability to receive routine dental care. Anesthesia is often an intergral part of care for this patient population. This presentation will inform dental providers on approaches to dental care for individuals with special needs based on their level of cooperation and medical needs (CP, Down Syndrome, Autism, Epilepsy ).**

AGD Subject Code: 750
CE Hours: 1 technical and/or scientific
CE Verification provided
Conflict of Interest: Invisalign

Sponsored by:
DCDS Diversity & Inclusivity Committee

### Learning Objectives:

- Learn how oral health professionals should be prepared when treating patients with special health care needs
- Discover success in special needs dental care is often through a multi-disciplinary approach
- Identify patients for in-office treatment/anesthesia
- Learn how to gain referrals

**ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THIS VIRTUAL COURSE BY NOVEMBER 28, 2024.**

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DCDS Members | Free | 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 November 28, 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 November 28, 2024.

DALLAS COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

# DECEMBER 5

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# Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

By Kristen Tribe

## 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 College 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 event.

"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.



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

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 planning mental health and crisis training for faculty and staff and seeking exercise classes or discounted gym memberships for students. Also, the dental school recently hired an on-site licensed, professional counselor as part of the effort.

Harrington contends that dentistry, and specifically Texas A&M College 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.*

DENTISTRY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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.

Sign up now for our second annual Dental Tree Program, a cooperative service event that encourages oral healthcare professionals to serve the most vulnerable populations in Dallas County in early November of each year.

Projects taking place during November 6-8, 2024, include service work in your own practices or at the Agape Clinic. If you have not yet found your private practice "Dental Tree" patient, consider contacting Attitudes and Attire to start treatment for their Hopeful Smiles clients who are in need of your professional help.

This year, we will once again partner with Meals on Wheels/VNA to deliver dental kits to food insecure seniors in Dallas County and by providing dental volunteers for the Agape Clinic. We will also be providing oral health education and dental supplies to five Title I elementary schools in Dallas County.

As we move into the last few months of 2024, and the season of giving is upon us, please support YOUR dental non-profit organization. To participate, please click here. Together, we can plant the seeds of improved oral health!









## Cleanings for Caregivers

We understand that caregivers (daycare providers, companions for the elderly, etc.) dedicate their time and energy to looking after others, often putting their own needs on hold. As a way to give back, we invite you to recommend caregivers for our Cleanings for Caregivers event in early Spring—an opportunity to show appreciation for those who give so much. Alternatively, your practice can make a significant difference by signing up as a volunteer treatment facility. By offering your services, you'll provide essential dental care to caregivers who may not have the time or resources to prioritize their oral health.

Join us in spreading smiles and making a positive impact on the lives of those who care for others. Together, we can help improve the health caregivers need to continue their vital work. Click here for more information.



# Your DCDS Foundation at Work!

by Dr. Chi Trieu, DCDS Foundation President

## NTGD Thank you!

Our deepest gratitude for your extraordinary love and support for DCDS Foundation! This year's North Texas Giving Day Challenge was truly a blessing, with $7240 raised —making this the most successful North Texas Giving Day in our Foundation's history!

This giving will make the Foundation's mission to enhance oral health in our community much easier to fulfill. Your contributions will have an immediate impact, allowing us to:

- Provide oral health kits to community service efforts, such as Vickery Meadows Food Pantry's Christmas Boxes
- Award a $1,500 scholarship to assist a Texas A&M University College of Dentistry students who have been accepted into the Public Health Residency program at TAMUCOD
- Create a scholarship to assist a TAMUCOD third-year dental student

Together, we can make a difference to the underserved in Dallas County through our donated funds, our donated time and donated services. It is always a good time to make a positive difference in someone's life!

## Creating Smiles: Dentistry with a Heart

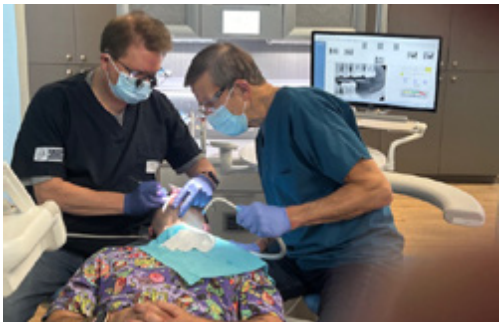
Dentistry with a Heart celebrated its 12th year on October 5, 2024, treating 26 patients from the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center and Agape Clinic. These patients received basic dental services, including extractions, fillings, and cleanings. The Salvation Army has been a partner with DWAH since our first year, helping not only to identify patients but also to host our dental pre-screening. This early screening improved the flow of time and patients, allowing them to go directly to their dental chairs.

Special thanks to Javance Johnson and Captain Cheryl Gibson from the Salvation Army, and Park Cities Rotarians Fred Brown, Dr. Michael Rainwater, Pam Carvey and Mary Bishop, whose support during the pre-screening helped ensure a smooth start to the treatment day.

This year marked the seventh year of collaboration with Agape Clinic, with their amazing staff led by Executive Director Paul Hoffmann. Private practice dentists, hygienists and assistants worked alongside the Park Cities Rotary team who organized the event. Patients received dental treatment, had their health vitals checked and were offered future care at Agape for both medical and dental needs.

Dentist volunteers included Drs. Karl Veasey, Todd Ayars, Martin Kahn, Patrick Wharry (participating for the eighth year), Sarah Kong and Michael Rainwater. A special thank you to our amazing hygienists, Melissa Gruenwald and Wendi Gray. As always, nothing happens without our dedicated assistants, so many thank yous to Diana Rodriguez, Kiara Ransom, Beatriz Mata, Nataly Archundia, Dr. Maheen Rahman, and Petra van Beveren. A big thanks also to Dora Gonzales for coordinating Agape's medical team!

Working with Agape Clinic is always a blessing—they have a truly great team! Agape Clinic has seven dental operatories equipped with all-new technology, making it a valuable resource for dental and medical care for low-income Dallas residents. In total, $35,690 worth of dentistry was provided, improving the lives of our patients and giving all of our volunteers an opportunity to make a difference. What a great way to spend a Saturday!






## Making an Impact at the FUMC Lancaster Health Fair

On Saturday, September 7, 2024, the DCDS Foundation had the privilege of participating in the FUMC Lancaster Health Fair, making a positive impact on the community through oral health education and screenings.

Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Gefei Wang and Dr. Mary Swift along with several community volunteers, attendees received free oral health screenings and helpful advice on maintaining good oral hygiene. The DCDS Foundation provided 100 oral health kits, each packed with essentials like toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. Additionally, screening supplies such as masks, gloves, gauze, and disposable mirrors ensured a safe and efficient process for everyone involved.



Attendees expressed their gratitude for the personal care and guidance they received from Dr. Wang and Dr. Swift. For some, this screening was their first step toward seeking professional dental care, reinforcing the importance of our mission to bring dental awareness and support to underserved areas.

**TO VOLUNTEER** **WWW.DCDSFOUNDATION.ORG** **TO GIVE**



# GUMDROPS AND GIGGLES

## FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Bring your kids/grandkids, creativity and sweet tooth to our family-friendly holiday event!
Build and decorate a gingerbread masterpiece together while
watching a holiday family friendly movie and conversing with DCDS friends!
Come make sweet memories and kick off the holiday season with us!

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

### 2:00 - 4:00 PM AT THE DCDS EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Register by November 15 to reserve your kits.
Hosted by the DCDS Membership Development Committee

REGISTER AT DCDS.ORG/EVENTS



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Gather Your Items! Search through your collection for gently loved purses and jewelry that are in good condition and suitable for professional wear, to support Attitudes and Attire, an organization dedicated to empowering women in need by providing them with the confidence and skills necessary to enter or re-enter the workforce.

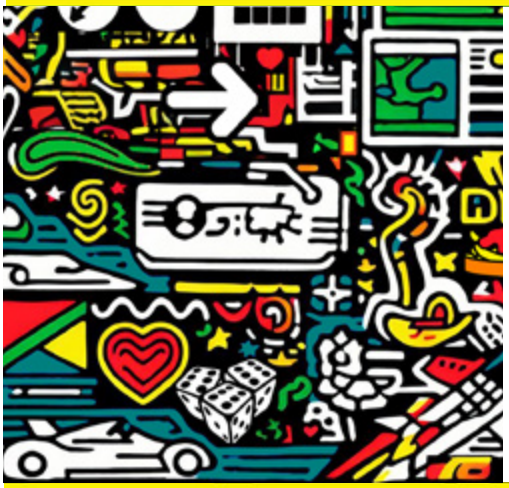
Drop-Off Locations: Donations can be dropped off at:

Attitudes & Attire
2050 N Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX 75207 Dock # 2
Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 1:30 pm

Mail-In Donations: If you're unable to drop off your items, they also accept mail-in donations. Please package your items securely and send them to Attitudes and Attire, 2050 N Stemmons Fwy, Mail Unit 102, Dallas, TX 75207.

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# SPEED-GAMING



## Thursday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of quick games and fun conversation! You'll team up with colleagues and friends to speed through a wide variety of games, while enjoying a variety of culinary delights.

Admission is your potluck dish of choice
(a chance to share your cultural favorite!)
DCDS members and their guests welcome.
Registration required by January 27.

**www.dcds.org/events**



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# 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.

## For Sale/Lease - Offices

**OFFICE TO SHARE**

Rent space in our new fully digital and equipped dental office located in Richardson near 75 & Campbell Rd; available 2-3 days per week on a daily fee basis. Take a video tour at DrJackBodie.com.

**Call 214-212-9413 or email Jack@DrJackBodie.com for details.**

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

## SKILLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

**DCDS Dental Assisting School offers comprehensive training sessions led by expert instructors at the DCDS Executive Office (13633 Omega Road, Dallas, 75244). Participants must hold a current license issued by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (RDA, RDH, DDS/ DMD.) Course fee includes all necessary PPE, supplies and supplemental materials. These and more courses available at dcds.org/events or email angela@dcds.org.**

- **Basic Life Support/CPR:** Meet the bi-annual TSBDE license renewal requirement for Basic Life Support/CPR/AED program with the curriculum of the American Heart Association. (AGD Code 142, 3 CE Hours Technical/Scientific)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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:** Gain theoretical knowledge and practical experience in impression taking and temporary restoration techniques. (AGD Code 250, 4 CE Hours Technical/Scientific)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, October 2, 2024 | 4:00pm – 8:00 pm | $125 per Participant |

- **Radiographic Exposure Skills:** 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, October 22, 2024 | 8:00am – 12:00 pm | $75 per Participant |

- **Basic Orthodontic Skills Workshop:** 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 |

DCDS Dental Assisting School

**REGISTER AT DCDS.ORG/EVENTS**

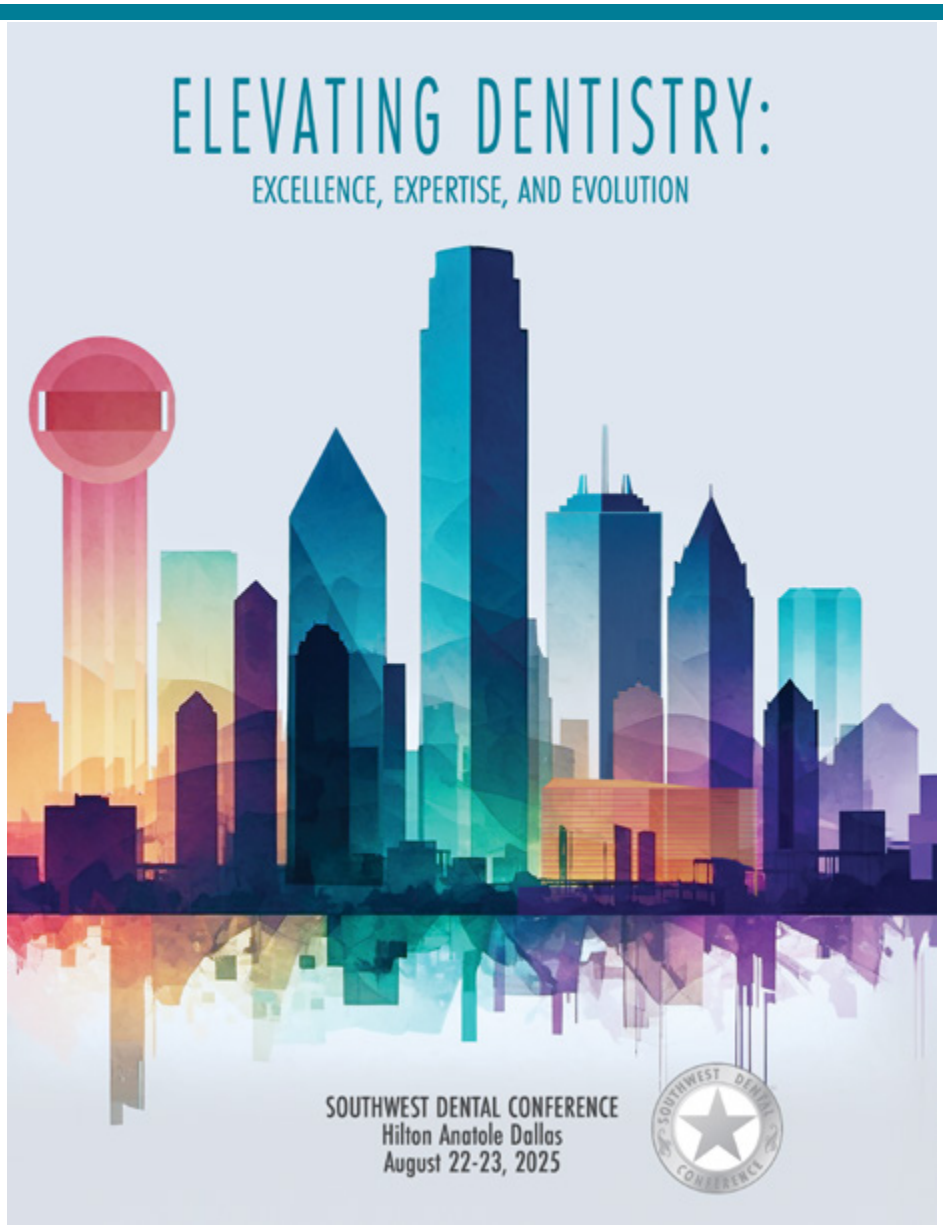
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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Southwest Dental Conference! This year is a particularly special celebration as we commemorate the conference's 98th year as a premier dental meeting. We invite you and your team to celebrate with us as we gather with the meeting's theme "Elevating Dentistry: Excellence, Expertise and Evolution."

During the Conference, you'll have the chance to engage in enriching sessions and hands-on workshops designed to elevate your practice. We are proud to present an outstanding lineup of speakers who will provide you with the latest techniques and advancements in dentistry, with courses available for every member of the dental team. Included will be Dr. Bob Margeas and Dr. Robert Ritter sharing their expertise on restorative dentistry, Dr. Tieraona Low Dog speaking on nutrition and its role in dentistry, and Mr. Steven Anderson presenting practice management lectures. That's only to name a few of the many esteemed speakers that will be presenting!

Connection is key for evolution and excellence in any field, especially dentistry. We aim to cultivate meaningful bonds amongst the dental community, while providing an environment that encourages learning. The Southwest Dental Conference will deliver opportunities for you to network with peers, share experiences and build lasting relationships.

We have many returning and new vendors exhibiting at our Conference, so be sure to check out the two-day Exhibit Hall, where you will discover innovative products and technology that can transform your practice.

We have a great Conference prepared for you and hope you will join us as we embrace our theme of Elevating Dentistry! Registration will open in March, but save the dates now for August 22-23, 2025 for the 98th Southwest Dental Conference. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Hilton Anatole Dallas!



**Gabby Dizon, DDS**
2025 Southwest Dental Conference Chairman